

International Observer Mission Statement

The International Observer Mission for the 3rd Municipal Elections in Mozambique consisted of 89 international observers drawn from diplomatic missions and co-operation agencies based in Mozambique.

The International Observer Mission observed the voting process on 19 November 2008 in eighteen municipalities.

The International Observer Mission welcomed the fact that its observers were given accreditation by the Comissão Nacional das Eleicoes (CNE) to observe the elections throughout the country.

The International Observer Mission found that, in general, the elections on 19 November were conducted well, in a calm atmosphere and that the electoral staff were professional, committed and courteous. In general, the electoral rules were followed and the process was transparent.

However, the International Observer Mission noted that some people were unable to vote in some areas, often because polling stations were closed prematurely, and that counting often went on long into the night when electoral staff, observers, and party delegates were very tired.

The International Observer Mission calculated that, based on the time it took each person to vote on average, and the number of voters assigned to each *mesa*, that it would be very difficult for all registered voters to exercise their right and duty to vote during the allotted opening time of the polls. The International Observer Mission urges the CNE to review this situation and adjust the voting process in advance of future elections to ensure that all voters could have the opportunity to vote.

The International Observer Mission observed specific problems with the electoral process in Ilha de Mocambique. In addition, it understands and is concerned that the intermediate count from Nacala-Porto has produced a different result from that shown by Parallel Vote Tabulation carried out by the Electoral Observatory. The International Observer Mission encourages the electoral institutions to look into these issues as soon as possible.

The International Observers congratulate STAE and the electoral staff for their dedication especially those who worked long into the night in difficult conditions. The International Observer Mission

would also like to thank the CNE, STAE and the electoral staff for their support in the run-up to and during the electoral process.

The International Observer Mission will produce a report of its findings, including recommendations for the 2009 elections, which will be submitted to the CNE and made public.

Staff from the Embassies, High Commissions and co-operation agencies in Mozambique of Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, and from the Delegation of the European Commission formed the International Observer Mission, coordinated by UNDP.

27 November 2008