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Liberia

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I. Introduction

1. The Republic of Liberia submits its fourth-cycle National Report to the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism – demonstrating the country’s ongoing commitment to protect and promote human rights. This report encapsulates Liberia’s obligations and reinforces its dedication to advancing the full spectrum of human rights for all citizens, in line with international standards.
2. Spanning the period from January 2021 to July 2025, the report is the outcome of inclusive consultations across Liberian society – from government ministries, agencies and commissions (MACs), to the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR), civil society organizations (CSOs), and development partners including the United Nations and accredited foreign missions. These dialogues helped shape a comprehensive overview of human rights progress and challenges. It also details the Government’s response to recommendations made during the third-cycle review, highlighting initial or ongoing implementation efforts.
3. Driven by multi-stakeholder collaboration, this report reflects Liberia’s transparency and accountability in addressing human rights issues. It provides a platform for peer review, where other UN Member States can offer recommendations to strengthen Liberia’s human rights framework. At the same time, by tracking progress on past recommendations alongside current interventions, it positions Liberia for meaningful dialogue and future improvements during the fourth UPR cycle.

II. Methodology and consultation process

4. This report was prepared by the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) under the auspices of the National Human Rights Action Plan Steering Committee,¹ with support from OHCHR.
5. Beginning in April 2025, Consultations were held with representatives from MACs, CSOs, the INCHR, and UN agencies to develop the final draft of Liberia’s Fourth-Cycle Report. Contributions were gathered from representatives from all fifteen counties,² ensuring broad representation of women, youths, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. The consultations were complemented by the review of relevant sector reports and references to official data sources.
6. The report is structured by thematic clusters aligned with the recommendations received during the third cycle review. Each thematic cluster outlines the recommendations addressed, measures taken, and remaining challenges.
7. The report also highlights progress in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals, where relevant.

III. International legal framework and cooperation

Acceptance of international norms and treaty ratification

(Ratification of outstanding treaties and conventions) 103.2

8. Liberia maintains strong cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms, aligning its reporting and review obligations with concerted national efforts. As part of this, the Government has prepared and submitted comprehensive updates to its third UPR cycle, and has maintained proactive engagement with the UPR process and commitment to implement accepted recommendations.
9. In fulfillment of the standing invitation extended by Liberia to all Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2011, the government in October 2023 and December 2024, received and engaged with the working group on Business and Human

Rights,³ and the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons⁴ respectively. The delegations held extensive consultations in Monrovia and a few counties, engaging with a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including government ministries, lawmakers, judiciary, the INCHR, business representatives, civil society groups, trade unions, and affected local communities.

10. In December 2023, while attending the high-level meeting organized under the Human Rights 75 campaign, the Government of Liberia pledged to abolish the death penalty and incorporate into national legislation the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR abolishing the death penalty. The government also committed to ratifying the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography), CRPD, and CEDAW respectively.

11. Liberia has advanced progress in ratifying the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, establishing the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Court). The President of Liberia, in June 2025, submitted a legislation to the Legislature to facilitate the ratification of the protocol.

12. Consistent with this, the INCHR, held a two-day stakeholders' dialogue on the ratification of the Protocol to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, on June 26–27, 2025 in Buchanan city, Grand Bassa County. On July 14, 2025, the INCHR also held a second high level national stakeholders dialogue, attended by an array of government officials, including the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Head of the House's Committee on Civil and Human Rights, Civil Society Organizations, and the UN totaling seventy-five participants, including thirty women. This dialogue was held in Monrovia to raise awareness on the need for the ratification of the Protocol, which led to the subsequent ratification of the instrument by the House of Representatives of the 55th Legislature in July 2025, pending concurrence by the Liberian Senate.

13. Liberia is committed to reviewing the Convention on Migrant Workers (CMW) for ratification. A multi-stakeholder task force, including the Ministry of Labor and civil society, was established in 2024 to develop a roadmap for ratification, aligning with National Labor Migration Policies.

14. The government⁵ received a communication from the OHCHR, which outlined the ratification status of core human rights treaties, and was encouraged to take the necessary steps to advance ratification and domestication.

15. The Government of Liberia affirms its commitment to global disarmament and nuclear safety. Liberia actively participated in negotiations for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and voted in favor of its adoption in July 2017. In 2021, Liberia accepted a Universal Periodic Review recommendation to sign and ratify the TPNW, though the treaty has not yet been formally ratified or signed by Liberia as of mid-2025.

16. Notwithstanding, Liberia is developing a national framework for the peaceful use of nuclear technology, particularly in medical and agricultural applications, including the expansion of radiotherapy services and nuclear-based food security interventions. The Government, through the Environmental Protection Agency, has established a national radiation safety and protection program aligned with six key IAEA safety conventions and is working to establish an independent nuclear regulatory body⁶. A stakeholder workshop to review the TPNW in alignment with national security priorities is underway.

17. In July 2025, a high-level UN delegation headed by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency visited Liberia to hold talks with the Government of Liberia to discuss strategy on strengthening nuclear technology, including health, agriculture, energy and water management and environmental protection. Presently, Liberia is taking steps to establish an independent nuclear regulatory body.

18. Although ratification of these pending Optional Protocols, along other treaty commitments were included in the Ministry of Justice workplan 2024, they were not fully implemented due to limited financial and human resources, as well as competing national priorities. This constrained the Ministry's capacity to advance the process in a timely manner. The forthcoming third national human rights action plan (2025-2030), currently being developed, explicitly prioritizes the completion of all outstanding ratifications for Optional Protocols that Liberia has already signed or acceded to. These are now formally included as

high-priority objectives, reflecting the Government's renewed commitment to fulfilling its international treaty obligations.

19. To strengthen respect and protection of human rights in the maritime sector, the government in June of 2025, completed the drafting of an inter-agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), which is designed to formalize and strengthen collaboration among key government institutions such as National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority, Liberia Maritime Authority, Liberia Coast Guard, Ministry of Justice, National Police, Immigration Services, National Port Authority, and terminal operators in exercising rigorous port controls over foreign flagged fishing vessels calling at Monrovia and other ports. Its primary purpose is to unify efforts in applying national and international laws to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The MOU establishes standard protocols for advance notification, risk-based inspection, information sharing, and joint enforcement, recognizing PSMA as a cost-effective means to safeguard marine resources and disrupt fisheries related criminal activities.

