



**JOINT STATEMENT BY INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION MISSIONS TO THE RUN-OFF
OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN MADAGASCAR AND MEMBERS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

18 DECEMBER 2018

We, the Heads of International Election Observation Missions to the 2018 Presidential Run-off Election to the Republic of Madagascar, and members of the International Community:

1. affirm that the election is an expression of the democratic will and aspirations of the Malagasy people;
2. have observed that the electoral campaign which covered the period 4-17 December 2018, has been largely peaceful, and that the candidates, their supporters and the population in general have exhibited a commendable degree of political tolerance and maturity;
3. acknowledge the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Madagascar that enabled the successful conduct of the first round of the Presidential Election, as well as the preparations for the second round of the election;
4. also acknowledge the professionalism displayed by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) and the High Constitutional Court (HCC) in managing and monitoring the electoral process;

On the eve of the presidential election run-off, we appeal to both candidates to:

- a. preserve social peace and national cohesion in the best interests of the country;

- b. exercise restraint and urge their supporters to refrain from taking any actions that undermine the electoral process;
- c. to accept the official outcome of the election, and in case of contestation, to resort to competent authorities.

We, the Heads of International Election Observation Missions and members of the International Community, reiterate our support for the Malagasy people and that we are at their full disposal to accompany them in completing the ongoing electoral process and in consolidating democracy.