

# International Observer Mission Statement

1. The International Observer Mission for the Presidential, Legislative and Provincial Assembly elections in Mozambique in 2009 consisted of 67 international observers drawn from diplomatic missions and co-operation agencies based in Mozambique. The Development Partners' Group requested the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to coordinate the mission.
2. Staff from the Embassies, High Commissions and co-operation agencies in Mozambique of Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States formed the International Observer Mission.
3. The International Observer Mission is grateful for the support that the Comissão Nacional das Eleicoes (CNE) and the Secretariado Técnico da Administração Eleitoral (STAE) have afforded it, and welcomes the fact that its observers were given accreditation by the Comissão Nacional das Eleicoes (CNE) to observe the elections throughout the country.
4. The International Observer Mission found that, in general, the election day proceedings on October 28<sup>th</sup> were conducted well, that polling station staff, in general, correctly followed the guidance in the manual, that the atmosphere on election day was calm and that the electoral staff were professional, committed and courteous. The Mission did observe some logistical problems, including missing registry books and the absence of appropriate booths at some polling stations. But overall these were few in number. The Mission wishes to commend STAE for managing the elections effectively in the face of considerable logistical challenges. It also wishes to acknowledge the generally patient and peaceful conduct shown by Mozambican voters on election day. It also commends the political parties for their calls for an election free of intimidation and violence.
5. The International Observer Mission observed specific problems with the electoral process in Ilha de Mocambique, some of which may have been serious. It encourages the electoral institutions to look into these issues as soon as possible. The Mission was concerned to note that some national accredited observers were denied access to polling stations. The Mission was also concerned to hear reports of injuries suffered by national observers.
6. Finally, the International Observation Mission stresses that this preliminary statement refers solely to election day and the first count at the polling stations. However, election day itself is only a part of the electoral process. While the election day proceedings were, in general, conducted well, the pre-election process was marred by disputes over the nomination process for party lists and, as noted by other international observer groups, there were transparency shortcomings especially in the application of election legislation, probably affecting the credibility and legitimacy of the elections. The rejection of party lists impacted upon, in particular, the National and Provincial assembly elections

which effectively limited voter choices in those provinces affected by this decision.

7. The International Observer Mission urges the electoral authorities to display the maximum level of transparency and to accommodate concerns of the competing parties during the remaining post-election tabulation and validation process.
8. The International Observer Mission will produce a report of its findings, including recommendations for future elections, which will be submitted to the CNE and made public. The International Observation Mission encourages the CNE to take note of recommendations made by all election observation missions that observed the 2009 electoral process.

Maputo, 10 November 2009