

**REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR
POLITICAL PARTIES
2011**

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PREAMBLE

The roots of a thriving democracy are to be found in justice, domestic peace and within the welfare of the people, stability and rule of law as well as through non-discretionary compliance by all stakeholders with electoral laws and regulations. Equally vital is equality of access to political opportunities for all Political Parties facilitated by the existence of a level playing field to promote free, fair and credible elections and the acceptance of certified results from the polls.

Recognizing that inclusiveness, tolerance, transparency and pluralism are necessary for an effective democracy, and determined to realize the objectives of a model democracy and to consolidate democratic governance in our homeland, we, the Political Parties of Liberia, do individually, collectively and voluntarily adopt for ourselves, this Code of Conduct to govern our activities and foster the establishment of genuine democracy in our country. We hereby pledge to one another and to the people of Liberia, to promote and uphold the guidelines and Principles of this Code. We acknowledge the authority of the NEC in regard to the exercise of its constitutional and statutory powers and undertake to facilitate the Commission's mandate.

I. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Code:

1. “National Elections Commission” hereinafter, “NEC” means the National Elections Commission of Liberia.
2. “Party” means an entity duly registered with the NEC of Liberia in accordance with Article 78 of the Constitution.
3. “Parties” means two or more of the aforementioned entities.
4. “Candidate” means an individual contesting public office during election.
5. “Inter-Party Consultative Committee” hereinafter “IPCC” refers to the body established on 25 February 2005 between signatory Political Parties and NEC.
6. “The Code” or “This Code” means the Liberian Political Parties Code of Conduct.
7. “Constitution” refers to the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia.
8. “Public Resources” refer to all properties held in trust for the collective use of Citizens of Liberia, including but not limited to Government of Liberia property, state owned corporations and all other resources not privately held.

III. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF VOLUNTARY CODE OF CONDUCT FOR POLITICAL PARTIES

Whereas, prior to the adoption of the 2005 Political Parties Code of Conduct, no code of conduct for Political Parties had been adopted to establish and acknowledge a minimum standard of acceptable behavior for Political Parties and their supporters and to safeguard against political violence, intimidation and manipulation;

Appreciating the binding nature of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, the electoral laws and our commitment to sustain competitive democracy in Liberia, the political parties in Liberia hereby voluntarily commit to this Revised Code to enable Liberians to exercise their constitutional rights to democratically elect their public officials;

All parties hereby agree unequivocally to adopt and adhere, in its entirety, to this Revised Code and by so doing commit to contribute to free, fair, transparent and credible elections;

The Parties hereby commit to this Revised Code voluntarily realizing that compliance shall not be discretionary.

IV. DEMOCRATIC RELEVANCE

Democracy exists within a legal context underpinned by fairness, the rule of law, freedom to express divergent opinions, equality of access to opportunities and through adherence to constitutional provisions that stipulate the rights and responsibilities of the citizens.

Democracy inculcates respect for human rights, the pursuit of civil and political liberties, the tolerance of divergent opinions, the full and active Participation of women in the political process and the inclusion of the various religious and ethnic segments of society;

Democracy legitimizes government through an electoral process to select public officials, which is conducted at regular intervals and is accentuated by the informed choice of voters, who are able to cast their ballot freely, without interference, fear, intimidation or bribery;

Through the acknowledgment and promotion of the above mentioned ideals, political parties of Liberia willfully pledge to abide by this Code of Conduct and the Principles stated herein.

V. RESOLUTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES OF LIBERIA PURSUANT TO THE FORMULATION OF A CODE OF CONDUCT

We, representatives of Political Parties in Liberia:

Determined to uphold and adhere to Liberia's 1986 Constitution and its democratic ideals;

Committed to the promotion and development of peaceful and stable political, economic and social conditions in Liberia;

United in our commitment to the growth and development of responsible multiparty democracy, and to the decentralization of the political powers in our country;

Determined to build lasting democratic self-governance for Present and future generations of Liberians;

Resolved to voluntarily uphold this Code regulating the conduct of Political Parties and maintain the benchmarks of permissible behavior of parties, during and between

elections, agreed that the formulation of this Code marks the beginning of a new era of partnership between the Political Parties and the citizens of Liberia, to promote and deepen democracy;

Held a series of consultative sessions during the month of February 2005 to formulate the first Political Parties Code of Conduct in 2005, with the active support and participation of the NEC, Political Parties and other stakeholders in the electoral process;

Committed to the dissemination of this present Code to our respective party members and supporters throughout our constituencies;

Resolved that respective political parties and independent candidates subscribe to the following terms and provisions:

1. To adhere to all existing laws pertaining to the conduct of Political Parties in all public elections, especially those Provisions of the elections guidelines promulgated by the NEC;
2. Political Parties shall not obstruct, disrupt, break-up or cause to be broken up meetings, rallies or other activities organized by other Political Parties; nor shall they interrupt or prevent speeches and the distribution of leaflets, and the pasting of posters by other parties.
3. Political Parties shall not destroy, remove, deface or in any way tamper with the paraphernalia, logos, symbols, billboards and publicity materials of other Political Parties.

