

**THE AFRICAN UNION OBSERVER MISSION TO THE GENERAL ELECTIONS
OF 31 AUGUST 2012 IN THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

DRAFT ARRIVAL STATEMENT

In response to the invitation from the Government of the Republic of Angola and of the National Electoral Commission, H.E. Dr. Jean Ping, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission sent an Observer Mission to Angola in order to observe the General Elections scheduled for 31st August 2012.

The African Union (AU) Observer Mission is led by His Excellency Mr. **Pedro Verona Pires**, former President of the Republic of Cape Vert.

The mission includes Members of the Pan-African Parliament, Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs), African Ambassadors accredited to the African Union as well as members of African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from 21 African Countries, including: Algeria, Botswana, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, SADR, Somalia, Tanzania, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Observer Mission is assisted by a team of experts from the African Union Commission Headquarters, and the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA).

The Observation Mission to the 31st August 2012 General Elections of the Republic of Angola has a mandate to observe the elections within the spirit and letter of the Durban Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa (AHG/Decl.1 (XXXVIII)), as adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in July 2002; the relevant dispositions of the African Charter on Democratic Elections and Governance, that went into force on 15th February 2012; the Guidelines of the African Union election observation missions and election monitoring, as well as the Constitution, laws and regulations of the Republic of Angola.

Members of the AU Mission will be deployed throughout the territory of Republic of Angola.

The observation will focus on the regularity, transparency, equity and the voting after which the Mission will make known its assessment and will, eventually, formulate recommendations to the relevant authorities of the Republic of Angola during a press conference to be held on 02 September 2012, 3:00 pm, at Esmeralda Conference room, Hotel Alvalade.

For further information, please, contact the AU Mission Secretariat at: 923 673 873 and 913 408 168.

The Mission of the Africa Union would like to thank the authorities of the Republic of Angola for all arrangements made to facilitate its work.

Issued at Luanda on 27 August, 2012