



GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA's COMMITMENTS
FOR ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING IN SDG PRIORITIES

05 September 2023

Hon. D. Zeogar Wilson
Minister of Youth and Sports
S.K.D Sports Complex, Paynesville, Liberia

Subject: *Committing to Adolescent Well-being and accelerating on related SDG priorities in response to the UN Secretary General's Call for SDG Transformation Commitments at the SDG Summit 2023; and in support of the 2023 Global Forum for Adolescents*

On behalf of the Government of Liberia, we recognize that the well-being of adolescents is critical to achieving sustainable development and acknowledge the importance of adopting a whole-of-government approach to work together in a coordinated and collaborative manner to address the multiple and intersecting factors that impact adolescents.

We commit to strengthen the government's approach to improving adolescent well-being and accelerate the achievement of related SDG priorities for adolescents and young people as a smart investment in the future of our societies, economies, and the planet. We commit to prioritize adolescent well-being, and related SDG priorities for young people in national development plans and strategies, to ensure disaggregated data collection to better understand the challenges and opportunities for ensuring adolescent well-being, and to integrate adolescent-specific indicators into national monitoring and reporting frameworks by meaningfully engaging adolescents and young people in the design, implementation, and monitoring of laws, policies and programs that affect their well-being.

Our commitment to adolescent well-being is:

- in response to the United Nation's Secretary-General's [call for national and global commitments](#) to deliver the 'Rescue Plan for People and Planet' at the [SDG Summit 2023](#), that will help drive SDG transformation for inclusion and sustainability in the years ahead; and
- in support of the [Global Forum for Adolescents](#), the world's largest-ever convening of stakeholders – youth networks, governments, private sector, donors, the United Nations agencies and others – to raise attention to the need for immediate action to advance the major determinants of adolescent well-being, as a major milestone within the [1.8 Billion Young People for Change](#) campaign, convened by PMNCH

On behalf of the Government of Liberia, we commit to:

- Ensure sustainable resources for Adolescent and Youth Well-being, including:
 - Work with the National Legislature to advocate for the specific Public Sector Investment Plan budget line for adolescent and Youth well-being.



- Allocate in the National Budget and disburse the annual US\$ 1Million in support of the "Enhancing Social Cohesion through Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Marginalized Youth in Liberia
- Update the existing Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy (DRMS) to explore more innovative and integrated sources for financing, including climate financing, to expand Liberia's fiscal space.
- Streamline recurrent domestic budget expenditure to create more room for development financing for priority programmes such as the Public Sector Investment Plan toward adolescent and youth well-being.
- Institute Human Security Trust Financing for adolescent and youth-related programmes.
- Provide affordable menstrual hygiene management services by progressively removing all tariffs on the importation and/or the local production of menstrual hygiene products.
- Strengthen the policy and legal environment that ensure Adolescent and Youth Well-being, including:
 - a. Produce age disaggregated data as part of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, including through Population and Housing Census and other surveys and studies,
 - b. Maintain adolescent-related indicators in the high-level national indicators framework, including contraceptive prevalence rate, maternal mortality, gender-based violence, and harmful practices, including FGM,
 - c. For the first time, include a special chapter on the country's performance in promoting adolescent well-being as part of the national development plan implementation and reporting,
 - d. Make adolescent well-being a reporting requirement for the first time in both the President's delivery plan and national plan, producing three Adolescent Well-being Annual Reports between 2024 and 2027,
 - e. Promote greater meaningful inclusion of adolescents in the process for developing the national development plan and implementation structure by having adolescent and youth representatives on the National Steering Committee (chaired by the President), the highest policy decision-making body, to advance Adolescent and Youth Well-being,
 - f. Amend the 1969 Legislative enactment for "National Youth Day" to include 'Adolescent' to be observed as "National Adolescent and Youth Day" in observance of the country's recognition of our efforts to promote adolescent and youth well-being and amplify their voices for shared prosperity,
 - g. Revise the National Youth Policy and Action Plan to include Adolescent and youth leadership and participation in decision-making processes and ensure their rights to protection,
 - h. Review the National Education Policy and Sector Plan, reinforcing quality education for adolescents and youth,
- Include in our development agenda the following programmes to specifically address the needs of adolescents and youth:
 - a. Inaugurate a special Presidential Adolescent and Youth Dialogue: Conduct periodic consultations with adolescents to garner their proposals to enhance their well-being,
 - b. Rehabilitation skilling and reintegration of vulnerable and marginalized adolescents and young people particularly those on illicit substances, and empower them with the agency and voice to contribute to peacebuilding, and hold state actors accountable,



- c. conduct a study on the impacts of drugs and substance abuse on productivity and well-being, and convening relate periodic debates, dialogues, and advocacy sessions with civil society to garner voices, and amplify the significance of actions for adolescent,
- d. economic empowerment and livelihood skills and creation of job opportunities for adolescents and young people,
- e. Protection of adolescents, especially girls, against harmful practices, including FGM and forced marriage,
- f. education, including comprehensive sexuality education and technical vocational education,
- g. Include adolescents and youth ' well-being as a special theme in the conduct of the ongoing study on the drivers of inclusive and sustainable development in Liberia,
- h. Make adolescent and youth well-being a cross-cutting feature of the next national development plan and set up a special task force at national and subnational levels to follow up and monitor key performance indicators on adolescent well-being,
- i. Set up a programme for juvenile/youth justice system reform, including the first-ever juvenile diversion programme, probation,
- j. Build and expand education, employment, and empowerment pathways for adolescents and youths through the national youth volunteer programme and development partners-supported skills for future jobs and grooming entrepreneurs and professionals initiatives,
- k. Revise the National Gender Policy to include adolescent and youth well-being issues.

In support of our Commitment/s please see attached supporting documents:

- Road Map on the National Youth Act & National Youth Policy
- Action for Adolescence Development
- National Policy on Girls' Education
- National Cadet Program
- National School Health Policy
- National Curriculum Policy
- Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development
- Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD+10) National Review Report
- Revised National Gender Policy (2018-2022)

Our commitment is directly aligned to the domains of the [Adolescent well-being framework](#):

1. Health and nutrition
2. Connectedness, positive values, and contribution to society
3. Safety and a supportive environment
4. Learning, competence, education, skills, and employability
5. Agency and resilience

Our commitment is aimed at accelerating progress towards the following [SDGs](#):



- SDG 1: No Poverty
- SDG 2: Zero Hunger
- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- SDG 8: Decent Work
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

By making this commitment we agree to [register](#) our commitments on the [SDG Summit Acceleration and Accountability Platform](#). We commit to systematically report on the implementation of these commitments through existing follow-up and review processes including the Voluntary National Review Process.

Sincerely,


D. Zeogor Wilson
Minister
Ministry of Youth and Sports