Statement by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on Selection Of Drs. Amos Sawyer and Toga McIntosh to AU, ECOWAS Appointments Thursday, February 2, 2012

Dr. Sawyer; Dr. McIntosh; The Press:

Unlike other appointments, we are having a formal ceremony to recognize major international appointments of Liberians who are assuming two high-level international positions.

Dr. Amos Sawyer, who has for the past two years served on the African Peer Review Mechanism, which includes a majority African Union States, has now been selected to head the APRM, the first time for a Liberian to be so recognized.

Dr. Toga McIntosh, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, was selected through a competitive process to the position of Vice Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) – the first highlevel position for Liberia in that institution for over 20 years.

We are proud of their service, we are proud of their selection or election, and we know, based on their past performance, that they will make Liberia proud in these new roles.

I want to also use this occasion to assure all Liberians that the government will be inclusive, and that the government is not composed of only Senior Ministers. Other appointments are coming.

You should also take note that all high-level political appointees, such as Ministers, will be required to sign a one-year performance contract in which they will give me established goals, and what they need to achieve those goals, and at the end of that year, they will be evaluated on basis of their performance and that will be a determination of their continuation.

This is a new policy, but it is one which we are going to enforce to make sure that people carry the right amount of commitment to their jobs and that they achieve the goals that we all want to see, so that our development agenda can be realized.

[The President then gave Dr. Amos Sawyer and Dr. Toga McIntosh the opportunity to speak.]