

**JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED DURING THE OFFICIAL VISIT
TO BRAZIL FROM 7 TO 12 APRIL 2010 OF
HER EXCELLENCY MADAM ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

1. At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, paid an Official Visit to Brazil from 7 to 12 April 2010.
2. The two Presidents reviewed international issues and the global economy. They also reviewed issues concerning bilateral cooperation. The discussions were held in an atmosphere of friendship, cordiality, mutual confidence and understanding.
3. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf expressed deep condolences to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and the people of Brazil for the loss of lives in flooding in the country.
4. Regarding the international situation, the two leaders stressed the need to promote a truly democratic international order. In this regard they committed themselves to work for the reform of the United Nations and its organs to make that world organization reflect today's reality. They noted that the Security Council especially must be restructured to ensure a fair and equitable representation of the major regions of the world.
5. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva observed the increasingly positive and constructive contribution of the G-20 nations towards the solutions of the problems of the globalized economy and expressed the view that greater inclusion should be encouraged in tackling these problems.
6. The two Heads of State expressed their support and commitment to the promotion of South-South cooperation as a vehicle for establishing effective economic linkages among developing countries and accelerating the development of these countries. They noted that South-South Cooperation is not a substitute for North-South Cooperation but that the two can be complementary.

7. The President of the Republic of Liberia commended the leadership role of Brazil on behalf of the Group of 77 and developing nations in trade negotiations and financial issues in international forums.
8. On Africa-Brazil relations, Her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf paid tribute to His Excellency Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva for his policy of forging strategic partnership between Brazil and Africa and for expanding and deepening relations with African countries. The Liberian Leader noted that the Brazilian Leader's policies have helped to create a deeper and more profound awareness and greater appreciation of the close cultural and historical links between Brazil and Africa and Afro-Brazilian culture.
9. Regarding Liberia-Brazil bilateral relations, the two leaders noted the historic nature of this summit visit which is the first Official Visit by a Liberian Head of State since Brazil and Liberia signed a Treaty of Friendship and Commerce 158 years ago.
10. Her Excellency President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf briefed His Excellency President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva about Liberia's post conflict reconstruction program based on its Poverty Reduction Strategy entitled LIFT LIBERIA. The Program has four pillars including Governance and the Rule of Law, Economic Revitalization; Infrastructure and Basic Services. She indicated that two decades of conflict had left the country devastated with a near collapsed economy, crumbling infrastructure and weak institutions. With limited financial resources the success of the reconstruction program so far has had to depend largely on the support of the international community and friends like Brazil.
11. The Liberian Leader expressed appreciation to the Brazilian President for Brazil's participation in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). With the success of the Brazilian Leader's policies of social inclusion and poverty reduction Liberia can certainly benefit from Brazil's participation in the post conflict reconstruction of the country.
12. His Excellency President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva praised President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for her relentless efforts to consolidate peace and stability and promote national reconstruction and development in Liberia. He noted the progress and stride Liberia has made under her leadership and for the prudent and disciplined manner in which she has proceeded to pull the country out of conflict and put her onto the path to sustained development. Many challenges remain and the Liberian Leader deserves every support to finish the task she has embarked upon. He pledged Brazil's commitment to provide within its best capacity, assistance that would support Liberia's reconstruction.

13. The two Presidents pledged to further strengthen the already cordial ties of friendship between the two countries and expressed satisfaction with the growth of their bilateral cooperation. They agreed to increase friendly exchanges at various levels, expand practical cooperation to further develop and accelerate Liberia-Brazil relations and cooperation.
14. During the visit the following Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding were signed between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the Republic of Liberia:
 - a. Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Education
 - b. Agreement on the Performance of Remunerated Activities by Dependents of Diplomatic, Consular, Military, Administrative, and Technical Staff
 - c. Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of a Liberia-Brazil Joint Commission
 - d. Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of a Mechanism for Political Consultations
 - e. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Sports
 - f. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Energy and Mining
15. The two Presidents further instructed their respective Ministers to work for the conclusion of similar frameworks within the shortest possible period for cooperation in Agriculture and Trade, Commerce, Investment and Industrial Development.
16. During the visit, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf paid courtesy calls on the President of the Brazilian Senate, the President of the House of Representatives and the Chief Justice.
17. At the end of the visit, Her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, expressed her profound gratitude and deep appreciation to President Lula da Silva, the Government and friendly people of the Federative Republic of Brazil, for the warm hospitality accorded her and her Party throughout their stay.
18. President Johnson Sirleaf extended an invitation to His Excellency President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil to visit Liberia on Liberia's National Day or on any other convenient date. The invitation was accepted, and the details would be worked out through diplomatic channels.

DONE AT THE CITY OF BRASILIA ON THIS 7TH DAY OF APRIL, 2010,

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF FEDERATIVE
REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

SIGNED: CELSO AMORIM
MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS
OF THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL

SIGNED: OLUBANKE KING AKERELE
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA