Statement by Femmes Africa Solidarité on behalf of the Mano River Women’s Peace Network – March 2007

Thank you Mr President for giving us the floor.

Femmes Africa Solidarité supports the Special Rapporteur’s report submitted to the Council about the situation in Liberia.

The Mano River Women’s Peace Network - of which I am a founding member and former Vice-President - was awarded the UN Prize in the Field of Human Rights by the General Assembly in 2003, for our work in the Mano river basin. Sierra Leone is sustaining its peace and we thank the international community for its assistance during the upheaval in my country.

We also thank the International Community for bringing Charles Taylor to justice, making him face charges for crimes against the people of Sierra Leone.

The Mano River Women’s Peace Network would now urge the international community to render assistance to the people of Liberia, as its newly elected President H.E Ellen Johnson Sirleaf strives to get the country back on its feet.

She has appointed many women to high decision making positions and also received a UN women peace keeping force from India to enhance the protection against violence targeted at women.

Thank you Mr President

(Statement delivered by Agnes Taylor-Lewis, Founding member and former Vice-President of MARWOPNET)