

<b>Country/entity</b>	Liberia
<b>Region</b>	Africa (excl MENA)
<b>Agreement name</b>	Final Communiqué, Economic Community of West African States, First Extraordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, Bamako, 27 and 28 November 1990
<b>Date</b>	28 Nov 1990
<b>Agreement status</b>	Unilateral document
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes
<b>Agreement/conflict level</b>	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)

<b>Stage</b>	Implementation/renegotiation
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government
<b>Peace process</b>	Liberia peace process

## Parties

The session was attended by the following Heads of State and Government or their accredited representatives:

His Excellency General Mathiew Kerekou  
President of the Republic of Benin

His Excellency Captain Blaise Compaore  
Chairman of the Popular Front  
Head of State  
Head of Government  
Burkina Faso

His Excellency Mr. Aristides Maria Pereira  
President of the Republic of Cape Verde

His Excellency Mr. Félix Houphouet Boigny  
President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

His Excellency Aihaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara  
President of the Republic of the Gambia

His Excellency Flight-Lt. Jerry John Rawlings  
Chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council  
Head of State of the Republic of Ghana

His Excellency General Joao Bernardo Vieira  
Secretary-General of the PAIGC  
President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

His Excellency General Moussa Traore  
Secretary-General of the Democratic Union of Malian People  
President of the Republic of Mali

His Excellency General Ali Saibou  
Chairman of the Supreme Council for National Orientation  
Head of State of the Republic of the Niger

His Excellency General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida  
President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria  
His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf  
President of the Republic of Senegal

His Excellency Major-General Dr. Joseph Saidu Momoh  
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

His Excellency General Gnassingbe' Eyadema  
Founder-Chairman of the Togolese People's Rally  
President of the Togolese Republic

Honourable Commandant Facine Toure  
Minister of Transport and Works, Representing the President of the Republic of Guinea

Honourable Hasni Ould Didi  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Representing the President of the Republic of Mauritania

**Third parties** 2. Present at the summit as special guest was His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity  
3. Also attending the summit in an observer capacity were the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the regional representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

**Description** This agreement is a Final Communiqué from the ECOWAS Extraordinary Session at Bamako in November 1990. The agreement endorses the ECOWAS peace plan and ceasefire agreements in Liberia; requests additional support for ECOWAS operations in Liberia; pushes for the warring parties to reach a political settlement; and requests the early return of refugees to Liberia.

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**Agreement document** [LR\\_901128\\_Bamako Communiqué.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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### 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** Groups→Other groups→Rhetorical  
Page 2, Review of the Liberian Situation, 5: In reviewing the current situation in Liberia, the Authority noted that the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) had succeeded in establishing calm in Monrovia and its immediate environs. This measure of success had made it possible for both ECOMOG and international relief agencies to [sic] carry out humanitarian relief work and for tens of thousands of foreign nationals, including ECOWAS citizens, who had been trapped in Liberia without any means of escape or protection, to be evacuated. The Authority expressed the hope that permanent peace and harmony would soon be restored throughout the territory of Liberia.

**Refugees/displaced persons** Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Rhetorical  
Page 4, Appeal for early return of refugees, 15: The Authority expressed satisfaction at the progress made so far towards the restoration of peace and security in Monrovia. Considering that the declaration of a cease-fire by the parties to the conflict enlarges the prospect for the restoration of peace and security throughout Liberia, the Authority called on all Liberian refugees to plan an early return to Liberia, in order to join their compatriots in assisting the Interim Government in the implementation of its programme to return Liberia to democratic rule.

**Social class** No specific mention.

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## **Gender**

**Women, girls and gender** No specific mention.

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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## **State definition**

**Nature of state (general)** Page 4, Appeal for early return of refugees, 15: The Authority expressed satisfaction at the progress made so far towards the restoration of peace and security in Monrovia. Considering that the declaration of a cease-fire by the parties to the conflict enlarges the prospect for the restoration of peace and security throughout Liberia, the Authority called on all Liberian refugees to plan an early return to Liberia, in order to join their compatriots in assisting the Interim Government in the implementation of its programme to return Liberia to democratic rule.

