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STRENGTHENING THE UN TRUST FUND

*Remarks by Minister of Gender and Development Vabah Gayflor, Liberia
on the Occasion of the 10th Anniversary Commemoration of the
UNIFEM-Managed UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women
16 February 2007, ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters*

Madame Deputy Secretary-General,
Noeleen,
Excellencies,
Distinguished guests.

It is my pleasure to be here today and represent the President of Liberia, Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The President sends her regards, and regrets not to be able to join us.

As Liberia is emerging from its war-ravaged past, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women supports our efforts to build a safe and peaceful future for our citizens.

I whole-heartedly add my voice to those who call for a strengthening of this unique Trust Fund today.

Trust Fund grants support organizations in my country that will watch how the laws on inheritance and property, and the two new laws on rape are implemented. Additionally, the project is building the capacity of local judicial and traditional court officials through training on the existing anti-violence legislation.

Another grant strengthens women's organizations and other groups so they can effectively monitor, document and report cases of violence against women. The project will provide important data to my government's work on strategies and solutions. And a third effort underway informs and mobilizes people at the community level, paying particular attention to involving men and youths.

President Johnson Sirleaf has been tireless in her efforts to end violence against women, as she will tell us herself in a video message she has recorded for this event.

Distinguished guests, let me introduce the President of the Republic of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.