

PRESS RELEASE

November 13, 2023.

LIBERIA'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RUNOFF: ALL STAKEHOLDERS MUST ENSURE THE GAINS FROM THE OCTOBER 10 GENERAL ELECTION ARE SUSTAINED

The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS) commends all stakeholders for the significant efforts in ensuring that Liberia's first-round elections were generally free and transparent, as declared by local and international election observers, despite widespread concern in the ECOWAS sub-region about the outcome.

As Liberia goes for a runoff on Tuesday, November 14, WADEMOS urges all stakeholders, particularly the National Election Commission (NEC) and polling officers, political parties and their agents, security, and voters, to exemplify good faith and fidelity to the electoral rules and regulations to sustain the gains made after the first round. The people of Liberia must be proud of the achievement of the October 10 election, which came at a time when democracy is facing many forms of retrogression, including the quality and credibility of election outcomes.

Liberia's upcoming presidential runoff is predicted to be very competitive considering the turnout and the close contest between the two frontrunners, the incumbent president, George Manneh Weah, candidate of the CDC, and Joseph Boakai, former vice president and candidate of the UP, during the October 10 elections.

While commending the NEC for the successful conduct of the first-round election, we urge the Commission to continue to demonstrate transparency, particularly in the results collation and declaration process. We also urge the joint security taskforce to maintain a high degree of vigilance and professionalism on election day, at polling precincts and during the post-election phase.

Political parties and their supporters should respect the country's peace and refrain from misinformation, disinformation or any conduct that is likely to disrupt the smooth conduct of the elections. The stability of the country in the post-election environment is critical to enabling the peaceful resolution of any disagreement that may arise after the election.

Finally, we urge the people of Liberia to remain calm and turn up in their numbers to vote on Tuesday. The commendable example that was set in the first round of the election must be repeated and reinforced to safeguard the integrity not only of elections in the ECOWAS sub-region but also of democracy itself.

We express solidarity with the people of Liberia and look forward to seeing this election runoff spell for the country a new era of hope, freedom and prosperity.

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About WADEMOS Network

The West Africa Democracy Solidarity (“WADEMOS”) Network is a non-partisan, independent civil society-led transnational democracy solidarity network consisting of over thirty-five (35) civil society organizations located in 15 countries in West Africa. The purpose of the WADEMOS Network is to mobilize, coordinate, and leverage the collective power of civil society and other pro-democracy actors, resources, and opportunities within the West African Region to advance, defend, and reinvigorate democracy and promote democratic norms and reforms in the sub-region.

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