Farmington River Declaration 2023
Recalling its previous commitment, concerning elections in Liberia on June 4, 2017, 20 of Liberia’s 22 registered political parties signed the Farmington River Declaration 2017, emanating from the Ganta Declaration, committing themselves to the process of an orderly and peaceful election in October 2017, and pledging before the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Heads of States that when such conflicts occur, they would address them through legal means; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2023, the National Elections Commission (NEC) convened a one-day Inter-Party Consultative Committee meeting to revisit the Farmington River Declaration 2017 at the Sinkor Palaceon Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia, Liberia, and said meeting was attended by 26 registered coalitions and registered political parties; and observed by ECOWAS and the United Nations (UN); and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2023, the political parties referenced, herein, resolved and validated the Farmington River Declaration 2023, committing to a violence-free election in which all Liberian voters and qualified candidates will participate; and

WHEREAS, this Pledge will apply to political parties, coalitions/collaborations, alliances, independent candidates, leaders, officials, known members, supporters, surrogates, authorized representatives, proxies, candidates, election agents for candidates, or supporters of candidates;

NOW, THEREFORE, We, leaders of political parties, coalitions/collaborations, alliances and independent candidates of Liberia, are fully cognizant of our constitutional obligations to ensure that elections are peaceful, free, fair and credible; and desirous of promoting national cohesion, unity, peace and stability; and, recognizing our primary responsibility, as leaders of political parties, coalitions/collaborations, alliances and independent candidates, and of our candidates, members, supporters, and agents; hereby pledge to:
Guiding Principles

1. Recognize that this revised Farmington River Declaration clearly sets the framework for free, fair, transparent, non-violent elections in Liberia in 2023, which confirms and affirms a commitment by the major stakeholder groups in the governance of Liberia to the rule of law.

2. Affirm that the 2023 presidential and legislative elections shall be held consistent with the constitution and laws of Liberia, AND in line with all international standards governing the conduct of free, fair, peaceful, and transparent democratic elections.

3. Take all measures, including through the Inter-Party Consultative Committee, to promote conditions conducive to free and fair elections and a climate of tolerance in which election activities may take place without fear, coercion, intimidation, or reprisals.


5. Commit to the resolution of disputes arising from the electoral process through legal means.

6. Prevent electoral violence, impunity, and injustice; and when and where they occur, to address them through legal means.

7. Conduct our political campaign activities in such a manner that they will not only preserve, but also enhance and maintain the peace and unity of Liberia.

8. Work closely with all law enforcement agencies to ensure that they perform their roles and duties effectively throughout the elections and post-election periods; toward this end, we hereby call on the Government of Liberia to set up a free hotline and make it available to each stakeholder to monitor and report on situations that have the propensity to undermine the security, peace, and harmony of the 2023 electoral process.

9. Intensify and expand the scope of civic and voter education activities such that the awareness and understanding of the relevant electoral laws and procedures by our members is improved and enhanced.

10. Hold ourselves mutually accountable as peers in promoting effective political leadership of the campaign against electoral violence, especially violence against women in elections/politics, impunity, and injustice.

11. Respect the free expression of individual or group opinions, beliefs, equal political participation by all eligible voters throughout the electoral process.

12. Recognize the authority of the NEC in the conduct of the elections.

13. Accept and respect the outcome of the election results of a free, fair, and transparent process.

14. Submit all claims of election irregularities for resolution through judicial means, in accordance with the law, and accept and support the final outcome of the judicial process and the results.

15. Urge the Government of Liberia to ensure the timely disbursement of electoral funds to NEC.

16. Recognise and encourage the ECOWAS, the UN, and other international partners for all their material, technical and financial support to resolve disputes.
Campaign Management

1. Respect the right of all coalitions/collaborations, alliances, political parties, candidates and stakeholders to campaign or rally without fear or disruption, adhere to campaign schedules, respect the campaign material of other coalitions/parties, and promote peace on all campaign trails.

2. Desist from campaigns that involve human rights abuses, hate speech, and all forms of violence, class denigration, vilification of social origins and background, ethnic victimization, or religious incitement, both by our parties or coalitions, and by all agents, candidates, supporters acting in our names. Instead, run issue-based campaigns.

3. Avoid using language at campaigns that is inflammatory, or defamatory. Refrain from using language that threatens or incites violence in any form against any other political party, coalition/collaboration, alliance, person, or group of persons.

4. Desist from damaging, defacing or unlawfully removing properties, including the election posters, placards, banners, flyers, billboards, or any other election material of other political parties, coalitions/collaborations, alliances or candidates, and any posters or other voter education materials disseminated by the NEC.

5. Respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all citizens, especially women and persons with disabilities, that voters can vote freely, without interference, fear, undue influence, or bribery.

6. Refrain from making or causing to make in our names or that of our party, coalition/collaboration, or alliance, any public statements, pronouncements, declarations, or speeches, or use language, online or offline, that have the propensity to incite any form of violence or intimidation and human rights abuses before, during and after the elections, particularly against women and persons with disabilities.

7. Disseminate accurate information on electoral processes.

8. Refrain from on and offline disinformation, fake news and online manipulation that will influence or polarize public opinion or promote skepticism towards the electoral process and institutions and, in the end, undermine the integrity of the democratic process.

9. Refrain from defamatory campaign and attacks against the NEC, the judiciary and other electoral institutions, and the electoral system.

