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The European Union approves EUR 10.8 million to support elections and the General Auditing Commission in Liberia

The European Commission approved today a EUR 7 million funding contribution to the UNDP Basket Fund for support to the Liberian Electoral Cycle and a project to strengthen the General Auditing Commission with a contribution of EUR 3.8 million.

"The purpose of today's adopted projects is to assist the Government of Liberia in the electoral processes related to the 2011 Presidential and General Elections as well as in strengthening the General Auditing Commission in its external oversight function over the utilization of public funds", said Attilio Pacifici, Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation to Liberia".

Successful conduct of the Presidential and General elections to be held in 2011 will be a significant step in the consolidation of democracy in Liberia. The European Commission is assisting in this process through a contribution of EUR 7 million to the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) Basket Fund established to support the Liberian Electoral Cycle 2010-2012. The elections will be conducted under the leadership of the Liberia National Elections Commission (NEC) with several donors supporting the process. Through the UNDP managed Basket Fund, the EU financial contribution will be directed towards the long-term institution building of the NEC and will also help it to manage electoral processes, including voter registration and civic education. This includes support in preparing and carrying out elections related activities together with stakeholders, such as civil society and political parties in an impartial, transparent and sustainable manner. The elections support project further aims at promoting women's participation, strengthening linkages between electoral assistance and parliamentary development, as well as reviewing the electoral legal framework.

As the independent commission in charge of conducting audits on government ministries, agencies, organizations and state-owned corporations, the General Auditing Commission (GAC) plays a crucial role in contributing to good governance in Liberia. The GAC is involved in investigating and reporting on malfeasance, misuse and mismanagement of all public funds for follow up by the proper national authorities and institutions. GAC therefore plays a key role in ensuring the fiscal accountability and transparency within Liberia. The European Commission contribution to strengthening the GAC will build on previous EU and other donor projects conducted since 2007. It will further consolidate the GAC and its structures as well as its linkages with its stakeholders through technical assistance providing expertise in areas such as training, management, IT systems and forensic auditing.

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