

Peacebuilding Commission
Ambassadorial-level meeting on elections in Liberia
29 September 2023

On 29 September 2023, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an Ambassadorial-level meeting to take stock of progress towards the conduct of peaceful, inclusive, transparent, free, fair, and credible elections in Liberia. The meeting focused on follow-up on the recommendations made in the last meeting of the Liberia Configuration on 25 April 2023. Measures, including those aimed at preventing electoral violence and were discussed. The Commission underscored that the 10 October 2023 elections are a crucial milestone

executing the electoral schedule and electoral budgetary obligations. He informed of the disbursement of \$4 million dollars to the Joint Security of Liberia in support of peaceful elections. Further, he noted that the remaining balance of \$3.2 of the elections budget, intended to be utilized should the elections proceed to a second round, is being processed. He recognized the polarized political environment yet emphasized maintaining peace and democracy. While acknowledging the obstacles to the inclusion of women and youth in politics and electoral process, he underscored the commendable progress and the Government commitment to ensuring their full, equal, and meaningful participation. He concluded by reiterating the commitment to the Farmington River Declaration and recognized in mobilizing international support for , including to the general elections.

4. On behalf of the Minister of Internal Affairs, H.E Mr. Varney Sirleaf, **Hon. Momolu S. Johnson, Deputy Minister for Administration of Internal Affairs of Liberia**, continuous support towards peace consolidation efforts in Liberia and commended PBF) support towards a peaceful electoral environment, including strengthening community policing and He informed that the PBF support has contributed to strengthening the capacity of state institutions,

addressing concerns. She clarified that 50 per cent of the registered voters are women, which represents a paradigm shift.

7. **Ms. Christine Umutoni, UN Resident Coordinator in Liberia**, commended the progress made since the PBC Liberia Configuration meeting in April 2023. She informed of the arrival

10. Member States welcomed the briefings and made the following observations:

The Commission commended the remarkable progress on the electoral preparations and welcomed the efforts of the Liberian Government and the NEC to ensure inclusive and peaceful elections, demonstrating democratic progress and full ownership of the electoral process. They highlighted the importance of the 2023 elections as pivotal in consolidating peace nationally, but also reverberating into the region.

They underlined the crucial role of the NEC in ensuring the conditions to fair and transparent elections.

They emphasized the key role of the civil society in inclusive electoral processes and preventing violence.

They called for the full adherence to the Farmington River Declaration and the full operationalization of the VAWiE/P Protocol. They encouraged the remaining political parties, coalitions, and alliances to sign the VAWiE/P Protocol.

They encouraged the Government to disburse the remaining electoral financing to the NEC. They noted the proliferation of hate speech, misinformation, and the shrinking civic space with a concern and underscored the importance of ensuring a peaceful and transparent electoral environment and post-election period. In that regard, they urged all political actors to respect the rule of law and to refrain from acts that could incite violence and polarize public opinion.

They acknowledged the central role of the PBF in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, as well as ensuring the sustainability of the electoral process in Liberia. In this respect, they called for more sustainable funding to the PBF, including assessed and voluntary contributions, to sustain peace in Liberia.

They underscored the importance of women's participation in politics, electoral processes, and peacebuilding and commended the measures to strengthen their full, equal and meaningful

Ensuring full, equal, and meaningful participation in peacebuilding, politics, and electoral process at all levels during and beyond the 2023 elections. In this respect, continue advocating and monitoring the 30 per cent gender quota for political party leadership and party candidate lists in the new Elections Law.

Ensuring the full and timely operationalization of the VAWIE/P Protocol.

Continue advocating for and supporting the meaningful participation of youth in in peacebuilding, politics, and electoral processes during and beyond the 2023 elections.

Ensuring that the NEC is fully funded to deliver on its mandate and urging the Liberian Government to transfer any outstanding funds to the NEC in a timely manner.

Calling on all stakeholders to refrain from inciteful language and not to share disinformation or misinformation.

Encouraging national authorities and international partners to support continuous inclusive dialogue and strengthened civic education as a key to ensuring peaceful, free, fair, transparent, credible, and inclusive elections.