



Oral Statement at the 61st Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 6: UPR Outcome of Liberia

Date: 18 March 2026

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Mr President,

Edmund Rice International and VIVAT International commend the constructive participation of Liberia in its 4th UPR and its support for 230 of the 245 recommendations received. We commend the progress made, since its previous UPR in sustaining peace and promoting development and respect for human rights.

We commend Liberia's acceptance of recommendations to improve the access to quality education for all children, address infrastructure issues and improve teacher training (117. 137 – 117.154). While access to education has continued to improve, a shortage of qualified teachers and inequity in access persist.

We commend Liberia for accepting recommendations to improve infrastructure and access to clean water and sanitation (117.118, 117.134 and 117.158) in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. We urge Liberia to urgently improve access, particularly in rural areas, where it is very slow.

We commend Liberia's acceptance of recommendations to improve environmental protection and climate resilience (117.159 – 117.163). We recognise the key role of Liberia's Environmental Protection Agency and recommend strengthening enforcement and expanding community involvement.

We commend Liberia for strengthening legal frameworks to promote women's rights and its support for recommendations to work towards eliminating gender-based discrimination and violence, including FGM and child marriage, (117.173 – 117. 221). Despite progress, limited access to financial resources, harmful cultural norms, and high levels of gender-based violence persist.

We commend Liberia for its continued work towards abolishing the death penalty and its acceptance of recommendations to finalise the necessary legislative changes to comply with

the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (117.38 – 117. 59).

Finally, ERI encourages Liberia to take proactive action before its next UPR to make progress on the recommendations it has supported and continue its efforts to improve access to all services, particularly for those who are most vulnerable, and those living in rural areas. We also recommend that Liberia ratifies the Optional Protocols of CRC and CEDAW.

Thank you.