



Compendium of Election Observer Recommendations



**LIBERIA
GENERAL
ELECTIONS
2017**

Introduction

This compendium lists all recommendations made by international and national election observer groups CSOs, which at the time of compiling have issued final reports or preliminary statements on the Liberian 2017 general elections. The main objective for issuing recommendations is to improve the framework, context and conduct of future public elections in Liberia. The main purpose of the compendium is to facilitate consideration of the recommendations by the NEC and other Liberian authorities by making them available in a single document.

The election observation reports and statements published to date contain almost 150 recommendations. For ease of navigation, the recommendations are grouped in table format in nine thematic areas. Column 4 of the table (below) presents the original text of the recommendations. Column 5 attempts to combine recommendations of similar content so that a single and coherent list of recommendations is formulated.

It is for national authorities and stakeholders to decide the most effective electoral framework for future elections. Should they decide to act on the recommendation, the last two columns set out a 'change path' and, identify which Liberian state authorities may have leading roles in their

implementation. Column eight was added by ECC to provide information on the status of each recommendation.

No.	Main Theme	Sub-Themes	EOM Recommendation (original text)	Recommendation	Change Through	Responsible Bodies	Action Taken
1	Constitution	Constitution (General)	All pending constitutional matters related to elections should be resolved prior to the next elections (ECOWAS EOM)	<i>All pending constitutional matters related to elections should be resolved prior to the next elections.</i>	Referendum	Government, Legislature, (NEC)	There were no pending matters that needed to be resolved prior to the 2023 elections

2	Constitution (Article 83a)	Election Administration	Consider amending the legislation to provide for the conduct of elections during the dry season as opposed to the rainy season (EISA). The Constitution should not indicate a specific Election Day, but it should give a timeframe that allows for flexibility to react upon political developments, to respond to electoral petitions in a timely and impartial manner, and other emergencies such as the 2014 Ebola health crisis. Article 83 should be amended and the date for holding election is set in the NEL that responds to the weather condition and can be easily amended to respond to prevailing national economic constraint, calamity or crisis (ECC).	<i>Amend article 83 of the Constitution to remove the requirement that elections are held on a specific day and in such a way that enables elections to be held in the dry season or to be postponed due to a national emergency.</i>	Referendum	Government, Legislature, (NEC)	A referendum was held in 2020 to amend this provision but it did not meet the required two-thirds valid votes for an amendment.
3	Constitution (Articles 47 and 48)	Terms of Office	The length of the Presidential and Legislative period should be reconsidered along regional and international best practice where terms for President should not exceed 4 years and for the House of Representatives not exceeding 4 years (ECC).	<i>Amend articles 47 and 48 to reduce the length of the presidential and legislative terms in line with regional best practice.</i>	Referendum	Government, Legislature	Same as above.
4	Constitution (Article 27)	Citizenship	The legislature could initiate a constitutional referendum process for the successful removal of the ethnic definition of Liberian citizenship. Working co-operatively and using advocacy and civic education could contribute to the alignment of Liberia with its international and regional obligations prohibiting racial discrimination (EU Priority Recommendation).	<i>The legislature could initiate a constitutional referendum process for the successful removal of the ethnic definition of Liberian citizenship. Working cooperatively and using advocacy and civic education could contribute to the alignment of Liberia with its international and regional obligations prohibiting racial discrimination.</i>	Referendum	Government, Legislature	No action was taken on this recommendation.

5	Constitution (Article 83c)	Jurisdiction to hear election disputes/appeals Refer to recommendation No 52.	Article 83 (c) of the Constitution requires amendment in order to strip NEC of all judicial powers related to the adjudication of electoral disputes (ECC).	<i>Amend article 83(c) to remove the NEC's judicial powers related to election disputes.</i>	Referendum (to alter Article 83c) Legislation as required to reassign jurisdiction and amend NEL and NEC Regulations as required.	Government, Legislature (NEC)	No action was taken on this recommendation
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No.	Main Theme	Sub-Themes	EOM Recommendation (original text)	Recommendation	Change Through	Responsible Bodies	Action Taken
6	Constitution (Article 83c)	Deadlines to challenge to election results and inauguration of the President	Complaints related to the elections results should be submitted from the beginning of the tallying process and not later than 7 days after the announcement of the final results. Appeals should be submitted within 7 days after the first decision. Final decision by the Supreme Court should be issued 7 days after the complaints have been filed. The Supreme Court is the only body authorized to annul election results and ordering the conduct of a new election (ECC). The legislature might consider undertaking a review of article 83 in light of the SC ruling of 6 November 2017 and, as may be necessary, remove uncertainty on the span of appeals timelines to safeguard future inaugurations against potential conflicts with complaint timelines (EU Priority Recommendation).	<i>Review Article 83 to remove uncertainty on the timeframe for appeals and ensure that there is no conflict between the dates for inauguration and complaint/appeal timelines. The Supreme Court should be the only body authorized to annul election results and to order the repeating an election / holding a fresh election.</i>	Referendum	Government, Legislature (NEC)	No action was taken on this recommendation

7	Constitution (Article 78)	Political Parties Refer to recommendation No 46	The respective constitutional provisions should be changed and limited to define the basic requirements operationalizing the parties and should be addressed by the Parties Law (ECC). There is a need to amend Chapter 8 of the Constitution but particularly Article 78 (ECC).	<i>Review article 78 with the aim to set out the basic requirements for formation and functioning of political parties.</i>	Referendum (if Constitution requires amendment)	Government, Legislature, (NEC)	No action taken on this recommendation
8	Constitution (Implications for Articles 48, 80d and 80e and 83b)	Women's Representation Refer to recommendation No. 42.	Consider passing laws and implementation of measures that will increase the political participation of disadvantaged groups, such as for example, reserved seats for women, youth and people with disabilities in the House of Representatives. This is in line with the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (EISA).	<i>If it is not possible to enact 'temporary special measures' that increase the number of women MPs in a manner that conforms to the provisions of the Constitution, Liberia should consider amending the Constitution to allow temporary special measures to be introduced through Statute. In so doing, reference should be made to Liberia's commitments as a state party to the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, the ACDEG and CEDAW. Liberia should, in addition consider how the representation of youth, persons with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups can be increased.</i>	Referendum (if Constitution requires amendment), Amendment of NEL	Government, Legislature, (NEC)	No action was taken on this recommendation

