



**AFRICAN UNION OBSERVER MISSION TO THE GENERAL ELECTIONS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE, 17 NOVEMBER 2012**

ARRIVAL STATEMENT

At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, has deployed an African Union Elections Observer Mission to the Republic of Sierra Leone to observe the General Elections scheduled for Saturday, 17 November 2012.

The African Union Elections Observer Mission has a mandate to observe the 17 November, 2012 General Elections in conformity with the relevant provisions of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, which entered into force on 15 February 2012, and which is intended to enhance electoral processes in Africa, strengthen electoral institutions and the conduct of fair, free, and transparent elections; the AU/OAU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa (AHG/Decl.1 (XXXVIII)), adopted by the Assembly of the African Union in July 2002; the African Union Guidelines for Elections Observation and Monitoring Missions; relevant international instruments governing elections observation and the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

The Mission is led by H.E Dr. Amos C. Sawyer, former President of the Republic of Liberia and comprises 40 high profile personalities drawn from the Pan-African Parliament, African Ambassadors to the African Union in Addis Ababa, Election Management Bodies and Civil Society Organizations from various African countries.

The Mission is assisted by a group of Experts from the African Union Commission, Pan-African Parliament and the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA).

As part of its activities, the Mission will meet relevant electoral stakeholders in Sierra Leone, including the National Electoral Commission (NEC) of Sierra Leone, Political Parties and Civil Society Organizations.

After the polling, the African Union Election Observer Mission will release its' Preliminary Statement at a Press Conference in Freetown. After that, the Mission will produce a more detailed report, including recommendation for future elections, which will be shared with the appropriate Sierra Leonean authorities and institutions. Observations and recommendations of the Mission will be based on the credibility, transparency, fairness and the effective organization of the elections from which the Mission will express its views.

The AU Mission wishes to thank the People and Government of Sierra Leone for the measures taken to facilitate its work.

The Secretariat of the Mission is at the Hill Valley Hotel, Freetown. For further information contact the Mission Coordinators: Mr. Samuel Atuobi: **Tel:** 079749539 **Email:** atuobis@Africa-Union.org and Mr. Galal Nassir: **Tel:** 079843440; **Email:** galalasha@yahoo.com

Freetown, 14 November 2012