

**SECRETARIAT
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION**



**SECRETARIAT
CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE
SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS
LACS**

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT ON THE 9TH AUGUST, 2022,
GENERAL ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

PRESENTED

BY

**H.E AMB. ISMAEL ABRAÃO GASPAS MARTINS
HEAD OF MISSION, JOINT ICGLR/FP-ICGLR EOM**

**ON, 11TH AUGUST 2022
NAIROBI, REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

- Hon. **Claude Nahayo**, Member Parliament, Republic of Burundi and Deputy Head of Delegation of the Joint ICGLR/FP-ICGLR Observation Mission;
- His Excellency **Mr. Enock Kavindele**, Former Vice- President, Republic of Zambia;
- His Excellency, **Amb. João Samuel Caholo**, Executive Secretary of the ICGLR,
- Hon. Members of ICGLR Forum of Parliaments,
- Observers from ICGLR Member States,
- Members of the Press.

On behalf of the ICGLR, it is a great pleasure for me to present the Preliminary Statement based on ICGLR Election Observation Mission findings on the 9th August, 2022, General Elections in the Republic of Kenya. First and foremost, allow me to sincerely offer gratitude to the government of the Republic of Kenya for hosting us and for the hospitality accorded to the Mission since our arrival in the beautiful city of Nairobi. I also reiterate my gratitude to the government for the excellent facilities put at our disposal to ensure the success of the Mission.

Pursuant to the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region particularly the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance and in response to the invitation by the Government of the Republic of Kenya, the ICGLR deployed a Short-Term Election Observation Mission to the General Elections held on the 9th of August 2022.

I am delighted to mention that we had **86** observers from **11** Member States namely the Republic Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic Rwanda, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda, and the Republic of Zambia. The Republic of Angola is the current chair of the ICGLR. These were deployed in the following counties Kisumu, Kiambu, Mombasa, Nairobi and Eldoret across **60** polling centres.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am happy to mention that the Mission has noted that the election campaign was generally peaceful and issue based and was mainly in accordance with the Republican Constitution and the Electoral Act No. 24 of 2011. Further, it is noted that the elections complied with national, regional and international standards including the ICGLR Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance. **Furthermore, while we have established that the elections were peaceful and orderly the mission also noted the postponement of elections for Gubernatorial candidates in Kakamega County and Mombasa County. We note the postponement of National Assembly Candidates for Kacheliba and Pokot South Constituencies.**

Allow me to speak to the specifics with regards to the polling statistics. We note that in these elections, we had **46,233** polling stations and the total number of voters registered were **22,120,458**. We equally note that Kenya is among the first African nations to allow for **10,444** Diaspora voters and

7,483 prisoners. This is remarkable and we call upon other Member States to emulate the great Republic.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As a mission we observed the opening procedures in **15** polling stations. We noted with delight the enthusiasm of Kenyans to vote as long queues were observed across most of the polling stations at opening time. Most of the polling stations visited opened on time and those that delayed opened within **30** minutes. The reason for late opening was delayed preparation of the polling station by polling personnel and late delivery of materials.

We are also delighted to mention that most polling stations observed had ease of access especially to people living with disabilities and elderly voters. Observers including party agents were granted access to polling stations before opening time and were able to perform their duties without interference or restrictions. Polling staff demonstrated a good knowledge of the opening procedures. Our Mission noted that strategic election materials were available and in sufficient quantities throughout the day.

Further, we noted that the general atmosphere, mood and the environment outside at all polling centres and the polling stations visited by the Mission were peaceful and quiet. Most polling stations were located in schools close to the residences of voters. They were laid out in a manner that allows for easy flow of voters. Assistance was provided to

voters according to the procedures, by the Presiding Officer or a relative accompanying the voter who needed assistance.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Our observers acknowledged the presence of the full complement of polling staff, 8 polling staff in stations observed to serve a maximum of 700 voters per polling stream. The polling staff demonstrated professionalism in the management of the voting while maintaining a normal interaction with political parties, domestic and international observers. The Mission noted that no campaign activities or materials were observed within the polling station vicinity. The Mission noted that the identification of voters using the Kenya Integrated Election Information Management System (**KIEMS**) kits worked satisfactory in most cases, however, when it failed alternative method of identification was readily available.

We observed the closing of 15 polling stations. We report that the process was peaceful, orderly, efficient and conducted in a transparent manner, free of any irregularities. Polling officials demonstrated adequate knowledge of polling procedures indicating sufficient training conducted by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (**IEBC**). Most of the polling stations closed on time and wherever voters in line at the close of the polls they were allowed to vote.

Procedures relating to emptying the ballot boxes, reconciliation of used and unused ballots and ballot papers sorting were adhered to and uniformly and consistently applied at all polling stations visited, in the

presence of political parties/independent candidates' agents and observers.

At the end of the counting, political parties/independent candidates' agents signed all the results forms for 6 Ballots. The results were declared and signed Parties and independents' agents. The Presiding officer who transmitted them automatically via the KIEMS kit. Parties and Independent candidates' agents took pictures of the result sheets which were also posted at the IEBC result portal open to the public. I am happy to mention that we have rated the opening, voting, closing and counting procedures as peaceful, professional and transparent.

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of ICGLR, it is our considered view that the 2022 General Elections in the Republic of Kenya substantially meet Regional and International Standards of conducting elections, especially Chapter 3 of the ICGLR Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance. The Mission is satisfied that the people of the Republic of Kenya had been given an opportunity to freely express their political choices through elections conducted in a peaceful and transparent manner.

The Mission encourages the country to maintain the good practices observed. The Mission takes this opportunity to congratulate the people, the government and the IEBC of the Republic of Kenya for the professionally conducted and peaceful elections, which show their commitment to the consolidation of democracy and rule of law in the country.

Cognizant of the fact that the legal framework provides for clear and strong mechanisms to address violations of the electoral code of conduct and resolve electoral disputes and complaints, the Mission appeals to parties and candidates to use the legally instituted channels to address any grievance that may arise.

Done in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya, 11th August, 2022