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9	Constitution (Articles 80d and 80e)	Election Districts Refer to Recommendation No. 29.	Delimitation of electoral constituency boundaries should be done in accordance with the Constitution and Liberia's international obligations (EU). In redrawing legislative boundaries, adhere to the constitutional requirement that constituencies have an approximately equal population size (NDI)	<i>Delimitation of electoral constituency boundaries should be done in accordance with the Constitution and Liberia's international obligations. If articles 80d and 80e of the Constitution cannot be fulfilled, these articles should be revised to establish criteria that can feasibly be implemented. The most important outcome is to ensure the approximate equality of the vote between citizens resident in different constituencies.</i>	Referendum (if Constitution requires amendment)	Government, Legislature, NEC	No action was taken on this recommendation
10.	Constitution (Article 20b, Article 66)	Appeals	The legislature, in consultation with the Supreme Court, could consider the establishment of a lower appeals court to alleviate an overburdened Supreme Court, which could equally contribute to the expeditious handling of cases including election complaints (EU).	<i>The legislature, in consultation with the Supreme Court, could consider the establishment of a lower appeals court to alleviate an overburdened Supreme Court, which could equally contribute to the expeditious handling of cases including election complaints.</i>	Referendum (if Constitution requires amendment)	Government, Legislature	No action was taken on this recommendation

11	<p>Constitution (Articles TBC)</p> <p>Coherence of Laws</p>	<p>Harmonisation of Laws with Constitution and Supreme Court Rulings</p> <p>Harmonisation of Regulations with Laws</p> <p>Timelines</p> <p>Refer to Recommendation No. 53</p>	<p>Inconsistencies among the Constitution, Statute and Regulations need to be harmonized especially around access to the voter roll. Other ambiguous and unenforceable provisions such as Section 4.5 1A within the NEL require legislative amendment (ECC). Integrate a review of the legal framework for elections into the ongoing constitutional review process and avoid any gaps or inconsistencies between the elections law, the constitution, and Supreme Court legal precedents (NDI). The specifics of election timeline should be elaborated in the electoral law and ensure that current inconsistencies and conflicting deadlines are eliminated (ECC). The legislature to review the election law and civil procedure laws to consolidate all relevant timelines and extensions to such timelines (arising either under legal practice or civil procedure rules) to ensure transparency, accessibility and ease of comprehension for all election stakeholders (EU). The specifics of election timeline should be elaborated in the electoral law and ensure that</p>	<p><i>Review the Constitution, Legislative Acts related to elections (NEL and Civil Procedure Code), NEC Regulations and relevant rulings of the Supreme Court to ensure their clarity, coherence and transparency i.e. that they are harmonised. Specific attention should be paid to the accessibility of the voter register, candidacy (§ 4.5.1a), election deadlines and extensions to election deadlines.</i></p> <p><i>The election timeline (main deadlines) should be elaborated in the New Electoral Law (NEL).</i></p>	<p>Review of Constitution, Legislation (NEL and Civil Procedure Law) and NEC Regulations</p>	<p>Government, Legislature, NEC</p>	<p>No action taken on this recommendation</p>
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			current inconsistencies and conflicting deadlines are eliminated (ECC).				
12	Election Administration	NEC financing	The government should make adequate financial resources available to the NEC in a timely manner to facilitate its operations (ECOWAS EOM). Procurement processes should always commence very early, to enable the timely delivery of materials, and allowance of adequate timing for quality control (ECOWAS TST).	<i>The government should ensure timely and adequate financial resources are available to the National Elections Commission to enable it to implement its mandated activities and to launch procurement and activities in a timely manner.</i>	Government and NEC to coordinate on financial issues. Possible change to NEL (Chapter 11) to provide guarantees to NEC on financing.	Government, (Legislature) and NEC	No action was taken on this recommendation
13	Election Administration	Composition and Tenure of the NEC Board of Commissioners	The number of Commissioners should be reduced from 7 (seven) to 5 (five) (ECC). The tenure of all Commissioners should be reduced from 7 (seven) to 5 (five) years and limited to two consecutive terms (ECC). In addition to public vetting (consultation), the appointment of the Commissioners should be set to two terms limit (ECC). Clear criteria and procedures for dismissal of members of the BoC should be spelt out. Currently, the Board of Commissioners (BoC) can be dismissed for “cause” which is subject to interpretation. (ECC).	<i>Consideration should be given to amending the NEL to provide for a wider and more open process to select and appoint Commissioners. In addition, consideration could be given to reducing their number and the length of their terms of office and ensuring the security of their tenure through clarifying grounds for dismissal.</i>	Changes to §2.1 and §2.2, NEL	Legislature	This recommendation was not considered

14	Election Administration	NEC Board of Commissioners decision-making	Amend Section 2.4 of the NEL so that in the absence of the Chairperson, a quorum can be held with the Cochairperson presiding over the meeting. Quorum should remain at 5 (five) persons. The Chairperson does not necessarily have to be present before a quorum can be reached. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Co-Chairperson should act (ECC).	Amend §2.4 of the NEL to enable decisions to be taken in the absence of the Chairperson and to establish appropriate quorum requirements.	Changes to §2.4 NEL	Legislature	This recommendation was not considered
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15	Election Administration	Appointment of ED, functioning of NEC Secretariat	A clear labor share between the BoC and the Administrative Division headed by the ED should be established through a regulation with the Commissioners being purely responsible for the policy decisions of the Electoral Management Body, while the Administrative Division should become a full Secretariat with the Head of the Secretariat being responsible for its day-to-day affairs and for the implementation of the broader policy decisions by the BoC (ECC). The appointment procedures of the Executive Director (ED) should be revised to ensure real and full independence from the Board of Commissioners (ECC).	<i>The functions of the Board of Commissioners and the Secretariat should be set out in an internal NEC Regulation to ensure smooth implementation of their respective mandates and accountability mechanisms. Consideration should be given to reviewing the appointment procedures for the Executive Director.</i>	Changes to §2.19 and other Changes in Chapter 2 of the NEL to clarify roles of the BoC and Administrative division. Adoption of a NEC Regulation	Legislature and NEC	No action was taken on this recommendation

16	Election Administration	Institutional and individual performance review, human resources policy and recruitment	Conduct a comprehensive review of its performance during the 2017 elections that seeks input from both internal and external stakeholders in order to identify best practices and areas for improvement (NDI). The performance of NEC staff at all levels should be evaluated through an independent audit. Professionalism should be rewarded; underperformance and lack of commitment be sanctioned in keeping with law and human resource policy (ECC). Consider introducing quotas for the recruitment of under-represented and disadvantaged persons as electoral staff (EISA, LEON). Prioritize the recruitment of more female poll workers, including as presiding officers, to ensure gender balance in each polling place, as well as the recruitment of young adults and members of marginalized groups (NDI).	<i>Drawing on the experience of NEC staff and external stakeholders, the NEC should conduct a comprehensive review of its performance during the 2017 elections to identify good practices and areas in need of strengthening. Consideration could be given to engaging external assistance to review the NEC's human resource policy to establish procedures for performance appraisal of staff, compliance of NEC staff with their legal obligations and in ensuring diversity in staff recruitment and in the appointment of Commissioners and seniorlevel Secretariat staff.</i>	Internal/External Performance Reviews (through Lessons Learned and Strategic Planning Processes and High-Level Stakeholders Meeting) Review Human Resource Policy documents	NEC	No documentary evidence to show that actions were taken on this recommendation
17	Election Administration	Classifications of documents	All the Guidelines should be renamed Regulations (Guidelines are merely instructions to staff and usually are not published) (ECC).	<i>All procedures to which electoral officials are required to adhere should be contained in NEC Regulations rather than 'Guidelines'.</i>	NEC to harmonise naming of Regulations / Guidelines	NEC	

