

Country/entity	Liberia
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Final Communiqué, Economic Community of West African States, First Extraordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, Bamako, 27 and 28 November 1990
Date	28 Nov 1990
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

The session was attended by the following Heads of State and Government or their accredited representatives:

His Excellency General Mathiew Kerekou
President of the Republic of Benin

His Excellency Captain Blaise Compaore
Chairman of the Popular Front
Head of State
Head of Government
Burkina Faso

His Excellency Mr. Aristides Maria Pereira
President of the Republic of Cape Verde

His Excellency Mr. Félix Houphouet Boigny
President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

His Excellency Aihaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara
President of the Republic of the Gambia

His Excellency Flight-Lt. Jerry John Rawlings
Chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council
Head of State of the Republic of Ghana

His Excellency General Joao Bernardo Vieira
Secretary-General of the PAIGC
President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

His Excellency General Moussa Traore
Secretary-General of the Democratic Union of Malian People
President of the Republic of Mali

His Excellency General Ali Saibou
Chairman of the Supreme Council for National Orientation
Head of State of the Republic of the Niger

His Excellency General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida
President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf
President of the Republic of Senegal

His Excellency Major-General Dr. Joseph Saidu Momoh
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

His Excellency General Gnassingbe' Eyadema
Founder-Chairman of the Togolese People's Rally
President of the Togolese Republic

Honourable Commandant Facine Toure
Minister of Transport and Works, Representing the President of the Republic of Guinea

Honourable Hasni Ould Didi
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Representing the President of the Republic of Mauritania

Third parties 2. Present at the summit as special guest was His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity
3. Also attending the summit in an observer capacity were the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the regional representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Description This agreement is a Final Communiqué from the ECOWAS Extraordinary Session at Bamako in November 1990. The agreement endorses the ECOWAS peace plan and ceasefire agreements in Liberia; requests additional support for ECOWAS operations in Liberia; pushes for the warring parties to reach a political settlement; and requests the early return of refugees to Liberia.

Agreement document [LR_901128_Bamako Communiqué.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** No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups Groups→Other groups→Rhetorical
Page 2, Review of the Liberian Situation, 5: In reviewing the current situation in Liberia, the Authority noted that the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) had succeeded in establishing calm in Monrovia and its immediate environs. This measure of success had made it possible for both ECOMOG and international relief agencies to [sic] carry out humanitarian relief work and for tens of thousands of foreign nationals, including ECOWAS citizens, who had been trapped in Liberia without any means of escape or protection, to be evacuated. The Authority expressed the hope that permanent peace and harmony would soon be restored throughout the territory of Liberia.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Rhetorical
Page 4, Appeal for early return of refugees, 15: The Authority expressed satisfaction at the progress made so far towards the restoration of peace and security in Monrovia. Considering that the declaration of a cease-fire by the parties to the conflict enlarges the prospect for the restoration of peace and security throughout Liberia, the Authority called on all Liberian refugees to plan an early return to Liberia, in order to join their compatriots in assisting the Interim Government in the implementation of its programme to return Liberia to democratic rule.

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) Page 4, Appeal for early return of refugees, 15: The Authority expressed satisfaction at the progress made so far towards the restoration of peace and security in Monrovia. Considering that the declaration of a cease-fire by the parties to the conflict enlarges the prospect for the restoration of peace and security throughout Liberia, the Authority called on all Liberian refugees to plan an early return to Liberia, in order to join their compatriots in assisting the Interim Government in the implementation of its programme to return Liberia to democratic rule.

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)** No specific mention.

Elections Page 3, Endorsement of ECOWAS peace plan, 6: The Authority endorsed the ECOWAS peace plan for Liberia as embodied in the Banjul communiqué and decisions of the Standing Mediation Committee adopted on 7 August 1990. The ECOWAS peace plan, among other things, calls for:
...(d) The holding of general and presidential elections within 12 months;
(e) Observation of the elections by ECOWAS and other international bodies to ensure that they are free and fair.