20. To enhance credibility and attract donor support, Liberia engages with various bilateral, regional, and international partners, including FCWC, INTERPOL, and the EU, for technical assistance and training. Participation in regional networks aids in tracking illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing threats, coordinating enforcement, and sharing intelligence on rogue vessels. Overall, the PSMA MOU aims to align national enforcement with regional frameworks to close loopholes exploited by IUU operators.

21. Liberia joined members countries of the Mano River Union (MRU) under the banner of the African Union Borders Program, from June 16–19, 2025, at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Ministerial Complex, to set up a joint technical commission for the reaffirmation of land borders and the elimination of maritime boundaries between Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia border and, Guinea, Sierra Leone border, to build capacity on border governance, and develop a roadmap for the establishment of a technical commission.

IV. Normative framework

A. Constitutional and legislative framework

(Harmonization of Customary law, Constitutional Reform) 103.22, 103.36, 103.37, 103.54, 103.56, 103.58

Constitutional reform process

22. Public discussions on constitutional reform are ongoing to address provisions of the Liberian Constitution in order to align them with international human rights standards. On July 22, 2025, during his confirmation hearing, an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court bench stressed the need for constitutional reform.

Harmonization of customary laws

23. Liberia has taken steps to align customary laws with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women through various measures, including amending laws, implementing gender policies, and addressing harmful practices. The Law Reform Commission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection is currently reviewing all discriminatory laws in Liberia. The government, under this arrangement, has endeavored to increase maternity leave from two months to three months.⁷ A gender mainstreaming manual is also being developed by the Liberian Land Authority (LLA) as broader effort to enhance gender safeguard within the land sector. The Authority has also established a monitoring and evaluation unit for effective monitoring of the Liberia Land Act. This is to further enhance the Land Rights Act of 2018, to increase women's access to land ownership and governance.

24. In regards to constitutional reform in light of the right to citizenship, Liberia has taken significant legal steps to secure rights to dual citizenship: on July 22, 2022, the National

Legislature amended the 1973 Aliens and Nationality Law and repealed the longstanding ban on dual citizenship, allowing Liberian-born individuals, including those who previously lost their citizenship, to hold dual nationality⁸ while recognizing rights of citizenship retroactively.

B. National action plans

(Implement National Human Rights Action Plan and other national action plans) 103.23, 103.200

National Human Rights Action Plan

25. The NHRAP is the overarching plan for the implementation of all rights-based initiatives to advance the promotion and protection of human rights in Liberia. The country has successfully implemented its first and second plans, while the drafting of the third action plan 2025 - 2030 is in progress.

National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights

26. Liberia formally adopted its first National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAPBHR) 2024-2028 on 14 August 2024, making it the fourth country in Africa to have a plan. The five-year plan, led by the Ministries of Justice and Labor, with technical and financial support from the UNCT, outlines national priorities to align domestic business conduct with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

27. Major milestones marked the NAPBHR's development between October 2023 and June 2025. A validation session followed in January 2024, leading to Cabinet approval and culminating in the launch in August 2024, by the Vice President of Liberia, and attended by more than 120 stakeholders including members of the international community. A National Steering Committee on Business and Human Rights (NSCBHR), chaired by the MoJ and co-chaired by MoL, was activated to guide implementation, and further refined during an October 2024 technical meeting in Buchanan into a two-tier structure: a high-level Steering Committee, and a Technical Committee. The first Technical Committee meeting took place at the INCHR in April 2025, followed by a national stakeholders' conference in June 2025.

28. Joint field missions by the MoJ, MoL, NBC, the INCHR, were conducted across Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Grand Bassa, Nimba, and Margibi Counties between 2023 and June 2025. Several companies were engaged, identifying human rights challenges and fostering stakeholders' dialogues. For instance, during a November 2024 awareness session, 39 participants from companies, communities and civil society received training on monitoring and advocacy. Outcomes included a company signing a Collective Bargaining Agreement on 1 May 2025 and a "Release and Settlement" to relocate 50 affected families on 27 May 2025. In May 2025, the President revoked the operating license of a well-known company in Gbarpolu County following sustained community complaints. This is amongst the first enforcement actions since the NAPBHR's adoption.

29. The National Action Plan for Child Welfare and Protection (2021-2025) has been actively implemented, with 60% of planned activities completed at the end of 2024.⁹ Over 5,000 children benefited from school feeding programs, and 1,200 community health workers were trained to support child protection in 10 of the 15 counties. The Ministry of Gender's budget increased by 8% in 2023, enabling child protection units to operate in 5 counties. Partnerships with UNICEF supported 15 child-friendly spaces, enhancing welfare and protection for vulnerable children.

C. National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)

(Strengthening the Capacity of the INCHR) 103.26–103.32

30. The Government of Liberia has continued to take the necessary steps to strengthen the capacity of the INCHR by increasing its 2024 and 2025 budgets by 12%, for programs, and

to ensure that the INCHR meets its financial obligations to GANHRI, NANHRI, and NAHRI-WA. This has enabled the commission to have an active voice in the international network organization.

31. In December 2023, the INCHR was reviewed by GANHRI, and its Category “A Status” National Human Rights Institution was retained, a significant signal of institutional independence and compliance with international standards (the Paris Principles). The Commission also received an accreditation as an affiliate member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights and submitted its first Human Rights Situation Report on Liberia to the Commission at the 83rd Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights in Banjul, the Gambia, on May 27, 2025.

National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)

(Operationalization of National Mechanisms) 103.20

32. To strengthen its compliance with international human rights obligations, the Government of Liberia has taken significant steps to operationalize and enhance the capacity of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up (NMRF). In 2023, with technical support from OHCHR, an intensive three-day training was held in Monrovia for approximately 35 participants, including focal points from key ministries, agencies, the INCHR, and civil society organizations. The training aimed to reinforce the NMRF’s ability to coordinate reporting processes and reduce the backlog of treaty body submissions.

33. Since its reactivation, the NMRF has facilitated the submission of several key reports, including Liberia’s third-cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report, the periodic report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the initial report under the Convention against Torture (CAT), the combined fourth to sixth reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the State party response to recommendations of the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT), and the report under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In 2024, with continued technical and logistical support from OHCHR, the Ministry of Justice has led regular periodic NMRF meetings to coordinate data collection and monitor progress on pending reports.

