



PRESS RELEASE

ECONEC DEPLOYS JOINT POST-ELECTION FOLLOW-UP AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION TO LIBERIA (06 to 13 June 2021)

Monrovia, 11 June 2021

The ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions (ECONEC) deployed a joint post-election follow-up and needs assessment mission to Monrovia, Republic of Liberia, from 6 to 13 June 2021. The mission is led by Dr. Amada Aladoua, Vice-President of Niger's Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), and also include representatives of Electoral Commission of Ghana and ECOWAS Electoral Assistance Division (EAD). The mission is supported by a technical team from the ECONEC Permanent Secretariat, Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) and from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

The Mission is deployed with the financial support of GIZ, through its ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations (EPSAO) Project, which is co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ).

The Mission has two objectives:

1. To assess the level of implementation of the recommendations made to the actors of the electoral process by the ECOWAS Election Observation Mission during the 2017 legislative and presidential elections in Liberia.
2. To assess the needs of the National Elections Commission (NEC) and other key electoral stakeholders in the run-up to the 2023 general elections in Liberia.

The mission met with the Board of Commissioners of NEC, the heads of technical departments in the Commission, political parties' representatives, civil society organizations (CSOs) involved in the monitoring of the electoral process and technical and financial partners (EU Delegation, German Embassy, UNDP and USAID) currently supporting stakeholders to deepen electoral process in the country.

Interactions and discussions focused on concerns about building a credible voter register through the adoption of Biometric Voter Registration system (BVR) to replace the current Optical Mark Recognition system (OMR); constitutional reforms to prevent disputes; steps towards more inclusive elections notably affirmative measures (30% quota for party lists or reserved seats for disadvantage groups, access for persons with disabilities); capacity reinforcement for the NEC's staff; early release of funds by Government; needs for continuous civic and voter education; recruitment and training of polling officials; recruitment and training of party/candidate representatives; NEC institutional communication and enhanced relationship with electoral stakeholders (media, political parties, CSOs).

A comprehensive report will be produced to serve as basis for advocacy efforts, design and planning of electoral assistance projects, sharing of electoral resources as well as transfer of knowledge among members of ECONEC.

ECONEC is committed to providing the necessary support to NEC Liberia and work in synergy with other technical partners to help consolidate democracy in the country.

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