

**NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

**Code of Conduct of the  
National Elections Commission (NEC)  
of Liberia**

**18 February 2005**

# **PREAMBLE**

WHEREAS, Article 89 of the January 6, 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia established the Elections Commission as an autonomous public Commission;

WHEREAS, Section 9, Chapter 2 of the 1986 Elections Law empowers the Elections Commission to formulate and enforce electoral guidelines;

WHEREAS, the National Elections Commission (NEC), successor to the Elections Commission, was created by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in Accra, Ghana, on 18th August 2003 by the three warring parties, namely the then Government of Liberia (GOL), the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), and the 18 registered Liberian political parties, aimed at ending the 14-years Liberian Civil Crisis;

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), mandates the National Elections Commission (NEC) to reform the present electoral system in Liberia in order to ensure that the rights and interests of all Liberians are guaranteed, and that the elections are organized in a manner that is acceptable to all;

WHEREAS, the National Elections Commission recognizes that for an election to be successful, participants in the process must be able to trust that the National Elections Commission will carry out its functions in a fair, politically neutral, transparent and professional manner;

**NOW THEREFORE:**

**The National Elections Commission hereby promulgates the following Code of Conduct of the NEC:**


## **Code of Conduct of the National Elections Commission (NEC) of Liberia**

1. This Code of Conduct applies to the National Elections Commission and all its employees (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission").
2. The Commission is mandated by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) to ensure that all the processes of elections for the Presidency and the Legislature in October 2005 are conducted in a free and fair manner and in accordance with UN standards. The Commission, in the conduct of these elections, shall not be influenced or controlled by any outside authority.
3. In pursuance of this mandate, the Commission has pledged to deliver acceptable, free, fair, transparent and accessible elections, and enlist the support of all stakeholders in Liberia and members of the international community to assist it in achieving this goal. In furtherance of its mandate, the Commission:
  - (a) Will at all times embrace a culture of fairness, neutrality, independence and non-partisanship in their dealings with any registered political party or candidate, and consequently, will do nothing that could indicate, or be seen as indicating, partisan support for a candidate, political party, political actor or political tendency;
  - (b) Will create a user-friendly environment for the representatives and agents of registered political parties, through the facilitation of ready access to the offices and relevant documents of the Commission;
  - (c) Affirms its commitment to the principle and practice of transparency in its activities;
  - (d) Will conduct itself at all times in an irreproachable manner, exercise sound judgement, observe the highest levels of personal discretion, and ensure that its senior officers apply the highest standards of professionalism and integrity in their work;
  - (e) Will ensure that its members and staff avoid any situation that may lead to a conflict of interest or that is incompatible with their status of an officer of the Commission.
4. Every member and officer of the Commission shall refrain from improper use or unauthorized release of information obtained in the course of their official duty with the Commission.
5. The Commission:
  - (a) Will extend the participation and access of stakeholders in relevant processes of election organization on an equitable basis consistent with the law;
  - (b) Shall uphold its integrity and the integrity of the electoral processes, and actively encourage all stakeholders to do likewise;

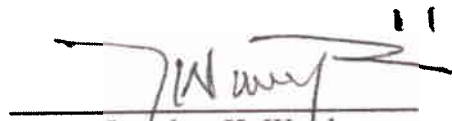
- (c) Will pay particular attention to the smooth and positive working relationships with each registered political party and independent candidate on the basis of equitable treatment for all consistent with the law;
- (d) Will establish positive working relationships with accredited civil society organizations, community-based organizations, and relevant donor agencies, through ready access and timely communication of relevant information on a non-discriminatory basis;
- (e) Will extend fair and non-discriminatory access to media houses and, where feasible, offer assistance in election awareness programmes on an equitable basis consistent with the law;
- (f) Recognizes that its primary responsibility is to provide good quality election services to the electorate, and to that end it will:
  - Offer a user-friendly environment for all persons utilizing electoral services, especially in respect of registration of voters and polling services;
  - Arrange suitable access and physical facilities at election processes centers, with particular reference to persons with disabilities;
  - Develop adequate and suitable election awareness programmes, with dissemination schemes to ensure full national coverage;
  - Ensure that all qualified persons who wish to register as a voter are able to do so, and all voters who wish to vote are able to do so; and
  - Ensure that every vote is properly counted.

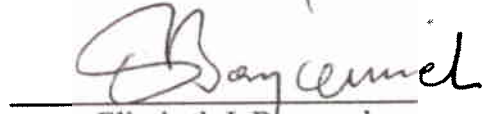
Signed:

  
 Mary N. Brownell  
 COMMISSIONER

  
 James K. Chelley  
 COMMISSIONER

  
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