

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The legal framework for the 2005 electoral process is established by the following key instruments:

- **Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, January 6, 1986**
Provisions of the Constitution relating to elections include:
 - Elections as means of choosing government: Chapter I, Article 1
 - Citizenship: Chapter IV, Article 27
 - Legislature: Chapter V
 - Executive: Chapter VI
 - Political Parties and Elections: Chapter VIII
 - Elections Commission as an Autonomous Public Commission: Article 89
- **Comprehensive Peace Agreement, August 18, 2003**
[Between the Government of Liberia and the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) and the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) and Political Parties]
Provisions of the CPA relating to elections include:
 - Electoral Reform: Article XVIII
 - Organisation of Elections: Article IXX
 - Mandate of the National Transitional Government of Liberia: Article XXII
- **New Elections Law, September 29, 1986**
[An Act repealing Decree No. 85 of the People's Redemption Council, adopting a new title in lieu thereof to be known as the New Elections Law]
- **Electoral Reform Law, 2004**
[An Act suspending certain provisions of the Constitution of Liberia and amending specific sections of the New Elections Law 1986 and approving new provisions relating to budget appropriations of the National Elections Commission]

In addition, the 1986 Elections Law gives the NEC the authority to "Formulate and enforce guidelines controlling the conduct of all elections for public offices which guidelines shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution and the Elections Law" (S 2.9 (h), New Elections Law, 1986). Guidelines which have so far been issued by the NEC are:

- **Guidelines Relating to the Registration of Political Parties and Independent Candidates, January 17, 2005**
- **Guidelines Relating to Coalitions and Alliances, February 4, 2005**
- **Voter Registration Regulations, April 12, 2005**

Additional guidelines will be issued with regard to campaign finance, the conduct of the poll and the role of observers, and other aspects of the electoral process.