34. While challenges persist, including the absence of a centralized human rights data repository, resource constraints, and delays in the implementation of certain recommendations such as those from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the revitalized NMRF represents a critical advancement in Liberia’s human rights infrastructure. It has strengthened national coordination, improved treaty body engagement, and reinforced the country’s international accountability framework.

D. National Preventive Mechanism (NPM)

(Implementing OP-CAT) 103.33, 103.34

35. To advance compliance with Article 17 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), the Government of Liberia has taken concrete steps toward establishing a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). In 2024, Liberia formally submitted a proposal to the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT) requesting voluntary funding to support the NPM’s establishment. The project was accepted and the proposed funding, once disbursed, will be used to conduct inclusive national consultations on the appropriate NPM model for Liberia, taking into account financial, logistical, and human resource considerations.

36. Preliminary groundwork began in 2023 through consultations with relevant stakeholders and a review of OPCAT requirements. In the interim, a monthly human rights prison coordination platform¹⁰ comprising government agencies, the INCHR, civil society organizations, and international partners including UN agencies, has been serving as an ad hoc mechanism for oversight of detention conditions. This platform has facilitated dialogue, monitoring, and incremental reforms, including a 10% increase in the national prison food budget in 2024, reflecting a commitment to improving conditions of detention.

37. While full ratification of OPCAT remains under active consideration, the Government's efforts to initiate legal and institutional frameworks for the NPM highlight Liberia's determination to strengthen preventive oversight and align with international human rights standards. These steps underscore a renewed national resolve to close longstanding compliance gaps and promote humane conditions in places of detention.

V. Civil and political rights

A. Administration of justice, rule of law, and fair trial

(Access to justice, condition of detention, death penalty) 103.33, 103.34, 103.60–103.80, 103.137)

Access to justice

38. In an effort to strengthen access to justice, the Government of Liberia has notably equipped county attorneys with a fleet of 22 vehicles, delivered in January 2025 to enhance mobility and prosecutorial reach across all 15 counties. Around the same period, additional vehicles were procured for circuit court judges nationwide, reflecting a broader governmental commitment to improving judicial efficiency and reducing delays caused by limited transportation to hard-to-reach areas.

39. These investments reflect the Government's commitment to fulfilling its human rights obligations to ensure equal access to justice for all, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16.3 on promoting the rule of law and ensuring access to justice.

40. The Government of Liberia has committed US \$200,000 to initiate assessments and technical preparations for constructing a new Ministry of Justice complex. This facility will centralize the Ministry's operations under one roof, enhancing administrative efficiency and improving coordination within the justice sector. The funding covers feasibility studies, site assessment, architectural planning, and other technical modalities needed to launch the full construction phase in due course. This is to address the huge expenses government has incurred from rental over the past twenty-two (22) years.

41. The Judiciary has also embarked on its own infrastructure expansion under a broader programme of judicial modernization. On 20 January 2025, the Chief Justice presided over the groundbreaking ceremony for a new Fourth Judicial Circuit Court complex in Philadelphia Township, Harper City, Maryland County. The project, budgeted at US \$3.2 million, is expected to be completed within 18 months. In parallel, the Judiciary has initiated the construction of two new buildings to host magisterial courts in Montserrado County, specifically in Gardnerville and Brewerville, to expand access to justice and reduce caseloads in metropolitan courts.

Conditions of prisons facilities

42. The Government of Liberia has undertaken important measures to improve conditions in correctional facilities and to align its prison system with international human rights standards, particularly the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules). To address overcrowding and inadequate infrastructure, the Government allocated funding to the tune of US\$600,000.00 in FY 2025 under the Public Sector Investment Program (PSIP) for the renovation of six prison facilities across Liberia to decongest existing facilities and ensure humane detention conditions.

43. To reduce the number of pretrial detainees, the Government continued implementation of the Magistrate Sitting Program, which expedites hearings for minor offenses and is currently being piloted in Montserrado, Bong, and Nimba counties, with plans to extend to Margibi. As of December 2024, the total number of cases on the docket of the MSP Program at the Monrovia Central Prison (MCP) was 853; of this number, 841 were disposed of. The program is currently in operation in Montserrado and Bong Counties only. Plans are in place to extend this program to Margibi County.

44. Executive clemency has also been granted to over 100 inmates between 2023 and 2024, helping to ease congestion in correctional facilities. In commemoration of the 2025 Independence Day Celebration of the Republic of Liberia, the President granted executive clemency to seventy-five (75) inmates from prisons around the country, which included four (4) women, and one (1) juvenile.

45. Special attention has been given to juvenile justice. Renovations were undertaken at the juvenile wing of the Monrovia Central Prison with support from UNICEF, and juvenile holding facilities were improved in Sanniquellie, Nimba County. These efforts support the separation of juveniles from adults in detention, in line with international standards.

46. The Government, in collaboration with development partners and civil society organizations, has provided vocational training and legal aid services to detainees to support their rehabilitation and reintegration. Efforts to ensure the timely and regular provision of basic services such as sanitation, food distribution, and medical care have been enhanced across several prisons. Additionally, uniforms have been supplied to corrections officers to improve professionalism and accountability.

47. The Government also initiated legal reforms, including validation of the draft Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Bill, which aims to reduce the number of people detained for minor and civil cases. The Liberia Corrections Service Bill which aims to provide the legal framework for autonomy and strengthen operational standards for the institution, has been deliberated by the legislature and passed by the house of Senate, on 13 June 2025, pending concurrence by the House of Representatives.

48. Oversight mechanisms have been reinforced through regular monitoring by the INCHR and through inter-agency¹¹ coordination platforms that promote compliance with human rights standards. These combined efforts reflect the Government's ongoing commitment to improving prison conditions and promoting the rights and dignity of all persons deprived of their liberty.

49. In an effort to address the drug pandemic, and to advance human rights in line with the ARREST Agenda, particularly under the pillars of Sanitation & Health, Rule of Law, and Human Capital, the Government of Liberia allocated USD 800,000 in the 2025 national budget under its Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) to support drug prevention, treatment, and enforcement efforts grounded in justice and accountability. Between January and July 2025, the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) arrested 93 suspected drug traffickers, including 8 foreigners, and seized 194.25 kg of illicit drugs with an estimated street value of USD 438,958.65. To further strengthen institutional capacity, the government procured 15 vehicles and facilitated basic training for 200 new LDEA recruits.

Death penalty 103.60–103.75

50. The Government of the Republic of Liberia reaffirms its commitment to upholding its international human rights obligations, including those under the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR-OP2), which it acceded in 2005 with the expressed aim of abolishing the death penalty in the national legal framework.

