



PRELIMINARY DECLARATION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance (2001) pertaining to electoral assistance to Member States, the President of the ECOWAS Commission, His Excellency **KadréDésiré OUEDRAOGO**, deployed an ECOWAS Election Observation Mission (EOM) consisting of one Hundred (100) Observers to monitor the legislative elections in the Republic of Guinea on 28 September 2013.
2. The ECOWAS EOM, led by His Excellency **EDEM KODJO**, President of Pax Africana, former Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and former Prime Minister of the Togolese Republic, is in continuation of ECOWAS support to Guineain its bid towards building an inclusive and participatory democracy. The Head of Mission was supported by an ECOWAS Technical Team led by the Vice-President of ECOWAS Commission, **Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh**.

II. CONTEXT

3. Prior to the deployment of the observers, ECOWAS had been closely monitoring the political and security situation in the country through the Office of the Special Representative of the President of ECOWAS Commission and its Early Warning Mechanism. Within this framework, the President dispatched a pre-electoral exploratory mission to the country in June 2013 to assess the level of preparedness for theelections, following which financial support was given to the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI).
4. In views of the political tensions that preceded the legislative elections, the President of the ECOWAS Commission, together with the International Facilitator of the Inter-Guinean Political Dialogue and United Nations Special Representative for West Africa, Ambassador Said DJINNIT, facilitatedmeetings of the 3rd July Agreement Monitoring Committee from 20 to 21 September 2013, which resulted in the rescheduling of the election for 28 September 2013. The meetings also committed the CENI to split-up Polling Units with more than 1,000 voters, and to ensure that the Units are located closer to the voters. The CENI, through theMunicipal Independent Electoral Commissions (CEPIs),made considerable efforts to implement these measures.
5. On his arrival, the Head of the ECOWAS Observer Mission, H.E. EDEM KODJO, met with the Head of State and all the stakeholders involved in the electoral process, including Government Officials, political parties, the CENI, the Special Force for the Securitization of the Legislative Elections (FOSSEL),and the Diplomatic Corps. He urged them to actively participate in the mechanisms set up for the electoral process to ensure the

transparency and integrity of the poll. He emphasised the need to put the interest of the people of Guinea first. He also met with the Heads of the Observer Missions from the African Union, South Africa, the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF), the European Union and the Mano River Union.

III. ARRIVAL AND DEPLOYMENT

6. The ECOWAS observers began arriving on 16 September 2013. After the final briefing and orientation session held on 22 September 2013, they were deployed throughout the thirty-eight electoral constituencies in the eight Administrative Regions of Guinea. While in the field, the teams of ECOWAS observers were tasked to follow-up on the implementation of critical aspects of the 3rd July Agreement and maintained constant contact with the Mission Coordinating Centre based in Conakry.

IV. ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

7. In spite of the tense atmosphere, the final phase of the electoral campaigns passed peacefully, under the watch of the security forces.

ELECTION DAY

V. OPENING, VOTING AND CLOSING OF POLL

8. On the basis of the information gathered by the observers and as a result of an initial analysis of reports received from the regions, the ECOWAS Observer Mission makes the following preliminary assessment of proceedings on Election Day:
 - (a) The obvious enthusiasm and good turnout of voters at the opening of the polling stations;
 - (b) Availability in almost all the polling stations of all the essential electoral materials except for the absence of indelible ink in a number of Polling Stations;
 - (c) Large turnout of women and young people ;
 - (d) Noted delay in the opening of polling stations in a few polling centers in some regions due to logistical challenges;
 - (e) The effective presence of representatives of the major political parties, in particular, PEDN, RPG, UFDG, UFG, and UFR;
 - (f) The presence of an appropriate number of security officers (FOSSEL) at the polling centers, particularly in the more sensitive areas.
9. The following shortcomings were noted in the voting process:
 - a) Delays in the provision of electoral lists and ballot papers, as well as the shortage of indelible ink in some of the polling stations;
 - b) Slow processing of voters in some polling stations, due particularly to the poor mastery of the process by electoral officials.

VI. PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10. In light of the preceding observations and analysis, the ECOWAS Observer Mission to the 2013 Legislative Elections in Guinea draw the following preliminary conclusions:
 - The few shortcomings observed could not be attributed to any deliberate attempt by any party to undermine the integrity of the electoral process. Most were due to either poor mastery of the process and genuine logistical challenges.

- The shortcomings observed did not prevent the electorate from freely expressing their constitutional right to vote.
- The ECOWAS EOM judge the legislative elections of 28 September 2013 to have taken place in acceptable conditions of freedom and transparency.

11. Based on the challenges identified in the electoral process, the ECOWAS EOM wishes to make the following recommendations:

To The CENI:

- The ECOWAS EOM urges the CENI to announce the provisional results within the stipulated time limit, and exhorts all unauthorized stakeholders to abstain from speculating on, or declaring unofficial results.
- To ensure continuous training of electoral officers;
- To encourage the appropriation and management of the electoral process by the CEPIs at the local level.

To The Government

- To continue with the dialogue and reconciliation efforts and to ensure the involvement and participation of all political actors in the process of institutional reforms.

To The Political Parties

- To ensure that their candidates and their supporters comply with the existing electoral regulations and procedures, and the rule of law, and resort to exclusively legal means in seeking redress for any grievances emanating from the electoral process.

12. The ECOWAS EOM congratulates the Head of State, the Government and people of Guinea for their demonstrated commitment and tenacity in concluding the democratic transition in the country. The Mission also congratulates the political parties and candidates for their peaceful conduct throughout the electioneering period, and encourages them to maintain this posture going forward.

13. Finally, the ECOWAS EOM thanks the International Community for the massive mobilization of support for the democratic transition in Guinea, and in particular, the UN Office in West Africa (UNOWA) for facilitating the constructive dialogue that culminated in the conduct of the election.

Done at Conakry on the 29th Day of September, 2013

The Head of the ECOWAS Observation Mission