



Policy Seminar | 29th of May 2013 | Mamba Point Hotel

Monrovia, Liberia

Gender Equity in Politics

REPORT



Introduction

This report summarizes presentations and discussions during NDI's policy seminar on Gender Equity in Politics held on May 29, 2013. The purpose of the seminar was to assist legislators in their study and consideration of policies and laws to achieve greater gender equality in Liberian politics.

This report is available upon request in a digital format. Please contact Nannoh Seekey: nseekey@ndi.org, tel +231 (0)886 511 758

June 2013

NDI - Liberia

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Journalists: Ms. Torwon Sulonteh Brown, UNMIL Radio; Mr. Ambrose Nmah, Liberia Broadcasting System

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Welcome

*Aubrey McCutcheon, Resident Senior
Director, NDI-Liberia*



Mr. McCutcheon welcomed everyone and noted that this was the seventh and final policy seminar and that NDI is concluding a five year legislative strengthening program which has been generously funded by USAID.

He remarked that this seminar on gender equity in politics was a timely one and that NDI was proud to end with this subject. He noted that in the second session of the 53rd Legislature we expect one or two pieces of legislation which would call for greater parity between women and men in politics. He reminded participants that the gender equity bill failed to pass in past Legislatures. NDI invited Liberian journalists to ask tough questions of various stakeholders such as legislators, political party representatives and civil society leaders who have different opinions on this subject. He said that during the seminar, panelists will also look at what will be needed after the legislation passes, assuming it does. He urged participants to consider what parties, civil society groups, the election commission, and female candidates must do if gender equity is to be realized.

Session 1: Presentation on Gender Equity in African Politics

*Ms. Nomboniso Gasa, Former
Chairperson of the South African
Commission for Gender Equality*



Overview¹

- Negotiations & post-conflict
- Opportunity for women to participate in formal political process
- Demand led to 50% representation by all political parties in the negotiations
- A strong Women's National Coalition which set the tone from outside

Overview

- Building solidarity amongst women
- Lobbying for representation & effective participation
- Electoral law & system

¹ This section of the report is a copy of Ms. Gasa's PowerPoint presentation. For questions about the content, please contact Ms. Gasa at chisana@wol.co.za

- The ANC as political champion
- Negotiating Parliament & the Executive
- Women in Parliament
- Looking at the numbers
- Reality of formal politics

Overview

- Sisterhood & political contestation in parliament
- Mechanisms & initiatives to empower women in parliament
- Cutting across boundaries of partisan politics
- Ghettoizing women in parliament
- Structures in parliament
- Independent Constitutional Bodies

Gender Equality in Political Decision-Making

- Although women were part of their political parties, the combination of the WNC & struggling to be heard in the political process helped build solidarity;
- Conscious decision to include women in technical groups which charted the way forward
- Apartheid government & post-apartheid process
- Helped build public profile of women as competent politicians and decision makers

Representation

- Political parties & quota systems
- Electoral law/system
- Women & gender in parliament & the executive
- Party identity/loyalty & gender issues

Effective Participation

- Women in politics
- Role of political parties & the political environment
- Women as constituency within a broader context of constituencies

Challenges of Political Environment

- Identity of women politicians
- Relationship with women activists & gender activists
- Relationships between women in the political domain

Building a Bridge of Sisterhood

- Women in Parliament
- Multi-party Women's Caucus
- Women's Empowerment Unit in Parliament

The Difficult Challenges of Location

- Whose agenda do women in Parliament serve? Their political party or women?
- Who are the women? Unpacking women as complex & non-homogenous groups with conflicting & at times contradictory interests

Current Status

- Numbers & location
- South Africa in the global community
- International laws & conventions

Gender, Decision-making, Participation

- Challenges of legislation
- Party position vs. women’s interests
- Women’s Budget Initiative case study

When the Wheels Come Off the Wagon

- Persistent issues of patriarchy in society
- Finding a voice within the political milieu
- Poverty & MDG goals: impact on women
- Vulnerability of men in post-conflict

Global Ranking	Country	Percentage
1	Rwanda	56.3%
2	Andorra	53.6%
3	Sweden	45%
4	South Africa	44.5%
5	Cuba	43.2%
48	United Kingdom	22%
70	United States	16.7%
132	Iran	2.8%
133	Bahrain	2.5%
134	Papua New Guinea	0.9%
135	Yemen	0.3%
136	Saudi Arabia	0%



In the African context, research has identified key pre-conditions for quotas to be adopted:



- transition from a struggle or conflict situation;
- a strong women’s movement;
- exposure to a global women’s movement;
- political system as a whole;
- openness to political contestation;
- culture of political parties;
- relationships between parties, members and supporters.