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22	Election Administration	Polling forms, data verification, gender	Institute measures for polling officials to record the number of voters who voted at each polling place on the Record of the Count Forms, and to reconcile that number with the number of ballots cast at each polling place during the counting process (NDI). Consider recording summary figures from the Gender Data Capturing Sheet on the Record of the Count sheet (NDI). Specifically, train poll workers on filling out and processing the Gender Data Capturing Sheet (NDI).	<i>The NEC should review procedures at polling place level and increase reliability of data management including for reconciliation purposes and to capture data on the gender of voters.</i>	NEC Regulations Design of forms, data management, training	NEC	No evidence to assess whether this recommendation was adhered to.
23	Election Administration	Polling forms	Make arrangements to provide copies of the polling place results to all party and candidate agents who are present at the polling place (EISA).	<i>Put in place a system to provide copies of the polling place results to all party and candidate agents who are present at the polling place.</i>	NEC Regulation, Design of forms, Implementation	NEC	This was done. Tallying sheets were given to party agents present.
24	Election Administration	Results processing, observers' access	Provide access to all stages of the tabulation process for observers and party agents, including at the national tally center (NDI).	<i>NEC Regulations should clearly establish the right of accredited election observers to witness the tabulation process at all stages of the results tallying and tabulation processes, including data processing.</i>	NEC Regulations (Observation / Tallying), Implementation	NEC	This was done.
25	Election Administration	Verification of results	Verify provisional results as they come in and release them in a timely fashion to enhance transparency and public confidence in the transmission and tabulation process (NDI).	<i>Verify provisional results as they come in and release them in a timely fashion to enhance transparency and public confidence in the transmission and tabulation process.</i>	Adopt NEC Regulations (Tallying), Implementation	NEC	This was done.

26	Voter Registration	System of registration, biometrics	<p>Consider progressing towards a passive voter registration system based on a reliable Civil Register thus enhancing participation in elections and addressing uncertainties inherent to active voter registration (EU) Priority Recommendation. The government should adopt and legislate a National Identification System (AU). A dynamic roll, that only needs regular updates is ideal for the country (ECOWAS TST). Given the cost required to establish a biometric voter registration system, NEC needs to engage the office of the National Registry (NR) to explore the opportunity to leverage the NR biometric identification card system for all Liberian citizens. Bio data information of citizens 18 years and above in the NR system could be extracted and made available to the NEC</p>	<p><i>Liberia should progress towards a passive voter registration system. The government should advance its plans to establish a biometric Civil (National) Register and assess the feasibility of extracting the voter register from the Civil Register. If it is not feasible to use the National Registry (NR) a separate, permanent, 'dynamic' and biometric voter register should be established for the 2023 elections.</i></p>	<p>Government, NIR, Legislature and NEC to consult on the feasibility of the recommendation. If agreed the Legislature should provide the appropriate legal basis (through amending NEL Chapter 3, as appropriate) and the NIR and NEC</p>	<p>Government, NIR, Legislature and NEC</p>	<p>This was not done. Instead, NEC transitioned to the biometric voter registration system</p>
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		<p>to facilitate the registration of voters. In the event where NEC cannot use the bio data from the NIR for voter registration processes, NEC needs to engage other relevant government agencies, political parties, CSOs, and regional and international partners to establish a biometric voter registration system (ECC). Intensify communication with the National Identification Registry to facilitate the creation of a civil registry that can also be used as a national voter registry and adapt the NEC's regulation and procedures accordingly (NDI). Consider reviewing the voter registration system for a more accurate and credible voters' register (EISA). A lasting solution to the frequent voter enrolment exercises could be sought in having a biometric register, at the next outing. A biometric register would ensure that proper de-duplication process is carried out and would prevent the re-enrolment of voters before any major election (ECOWAS TST).</p>		<p>should develop Regulations</p>		
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27	Voter Registration	Timing of voter register preparation and verification, organisation of data	<p>Consider conducting voter registration in the year preceding the election year to allow sufficient time for other electoral preparation activities (NDI). The NEC should look into the issue of the FRR and improve it by arranging names in alphabetical order and ensuring that photos match serial numbers of voters (ECOWAS EOM); Timely voter verification exercise should be conducted by the NEC in accordance to the law to enhance the ability of voters to identify their names and polling places prior to elections (ECOWAS EOM). In future, the Commission should ensure that before the voter roll is exhibited, data processing must have been completed and register deduplicated so that those on the displayed roll would be sure that they are valid voters (ECOWAS TST). Consider allocating more time for the exhibition and verification of the voters' register in order to enhance validation (AU).</p>	<p><i>Whichever system of voter registration is used, the NEC and any other competent authorities should ensure that the preliminary (provisional) voter register is available for inspection sufficiently well in advance of the election day. The NEC should identify a system of organising the voter register entries which most effectively allows citizens to find their entries and to verify the accuracy of the data e.g. sequencing of names in alphabetical order according to voting precinct /polling place (or another appropriate territorial division). Data cleaning and organisation of data into a logical division should take place before the inspection period. The NEC should consider extending the period during which citizens can verify their entries on the voter register.</i></p>	<p>Review NEL (Chapter 3)</p> <p>Regulations</p> <p>Implementation</p>	<p>Legislature, NEC, (NIR)</p>	<p>This recommendation was partly enforced. Duplicated names were removed from the system. On the issue of allocating more time for exhibition, the recommendation did not say how many days should be allocated for the exhibition.</p>
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28	Voter Registration	Inclusivity of young persons on the Voter Register	The opportunity to vote for all qualified citizens, including, persons turning eighteen between registration and Election Day [...] (EU Priority Recommendation). Allow voters who turn 18 years old by election day (not by the date on which they register) to register to vote, which would ensure their constitutional right to vote (NDI). Voter Registration Regulation should be amended so that citizens who can provide proof that they will turn eighteen years during the year of voting could be allowed to register thereby creating the opportunity for more citizens to participate in choosing their leaders (ECC).	Whichever voter registration system is in place, the NEL and NEC regulations should be reviewed to enable those citizens who will have attained 18 years of age on election day to be included on the voter register.	Review NEL and NEC Regulations	Legislature, NEC	This did not happen.
29	Constituency Boundary Delimitation	Constituency boundary framework and implementation Refer to Recommendation No.9	Delimitation of electoral constituency boundaries should be done in accordance with the Constitution and Liberia's international obligations (EU). In redrawing legislative boundaries, adhere to the constitutional requirement that constituencies have an approximately equal population size (NDI).	Delimitation of electoral constituency boundaries should be done in accordance with the Constitution and Liberia's international obligations. Constituencies should contain an approximately equal population.	Census to be completed in 2019-2020 followed by constituency boundary delimitation in 2021-22	Census: Government Boundaries: NEC	This was not done.
30	Outreach and Access to Information	Continuity of CE Program	Civic education should take place on a continual basis and prioritise raising awareness of democratic norms and behaviour among young persons (ECOWAS TST, ECC and	Civic education (covering democratic rights related to elections) should take place on a continual basis.	Define NEC responsibility under §2.9(y) NEL	NEC and other stakeholders	This did not happen. CVE took place in the election year.

