

SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY & POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY:

EXPLORING PATHWAYS FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY &
INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN LIBERIA



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to all those who provided us the opportunity and support to host the Second Summit for Democracy and Political Accountability in Liberia held under the theme: "Exploring Pathways for Sustainable Democracy and Inclusive Development in Liberia".

The summit created a platform for open dialogue, offering space to reflect on Liberia's progress, assess ongoing challenges, and develop actionable strategies for deepening democratic governance and political accountability. Through collaborative engagement, participants explored concrete ways to sustain peace, foster democratic dividends, and rebuild public trust in political systems.

We extend special thanks to H.E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Former President of the Republic of Liberia who delivered amplifying message through her keynote address, as well as our speakers, panelists, moderators, facilitators and participants. Their insights, expertise, and recommendations greatly enriched the discussions and outcomes of the summit. Our sincere appreciations to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the partnership to host this summit, their technical support was excellent in adding values to the conduct of this summit.

We acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Government of Liberia, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, General Auditing Commission, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission. We also acknowledge the Liberia National Bar Association, academia, political parties, civil society, media, youth, women and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), etc. for their active engagement in fostering an inclusive dialogue.

A big thanks to all Naymote staffs, volunteers from the Young Political Leadership School Africa for their immense contributions towards the successful conduct of the second summit for democracy. We made it together.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Embassy of Sweden in Monrovia for their support of the Democracy Advancement Program (DAP). Their commitment to strengthening democratic institutions and governance in Liberia has been invaluable.

As we move forward, we remain committed to implementing the key recommendations from this summit and fostering continued dialogue, collaboration, and action towards a more transparent, accountable, and democratic Liberia. Thank you all for your invaluable contributions.

Disclaimer:

The contents of this summit report are the responsibility of Naymote Partners for Democratic Development and do not necessarily reflect the positions of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Embassy of Sweden and United Nations Development Programme in Monrovia. Naymote takes full responsibility for the content of this report.

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INTRODUCTION

Liberia has made important progress in its transition to democratic governance following two devastating civil wars, maintaining over two decades of relative peace. The country has successfully conducted four post-conflict elections, including the 2023 general elections, which recorded a 78.86% voter turnout in the first round and were executed with minimal foreign assistance. With 46 registered political parties, 2.4 million registered voters (49% of whom are women), and an active civil society, Liberia's democratic framework shows encouraging signs of resilience.

However, as outlined in the Driver of Development (DoD) Study 2024, these gains remain fragile. While democratic institutions are relatively stable and political participation is gradually increasing, particularly through improvements in social cohesion and gender-responsive governance, significant challenges persist. Corruption continues to undermine both public trust and development efforts, while a weak business environment fuels social tensions and limits economic opportunity. Moreover, policy approaches that favor urban centers over rural communities have deepened inequality and exclusion across the country.

Liberia's highly centralized governance structure further limits inclusive development. With most public administration concentrated in Monrovia, the centralization model—while historically rooted and arguably practical given Liberia's size and context—contributes to governance inefficiencies, weakens local decision-making, and exacerbates regional disparities (DoD Study, 2024).

Recognizing these concerns, efforts have been made to strengthen the rule of law institutions and accountability frameworks. Legislative reforms have led to the establishment and reinforcement of bodies such as the General Auditing Commission (GAC), Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC), Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), and the Internal Audit Agency (IAA). These institutions have received ongoing technical and logistical support from international partners, though implementation remains inconsistent and often hindered by political interference and capacity constraints.

OPENING PROGRAMME



We are dedicated to advancing democratic governance, strengthening the rule of law, and enhancing public sector accountability. Our goal is straightforward yet profound: to ensure that governance structures serve all citizens equitably, uphold human rights, and enable sustainable development.

*Mr. Aliou Mamadou Dia, **UNDP Resident Representative***

Mr. Dia welcomed all participants to the Summit and highlighted UNDP's unwavering commitment to supporting democracy in Liberia. He highlighted that one of the key discussions at this summit focuses on improving public sector governance and accountability. National integrity institutions, such as the General Auditing Commission, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, play crucial roles in ensuring transparency and responsible management of public resources. However, these institutions require enhanced institutional capacity, financial independence, and political will to function effectively. He noted that UNDP stands ready to support initiatives that strengthen these institutions, foster public trust, and enhance service delivery, emphasizing the importance of developing robust mechanisms to ensure that governance structures are responsive, transparent, and accountable to the people they serve.

Additionally, he emphasized that Liberia has demonstrated its commitment to democratic governance, but there is a need to continue enabling a path that strengthens governance, upholds the rule of law, and ensures political equality for all. "Liberia's future is bright, but it requires the courage, commitment, and collaboration of each of us in this room".



*Ms. Alpha Faith Kemokai, **NAYMOTE-Liberia, Program Manager***

Ms. Kemokai provided an overview of the two-day summit, while stressing that the foundation of democracy is being tested globally by the rise of military rule, the unchecked concentration of power, and political instability. She called for urgent attention to these challenges, warning that they threaten both Liberia's present governance and its future. Ms. Kemokai emphasized the importance of the summit in building a stable, inclusive, and accountable democracy and reminded attendees of the painful legacy of Liberia's 14-year civil war, urging them to ensure history does not repeat itself.



*Ambassador H. E. Karl Backéus, **Embassy of Sweden***

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Events like this summit play a crucial role in strengthening democracy and accountability by encouraging active citizen participation. It is essential to continue supporting and partnering in areas aligned with Liberia's priorities, engage civil society and government officials in promoting transparency and accountability, and remain vigilant in preserving the right to freedom of expression responsibly.

Liberia has also made progress toward transitional justice and national reconciliation. Public dialogue continues around the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), including proposals for the establishment of a war and economic crimes court to address the past human rights violations and promote accountability.

Fundamentally, Liberia's history underscores the importance of inclusive participation in governance and peacebuilding. Rebuilding trust in institutions and promoting accountability requires active engagement from all parts of society. The historic marginalization of indigenous populations, restrictions on civil society, and the underrepresentation of women and youth have all been identified as contributing factors to Liberia's past instability and remain relevant today.

Despite its natural and human resource endowments, including a youthful population, Liberia remains a low-income country, ranked 178th out of 191 in the 2024 Human Development Report. Nearly 45% of the population lives in multidimensional poverty, driven by high unemployment, limited infrastructure, and inadequate access to basic services. The government's ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID) presents a strategic framework for addressing these issues, prioritizing accountability, justice, inclusivity, peace, and sustainability.

It was against this backdrop that the 2025 Summit for Democracy and Political

Accountability was convened, building on the momentum of previous dialogue efforts. The summit brought together a wide array of stakeholders, including development partners, international organizations, government representatives, political parties, civil society, women and youth leaders, the media, academia, marginalized groups, and governance experts, to collectively examine the country's democratic trajectory and identify pathways to strengthen rule of law, civic participation, and public sector governance.

The summit created a timely platform for open dialogue, offering a space to reflect on Liberia's progress, assess ongoing challenges, and develop actionable strategies for deepening democratic governance and political accountability. Through collaborative engagement, participants explored concrete ways to sustain peace, foster democratic dividends, and rebuild public trust in political systems.

Over two days, the summit featured opening remarks, three panel discussions, and extensive participant engagement. More than 100 participants from ten of Liberia's fifteen counties, including Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Bomi, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, and Grand Cape Mount, contributed to the deliberations. The outcomes were captured in a Resolution, which will be presented to the Government of Liberia and development partners, outlining strategic, community-informed recommendations for advancing sustainable democracy and development in Liberia.



H.E. Backéus highlighted the importance of dialogues in the global context, emphasizing the need for a rules-based global order where conflicts are resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. He commended Liberia's stance on democracy and governance, highlighting Sweden's long-term support in areas such as democracy, human rights, and good governance. He congratulated Liberia on progress towards establishing the war and economic crimes court, improvements in the Transparency International Corruption Index, and a transparent and peaceful election process.

H. E. Karl Backéus emphasized the need for continuous effort to maintain democratic progress, highlighting the importance of transparency, accountability, gender equality, and freedom of expression. He also highlighted the role of media, civil society, and young people in scrutinizing power.

He stressed that the Bilateral cooperation between Liberia and Sweden is based on political will and dedication to democracy and good governance, with national ownership for sustainable development. Sweden's support aligns with Liberian priorities for lasting impact.

H.E. Karl Backéus concluded by highlighting the importance of events like this summit for strengthening democracy and accountability, encouraging active citizen participation, and recommending actionable steps such as continued support and partnership in areas aligned with Liberian priorities, engagement of civil society and government officials in promoting transparency and accountability, and ongoing vigilance to preserve the right to freedom of expression responsibly.



Ambassador H.E. Gerard Considine, Embassy of Ireland



*This is a call to reflect,
collaborate, and take action
to advance sustainable
peace and democracy.*

H.E. Gerard Considine expressed his delight to join the event. The Ambassador mentioned that the event highlighted the partnership between Ireland and Liberia, focusing on the Strengthening Political Governance and Accountability in Liberia project, which is being implemented in Grand Bassa, Margibi, and Bong counties. The event highlighted Ireland's commitment to supporting Liberia's journey towards an inclusive, accountable, and resilient.

Democracy, emphasizing the importance of sustaining democratic processes and peace through development cooperation. The principles of democratic progress, such as

strengthening the rule of law, enhancing civic participation, advancing gender equality, and ensuring transparent political accountability, were emphasized.

