

Terms of Reference

Position Title: Lawyer

Duty Station: Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations, New York, USA

Duration: Two-year term (aligned with Liberia's tenure on the UNSC: January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027)

Reports To: UNSC Team Lead

Background

Liberia has been elected as a non-permanent member to serve on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the period 2026–2027. This is a strategic opportunity for Liberia to enhance its global profile, contribute to decisions affecting international peace and security, and share its post-conflict recovery experience.

Liberia's engagement on the UNSC will focus on four strategic areas:

1. Conflict prevention and mediation
2. Climate, peace, security, and sustainable development
3. Human rights, justice, and accountability
4. Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agendas

To ensure effective participation, a specialized team has been established. The Lawyer will provide expert legal guidance, ensuring Liberia's positions, statements, and decisions comply with international law, UN procedures, and Liberia's national interests.

Purpose of the Position

The Lawyer will support Liberia's UNSC delegation by providing legal analysis, advising on resolutions and statements, and ensuring that Liberia's contributions are legally sound, consistent with international law, and aligned with national priorities. The Lawyer will also facilitate legal coordination with UN bodies, national authorities, and international experts.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Legal Analysis and Advisory

- Provide legal advice on draft resolutions, decisions, and other UNSC documents.
- Review the legal implications of UNSC actions under the UN Charter, international humanitarian law, human rights law, and relevant treaties.
- Advise on sanctions regimes, peacekeeping mandates, use of force, conflict resolution, and issues of state sovereignty.

- Assess legal risks associated with Liberia's positions and recommend mitigation strategies.

2. Support to Negotiations and Policy Development

- Participate in intergovernmental negotiations and informal consultations on legal and policy matters.
- Assist in drafting and vetting Liberia's statements, positions, and official interventions at the UNSC.
- Provide legal guidance in forming Liberia's stance on thematic and country-specific items.
- Ensure Liberia's positions are coherent with both international law and national legal frameworks.

3. Compliance and Coordination

- Ensure that Liberia's actions at the UNSC comply with its treaty obligations, national laws, and UN regulations.
- Coordinate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, and relevant legal advisors in Liberia.
- Liaise with UN bodies, including the Office of Legal Affairs, to obtain guidance on legal and procedural matters.
- Monitor international legal developments relevant to Liberia's participation on the UNSC.

4. Documentation, Representation, and Reporting

- Draft legal memoranda, position papers, briefing notes, and talking points for the UNSC team.
- Represent Liberia in legal briefings, UN legal committees, or other forums as required.
- Prepare analytical reports on legal aspects of resolutions, sanctions, and peacekeeping mandates.
- Provide timely advice on emerging legal issues or potential challenges during UNSC deliberations.

5. Strategic and Risk Advisory *(Additional Function)*

- Advise the delegation on legal strategies for conflict prevention, mediation, and peacebuilding initiatives.
- Support risk assessments related to sanctions, interventions, or international legal disputes.
- Recommend legal approaches to enhance Liberia's influence and credibility within multilateral negotiations.

6. Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing

- Brief and train UNSC team members on relevant legal frameworks, procedures, and international obligations.
- Maintain up-to-date knowledge of UNSC legal developments, resolutions, and trends affecting Liberia or the region.
- Provide guidance to enhance team members' understanding of legal considerations in decision-making processes.

7. Public Communication and Legal Messaging *(Additional Function)*

- Advise on the legal framing of Liberia's statements to the media or public, ensuring alignment with international law.
- Review external communications for legal accuracy when engaging with stakeholders or the media.

Qualifications and Experience

- Advanced university degree (Master's or equivalent) in International Law, Public International Law, or a related field.
- Extensive professional legal experience, preferably in international law, diplomacy, or multilateral negotiations.
- Deep knowledge of the UN Charter, UNSC procedures, international humanitarian law, and human rights law.
- Prior experience with UN bodies, regional organizations, or multilateral settings is highly desirable.
- Proven ability to analyze complex legal issues and provide strategic legal advice.

Competencies and Skills

- Strong analytical, research, and legal drafting skills.
- Excellent communication, negotiation, and advocacy skills.
- Political sensitivity, discretion, and sound judgment in high-level diplomatic contexts.
- Ability to work effectively in multicultural and high-pressure environments.
- Organizational skills to manage multiple tasks and deadlines.
- Commitment to advancing Liberia's international reputation and strategic interests.

Language Requirements

- Fluency in English (written and spoken) is required. Knowledge of additional UN languages is an asset.

Reporting Lines

- Reports to: UNSC Team Lead
- Coordinates with: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, UN Office of Legal Affairs, international legal advisors, and other stakeholders.