



Vision Statement
The Gbarnga Declaration
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The National Vision Conference convened in Gbarnga, Bong County and assembled more than 500 delegates from all counties, the Liberian Diaspora and observers from the International Community.

The Conference provided the space for Liberians to select a possible future. This Conference ended the design phase of the visioning process, which drew its legitimacy from the retrospective analysis and extensive consultations in five geographic regions involving the 15 counties, in 156 administrative districts and in the Diaspora (Africa, Europe and North America).

The Conference was held under the aegis of Her Excellency President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs and the Governance Commission serving as sponsors. The Conference was organized by a 21-member National Conference Committee.

A milestone in the journey of the Liberian people, the National Conference marks an end and initiates a beginning: an end to the process of a long-term perspective study on Liberia, and the beginning of the process of operationalization and implementation of the Vision.

This Vision, as adopted by Liberians, is the expression of our faith in the future of our country, our love for country and our commitment to mobilize resources to achieve our aspirations as expressed in the Vision Statement: **ONE PEOPLE, ONE NATION, UNITED FOR PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**

Components of the Vision gleaned from retrospective and structural analyses of Liberia as a system and consultations throughout the country and abroad include an economically prosperous people, a socially and demographically harmonious nation united in diversity, a democratic political system, an environmentally beautiful flourishing country, and a country culturally vibrant, and technologically innovative. Such components of the Vision suggest a holistic approach to development, addressing at once the social, economic, political, environmental, cultural and technological aspirations of the Liberian people.

Three Conclusions can be drawn from the deliberations that led to the adoption of this Vision:

1. Many of Liberia's problems are deeply rooted in the country's social fabric, economic structure and governance arrangements. Others find their roots in the external environment. As the issues at stake are structural and systemic, long-term perspectives and timeframes are required to address them satisfactorily.
2. Liberians believe the Developmental State Scenario, as contained in the visioning process, is the optimal framework for sustainable growth and development. This scenario suggests a significant departure from the current resource-based development model to a model that is knowledge-based, open to strategic intervention, and supportive of social capital development.
3. The development contemplated will be possible only if we the Liberian people are committed to change. Citizens' participation in the formulation and implementation of the vision will therefore be critical for its success and sustainability.

Now that the Vision has been determined, the operationalization or action stage should follow. The challenge can be expressed as moving from what we desire to creating the conditions that will make the desirable achievable. Against this background, the participants have adopted three recommendations:

1. A clear Strategy for dissemination of the Vision throughout the country and the Diaspora.
2. A clear Strategy for operationalization that includes:
 - A clear alignment or re-alignment of the Agenda for Transformation and the National Reconciliation Roadmap with the National Vision.

Issues of particular importance flagged by the participants include:

- Making quality education available to all citizens;
- Developing macro-policy frameworks conducive for sustainable growth and development;
- redefining national symbols to reflect our unity;
- working toward agreeing on a national language (s) for Liberia;
- providing equal access, especially for persons living with disabilities, to opportunities for development and participation in national affairs;
- developing and instilling in our youths moral and ethical value systems;
- developing policy measures to address issues of youth education, responsibility and empowerment;
- developing policy measures to deepen and make more inclusive our system of democratic governance;
- Effecting policy measures required to support and enhance greater national ownership of natural resources;
- Effecting policy measures that ensure improved participation for Liberians in their economy through significantly

strengthened access to capital and an enhanced role in gross capital formation;

- Developing policy measures that ensure an accelerated transition of the Liberian economy from reliance on extractive export led growth to improving the share of domestic manufacturing;
- Developing policies, programs and institutions that promote decentralization and local ownership of the Vision implementation;
- Developing policy measures and initiatives to enhance cultural identity and national reconciliation.
- Strengthening regional cooperation and improve relations with our neighbors.
- Developing policies and programs that accelerate infrastructural development;
- Strengthening rights, including gender-based rights, rights affecting persons living with disabilities, human rights, and the right of the child.

3. Develop clear post-Conference implementation, coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism that support the achievement of the Vision.



Presentation of the Vision statement to President Sirleaf by Conference Chairperson, Ms. Kula Fofana on behalf of participants