He mentioned that the event highlighted a shared commitment between Ireland and Liberia to promote peace, gender equality, rule of law, and strengthening democratic institutions. He added that the next steps include implementing projects, continuing collaboration with local partners and civil society organizations, and promoting civic engagement and accountability.



Ambassador, H.E. Nona Deprez, **EU Delegation**



We must continue to emphasize the importance of the Rule of Law and Public Sector Governance, working together to strengthen democratic foundations, build resilient institutions, and achieve sustainable economic development.

H.E. Nona Deprez emphasized the critical role of the Rule of Law and Public Sector Governance in promoting national stability, prosperity, and trust between the government and its citizens. She highlighted that the Rule of Law, a core value of the European Union, is essential for a fair, just, and stable society, ensuring equal application of laws, protection of human rights, and accountability. Without it, corruption flourishes, inequality increases, and trust in leadership erodes.

H.E. Deprez also mentioned the EU's support for Liberia through programs aimed at legal reform, judicial training, and capacity building. Key action items include ongoing support for legal reform, youth engagement in governance, and collaboration with international partners to uphold the Rule of Law and good governance.

She discussed efforts to strengthen electoral capacities, increase the participation and inclusion of women and youth in political processes, and enhance inter-party collaboration. The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy and Naymote Partners for Democratic Development launch of the first Democracy School in Liberia was noted as a significant step towards promoting civic engagement and cooperation.

The EU's support for Liberia's fight against corruption includes providing technical assistance to the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) and improving transparency in public finances.

She noted Liberia's significant progress in the Rule of Law since the civil war but stressed the need to further strengthen institutions and address issues such as land disputes and government corruption. She advocated for a participatory approach to the Rule of Law, with a particular focus on youth as agents of change.



*Cllr. Deweh E. Gray, Deputy Minister, **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Liberia***

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As leaders, we pledge to uphold justice and serve with accountability. As citizens, you must respect the rule of law, verify the information that guides your actions, and participate with purpose.

Remarks on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E Sara Beysolow Nyanti, given by Cllr. Deweh E. Gray, Deputy Minister. She highlighted the pivotal role of the summit for democracy and political accountability in Liberia – and the shared commitment to strengthening governance, civic participation, and the rule of law in Liberia. She noted that a robust democracy hinges on the rule of law, a system where justice is impartial, institutions are transparent, and no one stands above accountability. Democracy – she stated – thrives only when we, the people, commit to protecting and strengthening it.

The role of citizens is crucial, and civic participation is the heartbeat of democracy. Voting every few years is not enough, the strength of Liberia lies in the daily actions of its people – their willingness to question, engage, and hold power to account. She further inferred that this participation must be informed and responsible, as misinformation and disinformation can ignite instability, undermine trust, and fracture our unity.

She continued emphasizing on the importance to commit to action – that the future of Liberia must be shaped with courage, wisdom, and a deep sense of responsibility.



*Madam Christine N. Umutoni, **UN Resident Coordinator, Liberia***

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The conversations we are having are crucial as we strive to build Liberia's democracy framework. We can fight corruption, and I believe you will win it.

Madam Umutoni expressed her privilege to be part of the discussion, recognizing Naymote, the panelists, and participants for their contributions to strengthening Liberia's democratic framework and accountability for an inclusive society. She emphasized that the current global landscape serves as a reminder that Liberia must strive for self-reliance and internal reflection. Integrity does not require money, and inclusion is within reach. She urged a shift in mindset, emphasizing the need to ask, "What can I do for my country?" rather than "What can my country do for us?" - stressing that true transformation often emerges in times of crisis.

She noted that each era brings different challenges and perspectives but affirmed that corruption can be fought, and justice can be achieved. Drawing from her own country's experience of war and transformation, she underscored that real change is possible. She encouraged young people to believe in this possibility, reminding them that mechanisms and reforms start with them.

She firmly rejected the narrative that Africans cannot succeed, urging Liberians to recognize democracy not just as a system of governance but as a commitment to transparency, justice, and accountability. Moreover, noted that collective action is key, government alone cannot drive change. Civil society, citizens, the private sector, and all stakeholders must take responsibility instead of pointing fingers.

Reflecting on her time in Liberia during the elections, she commended the people for rejecting conflict and committing to peace. Those who have lived through war, she stressed, do not want to experience it again. However, accountability is not just about institutions—it is about people trusting their leaders and knowing they have the opportunity to shape

their future. She acknowledged the voices of children and young people, who know what they want and are beginning to claim their space, though much work remains.

As Liberia moves forward, she urged everyone to commit not just to discussions but to concrete actions. She reaffirmed that the UN aligns its work with national priorities, and with the ARREST development agenda in place, the UN is dedicated to supporting Liberia's path forward, ensuring no one is left behind.

Madam Umutoni further underscored the role of the diaspora as key contributors to national development. Liberians around the world are already working for their country, proving that making a difference is possible.

This forum, she noted, is a valuable platform to continue critical discussions, foster collaborations, and shape action plans. She extended her appreciation to all participants, urging them to seize this opportunity to engage, share ideas, and contribute to building the Liberia they envision. Dialogue, she emphasized, is essential for national development.

In closing, she expressed deep hope for Liberia, stating that in all her travels, she has never seen a country so resilient and active despite its struggles. With a population of just five million, Liberia continues to persevere. However, she reminded the audience that hope must be matched with action. The world is signaling that it is time to look inward and take responsibility for the nation's future. Speaking from the heart, she encouraged Liberians to hold onto their belief in progress and reaffirmed that transformation is within reach.

Keynote Speech by Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf



Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, **former President of the Republic of Liberia**



Liberia desperately needs reforms, systemic, economic and judicial. These reforms need to be bold and comprehensive to successfully respond to the size of the daunting challenges we face, today, with the increasing prospects of being on our own.

Madam Sirleaf thanked the organizer, Naymote Partners for Democratic Development for the opportunity to speak at the Summit on Democracy and Political Accountability. She emphasized that all participants play a crucial role in shaping the country's evolving democracy.

She noted that the world is at a crossroads, with geopolitical rivalries rising, wars affecting millions, especially women and children, and major powers facing internal divisions. Africa, too, faces uncertainty, as seen in ECOWAS nations taking divergent political paths, ongoing conflicts in Sudan, and escalating tensions between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. Meanwhile, the United States is undergoing significant political and economic shifts with global repercussions.

Madam Sirleaf highlighted that the African Union views these global challenges as an opportunity to drive long-overdue systemic and structural reforms. She emphasized that Africa's vision for self-reliance and self-determination must be backed by strong leadership and strategic economic policies, particularly through the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.

She underscored that Liberia faces severe economic challenges, including a declining GDP growth rate of 0.4%, low literacy rates, inadequate electricity access, and a fragile healthcare system. With the absence of UNMIL and no external security guarantees, she warned that Liberia must take full responsibility for its governance and security. She criticized public scuffles among security personnel, ambiguous Supreme Court rulings, and legislative inaction, urging leaders to prioritize national interests over personal or party gains.

Madam Sirleaf reminded leaders that courage has been the foundation of Liberia's history—whether in declaring independence, ending conflicts, or combating Ebola. She called on lawmakers to act as statesmen and stateswomen, prioritizing the nation over partisan interests. She stressed that democracy and development require not just good intentions but decisive action, particularly in upholding the rule of law, enforcing accountability, and preventing corruption.

She further noted that a weak legislature focused on personal benefits rather than national service threatens Liberia's democracy. She called for bold economic, judicial, and systemic reforms to address the country's longstanding challenges, emphasizing the importance of inclusive development and equal opportunities for all Liberians. She warned against the mismanagement of development funds, calling for stricter oversight to prevent misuse.

Madam Sirleaf highlighted Liberia's resilience, stating that past challenges have shown the nation's strengths and weaknesses. She urged leaders to learn from past mistakes and take ownership of their development. She praised the ARREST AGENDA for Inclusive Development but stressed the need for proper implementation and safeguards against political exploitation.

She underlined that governance must be rooted in transparency, accountability, and public participation. Judicial reforms should ensure independence and impartiality, while civic engagement must be strengthened to empower citizens—especially women and youth—to influence national policies. She noted the low representation of women in the legislature (11%) and reaffirmed her commitment to women's empowerment through the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Center.

Finally, Madam Sirleaf warned that Liberia's economic crisis will likely worsen before it improves. She called for urgent, comprehensive reforms in governance, rule of law, and economic management. She urged leaders to move beyond rhetoric, take bold action, and restore public trust. She encouraged participants to leave the summit not just with words but with a commitment to drive meaningful change, ensuring a future of justice, prosperity, and unity for all Liberians.

She concluded by calling for courageous leadership and collective action to build a better Liberia.



*Peace Thor Mahteh Boyee, **Program Director, Naymote***

Concluding the opening ceremony of the Summit for Democracy and Political Accountability, Madam Peace Thor Mahteh Boyee extended appreciation to the keynote speaker, the government of Liberia, international partners, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the organizing partner UNDP, civil society, the media, her colleagues, Naymote Executive Director, Eddie D. Jarwolo and all participants for their invaluable contributions, experience and expertise to the 2025 Democracy Summit.

She added that their contributions remain essential in ensuring that accountability and transparency remain at the heart of governance. Madam Boyee further admonished everyone to carry forward the ideas and commitments shared at the summit and that the collective efforts continue to inspire change, strengthen institutions, and promote democratic resilience in grassroots communities and beyond.