51. In keeping with this commitment, the Government has taken significant steps to ensure “de jure” abolition of the death penalty from Liberia’s legal framework. In July 2022, the Liberian Senate passed a bill to abolish the death penalty. However, recognizing the need to align with the provisions of the ICCPR-OP2, and in response to national and international consultations, the bill was subsequently recalled for revision. A revised draft of the legislation was prepared to ensure the removal of the death penalty and to address related provisions that may amount to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment, in line with Liberia’s broader human rights obligations.

52. On 18 March 2025, the Ministry of Justice concluded a national validation exercise for the draft Act to Amend Title 26 of the Liberian Code of Laws Revised, specifically targeting amendments to Chapters 11, 14, 15, and 50 of the Penal Law, relating to sentencing and penalties. This legislative reform, which is currently pending cabinet approval, reflects Liberia’s determination to harmonize domestic law with its international treaty obligations.

53. These efforts align with Sustainable Development Goal 16, particularly Target 16.1, which promotes the reduction of all forms of violence, and Target 16.3, which calls for equal access to justice and the upholding of the rule of law.

B. Good governance and anti-corruption

Recommendation 103.139

54. Liberia has made efforts to strengthen good governance and the fight against corruption. Key to these efforts is the Local Government Act (LGA-2018). With a 10-year implementation plan, the Act was passed to devolve power, delegate authority, and resources to local governments for improved citizen participation in decision-making and promote socioeconomic development.

55. The Liberian Revenue Sharing Act, passed in 2022, further strengthens the capacity of local government actors to collect and retain a portion of revenues generated within their jurisdictions. This act remains a key component of Liberia's decentralization agenda under the AAID, aimed at empowering local governments to manage their finances, promote economic development, and improve public services.

56. The Government of Liberia has made significant strides in strengthening the legislative framework to empower the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) with enhanced prosecutorial authority and political independence. These reforms are part of a broader initiative to combat corruption, improve governance, and promote economic growth.

57. In 2022, the government enacted a new LACC Act, which replaced the 2008 version and restored the commission's direct prosecutorial powers, enabling it to independently investigate and prosecute corruption offenses. The Act also mandates annual reporting to both the Legislature and the Executive, increasing accountability.

58. To further ensure LACC's independence, commissioners now serve fixed terms and can only be removed through a legally defined process. While the LACC's operational and legal autonomy has improved, financial independence is still a work in progress. The commission has also gained the authority to require and verify asset declarations from public officials, which aids in detecting illicit enrichment and promoting integrity in public service. In 2025, the President suspended 450 members of the executive branch government officials for failing to declare their assets.

59. In 2024, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) concluded investigations into 24 cases, with 14 completed during the second and third quarters (7 each), and 10 finalized in the fourth quarter. All 24 cases were submitted to the Board of Commissioners and the Department of Prosecution for review. Regarding prosecution, six high-profile corruption cases were forwarded to court. Of these, two resulted in convictions, one ended in a hung jury, and three cases remain ongoing (involving the Financial Intelligence Agency, LISGIS, and the Margibi County Health Team).¹² These reforms and enforcement efforts align with Sustainable Development Goal 16, particularly Target 16.5, which focuses on substantially reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms, and Target 16.6, which aims to develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.

60. The National Integrity Forum (NIF), a multi-stakeholder platform including institutions such as LACC, PPCC, GAC, FIU, LEITI, and CENTAL, coordinates efforts to combat corruption and bolster good governance. Supported under CENTAL's anti-corruption program, NIF has rolled out a fees-posting initiative: public notices and fee billboards have been placed at key agencies such as the Liberia Immigration Service, NASSCORP, and passport and transport departments to openly display service costs and procedures.

C. Transitional justice

(Implementation of the truth and reconciliation recommendation) 103.131–103.133, 103.135, 103.136

61. To promote accountability, reconciliation, and respect for victims' rights, the Government of Liberia has taken concrete steps to advance transitional justice. A major milestone was the issuance of Executive Order No. 131 on 2 May 2024, establishing the Office for the Establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court (OWECC-L), renewed under Executive Order No. 148 on 30 April 2025. The Office is mandated to develop the legal and institutional framework for a War and Economic Crimes Court (WECC) addressing crimes committed between 1979 and 2003 and a National Anti-Corruption Court (NACC) addressing acts of corruption between 1979 to date. OWECC-L operates semi-independently with an annual budget of USD 2 million and reports to the President through the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs. Consistent with this commitment, the Government, on Friday, August 1, 2025, released the first US\$300,000.00 to OWECC-L, constituting 15% of the total budgetary support committed.

62. Since its establishment, OWECC-L has prioritized inclusive consultations, developed a Roadmap for the WECC and NACC in May 2025, and launched a Public Outreach and Communication Strategy in July 2025, with technical support from OHCHR and the UNCT. Between 1 and 4 April 2025, OWECC-L received training on the best international practices to design victim-centered, human rights-based accountability mechanisms.

63. To support the NACC, OHCHR and partners facilitated a regional exchange in May 2024 where LACC and the INCHR officials visited Sierra Leone to study anti-corruption collaboration models. In September 2024, OHCHR co-organized with the Ministry of Justice a regional dialogue, *"Stronger National and Regional Collaboration for Enhanced Human Rights Advocacy and the Fight Against Corruption,"*. The event brought together the national human rights institutions and anti-corruption bodies from Liberia and Sierra Leone to foster collaboration in addressing governance challenges and integrating human rights into anti-corruption strategies.

64. In April 2025, Liberia participated in a regional workshop in Banjul on leveraging UN mechanisms for anti-corruption and human rights. Building on these, a high-level national dialogue was held on 8 July 2025, which served as a precursor to a two-day working session on collaboration and complementarity between integrity institutions and OWECC-L on accountability for corruption and human rights violations, which were held from 9–10 July 2025. These activities were attended by over 100 participants from the Executive, Legislature, and National Integrity Institutions, followed by a two-day working session organized by OWECC-L and OHCHR to promote synergy among stakeholders.

65. In 2024, community dialogues were held in five counties to foster public engagement in transitional justice. These efforts contribute directly to Sustainable Development Goal 16, particularly Targets 16.1 and 16.3, which call for promoting peaceful and inclusive societies and ensuring equal access to justice for all, by fostering inclusive participation, addressing past human rights violations, and reinforcing rule of law mechanisms.