**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.

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## **Governance**

**Political  
institutions (new or  
reformed)** No specific mention.

**Elections** Page 3, Endorsement of ECOWAS peace plan, 6: The Authority endorsed the ECOWAS peace plan for Liberia as embodied in the Banjul communiqué and decisions of the Standing Mediation Committee adopted on 7 August 1990. The ECOWAS peace plan, among other things, calls for:  
...(d) The holding of general and presidential elections within 12 months;  
(e) Observation of the elections by ECOWAS and other international bodies 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.

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**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.

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## **Human rights and equality**

**Human rights/RoL general** No specific mention.

**Bill of rights/similar** No specific mention.

**Treaty incorporation** Page 4, Reaffirmation of the Protocol on Non-Aggression, 13: The Authority strongly reiterated the imperative of securing peace and maintaining stability in the ECOWAS subregion as the necessary underpinning of economic co-operation and integration for the achievement of progress and prosperity in the Community. The Authority therefore considered it most tragic that while other regions of the world were making every effort to dismantle the apparatus of war and banish tensions and conflicts from their international relations, as evidenced by the widely acclaimed treaty of Paris recently signed by Governments at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, ECOWAS Heads of State and Government were compelled to meet in extraordinary conference to find ways of bringing to an early end the horrors of a civil war in a member State of the Community and containing the threat it posed to the peace, security and stability of the subregion.

Page 4, Reaffirmation of the Protocol on Non-Aggression, 14. Recalling that it had itself fully recognized the necessity for maintaining the peace and security of the subregion early in the life of the Community through the Protocol on Non-Aggression adopted on 22 April 1978, and believing that the Liberian crisis has given that Protocol a fresh validity, the Authority decided to reaffirm the provisions of the Protocol on Non-Aggression and to urge all member States to adhere fully to their obligations under it. In particular, the Authority recalled the commitment by all member States to refrain from committing, encouraging or condoning acts of subversion, hostility or aggression against any other member State. It further called on all member States to refrain from any action that might prejudice or undermine the smooth and speedy implementation of the ECOWAS peace plan for Liberia.

**Civil and political rights** No specific mention.

**Socio-economic rights** No specific mention.

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## Rights related issues

<b>Citizenship</b>	Rights related issues→Citizenship→Citizen, general Page 2, Review of the Liberian Situation, 5: In reviewing the current situation in Liberia, the Authority noted that the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) had succeeded in establishing calm in Monrovia and its immediate environs. This measure of success had made it possible for both ECOMOG and international relief agencies to [sic] carry out humanitarian relief work and for tens of thousands of foreign nationals, including ECOWAS citizens, who had been trapped in Liberia without any means of escape or protection, to be evacuated. The Authority expressed the hope that permanent peace and harmony would soon be restored throughout the territory of Liberia.
<b>Democracy</b>	Page 4, Appeal for early return of refugees, 15: The Authority expressed satisfaction at the progress made so far towards the restoration of peace and security in Monrovia. Considering that the declaration of a cease-fire by the parties to the conflict enlarges the prospect for the restoration of peace and security throughout Liberia, the Authority called on all Liberian refugees to plan an early return to Liberia, in order to join their compatriots in assisting the Interim Government in the implementation of its programme to return Liberia to democratic rule.
<b>Detention procedures</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Media and communication</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Mobility/access</b>	Page 2, Review of the Liberian Situation, 5: In reviewing the current situation in Liberia, the Authority noted that the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) had succeeded in establishing calm in Monrovia and its immediate environs. This measure of success had made it possible for both ECOMOG and international relief agencies to [sic] carry out humanitarian relief work and for tens of thousands of foreign nationals, including ECOWAS citizens, who had been trapped in Liberia without any means of escape or protection, to be evacuated. The Authority expressed the hope that permanent peace and harmony would soon be restored throughout the territory of Liberia.
<b>Protection measures</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Other</b>	No specific mention.