Conclusions

- Quotas are a public demonstration of a society’s commitment to equality. They place women in positions of power and this makes other women feel that they have role models, that they are not excluded, that the political process is legitimate (Vincent 2004).

Session 2: The Gender Equity Bill (Revisited)

<p><i>Representative Munah Pelham Youngblood, Vice Chairperson of the Women's Legislative Caucus of Liberia</i></p>	
<p><i>Cllr. P. Teplah Reeves, President of the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia</i></p>	

<p><i>Former Senator Richard Devine of the 52nd Legislature</i></p>	
<p><i>Mr. Peter Quaqua, President of the Press Union of Liberia</i></p>	
<p><i>Ms. Mary Williams, Truth Breakfast Show (Truth FM)</i></p>	

Introduction

Mr. Quaqua noted that a gender equity bill died in the 52nd Legislature but that there are efforts to submit a revised bill. **Ms. Williams** read a section of the new bill which states "In an effort to insure equity in representation of both genders in the governance of the Nation and Political Parties, no Political Party list of elected officers and candidates for Public Office shall contain less than 30% and no more than 70% of a single gender."

Positions on Revised Gender Equity Bill

Representative Pelham Youngblood supports the new bill as gender equity is a serious issue and in consideration of the discrimination that Liberian women face when seeking to engage in political leadership. She referred to the obligation of the Liberian government to conform with the Convention against All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which it ratified in 1984. She noted that women face more challenges than men in politics but that once they are given the opportunity through this legislation, they will be able to come forward and contribute to policy making. She noted that the previous bill didn't pass for a number of reasons including the lack of sensitization among men who thought it was meant to marginalize them; inadequate coordination among women's groups and the lack of a unified proposal; the reluctance of women to fight for it; the lack of media engagement and understanding; and poor timing, coming as it did just before an election when people were more concerned with running their campaigns. She shared that the Women's Legislative Caucus has been in consultation with the Ministry of Gender, political party women, and women's NGOs on how they can promote the bill but that

they don't have the funds to share this message at the county level. They are also engaging their male counterparts and securing the support of influential people like President Sirleaf.

Cllr. Reeves participated in drafting the new bill. She noted that the drafters assigned a lawyer to engage each representative in the elaboration of the bill and that they especially wanted to engage men, some of whom have been supportive. She noted that women in Liberia have struggled to participate in all aspects of public and political life whether in urban or rural areas, whether educated or illiterate. She expressed concern that women do not speak up for the things they want including leadership positions.

Former Senator Devine defended the position he took against the previous gender equity bill and expressed similar concerns about the revised version. He noted that democracy is based on formal equality of rights and privileges and provides for universal suffrage and the selection of representatives through free and fair elections. In his opinion, the revised bill violates the principles of liberal democracy under which all are equal. He referred to affirmative action as it is practiced in the US. He explained that it is intended to protect the interests of the minority. As there are more woman than men in Liberia, he stated that the bill is affirmative action in reverse and would violate the Liberian constitution which states that all Liberians should have equal opportunity regardless of sex².



Former Senator Devine defends his position

Barriers to Women's Participation in Politics

Ms. Williams asked why, when women make up more than 50 percent of the population, do they hold less than 10 percent of top positions. She asked who or what was holding women back from doing whatever they wanted and wondered whether women were taking initiative or not.

Representative Pelham Youngblood suggested that, while women can be their own worst problem, the blame should be shared with society and men. Women in power can become very arrogant and lose interest in representing the problems of other women. At the same time, she suggested that some of her male counterparts are insensitive to gender issues. She also noted that

² Article 18 states: "All Liberian citizens shall have equal opportunity for work and employment regardless of sex, creed, religion, ethnic background, place of origin or political affiliation, and all shall be entitled to equal pay for equal work."

while men tend to be financially stable, women have trouble standing for election because politics is about spending money.