Violence against Women in Elections

1. Reaffirm our commitment to the Violence against Women in Elections and Politics (VAWIE/P) Protocol.

2. Refrain from and discourage all forms of violence against women in elections by any of our representatives or supporters, including the use of traditional practices such as deploying the “country devil” to intimidate candidates and their supporters, prevent and promptly address gender-based-hate speech, disinformation, misinformation, any verbal or online threats, intimidation or violence against women candidates and voters and take or initiate disciplinary action against those who contravene this Pledge.

3. Create awareness of the VAWIE/Pto our parties or coalitions/collaborations, alliances, agents, candidates, supporters and members and their obligation to comply with its terms.
4. Facilitate women’s equal participation and access to political activities and voting.

**Electoral Violence**

1. Publicly condemn all forms of violence and intimidation and unreservedly dissociate from any action that may undermine the free and fair conduct of elections, whether perpetrated by our supporters, agents and/or opponents.
2. Publicly condemn any action that may undermine the free and fair conduct of elections and, condemn unreservedly and publicly any violence or intimidation and co-operate with the law enforcement agencies in apprehending the violators.
3. Refrain from and restrain parties, coalitions/collaborations, alliances, office-bearers, members or candidate’s representative, agent, or supporters from using state security personnel as tools of intimidation and harassment.
4. Refrain from and restrain our parties, coalitions/collaborations, alliances, office-bearers, members or candidate’s representative, agent, or supporters from recruiting, creating, training and arming militias, vigilantes, armed groups, or gangs, criminal or otherwise, to instigate voter intimidation, harassment or trigger political violence.
5. Work with the NEC and security agencies to ensure observance of and be guided by extant laws, rules and regulations and abide by elections security management guidelines, that facilitate, respect, and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**Compliance**

1. Respect, uphold and subscribe to the revised Farmington River Declaration 2023 and affirm that, upon signing, it is binding on our parties, coalitions/collaborations, alliances, leaders, officials, members, candidates, candidate’s representative, agent, or supporters.
2. Give wide publicity to this Pledge and issue directives to our officials, candidates, members, and supporters, requiring each of them to:
   a. observe the Pledge, and any applicable electoral and general laws; and
   b. take all necessary steps to ensure compliance.
3. Take decisions or initiate appropriate actions to discipline and restrain our parties, coalitions/collaborations, alliances, leaders, officials, members, candidates, candidate’s representative, agent, or supporters from:
   a. infringing the Pledge;
   b. committing any offense in terms of this Pledge and any other applicable elections law, rules, and regulations.
4. Discourage our party officials, candidates, members, or supporters from abusing the right to complain about violations of the Pledge, nor make false complaints.
5. Work closely with the National Elections Commission in the monitoring and reporting of violations to the Pledge.

**Penalties**

1. Accept that any member of political parties, coalitions/collaborations, or alliances found in breach of this Pledge will be sanctioned either by the NEC or the judiciary, in accordance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.
2. The Inter-Religious Council of Liberia will play a mediation role, where and when necessary, subject to acceptance by parties involved in the conflict.

ADOPTED at the Sinkor Palace this 27th Day of March 2023, in the City of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia; and signed at the Farmington River Hotel in Unification City, Margibi County, Republic of Liberia, this 4th Day of April 2023.
Signed: 04/14/23

Lusine F. Kamara Sr.
All Liberia Coalition Party (ALCOP)

Benoni W. Terey
All Liberian Party (ALP)

Winder McIntosh
Change Democratic Action (CDA)

H.E. George Manneh Weah
Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)

Gabriel B. Saydee, Jr.
Coalition for Liberia’s Progress (CLP)

Alexander B. Cummings Political
Collaborating Political Parties (CPP)
Rev. David GB Kiamu  
Democratic People's Party of Liberia (DPPL)  

Emmanuel D. Gonquoi  
Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia (EFFL)  

Major Lavela Major Beyan  
Grass Root Democratic Party of Liberia (GDPL)  

Dr. Clarence Kpehe Moniba  
Liberian National Union (LINU)  

Clir. Tiawan Saye Gongloe  
Liberian People's Party (LPP)  

Allen R. Brown Jr.  
Liberia Restoration Party (LRP)
Rev. Kennedy G. Sandy  
Liberia Transformation Party (LTP)

Jeremiah Kpan Koung  
Movement for Democratic Reconstruction (MDR)

H.E. Amb. Dee-Maxwel Saah Kemayah, Sr.  
Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE)

Madam Macabella M Cooper  
Movement For One Liberia (MOL)

Simeon C. M. Freeman  
Movement for Progressive Change (MPC)

Professor Alaric K Tokpa  
National Democratic Coalition (NDC)
Dr. Joshua Turner  
New Liberia Party (NLP)

Tapple E. Doe  
People’s Liberation Party (PLP)

Samuel G. Kogar  
People’s Unification Party (PUP)

Reginald B. Goodridge Sr.  
Rainbow Alliance (RA)

Rev. Victor S. N. Saylee, Sr.  
Redemption Democratic Congress (RDC)

Jonathan A. Mason  
Union Liberian Democrats (ULD)
Dr. Da Monynson Tarr
United People’s Party (UPP)

Hon. Joseph Nyumah Boakai
Unity Party (UP)

WITNESSED

Economic Community of West African States
H.E. Dr. Omar Aliu Touray

United Nations
Ms. Giovanie Biha