



**A PROPOSED
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MECHANISM FOR LIBERIA**

**PRESENTED TO:
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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MECHANISM

Status: Liberia Fiscal Transparency Index (select indicators)

Evaluator/Indicator	Index Score	Evaluated Period
INTERNATIONAL BUDGET PARTNERSHIP (IBP)		
Budget Transparency	38%	2019
Public Participation	6%	2019
Budget Oversight	48%	2019
PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY (PEFA)		
<i>Credibility of the Budget</i>	B	2016
<i>Comprehensiveness & transparency</i>	A	2016
Policy-Based Budgeting <i>(Orderliness & participation in the annual budget process)</i>	D	2016
U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT FISCAL TRANSPARENCY REPORT (USFTR)		
<i>The government did not make its budget documents, including the executive budget proposal, enacted budget, and end of year report, publicly available in a reasonable period of time.</i>	Not satisfactory	2021

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MECHANISM

Introduction

- ❑ **Grant support** from the **U.S. State Department** managed by Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT)
- ❑ Support from the **World Bank and partners** through the PFMRIIP/IPFMRIIP II
 - *To improve fiscal transparency and introduce public participation in the annual budget process*
- ❑ How should it be done under the GIFT and WB Support Programme?
 - *GOL to partnership with CSO and establish “Fiscal Transparency Advisory Group”*
 - *GOL adoption of **Social Audit (recommended)** as its Public Participation Mechanism*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MECHANISM

● **Terms of Reference (summary) – see details attached**

- ❑ Meets routinely and advise on implementation public participation mechanism
- ❑ Advise on design and implementation
- ❑ Identify priority areas
- ❑ Review work plans
- ❑ Close feedback loop

Membership of the Advisory Group

❑ **Consist of equal representation of GOL and CSOs**

▪ **Proposed Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)**

- Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL)
- Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD)
- Women NGOs Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL)
- Center for Democratic Governance (CDG)
- Community Development and Research Agency (CODRA)

❑ **Consist of equal representation of GOL and CSOs**

▪ **Government Representatives**

- Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP)
- Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC)
- General Auditing Commission (GAC)
- National Bureau of Concession (NBC)
- Liberia Extractive Transparency Initiative (LEITI)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MECHANISM

☐ Budget Formulation Process (pilot in FY2023)

- Attend SWG meetings at both technical and policy levels
- Attend Executive Budget Hearings
- Provide Expert Testimonies at Cabinet to inform policy choices
 - *Could be limited during FY2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions*

☐ Budget Approval Process

- Attend public hearings on revenue and expenditure
- Ask questions
- Provide expert testimonies

☐ Budget Execution

- Monitoring and tracking of revenue & public expenditures
- Raising awareness on revenue generation

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MECHANISM

❑ Reporting/Audits (Evaluation)

- Social audits (ideally FY2020/21)
- Use of audit reports by GAC, with initial funding from GOL
 - *Should not in any way compromise independence and objectivity*
 - *Demonstrates commitment to improving fiscal governance and responsiveness and increase public confidence and ownership*
- Findings/feedback should inform policy guidelines & strengthen implementation framework

❑ Access to Data/Information

- GOL to provide unhindered access to information in keeping with the FOI Law
- Such information will be identified and agreed upon during SWG meetings
- Some data source may include Report of Past Budget Performance, SWG Strategy, BCC, BOP, BFP, Fiscal Outturn Reports, etc.

The image features a light gray background with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered in the corners. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text 'THANK YOU' is centered in the middle of the page.

THANK YOU