

## Country Development Cooperation Policy to the Republic of Liberia

April, 2019

### 1. Objectives of Development Cooperation to Liberia

Liberia has peacefully conducted sexennial-presidential elections in three consecutive electoral cycles since 2005 after two civil wars. In the 2018 election, a democratic change of government took place in a peaceful manner for the first time in seventy-four years. It is extremely important for Liberia to maintain such political stability and peace for realisation of country's future development.

Repeated civil wars and the Ebola outbreak depleted human resources for prospective administration, which is one of the causes of the present weakness of administrative capacity of the country. Limited government revenue, economic structure largely dependent on exploitation of natural resources such as iron ore and rubber, a high youth unemployment rate, inadequate economic infrastructure such as electricity and roads, and an increase of urban-rural inequality, among others, are challenges impeding Liberia's development. Supporting Liberia's efforts to overcome these challenges is important for the stability and development of the country and the West African region.

Liberia remains at the lowest level in global developmental indexes. According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Human Development Index (HDI) in 2018, Liberia ranks 181 out of 189 countries. To assist Liberia in raising itself in these developmental indexes meets high priority of Japan's ODA Charter, which attaches importance to "poverty reduction".

To cope with these challenges, the Liberian Government formulated the "Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD)" as national development plan for 2018-2023 with a policy to improve the living standards of the poor.

Development cooperation to Liberia would foster mutual trust between Japan and Liberia and contribute to the strengthening of bilateral relations including cooperation in the international arena.

### 2. Basic policy of Japanese ODA: Formation of the social and economic foundation for progressive development

Liberia has high potential for exports of mineral resources. However, due to the decline in international resource prices, the civil wars, and the Ebola outbreak, its social and economic foundations have been weakened. As a result, its economic growth has declined, and poverty has remained serious problem. From the perspective of human security, the consolidation of political stability and peace, economic development, and poverty reduction

are important for the stability and development of the West African region. Japan contributes to strengthening the social and economic foundation necessary for economic growth.

### 3. Priority areas

#### (1) Infrastructure development

Japan contributes to the promotion of economic activities and improvement of the quality of life through assistance for infrastructure development and technical cooperation for infrastructure maintenance in such areas as roads and electricity facilities.

#### (2) Formation of the economic and social foundation by such means as human capital development.

Japan aims to enhance human capital development and development environment in the following areas:

##### a) Health and nutrition

To improve health indicators, such as life expectancy, under-5 mortality ratio, maternal mortality ratio, and Malnutrition related indicators, Japan aims to reinforce the administrative capacity and improve the health and sanitation environment.

##### b) Promotion of agriculture and food security initiatives

Rice is one of the main staple foods in Liberia and the per capita rice consumption in Liberia is one of the highest in Africa. Liberia, where there is a strong need to increase domestic rice production, is a target country of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD).

Utilizing its knowledge and technology, Japan provides support for establishing and promoting appropriate rice cultivation technology for improving productivity and profitability of small-scale farmers.

Food assistance is to be provided based on food security situations.

##### c) Education, vocational training and administrative capacity building

Youth unemployment due to limited access to education and vocational training is a challenge in Liberia. Through improvement of education and vocational training, Japan supports to cultivate and supply high potential human resources to key industries for development. Japan also supports strengthening the governance of the country by capacity development of government officials.

### 4. Points to note

(1) Japan does not possess a residence embassy in Liberia and the limited resources of

JICA (currently a field office is in operation). Under such circumstances, Japan's institutional capacity to implement development cooperation has limitations. Therefore, development assistance through international organizations are also to be utilized.

(2) In provision of assistance, Japan will make efforts, exercising comparative advantage of Japan, and further improve aid effectiveness through partnership with other donor countries and international organizations.

(3) Japan will make efforts to promote public-private partnership based on a relatively stable public security in Liberia.

Annex: Rolling Plan