PANEL DISCUSSION 1: IMPROVING PUBLIC SECTOR GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY: THE ROLE OF NATIONAL INTEGRITY INSTITUTIONS

The first panel discussion focused on the critical role of national integrity institutions and was comprised of panelists from the General Auditing Commission, Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia, and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. They discussed aspects related to their work in ensuring the transparent, ethical, and efficient use of public resources. The discussion centered on the challenges and opportunities for enhancing public sector governance, improving service delivery, and fostering public trust in government institutions.

The panelists were:

- Hon. Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, Minister, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Republic of Liberia
- Mr. P. Garswa Jackson, Auditor General, General Auditing Commission (GAC), Republic of Liberia
- Cllr. Alexandra K. Zoe, Executive Chairperson, Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), Republic of Liberia
- Mr. Anderson Miamen, Executive Director, Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL)

Moderated by: Cllr. Boakai Kanneh, Chairman, Law Reform Commission.

Strengthening Public Financial Governance: Transparency, Accountability, and Oversight



*Hon. Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, **Minister, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Republic of Liberia***

Hon. Ngafuan opened with a presentation on the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning's (MFDP) role in improving public sector governance and accountability. He emphasized the importance of the Public Financial Management (PFM) Law, which was created in 2009 and reinstated in 2019, ensuring transparency in public finance.

He highlighted that while the President holds overall responsibility, the technical aspects of financial governance fall under the Ministry of Finance. Accountability mechanisms include the drafting, preparation, and execution of the national budget, with public involvement in reporting, auditing, and verification processes. He acknowledged the role of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) and Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) in identifying issues but stressed the importance of active recommendations and constitutional adherence to ensure effective implementation.

He emphasized the role of civil society organizations (CSOs) and the media as an informal "fourth branch of government," holding the formal branches (legislative, executive, and judiciary) accountable. He posed a critical question for reflection: "Who oversees the overseer?" and underscored that transparency should apply across all sectors, not just selected branches of government.

Regarding fiscal transparency, Hon. Ngafuan mentioned MFDP's public engagement efforts, including adherence to PFM law, nationwide fiscal discussions, and media outreach. He noted the lack of budget allocation for unforeseen circumstances as an example of the need for careful financial planning. Moving forward, he stressed the importance of capacity-building for financial oversight institutions, increased CSO engagement, and proactive financial training.

On immediate actions to build trust, he stated that while public confidence in integrity institutions remains high, trust in government remains low. He identified the need to restart PFM reforms and build institutional capacity,

citing a recent €20 million agreement with the European Union to support governance reforms. He emphasized the need for increased domestic and international support to strengthen financial oversight, including funding for anti-corruption initiatives and professionalizing procurement practices through e-government initiatives.

Enhancing Public Sector Accountability: Strengthening Audit Mechanisms and Compliance



*Mr. P. Garswa Jackson, **Auditor General, General Auditing Commission (GAC), Republic of Liberia***

Mr. Jackson outlined GAC's mandate to audit all public funds, whether collected by or allocated to the Government of Liberia. GAC reports to the national legislature through the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), and public hearings are held to review recommendations, which are subsequently forwarded to the President for action.

Key audit activities include:

- Annual audit schedules covering 85% of government revenue and expenditures.
- Special audits, including donor project audits (39 ongoing), national payroll audits, and domestic debt audits.
- 30 audits of state-owned enterprises and ministries/agencies, as well as three performance audits and an IT audit on national systems.

He stressed the importance of follow-ups on audit recommendations, citing the establishment of a dedicated unit in 2022. GAC published its first follow-up implementation report in July 2024. He also emphasized the need for MFDP to impose sanctions on entities failing to comply with audit recommendations.

Among the key challenges, Mr. Jackson highlighted:

- Inadequate financial reporting
- Irregularities in tax collection due to the lack of automated revenue tracking systems, particularly in rural areas.
- Noncompliance with financial regulations and weak audit follow-up mechanisms.

To address these issues, GAC aims to fully operationalize its follow-up unit, create a national compliance checklist, and ensure all financial statements are properly prepared and submitted.

As an example of GAC's impact, he referenced a past audit on medication procurement, which revealed irregularities in drug storage and distribution. The findings prompted a visit by the U.S. Ambassador, validating the report's concerns. He emphasized the need for performance audits to ensure public resources lead to tangible benefits for citizens.

Strengthening Fiscal Oversight: Audit Compliance, Financial Transparency, and Anti-Corruption Measures



*Cllr. Alexandra Zoe, **Executive Chairperson, Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), Republic of Liberia***

Cllr. Zoe described good governance as the foundation of a thriving democracy, emphasizing the role of Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) in ensuring transparency, integrity, and accountability. She highlighted corruption as a major obstacle to effective public service delivery.

LACC's mandate includes:

- Investigating & prosecuting corruption cases.
- Educating the public about corruption risks.
- Recovering stolen assets through legal proceedings.

She noted that LACC faces challenges in asset recovery, as cases must go through Liberia's only anti-corruption court (Criminal Court C), which also handles other legal matters. This causes delays and backlog issues. She advocated for the establishment of Criminal Court F, a specialized anti-corruption court with dedicated judges to fast-track cases.

On immediate actions, she mentioned LACC's ongoing efforts to rebuild public confidence, citing the 2023 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) as a small step toward transparency. She stressed that all corruption allegations are investigated, but legal processes take time due to document verification, procedural delays, and legal representation. In 2024, LACC concluded 24 investigations, with 7 cases cleared.

She also emphasized the need for decentralized anti-corruption measures, including education campaigns and risk assessments, to prevent corruption at the local level. LACC is working closely with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to improve legal frameworks for prosecuting corruption cases.

Regarding asset declaration, she confirmed that 175 public officials have declared their assets, and that verification is ongoing. She acknowledged challenges in the process but highlighted the World Bank-supported Governance Reform Accountability Transformation (GREAT) Project, which aims to digitize asset declarations and service delivery, making the system more efficient in the next two years.

Advancing Anti-Corruption Efforts: Strengthening Accountability, Transparency, and Public Trust



*Anderson Miamen, **Executive Director, Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL)***

Mr. Miamen focused on strengthening Liberia's anti-corruption framework through whistleblower protection, witness security, and amendments to prosecutorial powers. He acknowledged progress, including the removal of former Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) board members over corruption allegations, but noted that impunity remains high.

He cited the 2024 Corruption Perception Index (CPI), which shows a marginal improvement (25 to 27), yet corruption remains a widespread issue. CENTAL has collaborated with LACC and other partners to create a Corruption Case Tracker, allowing the public to monitor the progress of corruption cases online.

He emphasized the need for greater accountability beyond reports, advocating for:

- Digitizing asset declaration to streamline the process and enhance accessibility.
- Increasing transparency in government actions by improving case tracking and ensuring that findings lead to consequences.
- Enhancing public confidence in government through awareness campaigns and concrete actions against corruption.

While acknowledging that some GAC reports have shown positive results, he stressed that overall public trust in government remains low. CENTAL's State of Corruption Reports consistently indicate a lack of confidence in authorities, with many citizens believing that corruption persists due to a culture of impunity. He concluded that without strong enforcement and visible prosecutions, the fight against corruption will remain ineffective.

Discussion: Improving Public Sector Governance and Accountability: The Role of National Integrity Institutions

Following the first panel discussion, participants engaged in a discussion that addressed key issues related to compliance, financial independence of oversight institutions, preventive anti-corruption measures, and domestic resource mobilization. The discussion was moderated by Cllr. Kanneh and provided an opportunity for panelists and participants to highlight existing challenges and propose reforms aimed at strengthening governance, transparency, and accountability in Liberia.



*Cllr. Boakai Kanneh, **Chairman, Law Reform Commission***

The General Auditing Commission (GAC) plays a crucial role in Liberia's transparency and accountability framework. However, a major limitation lies in the timing of audits, which typically occur after procurement and expenditures have been made. This reactive approach means that financial mismanagement is often identified after resources have already been misused. The need for preventive measures was emphasized, as ensuring compliance at the transaction level before execution would significantly reduce financial losses and inefficiencies.

While the GAC operates independently in conducting its audits, its financial autonomy remains constrained by Liberia's public financial system. According to international best practices, national auditing institutions should have direct control over their funding to avoid conflicts of interest. However, in Liberia, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) oversees the GAC's budget approval before final endorsement by the Legislature.

This arrangement creates a potential conflict of interest, as the entity being audited (MFDP) plays a role in determining the budget allocation for GAC. Ideally, the Legislature should have direct oversight over GAC's funding to ensure full financial independence. While the MFDP has largely provided funds on time in recent years, panelists stressed the need for institutional reforms that would allow GAC to operate without dependence on ministerial approval, ensuring that financial oversight institutions remain free from political influence.

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) highlighted the importance of preventing corruption before it happens, rather than solely relying on investigations and prosecutions. One of the notable tools referenced by LACC is the TALKAY App, a digital platform that allows citizens to report corruption in real time using their mobile phones. This initiative enhances public participation in anti-corruption efforts by empowering citizens to report unethical practices directly to LACC's intelligence officers.

In addition to public reporting, LACC emphasized that anti-corruption strategies should include strengthening internal audit agencies within government institutions. Many cases of corruption stem from weak financial oversight within ministries and agencies, allowing mismanagement to persist undetected. Strengthening internal controls would help minimize risks and create a culture of accountability within the public sector.