Cllr. Reeves suggested that people discourage women from coming forward, sticking as they do to traditional gender roles that see women as caretakers of the family. She also blamed the prevalence of sexual harassment in the work place. She added that discrimination within the family and lack of resources are additional barriers that women face. While traditional practices may not be as influential in the capital, she insisted that women still face challenges, sharing that her husband tried to prevent her from going to law school but that she had the courage and tenacity to go anyway. She suggested that women don't push themselves due to fear and the lack of support systems.

Rationale for Gender Equity Bill

Mr. Quaqua asked how one might convince people to support the bill given the common belief that the constitution already provides too many safeguards for women. **Former Senator Devine** took it a step further arguing that women are powerful and strong and thus there is no need for a quota as women are capable of succeeding without it.

Cllr. Reeves stated that Article 18 of the constitution has not been upheld, that women have not been given equal opportunities. **Representative Pelham Youngblood** confirmed that the constitution provides an opportunity to all but that society, culture, and religion are all obstacles that stand in the way. As a result, legislation is needed to minimize the impact of these practices and to give a real chance to women. She reminded the audience that Article 8³ of CEDAW states that parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that women are on equal terms with men without any discrimination and Liberia has bound herself to this convention.



Senator Ballout shares his thoughts

Members of the audience added to this rationale agreeing with Representative Pelham Youngblood that women and men really don't have equal opportunity in Liberia and remarking that the purpose of the bill is to correct historical discrimination against women. Another participant noted that equal access does not

³ "States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure to women, on equal terms with men and without any discrimination, the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations."

produce equal results making the analogy that birds with different shaped beaks cannot all access food provided in the same container. Another audience member noted that Liberia is struggling to become a middle income country and that the patriarchal nature of the society hinders progress as it keeps women from reaching their potential.

Gender and the Constitutionality of the Bill

Audience members challenged former Senator Devine's assertion that the gender equity bill would violate democratic practices, asserting that in no way does it infringe upon the constitution. **Senator Devine** argued that men and women are equal under the constitution but that the bill seeks to give women an advantage. **Representative Pelham Youngblood** pointed out that the new bill does not talk specifically about one gender. **Senator Devine** responded that the drafters had just replaced the term "women" with "gender", asserting that the new bill was the same as the old one. **Representative Pelham Youngblood** argued that the bill protects both genders noting that there are instances where men are discriminated against because of tradition and culture.

Adequacy of the Bill

An audience member felt that the bill is not adequate noting that there is no guarantee that women will actually be elected into office. A senator in attendance suggested that for every position an equal number of candidates of each gender should be presented in party primaries. He felt that while the gender equity bill is an important start, there needs to be a long-term, holistic, and sustainable solution.

Quality Versus Quantity Debate

Ms. Williams asked whether one needed to sacrifice competence for numbers in elected office, whether one had to choose between quantity and quality. **Cllr. Reeves** remarked that competence is not just about formal education. She said that a woman in Fishtown may be illiterate but if she is given the chance to sit at the table to share her views, she will have a positive impact on her community. **Representative Pelham Youngblood** felt that one should not sacrifice competence adding that legislators have certain responsibilities that they can't carry out if they are not capable. She noted that there is no fight between quality and quantity as there are plenty of competent women who could serve as legislators.



Ms. Williams questions the panelists

Gender and Executive Appointments

Ms. Williams noted that when it comes to elected positions, you need resources and support. But the situation is different when it comes to executive appointments. *Cllr. Reeves* confirmed that the president can appoint who she sees fit and qualified, but expressed concern that the level of participation in the executive branch is at a low level despite that fact that there are many women who are qualified and effective managers.

