



JOINT OBSERVATION MISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

ON 27 AUGUST 2016 IN THE REPUBLIC OF GABON

ARRIVAL STATEMENT

Libreville, Republic of Gabon, 22 August 2016- The African Union Commission (AUC) and the General Secretariat of the Economic Communities of Central African States (ECCAS) announce the arrival, in the Republic of Gabon, of their joint observation mission in the context of the Presidential Elections to be held on 27 August 2016. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) **H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini ZUMA** and **H.E. Mr. Ahmad ALLAM-MI**, General Secretary of the Economic Communities of Central African States (ECCAS) have decided to deploy this Mission to observe, evaluate and report on the electoral process.

The Joint Electoral Observation Mission of the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) is led by **H.E. Mr. Cassam UTEEM**, Former President of the Republic of Mauritius and **H.E. Mr. Abou MOUSSA**, Former Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA).

The Mission comprises of seventy-five (75) Observers of which twelve (12) are Long Term Observers deployed since 7 August 2016. This Mission is composed of Ambassadors accredited to the African Union, Members of the Pan-African Parliament, Officials of Electoral Commissions, Experts on electoral matters and Members of African Civil Society Organisations.

The Observers are drawn from thirty two (32) African States¹.

The Mission will observe the Presidential Elections in the Republic of Gabon in light of the relevant provisions of the 2012 African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the 2002 OAU/AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, the 2002 AU Guidelines on Elections Observation and Monitoring Missions, the African Peer Review Mechanism, the 07 June 2005 Declaration of Brazzaville that extends ECCAS' mandate on electoral matters, as well as the legal framework in effect for the organisation of Elections, including the 27 August 2016 Presidential Election in the Republic of Gabon.

The Mission will conduct an independent, professional and impartial observation of the conduct of the Elections. This observation will focus on the regularity, transparency, equitability and proper conduct of the electoral process. In addition, the Mission will meet the political authorities in the country, defence and security officials, institutions in charge of elections, candidates for the elections, media regulatory organs, civil society organisations and representatives of the

¹Angola, Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroun, Cape Verde, Congo, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Arab Sahraouian Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritius, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Chad, Togo and Tunisia.

international community present in the Republic of Gabon. The Mission will further interact with other observation missions deployed in the country.

The Joint AU – ECCAS Mission will hold two (2) Press Conferences on 24 and 29 August 2016 at 15H00 at the Hotel Boulevard of Libreville. The first one will present the pre-electoral report and the second the preliminary conclusions and recommendations on the conduct of the Elections.

The Joint AU – ECCAS Mission, that arrived in Gabon on 19 August 2016, will stay until 3 September 2016. Its secretariat is based at the Hotel Boulevard of Libreville.

The Mission wishes to thank the authorities of the Republic of Gabon for the invitation and the measures taken to facilitate its work.

Done in Libreville, on 22 August 2016

For the Mission,

H.E. Mr. Cassam UTEEM

Head of Mission

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