

STATEMENT

BY

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

AT

THE SECOND DEMOCRACY SUMMIT

MARCH 29 - 30, 2023

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Governments:

On behalf of the Government and People of Liberia, I am honored to participate in this Second Democracy Summit. I congratulate President Joseph R. Biden and our co-hosts for organizing this Summit, which brings us together once again in the cause of democratic governance.

During the first Democracy Summit held recently, Liberia made various commitments aimed at strengthening and safeguarding democracy at home and abroad. Those commitments are being successfully implemented.

At that meeting I pledged my Administration's unflinching commitment to the defense of democracy; the fight against corruption, and the promotion of human rights and good governance.

We continue to deliver on our commitments to media freedom and openness in legislative processes, as well as the elimination of harmful traditional practices. We have enacted a landmark anti-corruption law which gives greater independence and

autonomy to existing ant-corruption agencies. We have also enacted a new anti-money laundering law to fight illicit financial flows as well as drugs and terrorism financing.

EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Under our stewardship, Liberia has been consistent and steadfast on the path of democracy. New laws have been enacted to protect free speech, and the right to freedom of assembly has also been guaranteed. There have been no political prisoners or prisoners of conscience since the beginning of my Administration more than five years ago.

Our democratic institutions, including the judiciary, continue to improve on their capacities to respect and protect the fundamental rights of citizens and residents, and to strengthen accountability, transparency and the rule of law.

During my visit to Washington last December, I affirmed my commitment to free, fair, transparent and peaceful Presidential and Legislative elections which are due to be held in Liberia in October this year, the peaceful conduct of which will strengthen our democratic credentials and showcase Liberia as a bastion of democracy in Africa. We remain unwavering in that commitment.

I am confident that Liberia will remain a pillar of democracy on the African continent, and pledge to continue to be an integral part of the global coalition in defense of democracy in the world.

I thank you for your attention.