			EISA).				
31	Outreach and Access to Information	Mandate for Civic Education	In consultation with NEC, political parties, and civil society, the NEL should be amended to give the legal authority to another institution like the Governance Commission (GC) or establish a new one that will serve as the driver of a comprehensive CVE program, deepening its contents and making it a continuous process. NEC can play a monitoring role by ensuring quality and consistency of the messages. Alternatively, the current NEL gives legal authority and responsibility to NEC to lead, conduct, and facilitate all CVE programs in Liberia (ECC).	<i>Either the legislation confers the NEC with the mandate and resources to conduct civic education on a continual basis or the responsibility for civic education is legally assigned to another state institution or government department.</i>	TBC	Government, Legislature, Governance Commission NEC, Ministry of Education and other stakeholders	No action was taken on this recommendation
32	Outreach and Access to Information	Targeting of CVE program	Tailored CVE outreach should also be provided for communities and groups with relatively less access to information, including rural communities, women, youth,	Tailored civic education should be provided for communities and groups with relatively less access to information including rural	Policy: Establish a NEC Policy on CVE	NEC	Partly achieved. NEC used the community cells to conduct CVE but no policy was developed.

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		and accessibility of information Refer to Recommendation No. 44	and illiterate persons (NDI). The NEC should ensure that CVE material is produced in the major local dialects (NDI). Further improve [and mainstream civic and voter education related to] the right to vote for Persons with Disabilities	communities, women, young persons, persons with disabilities and illiterate persons. CVE materials should be available in the major local dialects.	Review NEC CVE materials. Operational planning of CVE activity, Implementation	(Government)	

			(PwDs) [and the] Tactile Ballot Sleeves (EU).				
33	Outreach and Access to Information	Timing of voter education	To maximize effectiveness and impact, the NEC should ensure that [civic and] voter education is conducted well in advance of election day and where there is a need for public engagement e.g. voter registration (NDI). To ensure that this happens, the NEL could be amended to stipulate a start date for the VE program sufficiently in advance of the election (ECC). Where civil society are engaged in implementing NEC civic and voter education programmes, CVE materials should be distributed in a timely manner (NDI).	<i>To maximize effectiveness and impact, the NEC should ensure that voter education is conducted well in advance of planned key events (such as voter registration and the display of the register) and election day. The NEL (or the NEC Regulations) could establish fixed deadlines for the commencement of VE campaigns to better ensure timeliness. In addition, the present legal and regulatory framework for civic and voter education should be reviewed to better enable nongovernmental organisations to support the NEC in carrying out civic education activity.</i>	NEL Implementation	(Legislature) NEC	The NEL was not changed to set deadline for the conduct of CVE.
34	Outreach and Access to Information	Prioritising VE messages	The NEC should prioritise educating voters on how to fill out ballots properly to reduce the number of invalid ballots (NDI). VE materials should mainstream information of accessibility to polling places, persons with disabilities and the provision of tactile ballots (EU). The NEC needs to establish a feasible and reliable system to inform people of their assigned polling	<i>The NEC should prioritise information/education on: how voters can find their assigned polling place, how to fill out ballots properly and mainstream information aimed at ensuring the effective</i>	Implementation	NEC	

			place (ECOWAS TST, EISA). The NEC should test tools and apps (such as the SMS system on polling place assignment) to ensure reliable functionality prior to release (ECOWAS TST).	<i>electoral participation of special needs voters.</i>			
35	Outreach and Access to Information	Publication of information	Timely publication of the NEC Board of Commissioners decisions that are of public interest could translate into enhanced transparency, public engagement and broader public trust (EU). Systematically collect data on the participation of men and women in the election process. Make available to the public sex-disaggregated data concerning women and men's participation as voters, candidates, poll workers, observers, and party agents and	<i>The NEC should ensure that information of public interest is made available in a timely manner on its website. This information includes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NEC (Board of Commissioners) decisions;</i> • <i>Preliminary and final voter registration data;</i> • <i>Gender-disaggregated data (on</i> 	Regulation on Voter Registration NEC Policy on Access to Information, Implementation	NEC	Partly achieved. FRR was on the website but decisions from the Board were not available on the website.

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			<p>publish in a timely manner all available data from the Gender Data Capturing Sheet on rates of women and men’s voter participation (NDI). Publish on the NEC’s website rulings and decisions by hearing officers and the Board of Commissioners in a timely fashion and disseminate statistics on the complaints and their resolution (NDI). NEC should continue to provide clear and frequent updates on the tally with individual results to be posted on its website (LEON). Provide polling placelevel results in an easily analyzable (machine readable) format on the NEC website (NDI). Release registration centre-level preliminary data to the public on the number of individuals registered, disaggregated by gender. This should be provided in advance of the end of the registration period, while there is still time for civil society and the media to use the data to better target voter education efforts (NDI). Once completed, provide the preliminary voters list and subsequently the Final Voters Register in machine-readable format to political parties and accredited international and citizen election observers (NDI).</p>	<p><i>candidates, registered voters, polling staff, participating voters and party agents);</i> • <i>The timetable for complaint hearings, rulings / decisions of Hearing Officers and summary statistics on filed complaints;</i> • <i>Full polling results (by polling place, constituency and national level) in machine readable format, and</i> • <i>Political party and candidate financial reports.</i></p> <p><i>Political parties and accredited observers should have the right to request and receive preliminary voter lists and the final voter register in machine-readable format.</i></p>			
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36	Outreach and Access to Information	Communication and public diplomacy including IPCC	[The NEC should] engage in more proactive, timely, and accurate public communication about the [its] work and strengthen the NEC's capacity to anticipate and rapidly respond to incidents that may arise during the elections (NDI). Continue to convene the IPCC during the period inbetween elections (NDI).	<i>The NEC should ensure that the public and political parties receive accurate and timely information on the work of the NEC and all stages of the electoral process. To this end the NEC should further develop its policy to external communications.</i>	NEC Policy	NEC	NEC struggled with effectively communicating to the public
37	Outreach and Access to Information	IPCC	Proactively engage in consultative mechanisms with the NEC, such as the IPCC (NDI). Continue to convene the IPCC during the period in-between elections. During the next general elections, hold more frequent and regularly scheduled IPCC meetings, and foster an environment for substantive, respectful, two-way dialogue between the NEC political parties (NDI). During the next general elections, hold more frequent and regularly scheduled IPCC meetings, and foster an environment for	<i>Consideration could be given to identifying and implementing measures to strengthen the Interparty Consultative Committee (IPCC) e.g. through introducing a clear meeting timetable and record-keeping.</i>	Regulation (TBC) Policy	NEC and political parties	This recommendation was considered.