Similarly, the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) stressed the role of technology and communication in enhancing transparency. The Corruption

Case Tracker, developed in collaboration with CSOs and government agencies, serves as a monitoring tool that allows the public to track corruption cases and their status. This helps to ensure that corruption cases are not ignored or indefinitely delayed, thereby strengthening accountability mechanisms. CENTAL emphasized that transparency efforts must be accompanied by effective public engagement, ensuring that citizens are informed and actively involved in holding institutions accountable.

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) reaffirmed that domestic resource mobilization is a national priority, particularly in light of ongoing governance reforms supported by the European Union (EU). A €20 million package has been allocated to enhance financial accountability and strengthen institutional capacity in resource management. However, significant challenges remain in revenue collection and public financial accountability.

One of the major inefficiencies highlighted was the manual tax collection process at Liberia's borders, which leads to delays, leakages, and reduced government revenue. Improving tax collection efficiency, particularly through automation and digitalization, would significantly enhance government revenue and reduce financial losses.

MFDP also stressed that accountability must extend beyond government institutions. Public financial management should be a shared responsibility, involving civil society organizations, the media, and the general public. By actively engaging in financial oversight, citizens can help ensure that public funds are allocated and utilized effectively.



PANEL DISCUSSION 2: STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW: PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENSURING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The second panel discussion centered on the theme Strengthening Democracy and the Rule of Law: Protecting Human Rights and Ensuring Access to Justice. The panel explored the foundational role of access to justice in governance systems based on democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Panelists discussed existing frameworks, challenges, and recommendations for improving access to justice and strengthening democratic institutions in post-conflict Liberia. The panel included panelists from the Ministry of Justice, the Liberia National Bar Association, Civil Society Organizations, and political activists.

The panelists were:

- Cllr. Moriah Yeakula-Korkpor, Lawyer, Political Analyst, Women's Rights Activist
- Cllr. Bornor M. Varmah, President of the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA)
- Cllr. Cora Hare Konuwa, Deputy Minister for Codification, Ministry of Justice, R.L
- Mr. Adama K. Dempster, Secretary General, Civil Society Human Rights Advocacy Platform

Moderated by: Cllr. Darryl Ambrose Nmah, Sr. Director, Judicial Public Information Division

Civil Society & Human Rights Perspective



Adama K. Dempster, Secretary General, Civil Society Human Rights Advocacy Platform

Speaking on behalf of civil society, Mr. Dempster emphasized that the foundation of democracy is the equal treatment of all individuals under the law. He highlighted that for democracy

to function effectively, the protection of human rights must be prioritized, ensuring that economic, social, and political rights—including livelihood and empowerment opportunities are accessible to all.

Although Liberia has existing legal frameworks, he pointed out that laws must be accessible, understandable, and effectively implemented to have a meaningful impact on citizens' lives. Economic rights should be prioritized, as ensuring financial stability for citizens is critical to fostering democratic stability. He further noted that collaboration between the government and communities is essential in sustaining democracy and the rule of law. Civil society plays a critical role in holding institutions accountable and advocating for inclusive governance.

Dempster also raised concerns regarding the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) and the Liberia National Police (LNP), whose roles in governance and security often create confusion and distrust among citizens. He emphasized that clarity and accountability within these institutions are necessary to build public trust and ensure institutional effectiveness.

Strengthening Institutions and Enhancing Public Participation



*Cllr. Moriah Yeakula-Korkpor, **Lawyer, Political Analyst, Women's Rights Activist***

Cllr. Yeakula-Korkpor stressed that democracy requires transparency, accountability, and meaningful participation. Reflecting on persistent challenges such as corruption, political interference, and a lack of public trust, she called for concrete actions rather than just discussions.

For democracy to flourish, she asserted that elections must be free, fair, and credible, ensuring that leaders are chosen based on the will of the people rather than through manipulation. The rule of law must be applied fairly and impartially, as selective enforcement allows those in power to abuse their positions without consequence. She further noted the importance of an independent and well-resourced judiciary, which is critical to delivering justice without bias.

Cllr. Yeakula-Korkpor also mentioned the role of a free press and an engaged civil society in keeping government institutions accountable and encouraging civic participation. She insisted that human rights protections must go beyond laws on paper. Institutions such as the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) must be empowered to investigate violations and hold perpetrators accountable.

She concluded by calling for accessible justice for all, highlighting that legal processes must be decentralized to prevent delays, high costs, and complex legal procedures from denying citizens their rights.

Access to Justice and Legal Reforms



*Cllr. Bornor M. Varmah, **President of the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA)***

Cllr. Varmah argued that despite constitutional guarantees, access to justice remains elusive in Liberia. He noted that Liberia's dual legal system (customary and statutory laws) lacks sufficient institutional support. Studies show that many Liberians prefer customary mechanisms for dispute resolution, yet the Legislature has not sufficiently regulated or formalized customary justice.

He highlighted that democratic accountability in the legal sector must be strengthened, ensuring that legal actors are held accountable for enforcing laws fairly. He noted that many Liberians lack sufficient legal education, making them unaware of their rights and how to navigate the justice system.

He also expressed concern over political interference in the judiciary, stressing that the executive branch must enforce the laws passed by the Legislature to maintain public trust in governance.

As part of his recommendations, he called for expanding legal aid programs, introducing judicial reforms, digitizing court systems, addressing corruption within the judiciary, increasing funding for the legal sector, and decentralizing justice services to rural areas.

Historical Perspective and Current Challenges



*Cllr. Cora Hare Konuwa, **Deputy Minister for Codification, Ministry of Justice, R.L.***

Cllr Konuwa, Deputy Minister for Codification at the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) acknowledged that discussions on democracy and the rule of law are not new to Liberia, dating back to the country's first constitution in 1847. She noted that while significant progress has been made, many challenges persist.

She referenced the 1847 Constitution, which establishes fundamental rights, including:

- Power inheriting from the people
- The right to legal remedy for every individual
- Freedom of the press and the security of the Republic
- The people's right to establish governance for the common good

Despite these provisions, she highlighted the rising trend of mob violence, citing a recent case in Pleebo, where a 22-year-old man was killed by a mob simply for dressing differently and being perceived as suspicious. Such incidents, she explained, are symptomatic of broader frustrations with the justice system.

The lack of public awareness about legal processes and avenues for justice fuels public impatience and extrajudicial actions. Addressing these challenges requires long-term investment in legal education, institutional reforms, and community engagement to rebuild trust in the justice system.

Discussion: Strengthening Democracy and the Rule of Law: Protecting Human Rights and Ensuring Access to Justice

Following the panel discussion, participants engaged in a Q&A session addressing judicial independence, access to justice, and governance reforms.

Cllr. Yeakula-Korkpor emphasized that increasing representation for marginalized groups is essential. Advocacy for more women in the Legislature was identified as a key priority, as laws are made by men without sufficient input from women, despite affecting both genders. Similarly, persons with disabilities require better access to buildings and legal protections. She noted that laws must not only exist but also be effectively enforced.

In response to concerns about judicial delays and backlogs, Cllr. Varmah stressed that judicial reform requires a collaborative approach. He noted that mob violence and impunity are direct consequences of public frustration with the slow legal system. Despite laws against mob violence, they remain unimplemented. He called for greater training for judges and digitization of the judicial system to prevent inefficiencies, such as the stealing of case files.

On the issue of judicial independence and political interference, Cllr. Konuwa asserted that many concerns stem from public perception rather than reality. She urged greater public awareness of judicial decisions to reduce misinformation. Additionally, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms could alleviate the burden on the judiciary by providing alternative legal solutions.

Mr. Dempster called for institutional accountability, noting that public institutions are often built around individuals rather than systems. He emphasized that institutions must be designed to function beyond individual leadership transitions.

Cllr Nmah summarized the panel discussion, which reinforced the notion that democracy in Liberia depends on the rule of law. The panelists agreed on key areas requiring urgent attention:

- Restoring public trust in institutions by eliminating corruption and political interference.
- Legal reforms to ensure access to justice through decentralization and legal aid programs.
- Empowering civil society and the media to hold government accountable.
- Enhancing civic education to ensure citizens understand their rights and the legal system.



*Cllr. Darryl Ambrose Nmah, Sr. **Director,**
Judicial Public Information Division*





PANEL DISCUSSION 3: POLITICAL EQUALITY: ENSURING WOMEN'S MEANINGFUL REPRESENTATION IN POLITICS

The third panel discussion addressed the importance of increasing women's representation in politics, with a focus on grassroots participation and its impact on higher-level decision-making. Discussions explored policies and laws that promote women's political engagement and their role in shaping healthcare, education, and security policies. Panelists included:

- Madam Comfort Lamptey, Country Representative, UN Women, Liberia
- Atty. Laura Golakeh, Deputy Minister of Gender, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP)
- Ms. Esther S. Davis Yango, Executive Director, Women Non-Governmental Organization Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL)

Moderated by Atty. Facia Boyenoh Harris, Senior Legal Associates, Commercial/ Family Law & Litigation, Beyond Law Chambers.

Bridging Grassroots Activism and National Leadership: Strengthening Women's Political Participation



*Madam Comfort Lamptey, **Country Representative, UN Women, Liberia***

Madam Lamptey addressed the importance of creating intentional linkages between grassroots activism and national political engagement. She highlighted that grassroots participation provides a sustainable pathway for women into national politics, as many women at the community level engage with issues that affect the entire population. For their efforts to translate into national leadership, there must be structured connections between local activism and political institutions.