Addressing Barriers to Women's Political Participation

Mr. Quaqua asked how one could address the economic, religious, and cultural barriers that make it difficult for women to succeed in politics. *Representative Pelham Youngblood* suggested that they needed to engage religious leaders and help them understand that women's responsibilities go beyond just having children and that women must be given an opportunity to discuss issues. For the country to develop, she felt that they needed to change attitudes and behaviors and suggested that one could start at the grassroots or at the Legislature and make the changes from the top down. An audience member suggested that one needed to provide girls with opportunities and prepare them to take charge.

Ms. Williams suggested that there were not enough strong role models for girls and asked what women at the top needed to do to be respected as leaders. *Representative Pelham Youngblood* felt that women needed to be committed public servants and that they should keep their word stating that "My words should serve as my signature. A girl's vote is her life. She entrusts her life to me based on what I told her. But if I cannot live up to my words, I have taken the life of this girl and put it in the dustbin. "

Session 3: The Morning After - Will Legislation Be Enough?

<p><i>Senator Peter Coleman, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Gender, Health, Social Welfare, Women and Children Affairs</i></p>	
<p><i>Senator Jewel Howard Taylor, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Independent Agencies and Commissions</i></p>	

<p><i>Mr. Mulbah Morlu Jr., Vice Chairperson, Congress for Democratic Change</i></p>	
<p><i>Ms. Estella Nelson, President, Liberia Women's Media Action Committee</i></p>	
<p><i>Ms. Torwon Sulonteh Brown, UNMIL Radio</i></p>	
<p><i>Mr. Ambrose Nmah, Liberia Broadcasting System</i></p>	

Positions on Revised Gender Equity Bill

Ms. Nelson felt that the bill is relevant and that it should be promoted stating that all people should be able to participate equally in keeping with Liberia's commitments to the Millennium Development Goals, relevant United Nations resolutions and other instruments like the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. She felt that it was important for the government to see to it that these instruments are enacted and that women are given the opportunity to participate in politics. Disagreeing with former Senator Devine, she stated that the essence of democracy is the protection of human rights and social justice and that it is a problem that 50 percent of the population doesn't have access to leadership positions.

Senator Coleman agreed that the bill is very relevant noting that it is an injustice to exclude more than half of the population from decision making. While some will say that women must compete for political positions just like men, he pointed out that the field is not level in a typical, male-dominated African society. Women do not have an enabling environment to compete. He added that there is no place in the world where there is equal opportunity for women and girls. He remarked that people are adopting affirmative action all around the world and that it is

producing good results. He believes that if Liberia is to be a part of the global village, it cannot continue to marginalize women. He affirmed his commitment to get the bill passed no matter how long it takes. He added that in India, it took more than 14 years to adopt a quota system at the national level. He felt strongly that, in the end, good reasoning and the sense of justice will prevail.

Mr. Morlu stated that the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) stands in complete support of the gender equity bill. He noted that women have been alienated and marginalized and that they need to be given a larger platform in Liberia.

Senator Taylor affirmed her support for the bill as she believes that it will reduce the inequalities in the system. She explained that the bill seeks to provide space and voice to women to participate in politics. She emphasized that the bill is essential for Liberia's very development as women and men must work together to build a better nation.

Barriers to Women's Political Participation

Senator Taylor expressed concern about problems such as disunity among women and financial and cultural barriers to women's participation that still need to be addressed if the bill is to really have the desired impact. She noted that women are discouraged from speaking in public meetings in some areas of Bong county. **Ms. Nelson** emphasized that one has to consider the context. While women are often shy and don't come forward, it is largely because they don't have as many opportunities to develop their social skills. Her organization interviewed a woman who lost her election in 2011 who shared that people didn't vote for her because they thought she was too proud so there is also a double standard. Another audience member suggested that there were plenty of qualified women in the 15 counties but that they were prevented from coming forward by cultural practices. **Mr. Morlu** emphasized the financial barriers, adding that one of the CDC's female candidates didn't have the financial resources necessary to win and that, as an opposition party, the CDC didn't have enough to support her.