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## Rights institutions

<b>NHRI</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Regional or international human rights institutions</b>	No specific mention.

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## 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.

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## Socio-economic reconstruction

**Development or socio-economic reconstruction** Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance  
Page 2, Review of the Liberian Situation, 5: In reviewing the current situation in Liberia, the Authority noted that the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) had succeeded in establishing calm in Monrovia and its immediate environs. This measure of success had made it possible for both ECOMOG and international relief agencies to [sic] carry out humanitarian relief work and for tens of thousands of foreign nationals, including ECOWAS citizens, who had been trapped in Liberia without any means of escape or protection, to be evacuated. The Authority expressed the hope that permanent peace and harmony would soon be restored throughout the territory of Liberia.

Page 5, Appeal for international assistance to Liberia, 16: The Authority made an urgent appeal to the; international community, particularly its humanitarian relief organizations, to step up without further delay humanitarian relief work in Liberia with special emphasis on the provision of food, medical supplies and clothing. It also appealed to the international donor community to contribute generously to the efforts of the Interim Government in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the damaged economy of Liberia.

**National economic plan** No specific mention.

**Natural resources** No specific mention.

**International funds** Page 2, Report of the Standing Mediation Committee, 4: The Chairman of the ECOWAS Standing Mediation Committee, His Excellency Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, submitted a report to the Extraordinary Summit on the activities of the Committee. The Authority noted the report and expressed its appreciation to the members of the Committee for the initiative taken in finding a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Liberia. It particularly expressed gratitude for the human, financial and material contributions these member States had made on behalf of the Community towards the restoration of peace and stability in Liberia.

Page 3, Collective responsibility for ECOMOG, 10: Acknowledging that the membership of ECOMOG had never been closed ever though the burden of the implementation of the ECOWAS peace plan has so far fallen entirely on the members of the Standing Mediation Committee, the Authority appealed to all other members of the Community able and willing to do so to contribute forces to the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group in order to enlarge its peace-keeping capability. It also appealed to all member States that had not yet done so to make generous contributions to the special emergency fund for the ECOWAS operations in Liberia. The Authority further called upon all other African Governments and the rest of the international community to contribute to the special emergency fund.

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**Business** No specific mention.

**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.

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**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.

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**Security sector**

**Security  
Guarantees**

No specific mention.

## Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

An immediate ceasefire is called for (28/11/1990) and is presumed to be permanent.

Page 2, Review of the Liberian Situation, 5: In reviewing the current situation in Liberia, the Authority noted that the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) had succeeded in establishing calm in Monrovia and its immediate environs. This measure of success had made it possible for both ECOMOG and international relief agencies to [sic] carry out humanitarian relief work and for tens of thousands of foreign nationals, including ECOWAS citizens, who had been trapped in Liberia without any means of escape or protection, to be evacuated. The Authority expressed the hope that permanent peace and harmony would soon be restored throughout the territory of Liberia.

Page 3, Endorsement of ECOWAS peace plan, 6: The Authority endorsed the ECOWAS peace plan for Liberia as embodied in the Banjul communiqué and decisions of the Standing Mediation Committee adopted on 7 August 1990. The ECOWAS peace plan, among other things, calls for:

- (a) A complete cease-fire and cessation of destruction of life and property;
- (b) ECOWAS monitoring of the cease-fire;...