She stressed that political parties play a crucial role in nurturing women's mobilization, particularly at the grassroots level. She argued that political institutions need to actively support and integrate grassroots women's movements to ensure their voices are heard at the national level. She also identified structural barriers, such as negative social norms and family resistance, as key obstacles preventing women from entering the political space.

To strengthen women's political representation, she called for gender-responsive political party systems, increased investment in leadership capacity-building, and stronger alliances between grassroots women and national political actors.

Madam Lamptey provided a broader perspective on women's political participation, comparing Liberia's situation with global and regional trends. She pointed out that political systems have historically been male-dominated, and unless proactive measures are taken, progress in achieving gender equality in governance will be slow or non-existent.

She highlighted the effectiveness of temporary special measures, such as electoral quotas, in increasing women's political representation. Over 90 countries worldwide have implemented some form of quota system, with proven results. She cited the example of Sierra Leone, where women's representation in parliament increased from 12% to over 40% after the implementation of a gender law mandating quotas.

Additionally, she emphasized the importance of building women's leadership capacities through mentorship programs, campaign training, and financial support. She pointed out that political parties must take responsibility for fostering gender-inclusive environments by ensuring that women have equal opportunities to participate and lead. In conclusion, she called for media reforms to ensure that women in politics are portrayed fairly and not subjected to gender-based discrimination in news coverage.

Empowering Women in Politics: Capacity-Building, Institutional Support, and Gender Advocacy



Atty. Laura Golakeh, Deputy Minister of Gender, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSF)

Atty. Golakeh mentioned the critical need for capacity-building among grassroots women, particularly in leadership skills and public speaking. She noted that while many women in rural communities are passionate and have strong visions for leadership, they often lack the confidence or skills to articulate their ideas effectively in political spaces.

She stressed that women-led organizations and electoral bodies require more backing to ensure that legal frameworks designed to promote women's political participation are enforced. She pointed out that the Ministry of Gender remains committed to advancing gender equality in Liberia and continues to collaborate with civil society organizations to push for gender-centered policy reforms.

One of the major areas of advocacy has been the 30% gender quota for women's political representation. The Deputy Minister explained that while significant work has been done by civil society organizations and international partners, the ministry aims to strengthen these efforts by mobilizing resources for awareness campaigns and leadership training for women.

She also emphasized that traditional beliefs about what women can or cannot do limit their political ambitions. Changing these deeply ingrained norms is crucial for ensuring that more women feel encouraged and empowered to enter politics.

She highlighted the National Policy Dialogue, launched in 2024, as a major step toward gender-sensitive legal reforms. The dialogue brings together stakeholders from government, civil society, and development partners to discuss policies that support women's participation in politics.

She emphasized that while Liberia has many gender-related policies, the challenge lies in their implementation. Many good policies exist, but without financial and political commitment, they fail to bring tangible results.

Looking to the future, she expressed a vision for Liberia where young women's leadership is normalized and encouraged. There is a need to shift societal attitudes that stigmatize women in leadership positions. She called for a cultural shift where leadership is recognized based on merit rather than gender.

She recognized the importance of male allies in advancing gender equality in politics. She envisioned a future where men actively support their wives, daughters, and sisters in pursuing political leadership rather than discouraging them from participating in governance.

Overcoming Barriers to Women's Political Leadership: Institutional Support, Electoral Challenges, and Cultural Resistance



*Esther S. Davis Yango, **Executive Director, Women Non-Governmental Organization Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL)***

Madam Yango discussed the role of institutions in sustaining grassroots efforts to ensure women's leadership in politics. She explained that WONGOSOL serves as a coordinating body for women's groups in Liberia, working to build their capacity and amplify their voices on political issues.

She highlighted that despite growing awareness and advocacy, women still face significant challenges in Liberia when attempting to enter politics. In the most recent 2023 Presidential and Legislative elections, while 11 women secured seats in the legislature, more than 400 initially aspired to contest. However, due to financial constraints and limited support from political parties, only 150 women were able to compete, with many running as independent candidates. The lack of funding remains one of the biggest hurdles for women seeking political office.

Madam Yango also noted that misinformation played a key role in discouraging women from participating in the electoral process. WONGOSOL increased women's participation during the voter registration by mobilizing grassroots women's groups to conduct awareness campaigns. However, this increase in voter participation did not translate into votes for women candidates, demonstrating the persistent gender biases in the political decision-making process.

She also spoke about the difficulties that elected women face in leadership positions. She cited the example of Senator Boto Kanneh of Gbarpolu County, who has encountered resistance from male counterparts in her county. Despite being an elected official, she struggles to access information and participate in decision-making because male leaders refuse to acknowledge her authority. This illustrates the broader cultural and institutional challenges that women face even after securing political positions.

Discussion: Political Equality: Ensuring Women's Meaningful Representation in Politics



*Atty. Facia Boyenoh Harris, **Senior Legal Associates Commercial/Family Law & Litigation, Beyond Law Chambers***

The discussion was moderated by Atty. Facia Harris and highlighted pressing concerns such as gender-based violence, early marriages, women's representation in politics, the role of men in gender advocacy, and the challenges women face in leadership. Participants raised questions about the implementation of gender-related policies, the accessibility of funding for grassroots women's initiatives, and the importance of preparing women for the realities of political engagement.

The panelists responded by emphasizing the need for early preparation for elections, increased funding for local women-led organizations, better implementation of gender policies, and stronger advocacy for women's leadership in key government positions. Below is a summary of the key questions and responses from the session.

One of the first questions raised concerns about ongoing efforts to address domestic violence and early marriages, particularly in rural communities. A participant expressed concern that, despite existing policies, these issues continue to persist and asked how individuals could contribute to raising awareness in their communities.

The Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection responded by acknowledging that while Liberia has ratified several key gender-related policies and international frameworks, implementation remains a challenge. They cited laws such as the Domestic Violence Law, the Maputo Protocol, and Children's Law, which are designed to protect women and children, but noted that enforcement mechanisms have been weak.

To strengthen these efforts, the Ministry has been working to improve safe home infrastructure, launch a national call center for gender-based violence cases, and collaborate with civil society organizations to strengthen the Domestic Violence Law. The Ministry stressed that addressing these issues requires a collective effort, with citizens playing a key role in holding leaders accountable and demanding action.

One of the key concerns raised during the discussion was the timing of capacity-building programs for women in politics. Participants argued that many of these initiatives occur too close to elections, leaving women with little time to focus on community mobilization, fundraising, and political strategy. They emphasized that preparing women for the 2029 elections should begin immediately to ensure they have the skills, resources, and networks needed to compete effectively.

Additionally, participants raised concerns about the realities of political engagement, emphasizing that politics is not a "soft space." Women entering politics must be prepared for scrutiny, resistance, and even personal attacks. While panelists agreed that women must develop resilience in public life, they stressed that political hostility should not be normalized. Instead, efforts should focus on transforming the political culture to allow women to engage without fear of violence, intimidation, or discrimination.

The discussion also highlighted the slow progress in increasing women's representation in government. Participants expressed frustration that only 11 out of more than 100 lawmakers in Liberia are women and called for greater advocacy to secure women's leadership in top government positions, such as Speaker of the House or Commander-in-Chief.

Panelists acknowledged the ongoing gender gap but urged women to take leadership training seriously, engage with political party structures, and mobilize community support for female candidates.

Additionally, participants questioned whether the government's approach to gender equality was contradictory, noting that while women are appointed to government positions, their teams remain male-dominated. The Ministry of Gender emphasized that gender equity must extend beyond the Ministry of Gender and be reflected in institutions such as Finance, Commerce, and Justice, where female representation remains low.



A participant emphasized the need to prepare young women for political leadership early, suggesting that gender organizations should work with the Ministry of Education to integrate political leadership training into school curriculums. They noted that many women shy away from politics because they are not exposed to leadership opportunities from a young age.

Panelists agreed that early engagement is crucial. They highlighted the importance of mentorship programs, training young women in political activism, and encouraging female students to take on leadership roles in student organizations and community groups. The discussion underscored that investing in young female leaders now will ensure a stronger pipeline of women in politics in the future.

Another key concern raised was the lack of access to funding for aspiring female leaders and grassroots organizations. UN Women addressed this issue by explaining that their funding processes follow a competitive selection model, but they are committed to supporting local women-led organizations. They encouraged grassroots organizations to stay informed about funding opportunities and apply when calls for proposals are issued. They also highlighted that the Spotlight 2.0 initiative aims to channel resources directly to Liberian organizations working on gender issues, particularly in combating violence against women and girls.



FINDINGS: PARTICIPATORY ENGAGEMENT

The participatory engagement session provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss governance, justice sector reform, accountability, and citizen participation. A key emphasis was placed on the role of civil society as the “fourth branch of government,” with participants highlighting the need for more inclusive governance and the effective implementation of laws. The discussions underscored that while legal frameworks exist, their enforcement remains weak, leaving many citizens without access to justice or effective recourse.

Governance & Anti-Corruption

The participatory engagement session underscored the need for more inclusive governance, improved implementation of laws, and stronger citizen participation. Civil society was described as the “fourth branch of government,” and participants emphasized that citizens must play an active role in holding leaders accountable. A key concern was the frequent gap between the existence of legal frameworks and their actual enforcement, which leaves many without access to justice.

