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## **ARRIVAL STATEMENT OF THE EISA ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO THE 2019 GENERAL ELECTIONS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) announces the arrival of its election observation mission to the Federal Republic of Nigeria to observe the 16 February 2019 General Election. The EISA mission is in Nigeria to conduct an independent assessment of the electoral process and contribute to its integrity through its findings and recommendations. The mission is in Nigeria at the invitation of the federal authorities represented by the Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (INEC).

The mission is comprised of two components: a short-term observer team (STO component) and a technical assessment team. The STO component is comprised of 16 international observers drawn from CSOs and Electoral Management Bodies from across Africa. The mission is led by H.E Rupiah Banda, the former President of the Republic of Zambia, deputised by Mr. Denis Kadima, the EISA Executive Director, and supported by a coordination team and a technical team.

The mission will base its assessment on the legal framework governing elections in the Republic of Nigeria and the OAU/AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections, the standards and obligations stipulated in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, the Principles for Election Management, Monitoring and Observation (PEMMO) and the International Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation.

EISA observers will follow pre-polling, election day and post-polling activities in Abuja, Adamara, Akwa Ibom, Enegu, Kaduna, Kwara, Lagos and Ondo. On 18 February 2019, the EISA mission will issue a preliminary statement on its findings and recommendations on the electoral process up to the voting and counting phases.

The mission will remain in Nigeria until 5 March 2019. Its Secretariat is located in Abuja at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Room 498.

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Abuja 13 February 2019