

1. Mr. Chairman, thanks for the recognition and we congratulate you on your chairmanship while wishing this resumed session a successful deliberation;
2. We also express our appreciation to the Panelists for sharing their Country experiences in the implementation of UNCAC coming out of the first review cycle;
3. Liberia is also pleased to have concluded a successful review in the first cycle and encourages state parties who have to undertake a review to do all they can to fulfill this requirement;
4. Besides, being reviewed, Liberia has also co-reviewed Angola and Djibouti; and Liberia is currently participating in the review of Albania in the 2nd review cycle;
5. Liberia once again looks forward to being reviewed during the 2nd cycle;
6. The govt of Liberia continues to commit itself to the fight against corruption and to the implementation of UNCAC to the best of its ability, its resources and country situation, through the revision and repeals of national laws to fully comply with UNCAC;
7. As we undertake the 2nd review cycle focused on “Preventive measures” and “Asset Recovery”, the issue of “protection for witnesses and whistle blower” remains a major concern for the government of Liberia;
8. Liberia has experienced major setbacks in recent times to its efforts to tackle endemic corruption in Liberia due to key witnesses appearing dead on the beach, witness refusing to testify due to fear of reprisal to their person or family members, etc.;
9. We currently have very scanty and inadequate legislation to address this problem as many other countries in Africa;
10. Quite recently in September of 2016, through the support of UNODC, a West Africa regional conference was hosted by Liberia in partnership with the “Network of National Anti Corruption Institutions in West Africa (NACIWA)” to deliberate on this threatening issue of Protection for witnesses and whistle blowers. This meeting once again highlighted the importance of such protection and challenged all anti corruption institutions in the region to embark on programs and campaigns to encourage their governments to revise existing legislation or adopt new ones to address this problem;
11. The government of Liberia adopted a National Code of Conduct in 2014 mandating asset declaration by all public officials and attempting to provide protection for whistle blowers and witnesses, even though very scanty;

12. Liberia takes notes of the offer for technical capacity trainings by some state parties and look forward to said opportunity to facilitate its implementation of UNCAC and to ensure a successful review process;
13. Finally, on behalf of the Liberian delegation, we once again renew Liberia's commitment and cooperation during this 2nd review cycle and to the full implementation of UNCAC;
14. This constitutes our initial comments. Thanks you!