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			substantive, respectful, two-way dialogue between the NEC political parties (NDI).				

38	Participation and Representation	Suffrage and candidacy: Civil servants right to seek election	The Legislature to review and amend the 2014 Code of Conduct Law and promote participation and the right to stand. The Liberian Civil Service Standing Orders allowing leave of absence could facilitate presidential public appointees to stand for election without having to fully resign in preparation for an intended political candidacy (EU).	<i>The Legislature to review and amend the 2014 Code of Conduct Law and promote participation and the right to stand. The Liberian Civil Service Standing Orders allowing leave of absence could facilitate presidential public appointees to stand for election without having to fully resign in preparation for an intended political candidacy.</i>	Amendment of Code of Conduct Law	Government, Legislature	No action was taken on this recommendation
39	Participation and Representation	Decentralisation of candidate registration	Decentralize candidate registration for House of Representatives to the magistrate office level (NDI)	<i>Decentralise responsibility for registering candidates for House of Representatives to the magistrate office level.</i>	NEL Regulations	Legislature NEC	No action was taken on this recommendation
40	Participation and Representation	Nomination fees	Reduce candidate nomination fees for candidates to lower barriers for nomination (NDI).	<i>To lower barriers to candidacy, consideration should be given to lowering nomination fees.</i>	NEL	Legislature	Nomination fees were not reduced.
41	Participation and Representation	Absentee Voting	The opportunity to vote for all qualified citizens, including, [...] detainees and the hospitalized, should be granted. The legislature could equally consider legislating for Absentee Voting to facilitate voting rights for such categories of voter unable to access their Polling Place on Election Days (EU, Priority Recommendation). Consider introduction of mobile registration and the absentee ballot to facilitate voting for persons unable to leave their homes (EU).	<i>The NEC should establish procedures which provide an opportunity for detainees and the hospitalized to exercise the right to vote. The legislature could equally consider legislating for Absentee Voting to facilitate voting rights for such categories of voter unable to access their Polling Place on Election Days. This may require the</i>	NEL amendment NEC Regulations	Legislature, NEC	This recommendation was not considered.

				<p><i>Legislature to revise applicable legislation i.e. to allow those whose movement or mobility is restricted to vote in places other than their assigned polling station.</i></p>			
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No.	Main Theme	Sub-Themes	EOM Recommendation (original text)	Recommendation	Change Through	Responsible Bodies	Action Taken
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42	Participation and Representation	<p>Representation of women and participation of youth and persons (living) with disabilities</p> <p>Refer to Recommendation No. 8</p>	<p>Consider amending section 4.5(b) of the New Elections Law by making it mandatory for political parties to have in its [...] list of candidates not less than 30 percent of each gender (AU). Modify legislation (NEL 4, §4.5, consider enacting the Affirmative Action Bill) and NEC Candidate Nomination Regulations for enforceable affirmative action for women participation and ensure greater representation in decision-making roles within election administration (EU Priority Recommendation. Consider passing laws and implementation of measures that will increase the political participation of disadvantaged groups, such as for example, reserved seats for women, youth and people with disabilities in the House of Representatives. This is in line with the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (EISA). Develop and disseminate clear, precise guidelines on the 30 percent gender provision in the 2014 election law.</p> <p>Monitor parties' efforts to meet this provision (NDI). Clarify and strengthen the legal requirement that political parties should field no less than 30 percent of its candidates from each gender (NDI). Explore the possibility of introducing a mandatory quota for women candidates for municipal and other local elections (NDI).</p>	<p><i>The Legislature and the NEC should institute measures aimed at ensuring Liberia's adherence to the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. Measures to be considered may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Legislative reform such as amending §4.5(b) of the New Elections Law to make it mandatory for political parties to nominate as candidates not less than 30 percent of each gender,</i> • <i>Introducing quotas or reserved seats for national and local elections,</i> • <i>Enactment of the Affirmative Action Bill,</i> • <i>Interpreting the current legislation relating to the '30% requirement' as being mandatory and enforceable.</i> <p><i>Any legislative changes adopted should be compatible with the Constitution or the Constitution should be amended to allow for the creation of temporary special measures. The Legislature should also consider how to ensure the representation of youth and persons (living) with</i></p>	<p>Identify scope to introduce special measures within the framework of Liberia's Constitution.</p> <p>Amend NEL (to strengthen requirements).</p> <p>Enactment of the Affirmative Action Bill</p> <p>Amend Candidate Nomination Regulations</p> <p>Assess the scope to interpret the current legislation in a way that makes 30% nomination of women candidates mandatory.</p>	<p>Government, Legislature, (Supreme Court), NEC</p>	<p>No action was taken on this recommendation. Only an MoU was signed which had no force of law.</p>
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				<i>disabilities in the House of Representatives.</i>			
43	Participation and Representation	Capacity building for female candidates, Public funding of candidates Refer to recommendation No. 49.	Political Parties to consider the increase of the numbers of women, youth and people with disabilities in their membership and as candidates so that this will translate to better representation of these disadvantaged groups in political decision-making positions (NDI). Consider amending section 4.5(b) of the New Elections Law by making it mandatory for political parties to have in its governing body [...] not	<i>The Legislature should consider making public funding available for first-time women candidates and persons (living) with disabilities to conduct election campaigning. Consideration should also be given to requiring parties to have not less than 30 percent of each gender in the governing body and to</i>	Amend the provisions of the current legal and regulatory framework to address the recommendation. Or, incorporate within the framework of a	Government, Legislature, NEC Political Parties	No action was taken on this recommendation.