Page 3, Signing of the cease-fire agreement, 8: In giving practical effect to this ECOWAS peace plan for Liberia, the Authority stressed the urgent need for a comprehensive cease-fire to be observed by all the warring parties as a necessary condition for the return of peace and normalcy throughout the territory of Liberia. The Authority therefore warmly commended the two warring parties - the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) and the Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) - who had agreed to observe a cease-fire and had signed a cease-fire agreement at Banjul on 24 October 1990,

Page 3, Signing of the cease-fire agreement, 9: At the Extraordinary Session of the Authority at Bamako, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPLF) - the third party to the conflict in Liberia - expressed its readiness to join in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict. The Authority noted with pleasure the acceptance by the NPLF and the other warring parties not only of the ECOWAS peace plan for Liberia as embodied in the communiqué and decisions of 7 August 1990 of the Community Standing Mediation Committee, but also their declaration of a cease-fire, which shall come into effect immediately. The Authority urged that the details for the implementation of the cease-fire should be worked out as soon as possible. It expressed the sincere hope that this declaration of cease-fire would mark the complete cessation of all hostilities as the necessary foundation for the return of lasting peace, stability and political accommodation and reconciliation of Liberia.

Page 4, Collective responsibility for ECOMOG, 11: The Authority also considered the necessity for an agreement to be concluded between ECOWAS and the Interim Government of Liberia with respect to the status and operations of the Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in Liberia. To this end, the Authority mandated the Executive Secretary to sign an agreement with the Interim Government of Liberia after approval by the Chairman of the Authority.

Page 4, Appeal for early return of refugees, 15: The Authority expressed satisfaction at the progress made so far towards the restoration of peace and security in Monrovia. Considering that the declaration of a cease-fire by the parties to the conflict enlarges the prospect for the restoration of peace and security throughout Liberia, the Authority called on all Liberian refugees to plan an early return to Liberia, in order to join their compatriots in assisting the Interim Government in the implementation of its programme to return Liberia to democratic rule.

<b>Police</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Armed forces</b>	No specific mention.
<b>DDR</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Intelligence services</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Withdrawal of foreign forces</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Corruption</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Crime/organised crime</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Drugs</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Terrorism</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Transitional justice**

<b>Transitional justice general</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Amnesty/pardon</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Courts</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Mechanism</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Prisoner release</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Vetting</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Victims</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Missing persons</b>	No specific mention.

**Reparations** No specific mention.

**Reconciliation** Page 3, Signing of the cease-fire agreement, 9: At the Extraordinary Session of the Authority at Bamako, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPLF) - the third party to the conflict in Liberia - expressed its readiness to join in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict. The Authority noted with pleasure the acceptance by the NPLF and the other warring parties not only of the ECOWAS peace plan for Liberia as embodied in the communique and decisions of 7 August 1990 of the Community Standing Mediation Committee, but also their declaration of a cease-fire, which shall come into effect immediately. The Authority urged that the details for the implementation of the cease-fire should be worked out as soon as possible. It expressed the sincere hope that this declaration of cease-fire would mark the complete cessation of all hostilities as the necessary foundation for the return of lasting peace, stability and political accommodation and reconciliation of Liberia.

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**Implementation**

**UN signatory**

Page 2, 3. Also attending the summit in an observer capacity were the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the regional representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

**Other international signatory** Page 1, 1:...The session was attended by the following Heads of State and Government or their accredited representatives:

His Excellency General Mathiew Kerekou  
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His Excellency Captain Blaise Compaore  
Chairman of the Popular Front  
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President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

His Excellency Aihaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara  
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His Excellency General Ali Saibou  
Chairman of the Supreme Council for National Orientation  
Head of State of the Republic of the Niger

His Excellency General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida  
President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria  
His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf  
President of the Republic of Senegal

His Excellency Major-General Dr. Joseph Saidu Momoh  
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President of the Togolese Republic

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Minister of Transport and Works, Representing the President of the Republic of Guinea

Honourable Hasni Ould Didi  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Representing the President of the Republic of Mauritania

**Referendum for agreement**

No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar**

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Page 4, Collective responsibility for ECOMOG, 11: The Authority also considered the necessity for an agreement to be concluded between ECOWAS and the Interim Government of Liberia with respect to the status and operations of the Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in Liberia. To this end, the Authority mandated the Executive Secretary to sign an agreement with the Interim Government of Liberia after approval by the Chairman of the Authority.

**Enforcement mechanism**

No specific mention.

**Related cases**

No specific mention.

**Source**

United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library: <http://repository.un.org/>