EISA Election Observer Mission to the Zambia 2011
Tripartite Elections

Arrival Statement

15 September 2011

In Zambia at the invitation of the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), the Election Observer Mission of the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) is pleased to announce officially its arrival in the country on 13 September 2011 for the tripartite elections scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 20 September 2011.

The EISA Observer Mission is led by Mr. Yusuf Aboobaker, Chairperson of the Electoral Supervisory Commission (ESC) of Mauritius, comprises 12 members, drawn from Electoral Commissions and Civil Society Organisations across the African continent and beyond, namely Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

In line with EISA’s vision of “an African continent where democratic governance, human rights and citizen participation are upheld in a peaceful environment”, the specific objectives of the Mission are:

- To assess whether conditions exist for the conduct of elections that allow the people of Zambia to freely express their will;

- To assess and determine whether the elections are conducted in accordance with the constitutional, legal framework for elections in Zambia as well as international, continental and regional benchmarks; and

- To determine whether the final results of the electoral process as a whole reflect the wishes of the people of Zambia.

In order to achieve its objectives, the Mission will hold a series of meetings with election stakeholders, including the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ),
representatives of political parties, civil society organisations, the media, academics, international and domestic observer groups and the donor community, ahead of Election Day.

The EISA Election Observer Mission will deploy six teams to Lusaka Province, Lusaka Central, Livingstone, Ndola, Solwezi and Chipata on Friday, 16 September 2011. On Election Day, 20 September 2011, EISA observer teams will observe the voting and counting processes in selected urban and rural areas. Before it departs from Lusaka on 22 September 2011, the Mission will present its preliminary findings, conclusions and recommendations in an interim statement.

The EISA Mission’s assessment of the 2011 electoral process in Zambia will be based on the African Union Declaration on Principles Governing Democratic Elections, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections and especially the Principles for Election Management, Monitoring and Observation in the SADC Region (PEMMO), developed under the auspices of EISA and the Electoral Commissions’ Forum of SADC.

The EISA Election Observation Mission to the 2011 Zambia Tripartite Elections undertakes to act with impartiality, objectivity and independence at every stage of the electoral process.

Based at Intercontinental Hotel in Lusaka, the Mission can be contacted for further information through its coordinator, Ms. Cecile Bassomo, on +260 971594010.

Thank You.

Yusuf Aboobaker
EISA Mission Leader