Memorandum of Understanding

Between

National Elections Commission (NEC)

and

Registered Political Parties

Under the Inter-Party Consultative Committee (IPCC) Framework

2016
This Memorandum of Understanding is made and entered into this 19th day of February 2016,

Between:

The National Elections Commission of Liberia represented by its Board of Commissioners, (herein after referred to as the Commission)

and:

Registered Political Parties within Liberia, represented by two executive members from each party (hereinafter referred to as Political Parties).

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to:

   a. Encourage and promote consensus building between and among Political Parties and the Commission through the February 2005 established institutional framework known and referred to as the Inter Party Consultative Committee, (herein after referred to as the IPCC); and

   b. Advance the efforts of the IPCC by establishing an inter-party dialogue environment for political parties;

1.2. It is noted that this arrangement does not apply to any separate arrangements that may be entered into by the National Elections Commission and Political Parties for various other reasons;

2. Background

2.1. Whereas, the Commission and political parties on 25th February 2005 entered into a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of an institutional framework known and referred to as the IPCC for the encouragement and promotion of consensus building;

2.2. Whereas political parties realized that the 2005 MOU was no longer serving the needs of the IPCC and therefore requested a revision of the agreement;
Now therefore, in consideration of the terms, the Commission and political parties have mutually agreed as follows:

3. Objectives

That the objectives of the IPCC shall be:

3.1 To provide a platform for structured and multi-party dialogue between Political Parties and the Commission on issues relating to the organization and conduct of elections and the general electoral environment;

3.2 To enhance genuine interaction, experience sharing and information exchange between Political Parties and the Commission as a way of building trust and confidence in the electoral process;

3.3 To identify gaps and shortcomings in the laws and procedures governing the electoral process and adopt a consultative and pro-active approach in making suggestions for improvement;

3.4 To seek support from local and international partners in order to build the capacity of Liberian political parties;

3.5 To promulgate a new Code of Conduct that will guide the behavior of political parties and their supporters before, during and after elections; and

3.6 To create an environment for political parties to interact within and amongst themselves exclusive of the Commission.

4. Membership of IPCC

4.1 Membership of the IPCC shall be restricted to the Commission and registered political parties. Where the present provisions refer to “political parties” or “political party”, they shall be understood to equally apply to independent candidates who have indicated their agreement to the Commission.

4.2 A political party that is de-registered by the Commission through the court shall cease to be a member of the IPCC;
4.3 A registered political party shall be represented by two executive committee members; one of whom shall be a female.

4.4 A representative of a member party to the IPCC who resigns his or her membership from the party or is expelled by the party ceases to be its representative to the IPCC;

4.5 The membership of a political party whose leadership is in crisis shall be suspended from active participation within the IPCC. Upon resolving its crisis, the Secretary General of the political party shall notify the IPCC for the purpose of activating its membership;

4.6 The IPCC shall request a political party to recall its representative for acts of misconduct consistent with due process of law.

4.7 All political parties with membership to the IPCC shall be entitled to opportunities and benefits that are guaranteed for the IPCC, provided that no one member of the IPCC benefits from two or more opportunities when there are other members that have not benefited;

5. Responsibilities of Political Parties

5.1 All Political Parties representation to the IPCC shall actively participate in IPCC related meetings, activities, training and other programs.

5.2 All Political Parties representation to the IPCC shall assume the responsibility of working with the Commission to ensure the effective functioning of the IPCC;

6. Responsibilities of the Commission

6.1 The Commission shall engage political parties from time to time for the purpose of hosting meetings, activities, training and other programs as agreed by the parties to the IPCC;

6.2 The Commission in consultation and collaboration with its partners will fund meetings, trainings and other activities for political parties through the IPCC;

7. Leadership Arrangement
7.1. The Chairman or a designate member of the Board of Commissions shall act as Chair of the IPCC.

7.2. The Chair shall cause all decisions taken by the IPCC to be made public. Written copies of such decisions shall be circulated to all IPCC members prior to publication and shall be made no later than five days following the decision;

8. Meetings

8.1 The IPCC shall meet once every two months during non-election years. However, during an election year, the IPCC shall meet on a monthly basis or as required;

8.2 A special general meeting of the IPCC shall be held if and when the Commission or a Political Party/ies so require. Such meeting shall be arranged by the Commission observing a one week notice period;

8.3 The quorum for a meeting shall constitute 60 percent of IPCC membership.

9. Amendment

9.1 No modification of, or change in this agreement, waiver of any of its provision or additional provisions shall be valid or enforceable unless previously approved in writing by members of the IPCC in the form of an amendment by 60% (sixty percent);

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives of the IPCC, respectively, have on behalf of the Commission and Political Parties sign the revised Memorandum of Understanding on this 19th day of February, A.D. 2016.
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| 1. | Opara Sealee, S.G.  
    All Liberia Coalition Party (ALCOP) |
| 2. | IS B. Theodore Momolu, National Chairman  
    All Liberian Party (ALP) |
| 3. |  
    Alternative National Congress (ANC) |
| 4. |  
    Alliance for Peace and Democracy (APD) |
| 5. | Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) |
| 6. |  
    Grassroot Democratic Party Of Liberia (GDPL) |
| 7. |  
    Liberty Party (LP) |
| 8. |  
    Liberian National Union (LINU) |
| 9. |  
    Liberia Transformation Party (LTP) |
| 10. |  
    Liberia People Democratic Party (LPDP) |
| 11. | Kenneth  
    Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE) |
12. Movement for Progressive Change (MPC)

13. New Liberia Party (NLP)

14. National Democratic Coalition (NDC)

15. National Patriotic Party (NPP)

16. People's Unification Party (PUP)

17. True Whig Party (TWP)

18. Unity Party (UP)

19. Union of Liberian Democrats (ULD)

20. Victory for Change Party (VCP)
Witness:

SIGNED:

1. [Signature]  
   REPRESENTATION OF UNDP

2. [Signature]  
   REPRESENTATION OF IFES

DONE UNDER OUR HANDS AND SEAL OF THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION (NEC), THIS 19th DAY OF FEBRUARY, A.D. 2016

[Signature]  
02-17-16

Jerome G. Korkoya (JD)  
CHAIRMAN  
NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION (NEC)