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Statement of Mr. Alan Doss
United Nations Special Representative of the
Secretary-General for Liberia
at the Public Announcement of the Final Results
of the Election of 11 October 2005

Wednesday, 26 October 2005

On 11 October 2005, Liberians took another major step in the peace process by casting their votes in an orderly and non-violent manner. Since then, in a transparent process, ballots have been collected, counted and tallied. Today, we heard the final results of the election of 11 October 2005 and are now looking forward to the Run-Off Election on 8 November 2005, when Liberians will cast their vote for the person whom they choose to lead Liberia for the next six years.

The preparations for the Run-Off elections have begun, and I am confident that both NEC and UNMIL will continue to do their very best to ensure that the second round of voting will also be free, fair and transparent, and one that is in the best interests of Liberia. They have taken into account in their planning the lessons learnt from the first round.

UNMIL military and civilian personnel will support Liberians to ensure that both the campaign and election day pass in peace and that all votes are cast in safety and security. We will react robustly to any attempts to disrupt the electoral process.

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Liberians have demonstrated that they are ready to choose the path to peace. In the upcoming campaign period, they will have another opportunity to demonstrate that they can espouse diversity and respect the rule of law. By doing so they will show that the politics of ethnic divisiveness, hate and violence have been left in the past.

In this regard the media have a special responsibility. I appeal to them to avoid provocative language and to refrain from trafficking in unfounded rumours that serve only to inflame communal tensions.

The world will again be watching Liberia as you prepare for the presidential run-off. I urge Liberians to cast their ballots on the 8th November for peace and for a new Liberia. The United Nations and the international community are here to support your commitment to a better future.

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