

Remarks made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in the Breakfast Meeting Held in Honor of Madam President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of the Republic of Liberia Tokyo August 27, 2015

H.E. Ms Ellen Johnson Sirleaf President of the Republic of Liberia
H.E. Ms. Youngor S. Telewoda, Ambassador of the Republic of Liberia
Excellencies and Dear Colleagues
Esteemed Brothers and Sisters present

First and foremost let me express as a Dean, and on behalf of our group and myself, our deep felt gratitude and thanks to Madam President for making time to meet the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) here in Tokyo even when busy schedules and stressful long air travel are obviously not very helpful. As the 24th President of Liberia, one of the oldest independent nation states of Africa, and Africa's first democratically elected female Head of State serving second term, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and esteemed daughter of Africa, please let me state that all of us are very proud to be here with Your Excellency Madam President this morning. Because, Your successful career has amply and very clearly demonstrated to all of us the long time commitment and struggle of the African women to their rightful place i.e. providing political, economic, military, diplomatic and social leadership to the better future of their countries and families. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe invitation to Your Excellency Madame President to serve as Key Note Speakers at the World Assembly for Women (WAW) conference, August 28 - 29, 2015, here in Japan is a clear testimony to this truth. We know that this is not Your first visit to Japan but we would like to think that Madam President must have been pleasantly surprised in this visit by the fact that Abenomics has also put women empowerment in the center of the undergoing socioeconomic changes of Japan.

Secondly, I would like to take this opportunity also to express, on behalf of the African Diplomatic Corps here in Tokyo and myself, our profound gratitude and thanks to the Government and people of Japan for the continued support provided to combat the Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and globally. And I would also like to recognize and bring into the attention of Madame President in this breakfast meeting that ADC with the guidance, hard work and leadership of Ambassador Telewoda of Liberia and Ambassador Sylla of Guinea have extended unreserved support on this most important period to solicit the support of medicine, science, public solidarity and media power in Japan to be availed in order to keep the spread of the Ebola virus under control.

Without much ado and with this short introduction, let me kindly ask Madame President and dear elder sister to take the floor to share experience, wisdom, views and perspectives with all the African Diplomatic Corps gathered here this morning. Before that I would like to ask Excellencies and Dear Colleagues present to introduce them-selves to the President and the meeting one by one – starting from the right.

Thank you again