			less than 30 percent of each gender (AU). Consider public funding for the campaign of first-time women candidates to be allocated to female candidates of parties meeting the 30 percent threshold	<i>adopting policies to ensure greater representation of women, youth and persons (living) with disabilities</i>			
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No.	Main Theme	Sub-Themes	EOM Recommendation (original text)	Recommendation	Change Through	Responsible Bodies	Action Taken
			(NDI). Throughout the electoral cycle, actively recruit, train and provide leadership opportunities for women to, at least, meet the threshold of 30 percent (NDI).	<i>in decision-making roles, including appropriate training.</i>	new Law on Political Parties.		
44	Participation and Representation	Voting by persons (living) with disabilities and access to polling and registration places for persons with special needs. Refer to recommendation No. 32	Improve ease of access to polling places for persons with disabilities (AU). Inclusive process for women, vulnerable people and persons with disabilities in future elections (LEON). Consider extending the working hours of voter registration centers and providing transportation means and/or mobile offices to facilitate the registration of voters based in remote communities, persons with disabilities, and persons with no	<i>The NEC should further develop its policies aimed at ensuring that the electoral process is accessible to persons (living) with disabilities and other persons living in remote communities. Measures to be considered include: making polling places more accessible, awareness raising on the use of Tactile Ballot Sleeves and ensuring</i>	NEC Policy	NEC	This recommendation was partly implemented. Tactile ballot papers were available and people who were visually impaired were trained to use it to vote.

			access to means of transportation (NDI).	<i>their availability in polling places, and mobile voter registration.</i>			
45	Participation and Representation	Violence against women in elections	Address the issue of violence against women in elections in the body of the electoral law, and in other relevant documents such as the Code of Conduct of the parties and the commitments signed by the candidates to maintain violence-free elections by explicitly addressing the phenomenon of VAW-E, including with concrete examples (NDI). Establish within the NEC, in cooperation with the LNP and CSOs, a unit and/or mechanism to ensure that incidents of VAW-E and hate speech are monitored, reported and addressed throughout the election period. Such a unit should include a means for prompt enforcement during the election period, an avenue for complaints, and the possibility of sanctions against the perpetrators (NDI),	<i>The issue of violence against women in elections (VAW-e) should be specifically addressed in the New Electoral Law, Codes of Conduct and party and NEC policies. The NEC and Liberian National Police (LNP) should cooperate to address VAW-e and hate speech, including through monitoring and information sharing. The law enforcement authorities (police and prosecutors) should to ensure that where enough evidence exists, such incidents are prosecuted within the framework of the criminal justice system.</i>	NEC Coordination with Police Action by Police and Prosecutor Code of Conduct.	Legislature, (NEC), Political Parties, Ministry of Justice Police, Prosecutor	Nothing in the law was changed and there is no evidence to show that NEC and LNP worked together to address VAW-e and hate speeches.

No.	Main Theme	Sub-Themes	EOM Recommendation (original text)	Recommendation	Change Through	Responsible Bodies	Action Taken
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46	Political Party functioning	<p>Legal framework for political parties</p> <p>Refer to Recommendation Nos. 7 & 47</p>	<p>The legislature could undertake a review of the criteria for the establishment and registration of political parties with a view to promoting more cohesion and policy in party political organisations. Such a review could consider membership requirements (considering the growth in Liberia's population since the standing legislation was promulgated), changes to the number of constituencies where parties draw their membership, as well as the levels of registration fees payable (EU). The Legislature should draft a comprehensive Political Parties Law in consultation with political parties, civil society, the NEC and other stakeholders (ECC). Most provisions of the "Guidelines Relating to the Registration of Political Parties and Independent Candidates" should be integrated into the proposed law with appropriate sanctions in case of non-compliance by political parties (ECC). NEC should enforce the provision on party results review. This would help to limit the number of political parties and independent candidates submitting applications to be registered during election year (ECC).</p>	<p><i>The legislature, in consultation with the NEC and other stakeholders, should undertake a review of the legal / regulatory framework for political parties and consider adopting a Law on Political Parties. The review should focus on the criteria for the establishment and registration of political parties with a view to promoting cohesion, development of organisational capacity, and internal democracy. The legislature could reconsider membership requirements to take account of demographic changes and any changes made to the number of constituencies and nomination / registration fees. Provisions contained in the "Guidelines Relating to the Registration of Political Parties and Independent Candidates" should be integrated into the Political Parties Law and appropriate penalties for non-compliance should be established.</i></p>	<p>Legislature and NEC to review current framework.</p> <p>Legislature to decide on adoption of a Law on Political Parties and assess if any amendment to the Constitution is necessary.</p>	<p>Legislature, NEC, Political Parties</p>	<p>No action was taken to address this recommendation.</p>
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47	Political Party functioning	Criteria for candidates Refer to Recommendation No. 46	The NEC to undertake a review of regulatory requirements relating to political parties' nomination of candidates and the assessment procedures related to minimise pro-forma nominations and ensure that political parties actively promote nominees with genuine candidacy potential (EU).	<i>The NEC to undertake a review of regulatory requirements relating to political parties' nomination of candidates and the assessment procedures related to minimise pro-forma nominations and ensure that political parties actively promote nominees with genuine candidacy potential. This review may encompass recommendations to the legislature to revise applicable legislation or within the framework of a Law on Political Parties.</i>	NEC Review. Possible amendment to legislation Regulations	NEC, Legislature, Political Parties,	No action was taken on this recommendation.
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No.	Main Theme	Sub-Themes	EOM Recommendation (original text)	Recommendation	Change Through	Responsible Bodies	Action Taken
48	Political Party functioning	Holding campaign events	With a view to prevent the holding of conflicting campaign events that could induce violence, effective management of larger political gatherings would benefit from the formulation of harmonised regulatory requirements in one single legal instrument to be issued by the NEC and enforced by the NEC in cooperation with Security Services (EU).	<i>With a view to prevent the holding of conflicting campaign events that could induce violence, effective management of larger political gatherings would benefit from the formulation of harmonised regulatory requirements in one single legal instrument to be issued by the NEC and enforced by the NEC in cooperation with the Liberian National Police/Security Services.</i>	Regulation	NEC Police	This recommendation was enforced with a submission by political parties of their campaign timeline to the NEC.

