

**SPEECH BY THE FIRST LADY**

**CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
MEETING OF THE CHIL LABOUR COCOA  
COORDINATING GROUP (CLCCG)**

**JULY 19<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

After two days of intensive work we are at the end of the **CLCCG 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting.**

I especially appreciated ICI presentation on mapping tool for school infrastructure and that of NORC on cocoa reseach project in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. I also

appreciated the determination of the panelists during the two days in order to find new ways to « **Accelerate good practices to combat child labour in cocoa growing communities in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana** ».

**The conclusions and recommendations that was red,** give me hope that we will succeed in rapidly reducing this scourge in the cocoa production chain in our respective countries. I congratulate each and every

one of you for the important work you have done so far.

In this regard, I would like to reiterate my thanks to the delegations of the **Governments of the United States and Ghana** who made the trip to Abidjan to participate in this important meeting.

I also express my thanks to our **ministers who chair the Interministerial Committee and to the Director General of the Coffee-Cocoa Council**

for their contribution to the success of the event.

Thanks also to all the officials for their participation in the discussion.

My thanks also go to **the cocoa and chocolate industry, to the experts from Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire** for the productive discussion that took place during the sessions.

I would also like to congratulate all **our partners, national and international**

**NGOs, producers' cooperatives** and all those who contributed directly or indirectly to the success of this annual meeting.

Finally, I express my thanks to **the organizing committee of the CNS and the CIM**, led by **Mrs Patricia YAO**, for the excellent work that has been done.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like to conclude by reaffirming my full commitment to protecting the lives of our children with the support of all

stakeholders. As I said at the opening ceremony: « **Eliminating child labour is a collective responsibility, which requires strong commitment and determination from all actors** ».

If we want to achieve our goal and guarantee the sustainability of our action, we need to strengthen our efforts. **As far as we are concerned, Côte d'Ivoire is more than ever committed to ensure the elimination of child labour.**

I remain convinced that **the synergy of our efforts** remains the most effective way to eradicate child labour and exploitation in the cocoa production chain.

On this note, I close the 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Child Labour Cocoa Coordinating Group.

**Thank you.**