Platform to Address Barriers

Mr. Nmah asked how the bill would address problems such as inequality, marginalization, and the unlevel playing field in the political arena. **Senator Taylor** felt that the bill will provide voice to more than 50 percent of the population and that women tend to raise very different issues. She believes that women will go to the National Legislature with policy agendas that address basic needs such as education, healthcare, and economic benefits emphasizing that women can have a positive impact and that they think about things quite differently than men. In the past, women's concerns had not been part of the national debate. She felt that women had to be active once elected as the Legislature is where all of the decisions are made and priorities are set. They

needed to look at issues like maternal mortality and consider whether allocated funds are adequate to address the issue.

Senator Coleman is convinced that when you have good representation of women in the legislature, their voices will be strong and that they will address issues like women's empowerment, girl's education, and discrimination in the work place. He noted that in a male-dominated parliament, these issues are not at center stage adding that many of his colleagues downplayed the issue of rape when he tried to raise it in plenary. He firmly believes that with adequate representation of women, women's and children's issues will be articulated.

Sufficiency of the Bill and Other Alternatives

Mr. Nmah asked panelists how they would ensure that the quota is respected and that women are elected considering that democracy is based on the principle of universal adult suffrage. A seminar participant felt that the bill is insufficient and that it will not guarantee that women will be elected. Other audience members expressed similar concerns about whether the legislation will be enough to address the problem, asking what would happen if the outcome of a given election does not reflect the spirit of the bill. Another participant wondered how one could create an enabling environment for the bill. One individual suggested that Liberia should also consider a constitutional amendment, referencing the Kenyan constitution which states that no more than two-thirds of any appointed or elected body can be of the same gender. It also provides for a reserved seat for women from each of Kenya's counties.



Mr. Nmah asks panelists how they would ensure that the quota is respected

Ensuring Implementation of the Bill

Ms. Brown asked whether the panelists felt that the Legislature had a role to play after the bill is passed, assuming that it is. **Senator Coleman** pointed out that the Legislature has oversight responsibilities. He cautioned that often legislation is passed but not implemented, in part because people find loopholes. He suggested that Senator Taylor's committee could put pressure on the National Election Commission (NEC) to make sure that political parties respect the law. **Senator Taylor** added that in 2005, the NEC issued guidelines relating to party coalitions and alliances that suggested that 30% of nominated candidates should be women⁴ but that a lot of parties didn't comply. A seminar participant suggested that the Election Commission should

⁴ Each accredited coalition or alliance shall ensure that 30% of the candidates nominated by that coalition or alliance shall be women.

work with all parties on this issue under the umbrella of the Inter-Party Consultative Committee. Another member of the audience urged that international organizations that are helping



An audience member engages the panelists

legislators to pass this bill also need to help provide support during its implementation.

Role of Political Parties

Ms. Brown asked Mr. Morlu how the CDC ensures that women succeed in primaries while a seminar participant asked what measures the party has put into place to increase women's political participation. **Mr. Morlu** responded that the CDC has been a champion of gender equality since 2005.

They have made it a policy that party positions from the top to the bottom reflect gender balance. He added that after the 2011 elections the CDC decided to do an appraisal of its performance from a gender perspective. They concluded that they needed to give women more exposure. He noted that if women are given the opportunity to operate within party structures, they will get exposed to issues and will be more prepared for political leadership. He urged other parties to do the same.

Senator Coleman agreed, urging women to use party forums to learn political skills and to get over any social inhibitions they might have. He felt that if they have a chance to practice these skills within their parties that women could make a real difference once elected. **Ms. Nelson** agreed stating that since parties are governments in waiting it is important for them to include women in their leadership structures.

Senator Coleman stated that if the bill is passed into law, it will compel parties to include women on their list. Parties have to look for women that are electable, women who have shown themselves in their communities. One participant noted that whether women are nominated or not depends on the selection process within their parties, adding that if half of the selection committee were women, women seeking the party ticket would have a better chance. Another participant encouraged parties to enshrine gender equality within their constitutions.

Supporting Women in Politics

Mr. Nmah asked the panelists what they would do to help women develop the confidence to step up. **Senator Taylor** felt that women needed to get training and build their skills in different technical areas so that they can understand key issues and stand up for their positions. **Ms. Nelson** agreed noting that there was nothing wrong with mentoring women for political

leadership considering that they have only recently entered the political life of the country. Women need technical skills to be able to understand and advocate on issues. They need to be encouraged to be a part of the process. She emphasized that there need to be more efforts to prepare women for leadership.

