

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION  
16<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SINKOR  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

GUIDELINES RELATING  
TO COALITIONS AND ALLIANCES

NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION

4 FEBRUARY 2005

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
 <b><u>Chapter I. General provisions</u></b>	
Section 1. Citation	3
Section 2. Definitions	3
 <b><u>Chapter II. Registration of coalitions and alliances by the NEC</u></b>	
Section 3. Registration and accreditation of coalitions and alliances	3
Section 4. Deadline for filing plans of coalitions and alliances	3
 <b><u>Chapter III. Obligations of accredited coalitions and alliances</u></b>	
Section 5. Applicability of Political Party and Independent Candidate Registration Guidelines	4
Section 6. Establishment of national and local offices	4
Section 7. Bank balance	4
Section 8. Keeping of records	4
Section 9. Code of conduct	4
Section 10. Conventions of coalitions and alliances	4
Section 11. Nomination of candidates by coalitions and alliances	5
Section 12. Withdrawal from coalitions and alliances. Dissolution	5
 <i>Annex            Specimen of Form PP-004</i>	

## 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 ~~1986~~ 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, on 23 December 2004 the Electoral Reform Law entered into force, suspending certain provisions of the Constitution and amending sections of the New Elections Law of 1986, which necessitate the issuance of new guidelines regulating the registration of coalitions and alliances;

**NOW THEREFORE:** Pursuant to its authority herein above stated, and in order to facilitate the formation of coalitions and alliances among registered political parties, the National Elections Commission hereby promulgates the following guidelines:

## Chapter I. General provisions

### Section 1. Citation

These guidelines may be cited as the Guidelines on Coalitions and Alliances.

### Section 2. Definitions

“Commission” means the National Elections Commission (NEC);

“Electoral Reform Law” means the Law suspending certain provisions of the Constitution, amending specific sections of New Elections Law, and approving new provisions relating to the budgetary appropriations for the National Elections Commission, which entered into force on 23 December 2004;

“Political Party and Independent Candidate Registration Guidelines” means the NEC Guidelines Relating to the Registration of Political Parties and Independent Candidates of 17 January 2005;

## Chapter II. Registration of coalitions and alliances by the NEC

### Section 3. Registration and accreditation of coalitions and alliances

3.1 Registered political parties which have agreed to participate in a coalition or alliance shall submit to the Commission a request to accredit the coalition or alliance, using form PP-004, a specimen of which is attached as annex 1 hereto. The completed Form PP-004 shall be notarized and shall be accompanied by the plan of coalition or alliance, which shall meet the requirements set out in section 21 of the Electoral Law.

3.2 The plan of coalition or alliance approved by the constituent registered political parties shall include the names of the leadership of the coalition or alliance.

3.3 Within fourteen (14) days of receipt of a complete Form PP-004 with all accompanying documents, the Commission shall review the plan and make a decision on the request. If the Commission is satisfied that the request is complete and that each constituent party consenting to the coalition or alliance has fully complied with the relevant provisions of the New Elections Law and the Electoral Reform Law, the Commission shall issue a certificate of accreditation in the name of the coalition or alliance, and make its decision public through all appropriate means throughout the country.

### Section 4. Deadline for filing plans of coalitions and alliances

In order to allow the coalition or alliance to nominate candidates within the deadline provided for by the New Elections Law, all plans to form a coalition or alliance must be received by the Commission no later than 12 weeks prior to elections.

### Chapter III. Obligations of accredited coalitions and alliances

#### **Section 5. Applicability of Political Party and Independent Candidate Registration Guidelines**

Each constituent political party of an accredited coalition or alliance shall continue to be subject to the provisions set out in the New Elections Law of 1986, the Electoral Reform Law, and the Political Parties and Independent Candidates Registration Guidelines, except as may be otherwise provided hereunder.

#### **Section 6. Establishment of national and local offices**

The requirement to establish and maintain functioning offices as provided for in section 13.1 of the Political Parties and Independent Candidates Registration Guidelines shall apply to the accredited coalition or alliance as whole and not to each of its constituent political parties individually. Consequently, an accredited coalition and alliance shall establish and maintain a functioning office in the capital of the Republic of Liberia and at least one functioning local office in the capital of each of the counties in Liberia for which the coalition or alliance intends to field candidates. Offices originally established by the constituent political parties of the accredited coalition or alliance shall be taken into account in determining whether this requirement has been met.

#### **Section 7. Bank balance**

The minimum balance required in section 13.2 of the Political Parties and Independent Candidates Registration Guidelines shall apply to each accredited coalition or alliance as a whole and not to its constituent political parties individually.

#### **Section 8. Keeping of records**

The accredited coalition or alliance as a whole shall keep proper and accurate records as provided in sections 13.3 and 13.4 of the Political Party Registration Guidelines. The constituent political parties shall continue to be subject to the same requirements.

#### **Section 9. Code of conduct**

The accredited coalition or alliance shall abide by the code of conduct for political parties.

#### **Section 10. Conventions of coalitions and alliances**

10.1 A coalition or alliance which proposes to nominate one or more candidates for any elective public office in the 2005 elections, shall hold a convention no later than 1 August 2005. At the convention, the coalition or alliance shall nominate its candidates for elective public offices.

