PREAMBLE

We, the Political Parties, Political Groups and Forces, and Candidates participating in elections in Côte d'Ivoire, referred to in this Code as “signatories”:

• Taking into account the pressing need to work toward an immediate resolution of the national crisis for the sake of a sustainable peace;
• Subscribing without reservation to the laws and regulations controlling elections in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as to international standards regarding elections;
• Subscribing to the Political Agreements between Ivorian Actors and to the International Resolutions seeking to resolve the Ivorian crisis;
• Subscribing to the values and foundations of democratic electoral competition: that they may be free, transparent and open to all; and
• Concerned for the stability and integrity of Côte d'Ivoire,

AGREE TO THE PRINCIPLES HEREINAFTER STATED:

Article 1
The signatories agree to support the holding of democratic, free, open and transparent elections organized by the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI). They agree to respect the poll verdict. They likewise agree to use only judicial processes provided in law to contest, if necessary, the election results.

Article 2
The signatories recognize the opportunity of all voters to exercise their right to vote and to participate freely and without restraint in all activities related to the electoral process, within the bounds of laws and regulations, public order and good conduct.

Article 3
The signatories agree to respect the rights and the freedom of all citizens, Political Parties, political groups and forces, and candidates:
• to move freely wherever the elections subject to this code are organized;
• to campaign with total safety;
• to make known their political ideas and principles without restriction, or harm to their integrity, morals, person, or property; and
• to have equal access to public media in accordance with legal and regulatory measures.

Article 4
The signatories agree to abstain from the use of violence of any kind and agree to:
• show restraint in speech, writing, attitude, behavior, and to respect the opinions of others; and
• fight against violence, intimidation, vandalism, assault and battery, public disorder.

Article 5
The signatories reject recourses to malicious tactics, any attempt to prevent voters from making enlightened and independent choices, vote buying, or any other strategies which could corrupt the integrity, the quality or the transparency of the electoral process.

Article 6
The signatories agree to abstain from any attitudes, behaviors, or remarks likely to threaten the safety, dignity, privacy, moral and physical integrity of any person, as well as public and private property, and agree to forbid the same of their advocates, supporters and sympathizers.

Article 7
The signatories agree to abstain from:
• the prevention of flyer or leaflet distribution or the hanging of posters by other parties or candidates;
• the defacement or destruction of the posters of other parties and candidates, and agree to forbid the same of their advocates, supporters and sympathizers.

Article 8
The signatories agree to abstain from attitudes, behaviors, remarks likely to threaten the safety and protection of journalists assigned by press agencies to cover various events, as well as that of any domestic or international observer, and agree to forbid the same of their advocates, supporters and sympathizers.

Article 9
The signatories agree to abstain from the use of resources of the State, territorial collectivities, or other divisions of the State for the purpose of electoral...
campaigns or political propaganda or for the sake of political events during the electoral campaign, to take effect with voter registration.

Article 10

The signatories agree to abstain from the use of race, ethnicity, gender, religion or personal life as campaign issues. They are willing to encourage dynamics likely to uphold social cohesion and preserve peace.

Article 11

The signatories agree to resort to dialogue, and to other peaceful and legal means to resolve their differences. They agree to abstain from maintaining or financing militias, self-defense groups or paramilitary groups. In addition, they agree not to manipulate or use any armed forces.

Article 12

The signatories agree to work for the success of the electoral process and to reject any initiative aimed to disrupt or impede it.

They commit to regularly consult the Independent Electoral Commission on any issue related to the electoral process.

They agree to undertake any efforts necessary to maintain communication between themselves and to participate in consultations organized by the Independent Electoral Commission.

Article 13

The signatories agree not to circulate any results before the official announcement by the Independent Electoral Commission.

Article 14

The signatories agree to refer any difficulties related to the electoral process and any breach of this code to the Independent Electoral Commission. The Independent Electoral Commission will take all appropriate measures to facilitate the success of both.

Article 15

For any breach of this code, the Political Party, Political Group, Political Force or candidate in question will incur a public call to order or reprimand delivered by the Independent Electoral Commission.

Article 16

The signatories agree to implement this Code of Conduct in good faith and to recognize that elections are the sole means by which a Political Party, a Political Group, a Political Force or a candidate may gain power, and by which any voter may express his/her choice.
Article 17
The signatories agree to compete in a spirit of fraternity, of loyalty, to demonstrate fair play, to work to maintain peace and to preserve national unity and social cohesion.

Article 18
This Code of Conduct will enter into force upon its signature. Any Party, Political Group or Force or candidate not having acceded to the Code at the time of its entry into force, may do so through the Independent Electoral Commission.

The Independent Electoral Commission will make public any new accessions and will inform the signatories of such.

Article 19
The signatories of this Code of Conduct agree to ensure its dissemination and promotion throughout the entire national territory.

Article 20
The signatories delegate authority to the Independent Electoral Commission to oversee the strict enforcement of this code and, if the need arises, to take appropriate measures.

Done at Abidjan, Thursday, April 24, 2008

Signed: