

The first meeting of West African High Courts in charge of Electoral Disputes, ended Thursday, 9 June 2022 ended in the Republic of Benin, with participants issuing a Declaration, known as the “Declaration of Cotonou”. The first awareness of the West African High Courts started on Tuesday, 7 June 2022, in the capital city of Cotonou, the Republic of Benin.

Liberia was represented by the Chairperson the National Elections Commission (NEC), Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah and an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Associate Justice, Sienyne Youh.



(Left to right): Supreme Court of Liberia, Associate Justice, Sienyne Youh and NEC Chairperson, Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah at the end of the Cotonou Meeting.

**Here now is the full text of the, “Declaration of Cotonou”.**

## DECLARATION OF COTONOU

### FIRST MEETING OF WEST AFRICAN HIGH COURTS IN CHARGE OF ELECTORAL DISPUTES

From June 7 to 9, 2022, the FIRST MEETING OF WEST AFRICAN HIGH COURTS IN CHARGE OF ELECTORAL DISPUTES was held in Cotonou.

Were present at the meeting: the Constitutional Court of Benin, the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone, the Constitutional Court of Niger, the Supreme Court of Liberia, the Constitutional Court of Togo, the Supreme Court of Ghana, the Constitutional Council of Côte d'Ivoire and the Supreme Court of Guinea Bissau.

At the end of the deliberations, to which were invited the Electoral Management Bodies of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Togo, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Nigeria, as well as experts having proven experience in managing electoral disputes from Anglophone, Francophone and lusophone countries,

WE,

Constitutional Courts and Supreme Courts in charge of electoral disputes in West Africa hereby agree on the following:

1. The creation of a network of West African High Courts in charge of electoral disputes.
2. The setting up of a Steering Committee made up of member jurisdictions from the different linguistic zones as follows:

- **Chairman** : Constitutional Court of Benin,

**Members:**

- Constitutional Council of Côte d'Ivoire

- Supreme Court of Ghana
- Supreme Court of Sierra Leone
- Supreme Court of Guinea Bissau

The mandate of this Committee is, in liaison with ECOWAS, to assign a team of consultants to draft the fundamental texts (statutes and rules of procedure) and to receive observations from experts from the different linguistic zones as well as from all the constitutional jurisdictions within ECOWAS.

Finally, this Committee will have to organize and convene the second meeting of the constitutional courts in charge of electoral disputes in order to approve the texts.

Done in Cotonou, on June 09, 2022