

Country/entity	Liberia
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Mechanism for Returning Liberia to the Abuja Agreement
Date	8 May 1996
Agreement status	Unilateral document
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

Liberian Civil Wars (1989 - 1997) (1999 - 2005)

In 1989, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) attacked border posts as part of a campaign to oust the dictatorship of Samuel Doe. This triggered a violent civil war that by 1995 had killed around 150,000 and displaced an estimated 850,000 people. The outbreak of war is attributed to the domestic socio-economic and political environment in the country of the 1980s, such as poverty, discrimination and repression. However, its sustenance is also related to past discrimination against indigenous Liberians by 'Americo-Liberians', and deep ethnic divisions that resulted.

Peace negotiations began in 1992 and completed by 1997. However, the peace lasted only a short period and in 1999 there was renewed fighting against the elected president, Charles Taylor. The Guinea-backed organisation, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), together with the armed Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) controlled two thirds of the country by 2003 and besieged the capital Monrovia, forcing Charles Taylor into exile in Nigeria. In August that same year, the conflict parties signed the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement and in 2005 new general elections were held.

Close
Liberian Civil Wars (1989 - 1997) (1999 - 2005)

Stage	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Liberia peace process
Parties	-
Third parties	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
Description	This agreement details an ECOWAS plan and conditions to return the warring parties in Liberia to adherence to the terms of the Abuja Agreement. Issues covered include calls for a ceasefire, deployment of an ECOWAS Monitoring Group, transitional governance issues, DDR, and democratisation.

Agreement document [LR_960508_Mechanism for returning Liberia to the Abuja Agreement.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/national group Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical
Page 1, B. THE JOHNSON ISSUE, 3: Ensure the respect and equal treatment of all ethnic groups in Liberia.
Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Substantive
Page 1, C. DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION, AND REINTEGRATION, 3: Verifiable disarmament by all factions along with the creation of a new Armed Forces of Liberia on a non-tribal basis and with contribution of personnel from all factions.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Rhetorical
Page 2, D. DEMOCRATISATION, 3: Arrange for the early return to their homes or countries of refugees and internally displaced persons.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/ secession No specific mention.

Accession/ unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references
Page 1, B. THE JOHNSON ISSUE, 1: Re-establish the Authority and cohesiveness of the Council of State of Liberia in particular and the Liberian National Transitional Government (LNTG) in general as outlined in the Abuja Agreement and the other Agreements preceding it.

Page 1, B. THE JOHNSON ISSUE, 2: Ensure reconciliation in and inclusiveness of Government throughout the transitional period.

Page 2, D. DEMOCRATISATION, 2: Necessary constitutional changes to allow for proportional representation in the formation of national government.

Elections Page 2, D. DEMOCRATISATION, 4: Resumption of political campaigns throughout the country in preparation for elections.

Page 2, D. DEMOCRATISATION, 5: Ensure necessary institutional preparations for the holding and monitoring of free and fair elections throughout Liberia.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution Governance→Constitution→Constitutional reform/making
Page 2, D. DEMOCRATISATION, 2: Necessary constitutional changes to allow for proportional representation in the formation of national government.

Power sharing

Political power sharing Power sharing→Political power sharing→General State level
Page 1, B. THE JOHNSON ISSUE, 2: Ensure reconciliation in and inclusiveness of Government throughout the transitional period.

Page 2, D. DEMOCRATISATION, 2: Necessary constitutional changes to allow for proportional representation in the formation of national government.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	Power sharing→Military power sharing→Merger of forces Page 1, A. MONROVIA, 2: The immediate withdrawal of armed fighters from Monrovia simultaneously with the completion of the deployment of ECOMOG throughout the city. Page 1, C. DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION, AND REINTEGRATION, 3: Verifiable disarmament by all factions along with the creation of a new Armed Forces of Liberia on a non-tribal basis and with contribution of personnel from all factions. Page 1, C. DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION, AND REINTEGRATION, 4: Training of trainers of the new Armed Forces of Liberia.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Liberty and security of person
Page 1, A. MONROVIA, 4: Return of properties to their rightful owners and ensuring the freedom of all citizens from arbitrary arrests and abduction by armed elements.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship Rights related issues→Citizenship→Citizens, specific rights
Page 1, A. MONROVIA, 4. Return of properties to their rightful owners and ensuring the freedom of all citizens from arbitrary arrests and abduction by armed elements.