**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 No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation

Page 4, Reaffirmation of the Protocol on Non-Aggression, 13: The Authority strongly reiterated the imperative of securing peace and maintaining stability in the ECOWAS subregion as the necessary underpinning of economic co-operation and integration for the achievement of progress and prosperity in the Community. The Authority therefore considered it most tragic that while other regions of the world were making every effort to dismantle the apparatus of war and banish tensions and conflicts from their international relations, as evidenced by the widely acclaimed treaty of Paris recently signed by Governments at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, ECOWAS Heads of State and Government were compelled to meet in extraordinary conference to find ways of bringing to an early end the horrors of a civil war in a member State of the Community and containing the threat it posed to the peace, security and stability of the subregion.

Page 4, Reaffirmation of the Protocol on Non-Aggression, 14. Recalling that it had itself fully recognized the necessity for maintaining the peace and security of the subregion early in the life of the Community through the Protocol on Non-Aggression adopted on 22 April 1978, and believing that the Liberian crisis has given that Protocol a fresh validity, the Authority decided to reaffirm the provisions of the Protocol on Non-Aggression and to urge all member States to adhere fully to their obligations under it. In particular, the Authority recalled the commitment by all member States to refrain from committing, encouraging or condoning acts of subversion, hostility or aggression against any other member State. It further called on all member States to refrain from any action that might prejudice or undermine the smooth and speedy implementation of the ECOWAS peace plan for Liberia.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	Rights related issues→Citizenship→Citizen, general Page 2, Review of the Liberian Situation, 5: In reviewing the current situation in Liberia, the Authority noted that the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) had succeeded in establishing calm in Monrovia and its immediate environs. This measure of success had made it possible for both ECOMOG and international relief agencies to [sic] carry out humanitarian relief work and for tens of thousands of foreign nationals, including ECOWAS citizens, who had been trapped in Liberia without any means of escape or protection, to be evacuated. The Authority expressed the hope that permanent peace and harmony would soon be restored throughout the territory of Liberia.
Democracy	Page 4, Appeal for early return of refugees, 15: The Authority expressed satisfaction at the progress made so far towards the restoration of peace and security in Monrovia. Considering that the declaration of a cease-fire by the parties to the conflict enlarges the prospect for the restoration of peace and security throughout Liberia, the Authority called on all Liberian refugees to plan an early return to Liberia, in order to join their compatriots in assisting the Interim Government in the implementation of its programme to return Liberia to democratic rule.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	Page 2, Review of the Liberian Situation, 5: In reviewing the current situation in Liberia, the Authority noted that the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) had succeeded in establishing calm in Monrovia and its immediate environs. This measure of success had made it possible for both ECOMOG and international relief agencies to [sic] carry out humanitarian relief work and for tens of thousands of foreign nationals, including ECOWAS citizens, who had been trapped in Liberia without any means of escape or protection, to be evacuated. The Authority expressed the hope that permanent peace and harmony would soon be restored throughout the territory of 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 2, Review of the Liberian Situation, 5: In reviewing the current situation in Liberia, the Authority noted that the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) had succeeded in establishing calm in Monrovia and its immediate environs. This measure of success had made it possible for both ECOMOG and international relief agencies to [sic] carry out humanitarian relief work and for tens of thousands of foreign nationals, including ECOWAS citizens, who had been trapped in Liberia without any means of escape or protection, to be evacuated. The Authority expressed the hope that permanent peace and harmony would soon be restored throughout the territory of Liberia.

Page 5, Appeal for international assistance to Liberia, 16: The Authority made an urgent appeal to the; international community, particularly its humanitarian relief organizations, to step up without further delay humanitarian relief work in Liberia with special emphasis on the provision of food, medical supplies and clothing. It also appealed to the international donor community to contribute generously to the efforts of the Interim Government in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the damaged economy of Liberia.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds Page 2, Report of the Standing Mediation Committee, 4: The Chairman of the ECOWAS Standing Mediation Committee, His Excellency Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, submitted a report to the Extraordinary Summit on the activities of the Committee. The Authority noted the report and expressed its appreciation to the members of the Committee for the initiative taken in finding a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Liberia. It particularly expressed gratitude for the human, financial and material contributions these member States had made on behalf of the Community towards the restoration of peace and stability in Liberia.