Ms. Brown asked if women in the current Legislature were willing to work with and encourage other women who have the ambition to get elected regardless of their party. Senator Taylor stated that there has already been a series of meetings between women elected officials and those who want to get in. She said that the meetings included discussions on what it takes to succeed in politics and how to overcome one's fear. She added that some women want to form an organization to serve as a platform for women who want to get into politics. As members of civil society, **Ms. Nelson** felt that they could facilitate dialogue at the community level about why it is important for women to serve as elected representatives.

Women and the Media

Ms. Nelson stated that women also need assistance in learning how to take advantage of the media. She pointed out that the media is biased and that they don't give women candidates serious coverage, focusing on their personal lives instead. Another participant noted that the media can make or break candidates and that they often refer to women candidates as the "wife of so-and-so". **Senator Taylor** emphasized that women should not shy away from debate. They should discuss things frankly and openly with the media and not stay away from difficult issues. She urged women to do their research before answering questions.



Ms. Nelson discusses women and the media

Responsibility of Women

Senator Taylor expressed concern that women are normally silent and that they are not proactive in coming to her with their concerns. She encouraged women to be more proactive in calling meetings and inviting senators and representatives to attend and listen to their views. One audience member noted that not every woman will be or wants to be directly involved in politics. **Senator Taylor** made the point that politics is everything women do, that it is about speaking up for those things that you want, even in the home. When a woman persuades her husband to do something, this is politics. **Mr. Morlu** agreed that women need to be more proactive, noting that they should be able to translate their statistical advantage of being more than 50 percent of the population into collective action and success. A senator in the audience noted that he supports

the gender equity bill as it gives women an opportunity to contest elections but urged that once given the opportunity, women need to use it to their advantage. He added that: "You can have a platform but whether or not people clap will be based on what you say."

Closing Statements





Senator Taylor noted that the constitution says there should be equal representation of women and men but this is clearly not the case in reality. She emphasized that laws are needed to bring the constitution to life and the gender equity bill is not in conflict with the constitution. She believes that women need to be provided with a platform from which they can move to the next level.

Senator Coleman warned that even once the bill is passed that not everything would fall into place the next morning. He noted that other countries have adopted a quota system and still have not reached the 30 percent threshold that they are seeking. Passing the bill is one step but there are many other steps that have to be taken to address cultural, religious, and economic barriers that women face. Women inside and outside the political arena should work together to address these barriers. He concluded that passing the bill is not the end of the fight for equality.



The seminar benefitted from the active participation of members of the legislature such as Rep. Mariamu Fofana

Mr. Morlu agreed that the legislation is not sufficient. He pointed to the fact that there is still discrimination even within religious organizations in which women struggle to take on leadership positions.

	Program Policy Seminar on Gender Equity in Politics Wednesday, 29th of May 2013			
Date and Time: Wednesday, 29th of May 2013; 9:00am – 2:30pm				
Location: Mamba Point Hotel Conference Room, U.N. Drive, Mamba Point				
Time	Activity	Presenters		
9:00am – 9:30am	Welcome, Registration & Coffee	<i>Aubrey McCutcheon, Resident Senior Director, NDI-Liberia</i>		
Session 1: Gender Equity in African Politics				
9:30am – 10:30am	Presentation followed by Q & A	Presenter: <i>Ms. Nomboniso Gasa, Former Chairperson of the South African Commission for Gender Equality</i>		
Session 2: The Gender Equity Bill (Revisited)				
10:45am – 12:15pm	Discussion Panel of proponents and opponents questioned by Journalists	Panelists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Representative Munah Pelham Youngblood, Vice Chairperson of the Women’s Legislative Caucus of Liberia</i> <i>Cllr. P. Teplah Reeves, President, Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia</i> <i>Former Senator Richard Devine of the 52nd Legislature</i> Journalists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mr. Peter Quaqua, President of the Press Union of Liberia</i> <i>Ms. Mary Williams, Truth Breakfast Show (Truth FM)</i> 		
Session 3: The Morning After –Will Legislation be Enough?				
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Discussion Panel questioned by Journalists	Panelists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Senator Peter Coleman, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Gender, Health, Social Welfare, Women and Children Affair</i> <i>Senator Jewel Howard Taylor, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Independent Agencies and Commissions</i> <i>Mr. Mulbah Morlu Jr., Vice Chairperson, Congress for Democratic Change (CDC)</i> <i>Ms. Estella Nelson, President, Liberia Women’s Media Action Committee</i> Journalists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ms. Torwon Sulonteh Brown, UNMIL Radio</i> <i>Mr. Ambrose Nmah, Liberia Broadcasting System</i> 		
		1:30pm – 2:30pm – Closing & Lunch		

