

**THE CARTER CENTER INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION
IN LIBERIA PRE-ELECTION STATEMENT**

July 18, 2016

Executive Summary

In April and July 2016, t

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Electoral Preparations

Election Management

A critical factor in enhancing the transparency of an electoral process and facilitating the active participation of citizens in the democratic process is an independent and impartial election management body. A transparent, accountable, and professional

Funding for Elections

The government

information sessions are welcome and should continue, and should provide clear and the level of address detail that should be recorded in each entry on the voter roll. Extensive public education should be conducted in the months before

addition, the right to be elected requires that states ensure that citizens have the opportunity to stand for elected office, free from unreasonable restrictions.¹²

10 percent following the 2014 legislative elections.¹⁶ Some stakeholders fear that women could lose further ground in the 2017 elections. It is incumbent on all

UNMIL Security Handover

official handover of security to the Liberian National Police on June 30, 2016, long-term recovery and democratization process.

The 2017 elections will be conducted without the scope of security support provided by UNMIL in the past. In addition, the amount of other UNMIL support (helicopters, U.N. vehicles, etc.) is currently under discussion. This transition makes it harder for Liberian stakeholders to adequately plan and budget for needs around the election, including vehicle and equipment needs and adequate plans for the movement and security of sensitive materials. The electoral process would benefit from expedited planning and coordination.

During the 2005 and 2011 elections, UNMIL played a crucial role in delivering materials to difficult-to-access locations and ensuring security throughout the country.

that will be necessary for the administration of elections, including computers, printers, generators, and internet access.

Consider early the transportation needs of county NEC offices and security personnel.

Take steps to strengthen campaign-finance regulations and their administration. Consider strengthening NEC regulations to require that parties submit an interim report before election day to allow voters to evaluate contributions and spending by candidates and political parties before casting their votes. Provide training to political parties to ensure they have the capacity to account for funds.

Continue the information sessions on the 2014 amended election act at both at the national and county levels.

Consider holding specific information sessions for political parties, civil society organizations, and media on electoral dispute resolution and processes.

Prepare extensive civic and voter education campaigns in advance of voter registration, beginning quickly upon allocation of funds by the government.

To the IPCC:

Continue to meet, with dedicated attendance by senior members of political parties. Hold corresponding political party consultative meetings at the county level.

To the Political Parties and Prospective Independent Candidates:

Political leaders: commit to participating responsibly and peacefully in the elections and make an early commitment to a nonviolent election.

Political parties: U
with the intent of the law as amended to ensure that women are represented among political party leaders and candidates.

Political parties and independent candidates: Adhere to campaign-finance regulations, including reporting requirements and regulations that prohibit the use of public resources in campaigning.

To the Media:

Commit to supporting a peaceful election.

Press Union of Liberia: Provide additional training and support to help regulate the media during elections.