49	Political Party functioning	State funding of political parties Refer to recommendation No 43.	Consider providing for public funding of political parties for level playing field (AU).	<i>The government and the Legislature should consider public funding of political parties.</i>	Government Change to NEL NEC Regulation	Government Legislature NEC	No legislation was passed to this effect.
50	Political Party functioning	Political Party and campaign financing, NEC organisation, transparency, inter-agency cooperation	Establish an appropriately resourced department on campaign and political party finance within the NEC to enhance the institution's capacity and expertise for an efficient enforcement of regulations. The unit would be responsible for conducting systematic verification of submitted accounts, application of sanctions where applicable and conducting information campaigns among political actors (EU). NEC's Political Party Unit should be substantially upgraded, strengthened and enlarged to be fully able to discharge its duties and functions, particularly with regard to the auditing of the accounts of political parties and independent candidates, their financial transactions and campaign financing (ECC). Obtain and publish political party and candidate financial reports on contributions and expenses and hold accountable parties and candidates that do not comply with the constitutional mandate to submit these reports (NDI). Submit and publish detailed financial reports on contributions and expenses (NDI). Increase the NEC's capacity to scrutinise	<i>The NEC's Political Party Liaison section should be strengthened and adequately resourced to enable it to fulfil its oversight and compliance responsibilities regarding political party and campaign finance. The NEC should strengthen: provision of information to political parties, verification of submitted accounts and application of sanctions. The NEC should also establish (or strengthen) cooperation and information sharing with other institutions (relevant state tax and integrity institutions, e.g. Liberia Revenue Authority, Ministry of Justice, Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, Financial Intelligence Unit), and have the power to request and receive information from private banks. Transparency should be ensured through publication of party/candidate finance</i>	Review, Regulation, Capacity Development, and possibly enhanced legislative power for NEC to request and receive information.	NEC, Political Parties, Legislature, Financial Institutions	

			submitted reports by establishing or strengthening cooperation and information sharing with private banks and relevant state tax and integrity institutions, e.g. Liberia Revenue Authority, Ministry of	<i>reports, which should detail donations, revenues and expenditures. The BoC should have overall responsibility for enforcement</i>			
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No.	Main Theme	Sub-Themes	EOM Recommendation (original text)	Recommendation	Change Through	Responsible Bodies	Action Taken
			Justice, Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, Financial Intelligence Unit (EU).	<i>and application of sanctions for noncompliance.</i>			

51	Political Party functioning	Party Agents	<p>Political parties and their poll watchers' commitment to the integrity of the electoral process must be supported and strengthened. Considering that electoral complaints typically rely on party agents' reports and testimonies, political parties must conduct party agents' recruitment, training and deployment more professionally (EU). Undertake capacity building of party agents in order to build their capacity to effectively undertake their duties (EISA).</p>	<p><i>Political parties should invest more in the recruitment, training and deployment of political party agents. The NEC should continue to support parties in the training of their agents.</i></p>	<p>Policy - NEC to decide on scope of activity on party agent training, possible development of curriculum.</p>	<p>NEC, Parties,</p>	<p>This recommendation was partly adhered to due to investment by political parties to recruit and deploy party agents but the provision of training was lacking.</p>
52	Electoral Justice	<p>Framework for Election petitions</p> <p>Refer to recommendation No. 5</p>	<p>The current complaint handling mechanism should be replaced with a Tribunal and the Supreme Court will remain the final arbiter of all election disputes. The main purpose of the reform is to avoid conflict of interest by the NEC in instances where NEC is a respondent to a case and to ensure an independent, timely and impartial adjudicating process of all complaints and petitions (ECC). Review electoral dispute resolution mechanisms to avoid potential conflicts of interest (NDI).</p>	<p><i>To avoid potential conflicts of interest between the NEC's administrative and judicial functions, consideration could be given to removing the NEC's judicial powers related to electoral complaints and appeals and establish an Electoral Tribunal to adjudicate these cases, subject to the right of appeal to the Supreme Court.</i></p> <p><i>Alternatively:</i></p> <p><i>The Legislature and the NEC should review electoral dispute resolution mechanisms to avoid potential conflicts of interest and strengthen the</i></p>	<p>Review of Article 83 of the Constitution</p> <p>Amend NEL (various articles) that relate to NEC's mandates judicial functions.</p> <p>Establish Election Tribunal System</p> <p>Revise NEC Regulations accordingly.</p>	<p>Government, Legislature, NEC</p>	<p>No legal reform was taken to address this recommendation.</p>

				<i>autonomy of the hearings process.</i>			
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No.	Main Theme	Sub-Themes	EOM Recommendation (original text)	Recommendation	Change Through	Responsible Bodies	Action Taken
53	Electoral Justice	Pre-Election Appeals (Deadlines) Refer to recommendation No. 11	Pre-election complaints should be submitted 48 h after the occurrence of the violation. Appeals should be submitted within 7 days after the first decision. Final decision should be issued 7 days after the complaints have been filed (ECC). The NEC to review and amend all appeals timelines in the regulations to ensure consistency and fairness throughout. The review could entail a moderate extension of the 48 hours timeline for appeal from Hearing Officers to the BoC to ensure due process and equal access across Liberia (EU). The legislature to review the election law and civil procedure laws to consolidate all relevant timelines	<i>The legislature and NEC should review the deadlines for filing complaints and appeals to ensure access to justice, due process and the feasibility and coherence of the deadlines between different laws. The review could entail a moderate extension of the 48 hours timeline for appeal from Hearing Officers to the NEC Board of Commissioners to ensure due process and equal access to electoral justice mechanisms across Liberia.</i>	Review (to be undertaken by NEC) NEL Civil Procedure Law	Government, Legislature, NEC	No amendment was made to the NEL to address this recommendation.

			and extensions to such timelines (arising either under legal practice or civil procedure rules) to ensure transparency, accessibility and ease of comprehension for all election stakeholders (EU). Review electoral dispute resolution mechanisms to ensure that timelines for each stage of the process are reasonable and clear (NDI).				
54	Electoral Justice	Transparency, timing and scheduling, training	Adjudicate electoral disputes in a clear and transparent manner and in the presence of observers and party agents (LEON). Strengthen the NEC's capacity to adjudicate complaints and disputes in an expeditious, transparent, and impartial manner (NDI). Define a clear calendar of NEC hearings, and publicize these hearings in a more transparent and proactive manner (NDI). The NEC to develop a syllabus of practice-based trainings for lawyers involved in election dispute resolution and Hearing Officers to be implemented well in advance of the next elections with the possibility for refresher trainings. Such trainings could ensure enhanced capacity in the effective	<i>If the NEC retains its judicial functions, it should review its Regulation to ensure: clarity, transparency, impartial adjudication and expeditious resolution of cases. The NEC should adopt and publish a calendar for hearings and the NEC should develop a syllabus of practice-based trainings for lawyers involved in election dispute resolution and Hearing Officers to be implemented well in advance of the next elections with the possibility for refresher trainings. Such trainings could ensure enhanced capacity in the</i>	Regulations, Policy (on training)	Government (Ministry of Justice), NEC	Partly achieved. Hearing Officers were trained but not lawyers.

			administration of election complaints and contribute to matters avoiding becoming unduly burdened and delayed by unnecessary legal formalities (EU).	<i>effective administration of election complaints and contribute to matters avoiding becoming unduly burdened and delayed by unnecessary legal formalities.</i>			
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No.	Main Theme	Sub-Themes	EOM Recommendation (original text)	Recommendation	Change Through	Responsible Bodies	Action Taken
55	Coherence of Laws	Electoral Justice and electoral offenses	The legislature should undertake a review of the NEL provisions on electoral offences to address and remove any ambiguities and incoherencies as well as reviewing the scope and breadth of penalties and sanctions to ensure greater certainty and enforceability (EU)	<i>The legislature should undertake a review of the NEL provisions on electoral offences to address and remove any ambiguities and incoherencies as well as reviewing the scope and breadth of penalties and sanctions to ensure greater certainty and enforceability.</i>	Amend NEL	Legislature, NEC	No reform was done to respond to this recommendation.

