



*(From left) Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Hon'ble President, Republic of Liberia; Mr. Dinesh Bhatia, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, and concurrently accredited to the Republic of Liberia and the Republic of Guinea; Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS*

## **Press Release**

### **‘Rising Africa is all set for partnership with India in Education’ – Nobel Laureate Liberian President Sirleaf**

In her special address at RIS, President Sirleaf said that 'Rising Africa' is characterised by economic growth, improving social indicators, aspiring young population, ready to compete, and the stage is all set for its development partnership with India. We must give this partnership more attention, she emphasised. In this regard, she appreciated Prime Minister Modi's concrete commitments towards Africa for scaling up trade, investment, capacity development, among other areas. She particularly emphasized on India-Africa partnership in education and agriculture revolution.

As one of the 3 Co-Chairs at the UN on SDGs, she expressed satisfaction over the adoption of the SDGs. But implementation of SDGs is a much greater task especially in terms of mobilisation of human and financial resources, she said.

The SDGs are a set of 17 Goals and 169 targets covering social, economic and environmental dimensions of development across the globe. SDGs are slated to focus on global systemic reforms to remove main impediments to development and secure an accommodating international environment for sustainable development.

Prof Sachin Chaturvedi DG, RIS welcoming the President said that we were immensely glad to have HE President Sirleaf who has provided intellectual and policy leadership on issues relating to the MDGs and now the SDGs. He also mentioned that RIS and UN in India have launched a major research programme engaging lawmakers, policy-makers, academia and the civil society in India on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) whereby possible implementation strategies are also being explored.

This initiative is being organised under the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) at RIS. As part of the programme, RIS has already organised a series of high level consultations in New Delhi, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and New York focusing on issues of financing for development, SDGs and global institutional architecture for development.

Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India said that there is sufficient scope of cooperation between India and Africa especially through the UN at large and the SDGs in particular.

President Sirleaf was jointly awarded the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize with Leymah Gbowee of Liberia and Tawakel Karman of Yemen. The women were recognized "for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace.

She also received the Indira Gandhi Prize whom she mentioned as a tremendous source of inspiration and remembered her on her day of martyrdom. Making Special remarks on the occasion Mr. Dinesh Bhatia, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and concurrently accredited to the Republic of Liberia and the Republic of Guinea mentioned that the countries that he has been associated with represent one of the most prosperous regions. Their success stories need to be disseminated and understood for deriving appropriate lessons. Their efforts towards human resources development, skill development and poverty reduction have a lot in common with India and we need to build on the synergies.

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Attached please see the Agenda