66. On grassroots reconciliation, the INCHR conducted five district-level Palava Hut hearings in Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, Rivercess, Bong, and Gbarpolu Counties, and six reconciliation dialogues in Lofa during the period under review. These forums addressed 355 war-related cases, involving 353 victims (158 men, 195 women) and 209 alleged perpetrators (204 men, 5 women).

67. To promote remembrance and national healing, the Government constructed 12 memorials for victims of the conflict. In June–July 2025, and led symbolic acts of reconciliation, by conducting dignified reburial of former President Samuel Doe, on 27 June, and a symbolic state funeral for President William R. Tolbert and his officials on 1 July 2025. On 5 July 2025, the President issued Liberia's first official public apology to victims and declared a "National Healing, Reconciliation, and Unity Day".

68. Despite resource constraints, the operationalization of OWECC-L, efforts toward justice and reparations, and symbolic national gestures represent transformative steps in

Liberia's pursuit of truth, justice, and unity. Continued support from OHCHR, the UN Country Team, and international partners underscores the Government's commitment to accountability and lasting peace.

D. Right to participate in public affairs and voting

(Voting rights and women's participation) 103.140, 103.191, 103.196, 103.198

69. As a State Party to CEDAW, Liberia affirms that temporary special measures such as gender quotas are consistent with Article 4(1) of the Convention and vital for accelerating women's political representation. In 2005, informal electoral guidelines encouraged political parties to nominate at least 30% women, but compliance was limited due to the non-binding nature of the guidance.

70. On 11 May 2023, the National Elections Commission (NEC) and 25 registered political entities voluntarily signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) committing to the 30% gender quota for the October 2023 elections. Despite this political will, only two parties met the target, and women constituted just 15.9% of the 533 registered legislative aspirants.

71. To address structural barriers to women's political participation, the Government, with United Nations Country Team (UNCT) support, launched a USD 2 million initiative in February 2022 titled Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics. It supported mentoring, campaign preparedness, and the creation of a national young women's political council. Over 225 mentees across all 15 counties were trained, and a leadership clinic and database of qualified women were established.

72. To address electoral violence, the NEC together with support from the UNCT developed a Violence Against Women in Elections and Politics (VAWIE/P) Protocol, endorsed by 29 of 32 registered parties by mid-2023. Civil society and the Ministry of Gender conducted electoral monitoring and awareness campaigns (e.g., "Women, Let's Move!"), resolving 114 of 139 reported incidents. In April 2024, the Women's Legislative Caucus led a strategic planning retreat to enhance women's representation.

73. Under the Liberia Electoral Support Project Plus (LESP+, 2023–2026), supported by development partners, the Government is advancing a roadmap for binding temporary special measures to increase women's representation, in line with SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 16 on inclusive institutions.

74. Additionally, prior to the 2023 general elections, the Government, with the UNCT support, trained over 3,000 election security personnel including 741 women on human rights and electoral conduct. This initiative aimed to improve early warning capacity and professionalism in line with SDG 16.

VI. Economic, social and cultural rights

A. Right to development and poverty reduction

(Strengthening corporation and mobilization of resources) 103.150–103.157, 103.215

75. In January 2025, the Government of Liberia launched the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID), a five-year national development plan (2025–2029) grounded in principles of inclusivity, justice, sustainability, and local ownership. Through six strategic pillars, including governance and rule of law, human capital development, sanitation, and health, the plan aims to advance economic and social rights by diversifying the economy, modernizing infrastructure, and improving access to clean water, healthcare, and education, particularly for youth, women, and persons with disabilities.

76. To promote human rights and reduce poverty, AAID targets a reduction in multidimensional poverty from 45% to 36% and an increase in formal employment from

12.4% to 30% by 2029. Additionally, the policy addresses gender equality, youth employment, climate resilience, and digital access.

77. Under the Human Capital Development pillar, the Government has committed to reform the education sector. This includes constructing climate-resilient schools in all 15 counties, expanding STEM and TVET programs, and increasing inclusion of children with disabilities by at least 10%. The AAID has also secured a grant from the Global Partnership for Education and the World Bank to implement the Excellence in Learning in Liberia Program, which supports early childhood and primary education through school renovation, curriculum enhancement, and digital learning.¹³ These development priorities are aligned with multiple Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 1, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 8, and SDG 10, reinforcing Liberia's commitment to inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development.

78. Moreover, the Government has enhanced cooperation with development partners under frameworks such as Agenda 2030 and the World Bank's Country Partnership Framework, promoting coordinated assistance in job creation and education. Implementation is overseen by a multi-tiered coordination mechanism led by the President through the Liberia Reconstruction and Development Committee (LRDC) and a National Steering Committee.

79. To support inclusive economic growth, the Government is exploring innovative financing mechanisms, including green and diaspora bonds, and has, in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB) launched the Youth Entrepreneurship and Investment Bank (YEIB) to empower youth-led innovation and private sector development.

80. Liberia operates a national social protection system managed by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. It includes cash transfers, livelihood support, and women economic empowerment programs aimed at vulnerable households, including families, older persons, persons with disabilities and children. For instance, the National Social Protection Steering Committee (NSPSC), which oversees households' registration and cash transfers, transferred cash to over 17,000 Liberians in 2022.¹⁴ In 2024, 5,800 households constituting 3,114 females and 2,686 males in 58 communities out of 170 communities benefited from jobs and skill trainings in the two counties, Montserrado and Margibi Counties respectively. An additional 16,200 individuals benefitted from the household social cash transfer program in Bomi, Bong, Gbapolu, Nimba, Cape Mount, Lofa, Sinoe, Grand Bassa, Grand Kru, Rivercess, and Rivergee.¹⁵ The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) officially incorporated village Savings & Loans Associations into its 2025 to 2029 Strategic Plan, targeting financial inclusion under one of its five pillars.

B. Right to health

(Expanding health care services) 103.41, 103.158, 103.159, 103.160, 103.161, 103.162, 103.163, 103.164, 103.165, 103.166, 103.167, 103.168, 103.171, 103.172

81. Liberia has implemented several national health policies and programs aimed at improving care for vulnerable populations, focusing on inclusivity and universal access to essential health services. Notable initiatives include the National Community Health Program (NCHP), the Liberia National Health Policy 2022–2031, the Health Sector Strategic Plan (2022–2026), and the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) aimed at achieving universal health coverage. Additionally, the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health and Nutrition Policy (RMNCAH+N) for 2024–2031, along with broad-based social protection policies, further support these goals.

