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AGENDA

Actions for genuine democratic alternatives, (inc).

Participation. Innovation. Technology. Change

PRESS RELEASE

Monrovia, Liberia; May 9, 2008; 12:00 GMT: **The Actions for Genuine Democratic Alternatives (AGENDA)** is calling on the Liberian Government to join the Stolen Assets Recovery (StAR) Initiative, so as to be able to recover wealth illegally accumulated and kept in other countries by present and past leaders.

AGENDA's call comes in the wake of recent revelations made in Monrovia by the Special Court on Sierra Leone's Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp that billions of dollars in a CitiBank account has been traced to former Liberian Dictator, Charles Taylor, now standing trial in the Hague on war crimes charges.

The Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative, commonly referred to as the StAR Initiative is a partnership between World Bank and United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) that was launched by United Nations on September 17, 2007 to help developing countries recover assets stolen by corrupt leaders help invest them in Effective development programs and combat safe haven internationally.

This initiative will foster much needed cooperation between developed and developing countries; and between the public and private sectors; to ensure that looted assets are returned to their rightful owners. The initiative seeks to ensure also that there is no safe haven for those who steal from the poor; and it puts corrupt leaders on notice that they will not escape the law. The StAR initiative is the turning point in the global fight against corruption. Between September 2005 and early 2006, the government of Nigeria recovered \$505 Million of the Sani Abacha money frozen and forfeited by Swiss authorities through the StAR initiative. Therefore, it is **AGENDA** expectation that the government of Liberia will move quickly and timely to join this global initiative.

The Actions for Genuine Democratic Alternatives (AGENDA) is a collaboration of local and international activists working together to promote citizens participation in governance, foster transparency and accountability in the administration of public trust. It seeks to harness public and private sectors views in a way that influences public policy, thus putting people first at the center of public policy-making.

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