10.2 Notice of every convention shall be given maximum publicity by the coalition or alliance through all appropriate means at least 14 days prior to the start of the convention. Such means shall include, but not be limited to, broadcasting the notice on radio for a period of at least three (3) days.

## Section 11. Nomination of candidates by coalitions and alliances

11.1 No later than eight (8) weeks prior to the elections, the accredited coalition or alliance shall submit to the Commission a list of candidates nominated by the coalition or alliance showing the elective public offices which they are to fill. The list shall contain the name, address, age, sex, occupation, positions previously held (if any), elective office sought, and such other qualifications required for the elective office sought as provided by the Constitution and the Elections Law. Letters of intent must be submitted to the Commission from each candidate stating his/her willingness to serve when elected, which must also be submitted no later than eight (8) weeks prior to the elections.

11.2 The requirement set out in section 15.2 of the Political Party and Independent Candidates Registration Guidelines shall apply to the accredited coalition or alliance as whole and not to each of its constituent political parties individually. Each accredited coalition or alliance shall ensure that 30% of the candidates nominated by that coalition or alliance shall be women.

11.3 The nomination of a candidate for any elective public office by and on behalf of a constituent political party of a coalition or alliance shall not be accepted by the Commission unless that political party has notified the Commission of its withdrawal from the coalition and alliance in accordance with the procedure and within the deadline provided by section 11 below.

## Section 12. Withdrawal from coalitions and alliances. Dissolution.

12.1 A political party wishing to withdraw from a coalition or alliance shall pass a resolution signed by an absolute majority (50% of the votes plus one vote) of its executive committee. The executive committee shall notify the Commission immediately upon the adoption of such a resolution, and attach a certified copy thereof.

12.2 Immediately upon passing a resolution pursuant to section 12.1 above, the political party withdrawing from the coalition or alliance shall be subject to all obligations applicable to registered political parties as set out in the Political Party Registration Guidelines. This includes, but is not limited to, the obligations and procedures applicable to the nomination of candidates.

12.3 If, as a result of a withdrawal, the accredited coalition or alliance consists of only one constituent political party, the Commission shall consider the coalition or alliance to have been dissolved, and shall notify the public accordingly through all appropriate means.

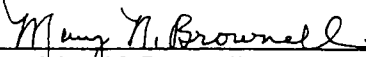
12.4 No notification of withdrawal or dissolution shall be received by the Commission less than ten (10) weeks before elections. The Commission may decide that a political party withdrawing from a coalition or alliance, or a political party notifying the Commission of such withdrawal, less than ten (10) weeks before elections cannot participate in the elections and may decide to reject candidates nominated by that party.

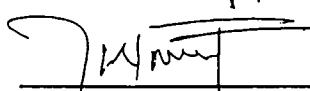
*Annex:*

*Specimen of Form PP-004*

*Request for accreditation of coalition or alliance*

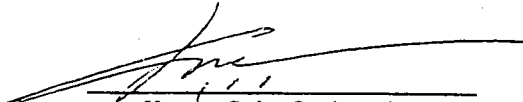
Signed:


  
Mary N. Brownell  
COMMISSIONER

  
Jonathan K. Weedor  
COMMISSIONER

  
James K. Chelle y  
COMMISSIONER

Elizabeth J. Boyenneh  
COMMISSIONER

  
Karmo Soko Sackor, Sr.  
COMMISSIONER

  
James M. Fromayan  
Co-CHAIRMAN

  
Cllr. Frances Johnson-Morris  
CHAIRMAN

4. Address and location of the coalition or alliance headquarters (please include post office address together with details of the location):

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5. Chairman of the coalition or alliance:

(a) Full name

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(b) Address (please include post office and mailing address together with details of the location):

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(c) Telephone number:

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(d) Email address:

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6. General Secretary of the coalition or alliance:

(a) Full Name:

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(b) Address (please include post office and mailing address together with details of the location):

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Annex

National Elections Commission  
16<sup>th</sup> Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia

SPECIMEN

REQUEST FOR ACCREDITATION OF  
COALITION OR ALLIANCE  
(FORM: PP-004)

\*\*\* Deadline for submission of requests: \*\*\*  
12 weeks prior to elections (19 July 2005)

1. Name of the coalition or alliance:

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2. Abbreviation/acronym of the name of the coalition or alliance:

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3. Names of all constituent political parties of the coalition or alliance:

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(c) Telephone number:

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(d) Email address:

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7. Documents which must be submitted with this form of notification:

- (a) The plan of coalition or alliance, including the terms and conditions of the coalition or alliance, and the names of the members of its leadership;
- (b) Certified copies of resolution adopted by the executive committee of each political party consenting to the coalition or alliance;
- (c) Record of votes taken by each constituent party in adopting the resolution to consent to the coalition or alliance.

It is hereby declared that the contents of this request together with all attachments are true and correct.

Dated this                      day of                      200

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Chairman of the coalition or alliance

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General Secretary of the coalition or alliance

*(Note: This form must be notarized)*