Page 3, Collective responsibility for ECOMOG, 10: Acknowledging that the membership of ECOMOG had never been closed ever though the burden of the implementation of the ECOWAS peace plan has so far fallen entirely on the members of the Standing Mediation Committee, the Authority appealed to all other members of the Community able and willing to do so to contribute forces to the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group in order to enlarge its peace-keeping capability. It also appealed to all member States that had not yet done so to make generous contributions to the special emergency fund for the ECOWAS operations in Liberia. The Authority further called upon all other African Governments and the rest of the international community to contribute to the special emergency fund.

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Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

**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

An immediate ceasefire is called for (28/11/1990) and is presumed to be permanent.

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Page 3, Endorsement of ECOWAS peace plan, 6: The Authority endorsed the ECOWAS peace plan for Liberia as embodied in the Banjul communiqué and decisions of the Standing Mediation Committee adopted on 7 August 1990. The ECOWAS peace plan, among other things, calls for:

- (a) A complete cease-fire and cessation of destruction of life and property;
- (b) ECOWAS monitoring of the cease-fire;...

Page 3, Signing of the cease-fire agreement, 8: In giving practical effect to this ECOWAS peace plan for Liberia, the Authority stressed the urgent need for a comprehensive cease-fire to be observed by all the warring parties as a necessary condition for the return of peace and normalcy throughout the territory of Liberia. The Authority therefore warmly commended the two warring parties - the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) and the Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) - who had agreed to observe a cease-fire and had signed a cease-fire agreement at Banjul on 24 October 1990,

Page 3, Signing of the cease-fire agreement, 9: At the Extraordinary Session of the Authority at Bamako, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPLF) - the third party to the conflict in Liberia - expressed its readiness to join in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict. The Authority noted with pleasure the acceptance by the NPLF and the other warring parties not only of the ECOWAS peace plan for Liberia as embodied in the communiqué and decisions of 7 August 1990 of the Community Standing Mediation Committee, but also their declaration of a cease-fire, which shall come into effect immediately. The Authority urged that the details for the implementation of the cease-fire should be worked out as soon as possible. It expressed the sincere hope that this declaration of cease-fire would mark the complete cessation of all hostilities as the necessary foundation for the return of lasting peace, stability and political accommodation and reconciliation of Liberia.

Page 4, Collective responsibility for ECOMOG, 11: The Authority also considered the necessity for an agreement to be concluded between ECOWAS and the Interim Government of Liberia with respect to the status and operations of the Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in Liberia. To this end, the Authority mandated the Executive Secretary to sign an agreement with the Interim Government of Liberia after approval by the Chairman of the Authority.

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Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
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 3, Signing of the cease-fire agreement, 9: At the Extraordinary Session of the Authority at Bamako, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPLF) - the third party to the conflict in Liberia - expressed its readiness to join in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict. The Authority noted with pleasure the acceptance by the NPLF and the other warring parties not only of the ECOWAS peace plan for Liberia as embodied in the communique and decisions of 7 August 1990 of the Community Standing Mediation Committee, but also their declaration of a cease-fire, which shall come into effect immediately. The Authority urged that the details for the implementation of the cease-fire should be worked out as soon as possible. It expressed the sincere hope that this declaration of cease-fire would mark the complete cessation of all hostilities as the necessary foundation for the return of lasting peace, stability and political accommodation and reconciliation of Liberia.

Implementation

UN signatory

Page 2, 3. Also attending the summit in an observer capacity were the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the regional representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Other international signatory Page 1, 1:...The session was attended by the following Heads of State and Government or their accredited representatives:

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President of the Republic of Benin

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Chairman of the Popular Front
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Honourable Commandant Facine Toure
Minister of Transport and Works, Representing the President of the Republic of Guinea

Honourable Hasni Ould Didi
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Representing the President of the Republic of Mauritania

Referendum for agreement

No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar

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Enforcement mechanism

No specific mention.

Related cases

No specific mention.

Source

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