



Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland



Freetown, 26 August 2019

Partners Statement on the bye-elections held in Constituency 110 – Western Rural Area on 24 August 2019

We have followed, with concern, the bye-elections that took place in Constituency 110 on 24 August. EU and US Embassy staff were accredited as international observers and visited all polling stations.

While elections were conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner in the majority of polling stations, partners condemn all acts of intimidation and violence that marred the process. We note the decision of NEC to cancel the bye-elections.

We call upon all electoral stakeholders, and in particular the political party leadership, the police and NEC, to engage in a dialogue and to create the conditions for the electorate to exercise their civic duties in a peaceful environment and in a manner that allows for a credible outcome of future elections. This requires trust of the electorate in the independence of the institutions and confidence that political parties will engage in this process in full compliance with the law and with the codes of conduct they have signed up to.

Sierra Leone has made important progress in the consolidation of democracy and peace since the end of the one party state rule and the end of the civil war, as was also witnessed during the 2018 general and presidential elections. This was not fully demonstrated during the bye-elections in constituency 110 on 24 August. There is a strong expectation that Sierra Leone will further consolidate democratic gains.

British High Commission

Delegation of the European Union

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

Embassy of Ireland

Embassy of the United States of America