56	Electoral Justice	Enforcement of law, combatting impunity.	<p>Enforce the rules in the election law by prosecuting offenses such as bribery, trucking of voters, registration of non-Liberian voters, and domicile rules (NDI). Possible cases of electoral offences should be forwarded to the Ministry of Justice for prosecution (ECC). Establish within the NEC, in cooperation with the LNP and CSOs, a unit and/or mechanism to ensure that incidents of VAW-E and hate speech are monitored, reported and addressed throughout the election period. Such a unit should include a means for prompt enforcement during the election period, an avenue for complaints, and the possibility of sanctions against the perpetrators (NDI).</p>	<p><i>The law enforcement authorities should investigate allegations of bribing voters, trucking of voters, registration of nonLiberian citizens as voters, violence against women in elections as well as domicile rules. The criminal justice system should ensure that where evidence of wrong-doing exists, cases should be prosecuted, and appropriate and proportional punishments are applied.</i></p>	<p>Procedures Inter-Agency Coordination</p>	<p>NEC, Police, Prosecutor,</p>	
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57	Media	Media legislation, free airtime for candidates	<p>In light of the partisan and polarised nature of the media in Liberia, private media should be adequately regulated and must ensure responsible reporting of electoral activities (AU). The preservation of a free media environment is essential to ensuring that Liberia's efforts to safeguard peace and stability and protect fundamental human rights are achieved with success. The government could show its commitment towards this end by implementing a genuine media reform and expedite the promulgation of the draft media legislation (EU). Consideration should be given to introduce a legal provision for free airtime to political parties and candidates in the state-owned broadcaster to allow all election contenders to effectively communicate their platforms to the public and contribute to the equal treatment of political parties and candidates. Such time should be allocated in a fair and non-discriminatory manner, on the basis of transparent and objective criteria (EU).</p>	<p><i>The government should consider implementing a genuine media reform and expedite the promulgation of the draft media legislation which should encompass measures to ensure appropriate reporting by the media on the electoral process including political subjects and candidates and the provision of free airtime to political parties and candidates in the state-owned broadcaster. Such time should be allocated in a fair and non-discriminatory manner and based on transparent and objective criteria.</i></p>	Legislation, Regulation (TBC)	Government Legislature NEC (role of NEC, if any to be defined)	No significant media reform was undertaken. State media was bias in that it gave more airtime to the then ruling party as compared to other parties and candidates.
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No.	Main Theme	Sub-Themes	EOM Recommendation (original text)	Recommendation	Change Through	Responsible Bodies	Action Taken
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58	Media	Professionalism and training	Dedicate resources to strengthening professional standards that distinguish between editorials, content written by journalists, and content that is published for a fee (NDI). For future elections, ensure that all journalists covering the election process undergo gender-sensitive training in order to follow the campaign of female candidates, issues of interest for women in the campaign, and issues pertaining to women's political participation (NDI).	<i>The authorities should intensify work to strengthen professional standards among press and broadcast journalists and to ensure that all journalists covering the election process undergo gender-sensitive training to enable them to follow the campaign of female candidates, issues of interest for women in the campaign, and issues pertaining to women's political participation. The relevant media legislation (rules) should require media outlets to distinguish between editorials and content written by journalists and content that is published for a fee, including advertising.</i>	Programming Training	Government, NEC to strengthen provision of information on election procedures for journalists	There was no mechanism in place to assess this recommendation. However, InterNews conducted a series of training for journalists on election observation and conflict sensitive reporting.
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International legal standards and political commitments for elections

United Nations

United Nations General Assembly (2006) *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. United Nations General Assembly (2003) *United Nations Convention Against Corruption*.

United Nations General Assembly (1990) *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*.

United Nations General Assembly (1989) *Convention Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries*.

United Nations General Assembly (1979) *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women*.

United Nations General Assembly (1966) *International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*.

United Nations General Assembly (1966) *The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*.

Acronyms used in table

African Union Election Observation Mission (AU EOM)

Carter Center International Elections Observation Mission (CC-IEOM)

Economic Community of West African States Election Observation Mission (ECOWAS EOM)

Economic Community of West African States Technical Support Team on Voter Registration (ECOWAS TST)

Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA)

Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC)

European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM)

Liberian Election Observation Network (LEON)

United Nations General Assembly (1952) *Convention on the Political Rights of Women*.

United Nations Human Rights Committee (2011) *General Comment No. 34 on Freedoms of Opinion and Expression*.

United Nations Human Rights Committee. 1996. *General Comment No. 25: The Right to Participate in Public Affairs, Voting Rights and the Right of Equal Access to Public Service*.

Regional standards and commitments for elections

Africa Union

African Union. 2007. *African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance*.

African Union. 2003. *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa*.

African Union. 2003. *African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption*.

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Economic and Corporate Governance Signed by Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union.

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Organization of African Unity. 1998. *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights*.

Organization of African Unity. 1981. *African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights*.

Economic Community of West African States

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Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance Supplementary to the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security.

Economic Community of West African States. 1991. *Declaration of Political Principles of the Economic Community of West African States*.

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References: final reports and preliminary statements

African Union Election Observation Mission. 2017. *Preliminary Statement of the African Union Election Observation Mission to Liberia 10 October Presidential and House of Representative Elections.*

Carter Center International Election Observation Mission. 2018. *Final Report on the 2017 Presidential and House of Representatives Elections.*

Economic Community of West African States Election Observation Mission. 2017. *Preliminary Declarations on the Liberia 10 October Presidential and House of Representative Elections.*

Elections Coordinating Committee. 2018. *Final Technical Report of the 2017 Presidential and Legislative Elections.*

Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa. 2017. *Preliminary Statement of the African Union Election Observation Mission to Liberia 10 October Presidential and House of Representative Elections.*

European Union Election Observation Mission. 2018. *Final Report on the 2017 Presidential and House of Representatives Elections.*

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