

Remarks by

His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr.

President of the Republic of Liberia

on the Occasion of the Commemoration of United Nations Day 2026

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Monrovia, Liberia

Monday, October 26, 2026

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Eighty-one years ago, Liberia joined other nations in a solemn commitment to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.” Together, we named that aspiration the “United Nations.” Liberia was there at the beginning, and we remain proud to be a founding member of this Organization.

After 81 years, the United Nations continues to prevent conflict, promote dialogue, empower communities, serve humanity, and advance peace. For Liberia, its contribution to our contemporary history is immeasurable.

During our fourteen-year civil conflict, the United Nations stood with our people. Working alongside ECOWAS, the African Union, and friendly nations, it facilitated dialogue and supported humanitarian relief. We remember with gratitude the men and women in blue helmets and their civilian counterparts who sacrificed to help end our war.

After the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed on August 18, 2003, the United Nations Mission in Liberia deployed approximately 15,000 troops, more than 1,000 police officers, and civilian personnel from many nations. From 2003 to 2018, the Mission helped safeguard our peace and rebuild our national institutions. Liberia has

witnessed firsthand the fulfillment of the principles and purposes we helped establish in 1945.

That experience shapes our engagement with the world today. My Administration has made a deliberate choice that Liberia will not remain on the margins of the United Nations but will participate actively in its work and affiliated bodies.

That commitment brought us to a historic achievement in 2025. Some have described it as Liberia's return to the Security Council, but our achievement deserves a more precise account. In 1960, after six weeks and thirteen rounds of inconclusive voting, Liberia and Ireland reached a negotiated agreement to share the contested seat, each serving for one year. In 2025, for the first time in our history, Liberia secured a majority vote in the General Assembly for a full two-year term as a non-permanent member of the Security Council.

Of the four African nations that signed the UN Charter in 1945, Liberia is the last to be elected to the Council. The honor has come late, but at a defining moment for the Organization. Liberia now has an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the United Nations as it confronts new global realities and considers its future.

In December, Liberia will assume the presidency of the Security Council. For the first time, a sitting President of Liberia will preside in the Council chamber. We will undertake this responsibility with humility, drawing on our nation's lived experience of war, reconciliation, and the difficult work of building peace. We are mindful, too, that this responsibility comes as the selection of a new Secretary-General approaches.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations stands at a crossroads. The question before us is whether the Organization is fit for purpose—not only for today's challenges, but also for those of tomorrow. We are entering an age shaped by artificial intelligence and multi-polarity, while climate change, irregular migration, deepening inequality, and the frustrations of our young people transcend national borders.

When the Charter was signed, the world's foremost concern was ending the "scourge of war." Today, we need the United Nations to help nations address challenges that no country can solve alone. For developing countries like Liberia, the stakes are especially high. We need an organization that advances women's rights and empowerment, addresses poverty, promotes sustainable development, and ensures that the concerns of vulnerable nations are heard.

That international order is being shaped now, and Liberia is at the table. We recognize the privilege and responsibility of contributing to decisions that will influence the future of the United Nations and the international system for generations to come.

Today, therefore, we celebrate more than the anniversary of an international organization. We celebrate decades of partnership, multilateral cooperation, and solidarity among nations and peoples.

Before I conclude, I thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for incorporating Liberia's diplomatic history into this year's UN Day celebration. Our national story is inseparable from the story of the world, and our young people deserve to understand the proud diplomatic tradition they inherit.

I am also deeply humbled by the billboard the Ministry erected to recognize this Administration's foreign policy achievements. I accept this recognition with gratitude, on behalf of the many people whose dedication made these achievements possible. In just three years, Liberia has advanced foreign policy objectives that had eluded us for decades. This progress did not happen by chance.

I commend the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry's leadership, the members of the Policy Advisory Council, and our ambassadors and staff serving in missions around the world. Your commitment and patriotism have elevated Liberia's international standing. This recognition belongs to you, and it challenges us all to keep working for our country.

As we look ahead, our country remains hopeful about the promise of the United Nations and the power of nations working together for our common humanity. We will continue

to uphold multilateral cooperation, contribute to international peace and security, and work toward a world where every nation and every people can prosper in dignity.

May God bless the work of the United Nations, protect our Republic, and bless us all.

Thank you.