

Country/entity	Liberia
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Decision A/DEC.4/8/90 on the establishment of an ECOWAS Observer Group for Presidential and General Elections in the Republic of Liberia (Ecowas Peace Plan)
Date	7 Aug 1990
Agreement status	Unilateral document
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

Liberian Civil Wars (1989 - 1997) (1999 - 2005)

In 1989, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) attacked border posts as part of a campaign to oust the dictatorship of Samuel Doe. This triggered a violent civil war that by 1995 had killed around 150,000 and displaced an estimated 850,000 people. The outbreak of war is attributed to the domestic socio-economic and political environment in the country of the 1980s, such as poverty, discrimination and repression. However, its sustenance is also related to past discrimination against indigenous Liberians by 'Americo-Liberians', and deep ethnic divisions that resulted.

Peace negotiations began in 1992 and completed by 1997. However, the peace lasted only a short period and in 1999 there was renewed fighting against the elected president, Charles Taylor. The Guinea-backed organisation, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), together with the armed Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) controlled two thirds of the country by 2003 and besieged the capital Monrovia, forcing Charles Taylor into exile in Nigeria. In August that same year, the conflict parties signed the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement and in 2005 new general elections were held.

Close

Liberian Civil Wars (1989 - 1997) (1999 - 2005)

Stage	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Liberia peace process
Parties	DONE AT BANJUL, THIS 7TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1990. H. E. DAWDA KAIRABA JAWARA CHAIRMAN ECOWAS STANDING MEDIATION COMMITTEE FOR THE AUTHORITY

Third parties

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Description

This short agreement from the ECOWAS Standing Mediation Committee establishes an ECOWAS Observer Group to observe the Liberian presidential and general elections.

Agreement document

[LR_900807_ECOWAS Decision 4-8-90.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups**Children/youth**

No specific mention.

Disabled persons

No specific mention.

Elderly/age

No specific mention.

Migrant workers

No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group**

No specific mention.

Religious groups

No specific mention.

Indigenous people

No specific mention.

Other groups

No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced
persons**

No specific mention.

Social class

No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/ secession No specific mention.

Accession/ unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references
Page 1, Untitled Preamble, para 3: MINDFUL also of the civil war in Liberia and the need for the people of Liberia to establish a democratically elected government as a means of restoring lasting peace and security among the citizens of Liberia;

Elections Page 1, Untitled Preamble, para 4: CONSIDERING the need to constitute an ECOWAS Observer Group for the Liberian Elections to ensure that the presidential and general elections are free and fair;

Page 1, ARTICLE 1: 1. An ECOWAS Observer Group for the Liberian Elections to observe the presidential and general elections in the Republic of Liberia shall be established at the appropriate time.
2. The ECOWAS Observer Group for the Liberian Elections shall be responsible for monitoring the elections in the Republic of Liberia to ensure that they are free and fair.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation Page 1, Untitled Preamble, para 1: MINDFUL of Article 5 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Authority of Heath of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship Rights related issues→Citizenship→Citizen, general
Page 1, Untitled Preamble, para 3: MINDFUL also of the civil war in Liberia and the need for the people of Liberia to establish a democratically elected government as a means of restoring lasting peace and security among the citizens of Liberia;

Democracy Page 1, Untitled Preamble, para 3: MINDFUL also of the civil war in Liberia and the need for the people of Liberia to establish a democratically elected government as a means of restoring lasting peace and security among the citizens of Liberia;

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds Page 1, ARTICLE 2: The expenses of the ECOWAS Observer Group for the Liberian Elections shall be borne out of the Special Fund for the ECOWAS Operations in Liberia.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

**Water or riparian
rights or access** No specific mention.



Security sector

Security Guarantees	Page 1, Untitled Preamble, para 3: MINDFUL also of the civil war in Liberia and the need for the people of Liberia to establish a democratically elected government as a means of restoring lasting peace and security among the citizens of Liberia;
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.

Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory DONE AT BANJUL, THIS 7TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1990.
H. E. DAWDA KAIRABA JAWARA
CHAIRMAN
ECOWAS STANDING MEDIATION COMMITTEE
FOR THE AUTHORITY

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar Page 1, Untitled Preamble, para 4: CONSIDERING the need to constitute an ECOWAS Observer Group for the Liberian Elections to ensure that the presidential and general elections are free and fair;

Page 1, ARTICLE 1: 1. An ECOWAS Observer Group for the Liberian Elections to observe the presidential and general elections in the Republic of Liberia shall be established at the appropriate time.

2. The ECOWAS Observer Group for the Liberian Elections shall be responsible for monitoring the elections in the Republic of Liberia to ensure that they are free and fair.

Page 1, ARTICLE 2: The expenses of the ECOWAS Observer Group for the Liberian Elections shall be borne out of the Special Fund for the ECOWAS Operations in Liberia.

Enforcement mechanism Page 1, ARTICLE 3: The ECOWAS Executive Secretary shall take all necessary measures to ensure the implementation of the present decision which shall come into effect upon signature and shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community and in the National Gazette of Each Member State.