List of Participants

The Senate

Sen. Clarice Jah
Sen. Nyonblee Lawrence
Sen. Jewel Howard-Taylor
Sen. Peter S. Coleman
Sen. John Ballout

House of Representatives

Hon. Munah Pelham Youngblood
Hon. Morias Waylee
Hon. Alex Grant
Hon. Fofi S. Baimba
Hon. Mariamu Fofana

Legislature's Staff

Abraham Barclay
Byrant Nelson
Harriet Goe
Wendell Thomas
Hilary Mentoe
John L. Dour

Executive Branch

Siatta G. Faijue (NEC)
Miatta H. Flowers (WP Com.)
Annette M. Kiawu (MOGD)
Younger J. Mah (GC)
Parleh D. Harris (MOGD)
Lydia Sherman (MOGD)

Civil Society

Isaac Weah (IPEAD)
George Weah (SEWODA)
Luvenia Cole (FOROW)
Isatu Ville (FLY)
T. Estella Nelson (LIWOMAC)
Tennen B. Dalieh (CEMESP)
Amelia Cooper (ADWANGA)
Donnish M. Pewee (LIWOMAC)
Ricardia B. Dennis (NCD)
Joseph B. Howard (CJPS)
Marthaline Wesseh (CUP)
Marpue M. Sparre (WONGOSOL)

International Organizations

Kristin Joplin (USAID)
Sam Udoko (UNMIL)
Ivy K. Harris (WIP)
Cerue Konah Garlo (IREX)
Susane Mannberg (Kavinna till Kavinna)
Kristian Olsson (Emb. of Sweden)
Davidetta Brown Lasana (UNMIL)
James Shilue (InterPeace)
Marjah Ruohomaki (Emb. of Sweden)
Frida Gabrielsson Kjall (Emb. of Sweden)
Avril Perry (UN Women)
Ahmed K. Sulea (USAID)
Leise Y. Tulem (IFES)
Pindarous Allison (UN Women)
James Mugo Muriithi (UNMIL)
E. Martin Lansane (Action Aid)
Barbra (EU)

Political Parties

G. Masnoh Morris (APD)
Wayfa F. Ciapha (APD)
Mariyah Fyniah (COPPWIL)
Pevilester Logan (CDC)
Lewis Windor (CDC)
Mulbah K. Morlu (CDC)
Hannah T. Moore (LP)
Nuwoe Scott (LP)
P. Magnus Niamer (CDC)
Julia Mulbah (NDC)

Others

Former Rep. Dusty Wolokolie (TWC)
Former Sen. Richard Devine

Media

Antoinette Sendolo (Inquirer)
Angela Suah (Super FM)
Peter Quaqua (PUL)
D. Ambrose Nmah (LBS)
Torwon Sulonteh Brown (UNMIL Radio)
Mary Williams (Truth FM)

Rosemaire B. James (AFELL/WCIF)

Civil Society (cont'd)

Patrick W. Nyanforh (JASAG)

Ruth Caesar (MARWOPNET)

Monica Dokie (VCP)

Kula Fofana (PAYWOI)

John Kollie (LMDI)

Cllr. P. Teplah Reeves (Association of
Female Lawyers of Liberia)

Priscilla J. Quah (LMC)

NDI

Aubrey McCutcheon

Leo Platvoet

Nannoh Seekey

Varney Karneh

Roland Bias

Alfred Kyne

Mardia Bloh

Thomas Du

Saba Bawo

Chantal Gray

Amy Hamelin (Consultant)



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