82. Efforts to expand healthcare services across Liberia include improvements in physical infrastructure, community-based service delivery, and health system planning. Key initiatives like health workforce expansion, infrastructure improvements, the Community Health Assistant (CHA) program, and health financing reforms are underway, though achieving equitable and sustainable healthcare remains a work in progress.

83. To enhance community and preventive health care, recommendations emphasize strengthening primary health care systems, building the capacity of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL), promoting preventive measures, and reinforcing legal

frameworks for public health. Long-term planning, sustained investment, and inclusive partnerships are essential for ensuring quality health care for all Liberians.

84. Addressing barriers to healthcare access, particularly for women, requires a gender-sensitive approach involving community engagement, health education campaigns, and increasing the number of trained female health workers. Comprehensive strategies must also safeguard the rights of women and girls in areas like maternal, sexual, and reproductive health, focusing on legal reforms, access to services, education, and community engagement to combat gender-based violence.

85. As part of its broader health sector strategic plan, the Ministry of Health is prioritizing activities to enhance access to reproductive services. This includes improving training for reproductive health care providers and strengthening the capacity of midwives and nurses.

86. To ensure and expand access to safe and legal abortion, Liberia has amended its public health law, reducing the legal gestational period from 24 to 18 weeks. Additionally, the government has implemented several key measures: increasing the percentage of skilled birth attendance from 49.6% to 50%, ensuring the availability of emergency obstetric and newborn services around the clock, and expanding the role of community health workers to provide essential services in remote areas.

C. Right to education

(Quality and inclusive education) 103.173, 103.177, 103.179, 103.181, 103.182, 103.183

87. The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Education, has taken important steps to improve access to quality and inclusive education for all. To strengthen service delivery, the Government has invested in public-private partnerships, teacher training, and school infrastructure development, notably under the Liberia Education Advancement Program (LEAP). In July 2025, the Government launched the Excellence in Learning in Liberia (EXCEL) Project, a landmark national initiative to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for children in early childhood and primary education. The \$88.7 million program, the largest foundational education investment in Liberia's history, is funded through a \$60 million concessional credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and a \$28.7 million grant from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). EXCEL is expected to benefit over 362,000 students, teachers, and education staff across 2,337 public schools in all 15 counties, delivering new learning materials in literacy and numeracy to 350,000 students from pre-primary through Grade 6.

88. In order to align with SDG4 and fulfill its commitment to expanding equitable and accessible education, the government increased the budgetary allocation to education by 32.91% in the FY 2025 compared to the previous year. Despite these advances, Liberia continues to face challenges, including the need for stronger data systems and more robust resource allocation.

D. Labor rights and right to work

(Adequate protection of the right to work) 103.149

89. Liberia is taking steps to protect the right to work and ensure just and favorable conditions of employment, particularly for women who remain disproportionately vulnerable in both the formal and informal sectors. These efforts are underpinned by constitutional guarantees and reinforced through national legislation and policies aimed at promoting gender equality, preventing workplace discrimination, and ensuring occupational safety. The Government continues to implement measures that strengthen labor rights protections, support women's economic empowerment, and improve working conditions across sectors, in line with its obligations under international human rights instruments and its national development priorities.

VII. Vulnerable groups and non-discrimination

A. Equality and non-discrimination

(Addressing stigma, discrimination, and harmful practices) 103.39, 103.40, 103.42, 103.47, 103.48, 103.55, 103.59, 103.90, 103.199

90. Since February 2022, the Government of Liberia has made notable progress in addressing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), sexual gender-based violence (SGBV), and broader gender discrimination through legal, policy, and cultural interventions grounded in a human rights-based approach.

Legal and structural reforms

91. The Government has enacted and is enforcing several legal instruments that reinforce women's rights, including the Domestic Violence Act, which enhances protection for women and girls, including in educational and domestic settings, the Land Rights Law, and Local Government Act, which support women's equal access to land and representation in governance, contributing to broader gender parity and economic empowerment. In addition, the Rape Law (2006), criminalizes marital rape with up to 7 years imprisonment. Fifty (50) marital rape cases were prosecuted from 2021–2024, with a 15% conviction rate.¹⁶

Gender equality and policy reform

92. Liberia's Revised National Gender Policy (2018–2022) has served as the primary instrument to guide national efforts toward gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE). The policy promotes gender mainstreaming in development planning, ensures equal participation in decision-making, and strengthens institutional mechanisms to uphold the rights of women and men alike.

93. Recognizing the evolving nature of gender challenges, the Government has initiated efforts to revise and update the National Gender Policy, aiming to more comprehensively address issues such as SGBV, FGM, and domestic violence in line with current realities and international standards. In addition, Liberia continues to implement the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP-WPS), further emphasizing women's participation in peacebuilding and governance, and aligning with UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

94. In February 2022, Executive Order 92 was issued by the President of Liberia, establishing a three-year nationwide moratorium on FGM. This was reinforced by a parallel declaration from the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia (NACCEL). The moratorium triggered national awareness and dialogue on the harmful effects of FGM. On March 25, 2025, the Minister of Internal Affairs and the National Council of Chiefs of the Republic of Liberia formulated and adopted an administrative policy suspending all traditional practices related to Poro and Sande societies¹⁷ nationwide, pending the development of regulations and policies to manage the traditional sector.

95. While the Domestic Violence Act (2019) criminalizes FGM for girls under 18, and the Children's Law (2011) prohibits harmful traditional practices against children, draft legislation to fully criminalize FGM for all ages remains under review by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), the Ministry of Justice, and traditional leaders.

96. Complementary efforts have engaged traditional leaders and practitioners to end FGM through "initiation without mutilation" ceremonies. Supported by the UN Spotlight Initiative, UN Women, the European Union, and civil society organizations, over 800 former FGM practitioners across Nimba, Bong, Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, and Lofa Counties have symbolically surrendered their tools and received vocational training, business support, and climate-smart agricultural assistance as alternative livelihood options.

