

Liberia Civil Society Forum

“Strengthening NGOs through strategic collaboration,
coordinated policy advocacy and constructive engagement
with the National Government”

Date: 3–4 April 2009

Location: Monrovia, Liberia

Venue: SKD Stadium

Sponsored by Humanity United and TrustAfrica

DAY 1 (Dan Saryee, Master of Ceremony)	
TIME	ACTIVITIES
8:30-9:30	Registration and breakfast
9:30:9:45	Invocation and Beginning of the program
9:45-10:00	Opening Remarks
10:00-11:15	Session 1: Issues and challenges facing Civil Society in Liberia <u>Moderator:</u> Korto R. Williams, Action Aid Liberia <u>Panelists:</u> Hon. S.Tornollah Varpilah, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Beyan Kota Christian Blind Association, NACCSOL, LICONGO, AFELL, CHAL, CENTAL
11:15-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	Session 2: Governance in the Civil Society Sector <u>Moderator:</u> Mrs. Elizabeth S. Mulbah, Governance Commission <u>Panelists:</u> Cllr. Negbalee Warner, Ernest Gaie, Country Director Action Aid Liberia, LINNK, NAYMOTE, WONGOSOL
13:00:14:00	Lunch break (with a lunch time talk on the NGO Council formation and the Civil Society Index research by J. Jasper CummeH III)
14:00-15:00	Session 3: Civil Society and Government relations <u>Moderator:</u> Oscar Bloh, Search for Common Ground <u>Panelists:</u> Hon. James Logan, Ministry of Agriculture, Hon. Sam Hare, Ministry of Youth & Sports, NARDA, LMC, WIPNET, IRCL
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
15:30:16:30	Session 4: Defending Civil Society: sharing international standards Presentation by Cecil Griffiths, Liberian Law Enforcement Society Discussion to follow and moderated by James Yarsiah
16:30-16:45	Announcement and end of Day 1

DAY 2 (Thomas Doe Nah, Master of Ceremony)	
TIME	ACTIVITIES
8:30-9:15	Registration and breakfast
9:15-9:30	Working Groups formation: 7 groups, process to be facilitated by the MC of the day Groups activities to be moderated by: Aloysius Toe, Dan Saryee, Lawrence Randal, Thomas Doe Nah, James Yarsiah, Jasper Cumme III, George Wah Williams
9:15-10:45	Group Activities: <u>Questions to discuss</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we reach out to each other beyond thematic lines and leverage each other? • How do we harmonize our advocacy efforts especially when we are working on similar issues such as good governance? • How can civil society set the example of Transparency and good governance? • How can we be seen more relevant to the communities we claim to serve? • What should be the parameters in engaging with the government? <p>PS: These questions are guidelines, groups can expand on the topics but should stay focused and be as specific as possible in their answers and not try to deal with every other question or give in to mere criticism.</p>
10:45-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-13:00	Groups report
13:00-14:00	Lunch break (with Lunch time talk on the LEITI experience and lessons learned for Civil Society by Cllr. Negabalee Warner)
14:00-15:00	Plenary session on “Next steps”: What do we do from here? (follow up Actions) to be facilitated by Jasper Cumme
15:00-15:20	Break for the drafting of the meeting resolution Drafting Committee: Aloysius Toe, James Yarsiah, Estella Nelson, Thomas Doe Nah, Lawrence Randall
15: 20-15:30	Presentation of the draft resolution
15:30-16:30	Discussion and adoption of the resolution
16:30	Closing remarks by the most senior NGO leader present