Democracy Page 2, D. DEMOCRATISATION, 1: Create the necessary atmosphere for the restoration of democracy in the country by ensuring the re-opening of newspapers and radio stations

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles
Page 2, D. DEMOCRATISATION, 1: Create the necessary atmosphere for the restoration of democracy in the country by ensuring the re-opening of newspapers and radio stations

Mobility/access Page 1, A. MONROVIA, 6: Return of vehicles and equipment seized or looted from UNOMIL, United Nations and other Humanitarian Agencies in Liberia.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance
Page 1, A. MONROVIA, 6: Return of vehicles and equipment seized or looted from UNOMIL, United Nations and other Humanitarian Agencies in Liberia.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business	No specific mention.
Taxation	No specific mention.
Banks	No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights	Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Property return and restitution Page 1, A. MONROVIA, 4. Return of properties to their rightful owners and ensuring the freedom of all citizens from arbitrary arrests and abduction by armed elements.
Pastoralist/ nomadism rights	No specific mention.
Cultural heritage	No specific mention.
Environment	No specific mention.
Water or riparian rights or access	No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	No specific mention.
Ceasefire	Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision Page 1, A. MONROVIA, 1: All parties must ensure the strict observance by their armed fighters of the cease-fire demanded by the Chairman of ECOWAS throughout Liberia Page 1, A. MONROVIA, 7: The employment of the Cease-fire Violations Monitoring Committee to oversee the observance of the cease-fire.
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	Page 1, A. MONROVIA, 2: The immediate withdrawal of armed fighters from Monrovia simultaneously with the completion of the deployment of ECOMOG throughout the city. Page 1, C. DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION, AND REINTEGRATION, 3: Verifiable disarmament by all factions along with the creation of a new Armed Forces of Liberia on a non-tribal basis and with contribution of personnel from all factions. Page 1, C. DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION, AND REINTEGRATION, 4: Training of trainers of the new Armed Forces of Liberia.

DDR

Security sector→DDR→DDR programmes

Page 1, A. MONROVIA, 3: The removal of all arms and ammunition from Monrovia, to be verified by ECOMOG and UNOMIL, and the reinstatement of Monrovia to the status of a Safe Haven.

Page 1, B. THE JOHNSON ISSUE, 5: The provision of safe conduct out of the Barclay Training Centre (BTC) of armed elements of ULIMO-J and LPC to agreed areas outside Monrovia and the immediate disarming of armed AFL soldiers at the BTC.

Page 1, C. DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION, AND REINTEGRATION, 1: Revitalisation of plans for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Re-integration.

Page 1, C. DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION, AND REINTEGRATION, 2: Immediate implementation of proportional disarmament among the various factions to correspond with the number of troops disarmed at the BTC.

Page 1, C. DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION, AND REINTEGRATION, 3: Verifiable disarmament by all factions along with the creation of a new Armed Forces of Liberia on a non-tribal basis and with contribution of personnel from all factions.

Page 1, C. DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION, AND REINTEGRATION, 4: Training of trainers of the new Armed Forces of Liberia.

Page 1, C. DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION, AND REINTEGRATION, 5: Implementation of Plans for re-integrating former armed fighters into Liberian society.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces

Page 1, A. MONROVIA, 2: The immediate withdrawal of armed fighters from Monrovia simultaneously with the completion of the deployment of ECOMOG throughout the city.

Page 1, B. THE JOHNSON ISSUE, 4: Issue of an appropriate statement by General Roosevelt Johnson indicating his satisfaction with and preparedness to work along the lines of the present mechanism for peace and stability in Liberia.

Withdrawal of foreign forces

No specific mention.

Corruption

No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime

No specific mention.

Drugs

No specific mention.

Terrorism

No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation Page 1, B. THE JOHNSON ISSUE, 2: Ensure reconciliation in and inclusiveness of Government throughout the transitional period.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar

Page 1, A. MONROVIA, 2: The immediate withdrawal of armed fighters from Monrovia simultaneously with the completion of the deployment of ECOMOG throughout the city.

Page 1, A. MONROVIA, 3: The removal of all arms and ammunition from Monrovia, to be verified by ECOMOG and UNOMIL, and the reinstatement of Monrovia to the status of a Safe Haven.

Page 1, A. MONROVIA, 5: Return of all arms seized from ECOMOG troops during the attack on them in Tubmanburg, Bomi County, in December, 1995.

Page 1, A. MONROVIA, 6: Return of vehicles and equipment seized or looted from UNOMIL, United Nations and other Humanitarian Agencies in Liberia.

Enforcement mechanism

Page 2, Untitled concluding paragraph: The mechanism outlined above for implementation by the government and people of Liberia will be closely monitored by the ECOWAS Committee of Nine of Liberia to assess the commitment of Liberians to the peace process and to also determine, at the next ECOWAS Summit Meeting the continuation or otherwise of the involvement of ECOWAS in the Liberian peace process.

Related cases

No specific mention.

Source

Official Journal of the ECOWAS, Vol. 22, 1997