97. Through these ongoing initiatives, led by the MoGCSP and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Government of Liberia continues to build community consensus, protect girls' bodily autonomy, and advocate for the enactment of comprehensive legislation to permanently outlaw FGM for all ages.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

(103.81–103.97, 103.99–103.116)

98. To strengthen prevention and response to SGBV, the Government of Liberia launched the National Roadmap on Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (2020–2022). The roadmap aims to expand services for survivors, improve intersectoral coordination, and shift harmful norms through policy and advocacy. Key components of its implementation include: public dissemination of progress on roadmap implementation to ensure accountability and transparency; establishment of sexual and gender harassment committees in all government ministries, with a requirement that 50% of members be women; publication of annual reports by these committees on each ministry's website to increase institutional accountability and promote a zero-tolerance culture for gender-based violence in public institutions.

99. The MoGCSP also initiated several milestone activities with verifiable deliverables during the roadmap implementation period (2021–2022): Post Module Tests (PMTs) in two counties to identify the poorest and most vulnerable households and inform anti-poverty and protection measures; civil society mapping to strengthen participation and inclusive implementation of GBV response initiatives; development of a national platform to track all GBV cases, linking key justice and social service institutions, including the Liberia National Police, judiciary, health system to ensure due process and survivor-centered justice.

100. These efforts are part of a broader commitment to gender equality and social justice, contributing to Liberia's obligations under CEDAW, the Maputo Protocol, and the Sustainable Development Goals (particularly Goals 5 and 16).

B. Rights of persons with disabilities

101. The Government of Liberia continues to demonstrate commitment to promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with its obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and in alignment with SDGs 10 and SDGs 16. Central to this effort is the National Action Plan (NAP) for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, which initially covered the period 2018–2022 and has now been renewed for 2023–2027. The NAP provides a strategic framework to eliminate discrimination, promote accessibility, and ensure full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in all spheres of public life.

102. Key actions taken by the Government include: the strengthening of institutional support through the National Commission on Disabilities (NCD) and the MoGCSP; implementing inclusive education policies to guarantee access to learning for children with disabilities; mainstreaming of disability rights into national development plans and public service delivery, including health, education, justice, and employment sectors; targeting support for both persons with disabilities and older adults in national policy frameworks; prioritizing the rights of persons with disabilities in humanitarian programming. The NCD is currently drafting a National Disability Law to promote accessibility in public schools and revise the national curriculum to accommodate diverse learning needs. The National Policy on Free and Compulsory Primary Education explicitly includes children with disabilities, reinforcing the principle of education for all.

103. In line with its gender equality commitments, the Second Lady of Liberia hosted a National Conference on the Status of Women with Disabilities on 5 March 2025, aiming to address critical challenges faced by women with disabilities and foster their empowerment. Following the conference, a technical committee was established to work out modalities for the implementation of a pilot economic start-up initiative targeting 300 women with disabilities in 2025.

104. In addition, relevant MACs of Government are active members of the Alliance on Disability in Liberia, a multi-stakeholder platform that advocates for the full implementation of the CRPD. The Alliance includes civil society organizations, and international actors such as Liberia – Association Friends of Raoul Fallereau-Liberia (AIFO-Liberia), the Carter Center, Humanity Inclusion, Sight-savers, and National Union of Organizations of the Disabled (NUOD). The Government's active engagement with the Alliance on Disability in Liberia and other stakeholders reflects its recognition that inclusive development must be grounded in human rights.

105. Finally, the Government, through the National Commission on Disabilities, has initiated the drafting of a National Disability Bill to be submitted to the Legislature for passage into Law. The Bill seeks to domesticate the UNCRPD into a legal framework that will ensure not only compliance but also impose penalties for no compliance in both public and private sectors. Liberia remains committed to building a society where persons with disabilities, especially women and girls, enjoy full participation, equality, and dignity.

C. Children's rights

(Protecting girls against child marriage, forced labor, exploitation, and abuse) 103.98, 103.128, 103.129, 103.130, 103.203–103.210, 103.211, 103.212, 103.213

106. Liberia is committed to protecting girls from harmful traditional practices including child/early marriage and FGM. The Children's Law (2011) sets the marriage age at 18, and a 2023 campaign reduced early marriage rates from 36% to 30% in many counties.¹⁸ The Customary Marriage Law is also being reviewed to adjust the customary age for marriage from 16 years to 18 years. In furtherance of this, the government through the MoGCSP conducted awareness campaigns in 10 counties in 2024 that reached 15,000 people, promoting gender equality and child protection, with plans to expand nationwide in the near future.

Protection against exploitation and child labor

107. Liberia has significantly strengthened protections against child exploitation and labor through a robust institutional and legal framework. The Child Labor Division,¹⁹ established in 2004 following ratification of ILO Convention No. 182 in 2003 and later Convention No. 138 in 2019, leads coordinated national efforts on policy, monitoring, and stakeholder collaboration. A major milestone came in June 2022, when the Government formally approved Hazardous and Light Work Lists, clearly defining permissible and prohibited work by age, and began drafting a dedicated child labor law with support from international and other partners. On the ground, a 2023 mapping initiative in Montserrado County documented over 1,800 community leaders for targeted outreach on child labor and trafficking issues. Enforcement efforts involve the National Commission on Child Labor alongside the Ministries of Labor, Justice, and Gender, as well as Liberia National Police, though limited funding, staffing, and legal enforcement limit effectiveness. Awareness campaigns led by ILO, UNICEF, and NGOs utilize peer education, media outreach, and training across counties. Complementing these efforts, Liberia enforces free basic education through grade nine (via Section 9 of the Children's Law) while UNICEF and partners work to overcome barriers, such as school fees, uniforms, and child labor pressures, through teacher training, school health clubs, community radio, and targeted support for marginalized children.

Diversity and inclusion

(Protecting Minorities Rights, PLHIV) 103.39, 103.40, 103.42, 103.48, 103.55, 103.59, 103.90, 103.99, 103.43–103.57

108. Liberia remains firmly committed to the protection and promotion of the human rights of all its citizens, in line with its constitutional values and international obligations. This commitment includes efforts to address all forms of discrimination, violence, and marginalization.

109. While discussions around the rights of LGBTQI+ individuals continue to evolve globally, Liberia approaches this issue with sensitivity, given the nation's deeply rooted cultural values and religious beliefs.

110. Nevertheless, the Government of Liberia has taken concrete steps to prevent harassment, discrimination, and violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity. For example, the Decent Work Act of 2015 explicitly prohibits discrimination in employment, including on the basis of sexual orientation.

111. In 2024, the Ministry of Justice initiated consultations with civil society and religious leaders to promote dialogue on non-discrimination and diversity. These engagements aim to raise public awareness while respecting Liberia's cultural context. Looking ahead to 2025–2026, the Government plans to expand public awareness campaigns to further promote tolerance and ensure access to justice for all.

