



## **JOINT STATEMENT BY AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS TO THE 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2016 GENERAL ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUM IN THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**10 AUGUST 2016**

1. We, the undersigned Heads of Election Observation Missions have collectively deployed our members to all 10 provinces of the Republic of Zambia to observe the 11 August, 2016 General Elections and National Referendum in the Republic of Zambia.
2. We note that the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) has indicated its readiness to hold the Presidential, Parliamentary, Mayoral and Councillor Elections concurrently with the National Referendum.
3. We also take note of the concerns raised by various stakeholders, including the ECZ, regarding the widely reported sporadic acts of inter-party violence which have occurred in some parts of the country during this pre-election period.
4. We are similarly cognisant of the assurances from the Zambia Police Service (ZPS) to provide the necessary security for the General Elections and Referendum to ensure that they take place in an environment which is free of intimidation and violence. In this regard, we urge the ZPS to provide even-handed security services.
5. We further, appeal to all the stakeholders to refrain from making any utterances and / or performing acts that could trigger tensions and negatively affect the electoral environment.
6. We encourage political parties and other stakeholders to cherish and embrace peace, tolerance and non-violence during the pre- election and post-election phases of the electoral process, a virtue for which Zambia is known.
7. We urge all citizens to turn out and perform their civic responsibility peacefully and lawfully on the Election Day.
8. We further appeal to all political actors and other stakeholders to embrace the Zambian democratic values and practices in line with the Constitution and electoral laws of the Republic of Zambia; and seek redress through established legal mechanisms; and in accordance with the provisions of the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections; the provisions of Article 6 (h) of the COMESA Treaty, the COMESA Guidelines on Election Observation; the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the UN Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, and other regional and international obligations.
9. We also appeal to the political parties and candidates to continue to promote a climate of peace, tolerance, and national unity throughout the electoral process, and

encourage their supporters to refrain from political violence within the framework of the Peace Pledge and the Electoral Code of Conduct.

10. We emphasise that as international election observation missions, our role is to purposefully gather information regarding the electoral process and make informed assessments and recommendations that could assist the country holding elections in strengthening its democratic processes.

**SADC Election Observation Mission (SEOM)**

Head of Mission: His Excellency Oldemiro Baloi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique

**Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)**

Head of Mission: Ambassador Ashraf Rashed, Member of Committee of Elders from Egypt

**African Union Election Observation Mission (AU EOM)**

Head of Mission: His Excellency Goodluck Jonathan, Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

**Commonwealth Observer Group**

Head of Mission: His Excellency Jakaya Kikwete, Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania

**Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA)**

Head of Mission: His Excellency Cassam Uteem, Former President of Republic of Mauritius

**Carter Centre**

Head of Mission: Her Excellency Sylvie Kinigi, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Burundi

**SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF)**

Head of Mission: Honourable Advocate Taska R. Mbogo

**European Union (EU EOM)**

Head of Mission: Cécile Kashetu Kyenge, Member of the European Parliament

**International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)**

Head of Mission: Senator Dr. Wilfred Gisuka Machage