Transparency and accountability in public institutions were central themes. Participants called for reforms such as performance management systems for public officials and improved access to information. Public demand for an audit of institutions like the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) highlighted widespread concerns about financial transparency.

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) was discussed extensively. While its mandate to prevent, investigate, and prosecute corruption is clear, participants agreed that public awareness of its work is insufficient. They called for enhanced outreach, better asset recovery mechanisms, and reinvesting recovered assets into national development.

The Corruption Case Tracker, jointly developed by civil society and the government, was praised as an effective tool to monitor and follow through on corruption cases. However, the success of such tools depends on consistent use and support from all stakeholders.

Establishing Criminal Court F, a specialized anti-corruption court, was seen as a positive step, but concerns were raised about whether it will receive the necessary resources and independence to function effectively.

Rule of Law & Peace and Security

A significant focus of the discussions was the state of Liberia’s justice system. Participants repeatedly emphasized the need for broader judicial reforms to support initiatives like the War and Economic Crimes Court (WECC). Recommendations included improved prosecution capacity, legal training, and increased international backing.



Concerns were raised about the lack of legal expertise, especially in rural counties like River Gee, where only one lawyer serves the entire region. This gap contributes to inconsistent judicial outcomes and limited access to justice. Similarly, the shortage of specialized professionals in areas such as medical law leads to unresolved cases of malpractice, further eroding public trust.

Alternative justice mechanisms—such as mob violence—were discussed as a direct consequence of this distrust. When citizens feel that the formal system has failed them, they turn to extrajudicial solutions, which weakens the rule of law and democratic institutions.

Participants also emphasized the need to expand the justice system through the creation of more courts, including specialized ones like family or divorce courts, and digitization of court processes to improve efficiency and transparency.

Education and civic awareness were identified as critical to justice reform. Legal education, beginning at the secondary school level, was seen as necessary to empower citizens with knowledge of their rights. Moreover, political accountability was strongly advocated, with participants urging voters to make informed choices based on competence, not personal relationships.

The need for a comprehensive constitutional review was also highlighted as a foundational step toward strengthening the rule of law and promoting peace and security. Participants argued that several provisions in the current Constitution are outdated, limiting effective governance and the protection of rights. A transparent and inclusive review process was seen as essential to clarifying legal mandates, defining institutional roles, and addressing long-standing concerns around decentralization, term limits, and judicial independence.

Economy & Job Creation

Participants strongly advocated for economic stability and inclusive prosperity. Many stressed that wealth creation and economic empowerment must be prioritized, especially for vulnerable and marginalized populations. Without such interventions, there's a risk of worsening poverty and social instability.

Concerns about Liberia's natural resources were voiced in connection with governance and economic management. Participants pointed out that while the country is resource-rich, corruption and inefficiency prevent those resources from benefiting the broader population. They called for improved transparency and efficiency in natural resource governance.

Another theme was the relationship between good governance and economic progress. Participants linked integrity in leadership and public service to sustainable economic growth, emphasizing the importance of leaders who serve with a legacy mindset focused on national interests.



The call for improved job creation also included appeals for stronger training and capacity-building efforts across government institutions. Many participants noted that laws and development programs often stall due to a lack of implementation capacity.

Gender Equality & Social Inclusion

Inclusive development emerged as a foundational principle throughout the dialogue. Organizations representing persons with disabilities emphasized that sustainable development cannot be achieved without full participation from all sectors of society. While frameworks like the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) exist, implementation remains limited.

Participants noted that the exclusion of marginalized groups, such as persons with disabilities, women, and rural communities,

creates systemic imbalances and fuels social division. Inclusion was described not only as a human rights issue but also as essential for national unity and peace.

Civil society fragmentation was identified as a challenge, especially among women's rights organizations. Participants encouraged greater coordination, particularly under networks like WONGOSOL, to strengthen advocacy for gender equality and broader social inclusion.

The link between social exclusion and justice was also highlighted. When people feel excluded or unprotected by the formal legal system, they often seek justice through informal or violent means. Addressing these issues requires both systemic reform and inclusive governance approaches that leave no one behind.





The two-day summit concluded with a highly participatory engagement session, during which a resolution was drafted and a Call to Action was developed through a Community of Practice. The session was facilitated by Mr. Stanley Kamara, National Economist and Team Leader, a.i Inclusive Governance and Public Institutions at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and co-facilitated by Lawrence Yealu, Country Director of Accountability Liberia. Thanks to the active involvement of all participants, a collective resolution was finalized and signed (see Annex).

The participatory engagement reaffirmed that Liberians want a country governed by the rule of law, transparency, and accountability. Participants called for stronger justice sector reforms, inclusive governance, economic stability, and political fairness. For these changes to take effect, both the government and civil society must work together to uphold accountability, enforce existing laws, and create opportunities for sustainable development.

National progress requires collective responsibility and active citizen engagement in governance processes.

Building on the conversations held throughout the summit, including panel

discussions, participant engagements, questions raised, and key concerns addressed, this document presents a summary of the core recommendations.

For the full set of commitments and detailed actions, kindly refer to the Resolution and Call to Action.

Conclusion

The Summit on Democracy and Political Accountability brought together diverse stakeholders from across government institutions, civil society, the media, the private sector, and international partners, creating a space for reflection, dialogue, and collaboration. Over two days, participants explored the current state of governance, accountability, inclusion, and the rule of law in Liberia, engaging in meaningful discussions and exchanging innovative ideas for democratic renewal.

The first panel emphasized the urgent need to strengthen Liberia's anti-corruption architecture. It called for proactive financial oversight, institutional independence, citizen engagement, and the integration of digital tools to promote transparency. Discussions also highlighted the importance of preventive over reactive approaches, and the need for increased financial autonomy for integrity institutions.

The second panel focused on the rule of law, underlining that a just and democratic society must be anchored in strong legal institutions, equitable access to justice, and consistent enforcement of laws. Panelists discussed the need for judicial independence, legal aid expansion, case backlog reduction, and the decentralization of justice services. They also emphasized the importance of bridging the gap between statutory justice systems and customary or community-based dispute resolution mechanisms. Upholding the rule of law was repeatedly affirmed as a cornerstone for national peace, security, and sustainable development.

The third panel tackled the persistent underrepresentation of women in political and governance structures.

The conversation shed light on structural and socio-cultural barriers to women's leadership, while also offering practical, solution-oriented approaches such as legal reforms, quotas, capacity-building, and inclusive political party practices. The panel ended with a strong call to action for all sectors to commit to a more gender-inclusive democracy.

Throughout the summit, one core theme remained constant: *democracy is not a static achievement but a continuous process that must be nurtured, defended, and adapted to the needs of the people*. While progress has been made, participants acknowledged that rebuilding public trust requires bold action, political will, and collaboration.

As the summit concludes, there is consensus that the real work begins now. Implementing the commitments made, resourcing institutions effectively, fostering civic space, and ensuring marginalized voices are heard must remain top priorities. The resolution and Call to Action developed through the final participatory session reflect the spirit of collective ownership and shared responsibility that defined the summit.

Moving forward, all stakeholders, government, civil society, communities, and development partners, must continue to work together in pursuit of a transparent, accountable and inclusive, democracy. The Summit on Democracy and Political Accountability was not an endpoint but a start for deeper engagement, stronger institutions, and lasting change.



Recommendations

Governance & Anti-Corruption		
1.	Combat Corruption Through Enforcement and Accountability by establishing Corruption Court	Government agencies to enforce and fully implement anti-corruption laws, ensure operational independence for the LACC and GAC, and strengthen internal oversight mechanisms to hold both public and private actors accountable.
2.	Undertake a Comprehensive Constitutional Review	Government through the Ministry of State to promote constitutional democracy through an inclusive and thorough review of the Constitution.
3.	Empower CSOs and Grassroots Organizations	Naymote and partners to strengthen the role of civil society organizations through sustainable funding, capacity building, and legal protection to enhance local accountability and grassroots governance. Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to release budget reports to facilitate independent budget monitoring by civil society.
4.	Digitize Asset Declarations and Enforce Transparency Reforms	Ministry of State and LACC to establish digital platforms for public officials' asset disclosures and procurement data to boost transparency, empower citizen oversight through the implementation of data transparency laws.
Rule of Law & Peace and Security		
5.	Establish a War and Economic Crimes Court	Ministry of State to lead and the legislature to pass enabling laws to advance justice and reconciliation by addressing past human rights violations and economic crimes to strengthen public confidence in legal institutions.
6.	Expand Legal Aid and Promote Community- Level Justice	Government through the Ministry of State and the Judiciary to initiate programs and implement policies to ensure justice for marginalized citizens and expand legal aid services, particularly in rural and underserved areas.
Gender Equality & Social Inclusion		
7.	Advance Women, Youth, and Marginalized Group Participation	Government through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to mainstream women, youth and marginalized groups participation in governance through developed policies, such as gender quotas and inclusion policies across governance, economy, and justice.

8.	Protect Civil Society, Human Rights Defenders, and Activists	Ministry of State to lead and the legislature to enact legal protections for activists and law enforcement to protect activists and civic actors from political retaliation, harassment, and undue restrictions.
Economy & Job Creation		
9.	Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development	Government through the Ministry of Labor to prioritize investment in agriculture, entrepreneurship, and digital innovation to create decent jobs, reduce regional disparities, and address youth unemployment.
10.	Foster a Transparent and Accountable Business Environment	Government through the Ministry of Commerce & Industry to initiate reforms and implement policies to engage the private sector in order to foster ethical business practices and economic resilience.