112. While legislative reform in this area remains a complex issue, Liberia continues to engage with stakeholders in a manner that balances human rights priorities with national values. The Government welcomes constructive dialogue and remains open to evolving conversations that uphold the dignity and rights of every Liberian.

113. The government, in its effort to reduce stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV), through the National AIDS Commission identified Stigma and discrimination as a goal within the national HIV/AIDS strategic plan (2021–2026). Goal 2 of the NSP is to reduce stigma and discrimination by less than 20% by 2026. The government of Liberia in 2018 also signed to the Global Partnership to Eliminate all forms of HIV related Stigma and Discrimination. Which gave rise to the development of the ZERO Discrimination Action Plan in Liberia. The National AIDS Commission (NAC) of Liberia established a legal office in 2023, to address HIV-related stigma and discrimination within the community and facilities, and to provide legal aid services to PLHIV and key populations. Since its establishment, the office document and report rights violations, advocate for a rights-based approach to service delivery, and ensure access to legal redress. It will also maintain a national registry of cases and network with other institutions. In May 2025, the President pledged US \$50,000 toward NAC's 2025 fundraising goal in addition to the donation of two (2) vehicles to boost field operations.

114. The global decline in financial aid is hampering the government's ability to fully deliver on its commitments including lifesaving interventions such as the fight against HIV/AIDS.

D. Human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery

(Anti-human trafficking measures) 103.143–103.148

115. To advance human rights and combat trafficking in persons, the Government of Liberia has taken significant legislative, institutional, and operational measures aligned with a three-pronged approach: Prosecution, Prevention, and Protection.

116. In 2021, Liberia amended the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Act to increase penalties for offenders, reflecting stronger commitment to accountability and justice. Since the passage of the revised law, the country has recorded an increase in successful prosecutions of trafficking cases. Notably, during the reporting period, the Government facilitated the rescue of 26 Liberian girls who had been trafficked to the Sultanate of Oman.

117. To build institutional capacity, the Government, supported by partners, trained 134 prosecutors, judges, and security officials across six remote counties (Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Kru, Margibi, Rivercess, and Sinoe) in 2022. The Liberia National Police's Crime Statistics Division also adopted a digitized case-management system. In 2023, the revised law was integrated into the Liberia National Police Academy curriculum, and updated legal handbooks were distributed. Law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges received practical training on victim identification, investigation, and prosecution. Inter-agency coordination was strengthened through regular meetings of the national anti-trafficking task force chaired by the Ministries of Justice and Labor.

118. In terms of victim protection and prevention, at least three safe homes were established in Bomi and Margibi counties. These shelters provide secure accommodation, food, electricity, recreational support, and are guarded by vetted private security personnel to protect victims' privacy and dignity.

119. In addition, the Ministry of Justice's Child Justice Section also plays a key role in combating child trafficking through its exit clearance system. Individuals traveling out of Liberia with children are required to obtain prior approval from the Ministry to prevent cross-border trafficking. During the period January to June 2025, the Section issued 235 exit clearances in total, in the following categories: regular clearances (222); medical condition (4); adoption (9). Moreover, the Ministry collaborates with local civil society organizations such as the National Concern Youth of Liberia to remove children subjected to domestic trafficking and child labor from the streets and refer them for appropriate care.

VIII. Environmental protection and climate action

Human rights and climate change

(Strengthen climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks) 103.35

120. The Government of Liberia continues to advance climate resilience and environmental protection through strategic legal and institutional measures aligned with the SDGs, particularly SDG 2, 11 and 13. The 2018 National Climate Change Policy and Response Strategy, led by the Environmental Protection Agency, integrates climate priorities into national planning and supports adaptation in agriculture and energy sectors.

121. Liberia's 2020-2030 National Adaptation Plan enhances resilience through climate risk assessments, capacity building, and sector-specific strategies for agriculture, health, and coastal areas. Complementing this, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy has improved disaster preparedness and led to the creation of the National Disaster Management Agency.

122. Since ratifying the Paris Agreement in 2018, Liberia has secured Green Climate Fund (GCF) support for key projects, including the Monrovia Metropolitan Climate Resilience and Liberia Coastal Defense Projects. The Coastal Defense Project, launched in 2021, is supported by GCF (US\$17.3M), UNDP (US\$1.6M), and Liberia (US\$6.8M in cash and in-kind), with an initial contribution of US\$50,000.

123. In March 2025, Liberia committed to providing US\$500,000 in 2024 and an additional US\$500,000 annually over four years to meet its US\$2.4M obligation, unlocking the next GCF disbursement and enabling initial design work in West Point, with US\$2M already released.

124. These efforts reflect Liberia's commitment to safeguarding human rights through climate resilience and environmental protection, particularly for vulnerable communities. By investing in adaptation and fulfilling global commitments, Liberia is promoting the right to a healthy environment and contributing to sustainable development.

Notes

¹ The Steering Committee is co-chaired by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Justice respectively.

² Bomi, Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Lofa, Margibi, Maryland, Montserrado, Nimba, Rivercess, Rivergee, and Sinoe.

³ 10 days mission to Liberia from October 31 to November 11, 2022.

⁴ Visited Liberia from 9 to 18 December 2024.

⁵ MoFA, MoJ, & the legislature.

⁶ epa.gov.lr.

⁷ The CSA standing order gives two months maternity leave.

⁸ LSE's Robtel Pailey Concludes Dual Citizenship Seminar in Monrovia <https://phoenix-browser.com/JYYSDvosSSw>.

- ⁹ Ministry of Gender, 2024.
- ¹⁰ From January to July 2025, the platform held 7 meetings.
- ¹¹ Human rights in prison platform comprising of relevant MACs, the INCHR, UNCT, development partners and CSOs.
- ¹² Annual Report of the LACC 2024.
- ¹³ Gov't, World Bank Sign Landmark \$90 Million Deal To Build 100 Elementary Schools July 23, 2025.
- ¹⁴ Liberia Households Social Registry 2024 report.
- ¹⁵ realise.liberiasp.gov.lr.
- ¹⁶ Ministry of Justice, 2024.
- ¹⁷ Traditional schools that prepare girls and boys for the “rite of passage”.
- ¹⁸ UNICEF, 2024.
- ¹⁹ mol.gov.lr.
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