

Preamble:

The Government of the Republic of Liberia, ahead of the TRANSFORMING EDUCATION SUMMIT in New York on 14-19 September 2022, join to reaffirm our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) – to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all – and accordingly acknowledge the pivotal role the United Nations continues to play in achieving the goals of SDG 4.

1. **We recognize** that education is a necessary foundation for achieving all development goals, in particular health, gender equality, poverty reduction, peace and security, shared prosperity, resilient economies and climate action.
2. **We note** with concern before then the disruptive impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and EBOLA on education and recognize that even before the pandemic closed schools across the world, over 250 million children were out of school, and more than half of those in school were not meeting learning benchmarks. We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the annual financing gap for education in low and middle-income countries from the estimated US\$148 billion to almost US\$200 billion, placing the future of millions of learners at risk, with Liberia being of no exception.
3. **We acknowledge** the economic strain that COVID-19 has placed on national economies and budgets, and take cognizance that education will play a vital role in ensuring effective response to the pandemic and long-term recovery from the multitude of disruptions caused by EBOLA, and COVID-19 and other emergencies. Without adequate targeted responses, a huge sum of lifetime earnings could be lost for this cohort of learners due to missed learning opportunities resulting from school closures and subsequent drop-out by some learners.
4. **We recognize** that to maintain the gains and momentum generated towards ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education-for-all over the last few decades of concerted global and domestic efforts, and in order to guarantee quality education that strengthens human capital and provides the skills and knowledge needed to seize the opportunities of

the 21st century, we must address the holistic needs of all learners, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized.

Our call to action to development partners:

We recognize that the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is the world's only partnership and fund dedicated entirely to helping children in lower-income countries get quality education, and thereby call upon world leaders, development partners and all GPE beneficiary countries to stand in solidarity and support the agenda of the current Transforming Education Summit, spearheaded by the United Nations General Assembly under the leadership of its Secretary General, His Excellency António Guterres

5. **We acknowledge** the role that bilateral and multilateral development partners, as well as the private sector, play in developing and strengthening domestic education strategies in Liberia and urge them to endeavor to align all support with the respective national education plans.

Our commitment:

6. **We recognize** that domestic financing is and will remain the most significant and sustainable form of funding for education. Taking cognizance that countries with the most successful education systems have consistently allocated at least 20% of annual total public expenditure to education, we hereby pledge to achieve this target by 2025.
7. **We commit** to ensuring equity in access to quality education, including making available resources extend to the most marginalized children, especially girls. We commit to prioritizing gender equity, with a specific commitment to improving girls' education and increasing investments for the inclusion of children with disabilities or other historically excluded groups.
8. **We commit** to placing greater emphasis on improving learning outcomes in our education systems, and employing new techniques and methodologies to the extent of our resources that have been proven to yield better results for students. We recognize the role of technology in improving learning outcomes and commit to leveraging technology-supported learning to improve equity in access to

education and to close the prevailing global digital divide. We commit to Strengthening system resilience by mainstreaming climate change mitigation, disaster risk reduction and adaptation in the national education agenda and strengthen the focus on STEM and digital skills in all learning institutions

9. **We commit** to continue investing in strengthening the capacities of teachers, recognizing the indispensable role that they play in determining learning outcomes. We take this opportunity to express gratitude and to wholesomely applaud teachers for their commitment and resilience in sustaining teaching and learning during the pandemic and beyond.
10. We also use this opportunity to applaud and commend all students for continuing to embrace the promise of education and learning in this modern age and for their remarkable resilience, adaptability and dedication during the challenging period of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the EBOLA Epidemic.
11. **We pledge** to ensure efficient use of available resources for education by improving accountability and transparency in the education sector, addressing systemic based inefficiencies, including high repetition and drop-out rates, and eliminating gaps in the optimal management and placement of teachers. We take note that savings accrued from the ensuing increased efficiency, coupled with additional global financing for education, will be instrumental towards strengthening the organizational capacity of learning institutions and, in so doing, improving on service delivery.

The way forward:

12. We invite the UN General Assembly, together with all development partners and stakeholders in education, to join us in monitoring the implementation of these pledges and commitments over the next five years, (2023-2028). We intend to continue utilizing the platform derived from this Global Transforming Education Summit to enhance best-practice, mutual learning, exchange partnership and collaboration shared among all countries.
13. With the aim of securing a stable and prosperous future for all children, **we adopt this Call to Action** and *raise our hands* in

solidarity to fully transform our education system to commiserate with 21st century demand.

This call has been endorsed by: