

NATIONAL STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. GEORGE MANNEH WEAH
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

AT THE

WORLD CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT (WCAS)

HELD DURING

THE TWENTY-EIGHT (28TH) SESSION
OF
THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (COP 28)

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

DECEMBER 2, 2023

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;

Distinguished Delegates and Participants;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to thank the Government and People of the United Arab Emirates for hosting the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28) here in Dubai.

I am also grateful for the warm welcome extended to my delegation since our arrival in the beautiful city of Dubai.

As we convene here at COP28, I stand before you in recognition of the unprecedented challenges our world faces today due to climate change. In the wake of COP26 and COP27, the year 2023 has been characterized by record-breaking heat, droughts,

flooding, and other disasters caused by climate change, which have occurred with increasing frequency throughout the year.

Our shared commitment to the 2015 Paris Agreement demands a candid assessment of our progress. The extraordinary climate shocks experienced this year are not only a wake-up call, but a call to action, urging us to re-evaluate the progress we have made so far towards achieving our aspirational goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Centigrade by 2030.

If, after such review, we conclude that we have not done enough to meet these climate goals, then it is the responsibility of all countries present here at COP28 to adopt an imperative and more realistic agenda to implement and transform key climate-related decisions into concrete actions and credible plans; and increase the level of financial and other commitments on climate change issues, with an aim to fight back climate emergency and promote more coordinated action to combat climate change.

In my address two years ago at COP26 in Glasgow, I called attention to the inherent imbalance in the current architecture of climate change financing, and suggested that there needs to be a fundamental shift in the way that we tackle this mismatch in climate investments.

Today, let me reiterate that major greenhouse gas emitting countries will need to develop new initiatives for emission reduction, and not only fulfill – but significantly increase – the financial pledges that they have previously made for funding United Nations climate financing initiatives.

At the same time, care should be taken to overhaul and regulate carbon credit financing mechanisms to ensure more transparency and accountability, so that they are not used merely as an avenue for high emitters to avoid responsibility for reducing emissions.

Vulnerable nations such as Liberia will require more financial support to protect us from the ravages of global warming and climate change. Funding for adaptation and mitigation is crucial, and compensation for the loss and damage already inflicted must be an urgent consideration.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In our shared stewardship of this global village, let our deliberations at COP28 culminate in resolute decisions and practical initiatives. I challenge each of you to contribute to the preservation of Planet Earth, our only home, for the sake of generations yet unborn.

I thank you.