1. Political Parties shall not carry and/or display arms and offensive weapons at political and related activities and gatherings;
2. Political Parties shall not engage, recruit or deploy any individual (s) for the purpose of violence, intimidation or harassment.
3. Political Parties shall, in good faith coordinate their campaign activities in such a way that no two Political Parties shall hold public meetings or rallies at the same venue and/or locality on the same day, if such meetings or rallies are likely to be at venues so close to each other that a possibility of conflict arises.
4. Where dates, venues and timing for any of the above activities conflict, representatives of the affected Political Parties shall, in collaboration with the local authorities, meet in a cordial manner to resolve issues without resorting to violence.
5. Political Parties shall not utilize public resources for party activities and shall not permit any of their sponsored candidate(s) holding public office to use public office for the purposes of political campaigning in elections.
6. Political Parties shall not conduct any activity constituting electoral offences as defined by the 1986 Liberian Constitution and the electoral laws.
7. Political Parties shall suspend election related activities and shall not hold public meetings or rallies within the polling precincts on polling days within 24 hours of the polls.
8. Political Parties shall not resort to the use of abusive, profane or inflammatory language or incitement; specifically, all Political Parties shall refrain from incitement on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, creed, sect or any other criterion.
9. Political Parties shall not plagiarize the platforms, symbols, slogans and paraphernalia of other Political Parties.
10. Political Parties shall not obstruct, harass or intimidate journalists nor shall parties abuse, insult or threaten election officials and workers for actions taken and decisions reached in line with their official duties.
11. Political Parties shall respect the rights and freedom of other parties to campaign and to disseminate their political ideals and Principles without fear, intimidation or harassment.
12. The use of churches, mosques, temples, or other places of divine worship as well as the use of traditional and cultural practices, shall not deny others of their rights of political participation and expression;

1. Political Parties and candidates shall ensure that their agents and officials are sufficiently trained for voter registration, polling day and other election related activities.
2. Political Parties shall recognize and acknowledge the rights of accredited observers and monitors at polling stations for the purpose of observing the conduct of elections.
3. Political Parties shall undertake to work with the NEC to create an atmosphere conducive to free and fair voting, thereby refraining from coercion, threats, fear, intimidation and reprisals.
4. Political Parties shall not fraudulently obtain results and votes by invasion and forcible occupation of polling centers, the manipulation or corruption of ballot boxes, tally sheets or by any other unlawful means.
5. Political Parties shall undertake to inform their agents/representatives in attendance at polling stations to perform their duties in accordance with the electoral laws and regulations and to cooperate with election officials for the efficient, transparent and uninterrupted administration of elections.

VI. PARTIES COMMIT TO ACCEPT CERTIFIED RESULTS

1. Political Parties undertake to amicably resolve all complaints in compliance with existing Liberian laws.
2. Political parties agree to accept the certified results of all elections.

VII. ENFORCEMENT

1. When there is a breach of any of the provisions of this Code, the Political Party(ies) adversely affected shall, as a first option, report the breach to the offending Political Party and shall seek to amicably resolve the dispute.
2. Where a dispute arising out of a breach of the provision of this Code is not amicably resolved, it may be reported to the IPCC which shall give a fair and expeditious hearing to the Political Parties involved and where appropriate, forward its findings to the NEC for further consideration. Repeated violations will be reported to the proper authorities including but not limited to the Supreme Court.
3. The above remedies are without prejudice to the rights of victims to pursue other legal action.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION

Political Parties shall ensure that this Code is made fully known to their members and supporters, and that it is fully observed. In addition, the Political Parties undertake to publicize this Code to the general Public by all means available to them.

IX. SIGNATURE PAGE

THIS Code was adopted by Political Parties of Liberia _____ day of _____, 20__

For: All Liberian Coalition Party (ALCOP) Principal Name/Title Witness Name/Title	For: National Patriotic Party (NPP) Principal Name/Title Witness Name/Title
For: Free Democratic Party (FDP) Principal Name/Title Witness Name/Title	For: National Reformation Party (NRP) Principal Name/Title Witness Name/Title
For: Progressive Democratic Party of Liberia (PRODEM) Principal Name/Title Witness Name/Title	For: New DEAL Party (New DEAL) Principal Name/Title Witness Name/Title
For: Liberia National Union (LINU) Principal Name/Title Witness Name/Title	For: Progressive People's Party (PPP) Principal Name/Title Witness Name/Title
For: Alliance for Peace and Democracy (LPP, UPP) Principal Name/Title Witness Name/Title	For: True White Party (TWP) Principal Name/Title Witness Name/Title
For: National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL) Principal Name/Title Witness Name/Title	For: Unity Party (UP) Principal Name/Title Witness Name/Title
For: Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) Principal Name/Title Witness Name/Title	For: National Union for Democratic Progress (NUDP) Principal Name/Title Witness Name/Title

For National Vision Party of Liberia <i>[Signature]</i> Chairman	For Liberty Party
Principal Name/Title <i>[Signature]</i> Vice Chairman	Principal Name/Title
Witness Name/Title	Witness Name/Title
For: Union of Liberian Democrats (ULD) <i>[Signature]</i> National Chairman	For: Liberian Destiny Party <i>[Signature]</i> Sec. Gen.
Principal Name/Title	Principal Name/Title
<i>[Signature]</i> National Sec. General	<i>[Signature]</i> Party Administrator
Witness Name/Title	Witness Name/Title

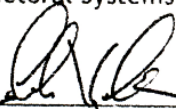
Signed in the presence of and endorsed by:

For: The National Elections Commission

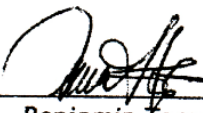

James M. Fromayan
CHAIRMAN

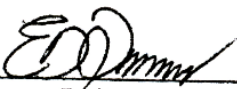
Witnessed By:

For: International Foundation for
Electoral Systems (IFES)


Shalva Kipshidze
Country Director

For: Civic Society Organizations (2 Representatives)


Benjamin Tarnue
National Coalition of Civil Society
Organizations of Liberia (NACC SOL)


Eddie Jarwolo
NAYMOTE/PADD