At a time when democracy is being questioned and more people are living under authoritarian regimes, it is important to remember that many still believe in—and are actively working toward—a different world: one where the principles of transparency, accountability, gender equality, human rights, and freedom of expression are truly respected.



Kerstin Jonsson Cissé, Head of Development Cooperation, Sida, Embassy of Sweden

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Resolution

2025 SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE 2025 SUMMIT ON 6 MARCH 2025

Introduction

Naymote Partners for Democratic Development convened in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, a two-day Summit for Democracy and Political Accountability under the theme Exploring Pathways for Sustainable Democracy and Inclusive Development in Liberia on March 5-6, 2025, in Monrovia.

The Summit for Democracy and Political Accountability created a forum where diverse stakeholders, including government officials, political parties, civil society organizations, development partners, academia, youth, and marginalized groups, came together and explored challenges and pathways for sustaining Liberia's democracy, enhancing democratic dividends, promoting political accountability, and encouraging active citizen engagement in democratic processes.

More specifically, the objectives of the Summit were to:

- Evaluate governance, civic participation, and accountability since the 2024 Summit to assess accomplishments, identify gaps, and highlight areas for improvement.
- Facilitate an open discussion among diverse stakeholders including government, civil society, political parties, youth, women, and marginalized groups to identify and implement strategies for enhancing democracy, governance, and the rule of law.

- Develop actionable policy strategies and a "Call to Action" that will contribute to the advancement of democratic governance, enhance political accountability, and promote inclusive citizen participation.
- Encourage active citizen participation, particularly among women, youth, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), and marginalized groups, sustainable partnerships between national and international stakeholders, in driving a continuous democratic process.

At the end of the two days Summit for Democracy and Political Accountability on March 6, 2025, recommendations, actions were developed.

Preamble

Whereas the Summit for Democracy and Political Accountability serves as a platform for citizens, civil society organizations, political parties, academia, government institutions, and international partners to engage in meaningful dialogue, develop actionable strategies, and promote good governance, democracy, and political accountability in Liberia.

Whereas we, the participants, moderators, panelists, and organizers, comprising state- and non- state actors, of this second Summit for Democracy and Political Accountability, have gathered over the two days and discussed pertinent issues related to strengthening democracy and political accountability, recognize the urgent need to implement reforms that promote transparency and accountability, strengthen institutions, and uphold the rule of law for a more inclusive and accountable governance system in Liberia.

Whereas acknowledging the importance of a transparent and accountable government is essential for public trust and national development, the executive must enforce all laws equitably, ensuring they apply beyond its own interests; and whereas public institutions, including state-owned enterprises, must be mandated to disclose financial statements and undergo regular audits, with strict enforcement of transparency regulations to guarantee that taxpayer funds are managed responsibly and government actions remain open to public scrutiny.

Whereas acknowledging that transparency, access to information, and accountability are fundamental to good governance, the Government of Liberia must enforce clear regulations mandating public access to government data, establish legal frameworks that define accountability for public officials, and ensure regular audits with strict enforcement mechanisms, including prosecution for misconduct, to uphold integrity and strengthen public trust in governance.

Whereas government leaders must be informed of these resolutions, and mechanisms must be established to follow up on their implementation, ensuring accountability for results and tangible progress in governance reforms.

**Now therefore resolve as follows:
Governance and Anti-Corruption**

1. We recognize that Liberia possesses vast natural resources that, if managed transparently and efficiently, can drive national prosperity. The Government must combat corruption through strict enforcement of anti-corruption laws, enhance public sector capacity through trainings and institutional reforms, and prioritize integrity and accountability in resource management to ensure that national wealth benefits all citizens and contributes to sustainable development.

2. We acknowledge that promoting constitutional democracy and undertaking a comprehensive constitutional review are essential to ensuring good governance, upholding the rule of law, and fostering an inclusive and accountable political system that reflects the aspirations of all citizens.

3. We acknowledge that ensuring quality education, including civic education at the primary and secondary levels, is essential for fostering informed and responsible citizenship, strengthening democratic participation, and promoting civic duties among future generations.

4. We reaffirm that the establishment of a Criminal Court F (Anti-Corruption Court) and strengthening the whistleblower and witness protection framework to encourage citizens to report corruption is essential for expediting corruption cases and ensuring accountability for public officials.

5. We recognize that the digitization of asset declarations for public officials must be prioritized, ensuring transparency and public accessibility through an effective online declaration system.

6. We acknowledge that the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) must implement stricter financial compliance mechanisms to prevent misuse of public funds, ensuring accountability for taxpayer revenue and international aid disbursements.

7. We recognize that the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC) e- Government system must be professionalized and expanded to improve transparency in procurement practices.

8. We recognize that the General Auditing Commission (GAC) and the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) must be granted full financial and operational independence and increased manpower to conduct audits, investigations, and follow-ups effectively without political interference.

9. We acknowledge that the government, through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), should provide greater fiscal transparency at the community level, ensuring that grassroots organizations can track local government budgets and expenditures.

10. We recognize that the decentralization of governance structures must include the establishment of community and district councils and advisory bodies, ensuring that grassroots organizations and individuals actively participate in local governance and oversight mechanisms.

11. We recognize that the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) and General Auditing Commission (GAC) should establish mechanisms for direct collaboration with civil society and grassroots organizations, ensuring that corruption reports and governance assessments incorporate local perspectives and community-driven accountability efforts.

12. We recognize that the media should play a critical role as an educational tool and an accountability mechanism, promoting civic awareness, informing citizens about governance matters, and fostering transparency in democratic processes.

13. We reaffirm that an active and united civil society is crucial for democratic governance and national development, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) must strengthen collaboration, align under common platforms, and coordinate efforts to maximize impact; and whereas fostering

unity among CSOs, particularly by integrating specialized organizations under umbrella networks, will enhance advocacy, policy influence, and citizen engagement, ensuring that civil society effectively serves as the “fourth branch” of government and holds public institutions accountable.

14. We reaffirm that Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), community-based groups, and grassroots movements must be empowered with financial, technical, and institutional support to monitor governance, hold public officials accountable, and advocate for reforms at local and national levels.

15. We acknowledge that the inclusion of civil society and grassroots organizations in decision-making processes at all levels of government is essential to ensure policies reflect the needs and aspirations of the people, particularly those in marginalized and underrepresented communities.

Rule of Law/Peace and Security

16. We recognize that the government must safeguard civil society, human rights defenders, grassroots activists and community leaders from threats, harassment, and political intimidation, ensuring legal protections for those who expose corruption and advocate for democratic reforms.

17. We recognize that the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) must be granted full operational and financial autonomy to effectively investigate and report on human rights violations.

18. We acknowledge that upholding the rule of law and democratic values require a culture of efficiency and accountability, the Government of Liberia must ensure timely

implementation of programs, policies, and laws by strengthening institutional capacity through targeted trainings, enforcing clear performance standards for responsible authorities, improve administrative processes to eliminate delays, and establishing monitoring mechanisms that hold public officials accountable for delivering results.

19. We recognize that peace, security, national unity, and social cohesion are fundamental to sustainable development, strengthening law enforcement institutions, promoting community-based security initiatives, and ensuring adherence to the rule of law are essential for fostering stability, public trust, and inclusive governance.

20. We recognize that the judiciary must be fully independent, with financial autonomy and protections against political interference to ensure fair and impartial adjudication of cases, to uphold public trust and ensure transparent access to public information.

21. We recognize that government should prioritize the implementation of online platforms for filing cases, scheduling hearings, and conducting virtual court sessions to improve efficiency and accessibility.

22. We recognize that the judiciary should implement technology-driven case management systems to streamline court processes, prioritize case resolution within the statutory period to address backlogged cases, including pre-trial detainees.

23. We acknowledge that the provision and expansion of coordinated Legal aid services is required to increase access to justice for all, particularly in rural communities, through decentralized and effective judicial services.

24. We reaffirm that the promotion of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms at the community level is essential to providing timely, cost-effective, and culturally appropriate access to justice. ADR should be expanded through partnerships between the Ministry of Justice, civil society organizations, and traditional leaders and other relevant stakeholders, ensuring that grassroots organizations play an active role in mediation of civil cases, conflict resolution, and community-based justice initiatives.

25. We recognize the urgent need for the establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court to ensure justice for past human rights violations and economic crimes, thereby breaking the cycle of impunity and ensuring accountability.

Economy and Job Creation

26. We reaffirm that inclusive policies and practices must ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities, including infrastructure development, legal frameworks, and public services, to promote equal participation and non-discrimination.

27. We recognize that a review and potential amendment of the Decent Work Act of 2015 is necessary to address labor market inequalities, strengthen worker protections, and create a fair and inclusive job market.

28. We acknowledge that a transparent, accountable, and fair business environment is crucial for economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development, and the private sector must be engaged in governance reforms to foster ethical business practices and economic resilience.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

29. We reaffirm that the participation of women and youth in governance must be enhanced through measures such as affirmative action laws, including gender quotas, and by increasing their participation and representation in political parties, political processes, and public office.

30. We recognize that the strengthening of gender-inclusive governance, ensuring the participation of women in decision-making processes, and fostering an enabling environment are essential to advancing the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, and promoting equitable and sustainable peace.

