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### **PRESS RELEASE**

## **LEON'S ELECTION OBSERVATION: LEON TO OBSERVE THE SECOND ROUND OF LIBERIA'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

***LEON announces deployment of more than 1,000 impartial election observers to polling places in all 73 electoral districts during the presidential runoff election.***

***LEON is dedicated to neutrality and nonpartisanship during its observation and assessment of the overall quality and integrity of the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.***

On November 13, 2023, the Liberia Elections Observation Network (LEON)<sup>1</sup> will begin deploying teams of observers and coordinators to all 15 counties and 73 electoral districts to observe the second round of the presidential election on November 14, 2023. This deployment constitutes 904 short-term observers (STOs) and 53 field coordinators (FCs) who will be supported by a team of 73 long-term observers (LTOs) and 18 mobile field observers (MFOs). LEON will continue implementing its sample-based observation (SBO) of Election Day activities, which is guided by the Liberian legal framework and international election observation standards and founded on the principles of neutrality, nonpartisanship, impartiality, integrity, and independence.

The SBO approach is a proven, statistically based methodology that has been used in more than 40 countries for over three decades to evaluate the quality and integrity of an electoral process. The comprehensive approach focuses on assessing the entire electoral cycle. Conducting an SBO means that LEON's observation data will be collected from a statistically relevant sample of polling places from all 73 electoral districts for internal analysis and cross-verification. LEON intends to produce an assessment that can be publicly released and thereby inform all voters of its findings.

On Election Day, STOs will be stationary and remain at their assigned polling places to monitor the opening of polls, voting, closing of polls, and counting, and report on any incidents, if observed. LTOs will also observe at the National Elections Commission's (NEC) 19 magisterial tally centers to report on results tabulation. Observer data will be recorded manually and electronically on preset checklists and forms and transmitted to a secure online data collection program for analysis and reporting at LEON's data center in Monrovia.

LEON successfully piloted the SBO approach during the 2021 senatorial by-election in Lofa County and then rolled out a national SBO during the first round of the presidential and legislative elections on October 10, 2023. In both instances, the quantitative results data demonstrated statistical

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<sup>1</sup> LEON is a network of the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY); the National Union of Organizations of the Disable; the Liberia Crusaders for Peace (LCP); and the Justice and Peace Commission (JPC). Since 2017, LEON has developed into one of Liberia's primary and most respected organizations operating in the democracy and governance space and has successfully conducted a range of activity including legislative monitoring, and reporting on violence against women in politics, and advocating for election reform.

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consistency with the NEC's official results, encouraging public trust and confidence in the results. The 2023 SBO exercise was the first time LEON applied it to the national Liberian electoral context.

LEON will use data collected from observations throughout the 2023 electoral cycle to independently assess the overall quality and integrity of the presidential and legislative elections. Election day statements will be followed by a preliminary statement and then a final report on LEON's findings.

LEON encourages all registered voters to exercise their constitutional rights on Election Day and remain patient and calm while awaiting their turn to cast their ballot. LEON also encourages voters to mark their ballots carefully and correctly so that all valid votes can be counted. Maintaining a peaceful, genuine, and violence free electoral process is important for all Liberians during the 2023 presidential runoff election.

For further information, please contact the LEON Head of Secretariat and Spokesperson.

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