



UNITED NATIONS, 25 July -- Over 130 Liberian Government officials participated in a four-day capacity-building workshop held in Monrovia from 10 to 14 July which drafted action plans on implementing treaty obligations relating to a wide range of treaties in the fields of international trade, transportation, transnational organized crime, international terrorism, corruption and money laundering, human rights, and humanitarian law.

The participants in the workshop, which was hosted by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and supported by the United Nations and the World Bank, included officials from all of the major ministries, the Legislature, national law enforcement agencies and members of civil society.

Participants were provided training on the domestic implementation of treaty obligations in their respective fields. The workshop also identified the various challenges facing the Liberian Government in implementing its treaty obligations. The challenges are not only legal and political, but operational and material as well. Most of the government ministries were ransacked during the civil war. Essentials such as documentation, access to information and basic office equipment are needed so that officials can implement the action plans.

Detailed plans of action addressing these challenges and concrete steps to be taken to implement treaty obligations were created by the Liberian participants and will be put into practice in cooperation with the expert trainers, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

The workshop's expert trainers came from the Treaty Section and the International Trade Law Division (UNCITRAL) of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Regional Office for West and Central Africa of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Following the closing of the workshop on 14 July, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, George Wallace, met with the expert trainers and other UN officials to express his gratitude for the workshop and to discuss future steps in the partnership effort. Mr. Wallace also pledged the full commitment of the Government of Liberia in meeting its treaty obligations.

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