31. We acknowledge that the participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups must be actively promoted across governance, economic opportunities, and social policies to foster an inclusive society and equitable representation in decision-making.

32. We affirm that a Democracy and Accountability Task Force shall be established by Naymote Partners for Democratic Development in partnership with the UNDP to oversee the implementation of these resolutions, with representation from government, civil society, media, and development partners.

33. We affirm that the Task Force will comprise of nine representatives from the counties, including Civil Society (1), Youth (1), People with Disabilities (1), Women (1), MFA (1), MFD (1), MOJ (1), GAC (1), and MGCSP (1)

34. We recognize and urge that Liberia must position itself as a regional leader in democratic governance, sharing best practices and supporting democracy-building efforts across West Africa.

06 March 2025

Bella Casa Hotel, Monrovia



Annex 2: Call to Action – A community of Practice

No.	Recommendations	Action Points/Next Steps	Responsibility of Practice	Due date/time
1.	The Government must combat corruption through strict enforcement of anti-corruption laws, enhance public sector capacity through training and institutional reforms, and prioritize integrity and accountability in resource management to ensure that national wealth benefits all citizens and contributes to sustainable development.	Government agencies to enforce accountability laws, civil society to monitor compliance.	Lead: GAC Others: LACC, PPCC and CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
2.	Promoting constitutional democracy and undertaking a comprehensive constitutional review	Government, President Boakai to set-up an independent Constitution Review Committee (CRC)	Lead: Ministry of State Others: Law Reform Commission, Ministry of Justice, Legislature, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
3.	Ensuring quality education, including civic education at the primary and secondary levels, is essential for fostering informed and responsible citizenship, strengthening democratic participation, and promoting civic duties among future generations.	Gov't to establish commission on civic education to educate citizens on civic matters and responsibilities	Lead: Ministry of Education Others: National Commission on Higher Education, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
4.	Establishment of a Criminal Court F (Anti-Corruption Court) and strengthening the whistleblower and witness protection framework to encourage citizens to report corruption is essential for expediting corruption cases and ensuring accountability for public officials.	Legislature and judiciary to establish and operationalize the court. LACC to oversee implementation. Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) to oversee financial disclosures and audits.	Lead: Ministry of State Others: Legislature, Ministry of Justice, Law Reform Commission, MFDP, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
5.	Digitize asset declarations and ensure transparency via an online system; enforce data transparency laws.	Government to implement data transparency laws, civil society to advocate for enforcement.	Lead: LACC Others: Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, LTA, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026

6.	MFDP must implement stricter financial compliance mechanisms to prevent misuse of funds.	Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) to strengthen enforcement and training. MFDP to establish stricter financial oversight mechanisms.	Lead: Ministry of State Others: Legislature, MFDP, PPCC, LACC, LRA	April 2025 – April 2026
7.	Expand PPCC e-Government system to enhance procurement transparency.	PPCC to enhance and expand the e-Government system for procurement transparency. LACC to develop an online public asset declaration system.	Lead: Ministry of State Others: MFDP, GAC, CSA, PPCC, Legislature	April 2025 – April 2026
8.	GAC and LACC must have full independence and manpower to audit and investigate effectively.	PPCC to enhance and expand the e-Government system for procurement transparency. LACC to develop an online public asset declaration system.	Lead: Ministry of State Others: Legislature, MFDP, LACC, GAC	April 2025 – April 2026
9.	MFDP should increase fiscal transparency at the community level.	Ministry of Finance to fully implement policies on fiscal transparency, and monitor compliance at MACs and local government administration	Lead: MFDP Others: Legislature, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
10.	Decentralize governance by creating local councils and advisory bodies for community participation.	Ministry of Local Government to facilitate community council formation.	Lead: MIA Others: MFDP, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
11.	LACC and GAC should work directly with civil society to incorporate local accountability efforts.	LACC and GAC to incorporate CSOs into initiatives focused on local government accountability and transparency	Lead: GAC Others: LACC, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
12.	Media should educate citizens and act as a governance watchdog.	Press Union of Liberia and media institutions to advocate for good governance, educate citizens and report on the performance of government	Lead: PUL Others: MICAT, Print, Electronic & Traditional Media Institutions, FEJAL	April 2025 – April 2026

13.	CSOs must collaborate under common platforms to hold institutions accountable.	CSOs to create coalitions and engage in joint advocacy efforts. MFDP to release budget reports, CSOs to conduct independent budget monitoring.	Lead: NAYMOTE Others: CENTAL, Accountability Lab, WONGOSOL	April 2025 – April 2026
14.	Empower CSOs and grassroots groups to monitor governance and push reforms.	LACC and GAC to establish reporting frameworks with grassroots organizations/ direct collaboration between LACC, GAC, and grassroots organizations to incorporate local accountability efforts.	Lead: NAYMOTE Others: CENTAL, Accountability Lab, WONGOSOL, LACC, GAC	April 2025 – April 2026
15.	Include CSOs and grassroots voices in all levels of decision- making.	Government to focus on implementation of policies to incorporate grassroot voices in decision making processes	Lead: Ministry of State Others: Ministry of Internal Affairs, Legislature, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
16.	Protect civil society and human rights defenders from threats and harassment.	Legislature to enact legal protections for activists, law enforcement to prevent harassment.	Lead: Ministry of State Others: Legislature, Ministry of Justice, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
17.	INCHR must be autonomous to investigate and report on human rights issues.	Government to ensure independence of INCHR, INCHR to investigate and report on human rights issues	Public service agencies to implement training programs and monitoring mechanisms.	April 2025 – April 2026
18.	Ensure timely implementation of laws and programs through institutional capacity-building.	Public service agencies to implement training programs and monitoring mechanisms.	Lead: Civil Service Agency Others: MACs, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
19.	Foster peace, national unity, and community security through law enforcement and local initiatives.	Government to design and implement policies/ programs that foster rule of law and access to justice at the local and national levels, and enhance law enforcement	Lead: Ministry of State Others: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of National Defense, LNBA, CSOs, CBOs	April 2025 – April 2026

20.	Judiciary must be independent with financial autonomy to uphold justice and transparency.	Government to design and implement policies/ programs that foster rule of law and access to justice at the local and national levels, and enhance law enforcement	Lead: Ministry of State Others: Legislature, Law Reform Commission, LNBA, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
21.	Lead: Ministry of State Others: Legislature, Law Reform Commission, LNBA, CSOs	Government to set-up online platforms to enhance case filing, scheduling and documentation	Lead: Ministry of State Others: Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, LNBA, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
22.	Implement tech-driven case management to address court backlogs.	Government to develop case management system to reduce backlogs and enhance efficiency	Lead: Ministry of State Others: Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, LNBA, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
23.	Expand legal aid to rural areas to ensure equitable access to justice.	Government to initiate programs and implement policies to ensure justice for marginalized citizens and expand legal aid services	Lead: Ministry of State Others: Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, LNBA, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
24	Promote ADR mechanisms in communities to resolve disputes affordably and effectively.	Ministry of Justice, CSOs, and traditional leaders to develop ADR programs.	Lead: Ministry of State Others: Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, Ministry of Internal Affairs, LNBA, AFFEL, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
25.	Establish War and Economic Crimes Court to ensure justice and end impunity.	Legislature to pass enabling laws, international community to support implementation.	Lead: Ministry of State Others: Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, Legislature, Ministry of Internal Affairs, LNBA, AFFEL, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
26.	Ensure accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities.	Government agencies to enforce accessibility policies, civil society to advocate for inclusion.	Liberia to participate in regional democratic governance initiatives and share best practices.	April 2025 – April 2026
27.	Review and amend Decent Work Act to address labor inequalities and improve worker protections.	Legislature to review and amend Decent Work Act, Ministry of Labor and CSA to support implementation.	Lead: Ministry of State, CSA Others: Ministry of Labor, Legislature, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026

28.	Create a fair business environment and involve private sector in governance reforms.	Government to initiate reforms and implement policies to engage the private sector in order to foster ethical business practices and economic resilience.	Lead: Ministry of Commerce & Industry Others: MFDP, Liberia Business Association, Liberia Business Registry, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
29.	Enhance women and youth participation in governance through affirmative actions.	Political parties and legislature to adopt affirmative action laws and gender quotas.	Lead: MoGCSP Others: Legislature, AFFEL, WONGOSOL, Law Reform Commission, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
30.	Advance WPS agenda by integrating gender in governance reforms.	Government agencies to integrate gender considerations in governance reforms.	Lead: MoGCSP Others: MFDP, AFFEL, WONGOSOL, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
31.	Promote participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in all policies.	Government to mainstream women, youth and marginalized groups participation in governance through developed policies	Lead: MoGCSP Others: MFDP, AFFEL, WONGOSOL, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026
32.	Establish a Democracy and Accountability Task Force.	Summit organizers to establish a multi-stakeholder task force for oversight.	Lead: NAYMOTE Others: UNDP, SIDA	April 2025 – April 2026
33.	Define task force composition.	Develop ToR to enhance taskforce operations	Lead: NAYMOTE Others: UNDP, SIDA	April 1-30 2025
34.	Position Liberia as a regional leader in democratic governance and share best practices.	Liberia to participate in regional democratic governance initiatives and share best practices.	Lead: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Others: Ministry of State, MFDP, Legislature, Judiciary, CSOs	April 2025 – April 2026



SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY & POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY:

EXPLORING PATHWAYS FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEMOCRACY & INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN LIBERIA

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