

Joint Statement

At the invitation of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the following international missions:

- Carter Center
- Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique centrale (CEEAC)
- Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA)
- Mission d'observation électorale de l'Union européenne (MOEUE)
- Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)
- Southern African Development Community - Parliamentary Forum (SADC/PF)
- African Union (AU)

have participated in the observation of the second round of the presidential elections, and the provincial elections, which were held on October 29 2006.

The international observer teams monitored preparations for the different phases of the electoral process and were deployed across the country, including in the 24 districts of the city/province of Kinshasa.

The international observers note with satisfaction that the voting and counting operations took place on the whole in a calm and peaceful manner. They deplore, however, the serious but isolated incidents which have taken place in Equateur province and in Ituri, causing the deaths of several people.

The international missions congratulate the Congolese people who, once again, have demonstrated their commitment to democracy and to the culmination of the transition. They also congratulate the electoral workers, political party agents, domestic observers and members of the Congolese National Police (PNC) for their strong participation.

The international missions appreciate the corrective measures taken by the Independent Electoral Commission to strengthen the capacity of election workers. These measures have resulted in a remarkable improvement to the election operations. In some cases, however, they came late and were therefore not universally implemented. The collection and transmission of results, on the other hand, was significantly improved.

They deplore the excessively partisan and negative role of many of the media during the election campaign, and call on them to assume their responsibilities during this sensitive and crucial period of the transition process.

The missions recommend to the CEI that the publication of results be immediately broken down by polling station, as a measure of transparency necessary to the credibility of the electoral process.

The international missions remind the two presidential candidates of the commitments they have signed, and invite them, in case of electoral complaints, to make use of the legal channels for appeal. Finally, they remind them of their responsibility for the actions and words of their followers.

Kinshasa, November 2nd 2006