



**AFRICAN UNION
ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION
TO ZAMBIA**

**Presidential,
Parliamentary &
Local Government
Elections**

12 August 2021



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FINAL REPORT

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACDEG	African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance
ACHPR	African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUEOM	African Union Election Observation Mission
BVIDs	Biometric Voter Identification Devices
CCMG	Christian of Churches Monitoring Group
CMB	Church Mother Bodies
CPEZ	Coalition for Peaceful Elections in Zambia
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CYLA	Center for Young Leaders in Africa
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DSZ	Democracy Strengthening in Zambia
ECZ	Electoral Commission of Zambia
EGEP	Group of Eminent Persons
EISA	Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa
EMBs	Electoral Management Bodies
EOM	Election Observation Mission
EPA	Electoral Processes Act
IBA	Independent Broadcasting Authority
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
MISA	Media Institute of Southern Africa
MMD	Movement for Multiparty Democracy
NGOCC	Non-Governmental Coordinating Council
OYV	Operation Young Vote
PAC	People's Alliance for Change
PF	Patriotic Front
PNUP	Party of National Unity and Progress
PVT	Parallel Vote Tabulation
PWDs	People with Disabilities
PRISCA	Prison Care and Counselling Association
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNIP	United Nations Independence Party
UPND	United Party for National Development
ZAFOD	Zambian Federation of Disability Organisations
ZCID	Zambia Centre for Inter-Party Dialogue
ZUSD	Zambians United for Sustainable Development

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) to the Republic of Zambia expresses its gratitude to all the stakeholders and institutions that contributed to its success Mission. In that regard, the Mission would like to thank the Government of the Republic of Zambia, the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), and other stakeholders for their assistance and cooperation in the course of the Mission's observation activities.

The AUEOM is grateful to His Excellency Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, former President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Her Excellency Dr. Speciosa Naigaga Wandira Kazibwe, former Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, and His Excellency Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, African Union (AU) Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, for their leadership of the Mission.

Finally, the Mission would not have been successful without the support of its Coordination Team from the African Union Commission (AUC)'s Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (DPAPS), and the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), and the commitment of its observers, whose hard work and diligent reporting on the electoral process were crucial to the success of the Mission.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Republic of Zambia held General Elections on 12 August 2021, the 7th since the reintroduction of multiparty politics in 1991. As such, the country enjoys an enviable track record of regularly conducting democratic elections in keeping with its national and international obligations.

Following an invitation from the Government of the Republic of Zambia, and as part of its mandate to promote and deepen democratic governance in Africa by ensuring the conduct of transparent and credible electoral processes, the African Union Commission (AUC) deployed a short-term African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) on 4 August 2021 to observe the Elections. The AUEOM was led by His Excellency Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, former President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and assisted by Her Excellency Dr. Speciosa Naigaga Wandira Kazibwe, former Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, and His Excellency Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS). It comprised 30 observers who were deployed on 10 August 2021 to seven of the country's ten (10) provinces.

The Mission assessed the compliance of the Elections against national and international commitments and obligations of Zambia for the conduct of democratic elections. Accordingly, it found that:

- Though there were 16 presidential candidates, the political landscape was dominated by the Patriotic Front (PF) party led by the incumbent President Mr. Edgar Lungu and the United Party for National Development (UPND) led by Mr. Hakainde Hichilema. It was the third time in a row that the two candidates contested against each other, with the previous two elections in 2015 and 2016 decided by narrow margins.
- The elections took place against a backdrop of heightened political tension that can be traced back to the aftermath of the 2016 disputed elections, where post-election violence resulted in the arrest and detention of several opposition members. There were increased spates of violence and hate speech throughout the campaigns, as well as reported restrictions placed on the activities of opposition political parties by state agencies. This, and the widespread misuse of state resources in favour of the incumbent president and PF, created an unlevelled playing field during the pre-electoral period.
- There was low stakeholder confidence in the ability of the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to conduct impartial and credible elections, partly due to inadequate consultations and communication with stakeholders in the implementation of key electoral processes. The ECZ's decision to restrict the number of domestic observer groups to five (5) monitors per organisation in a constituency was generally unpopular and

also undermined trust in the process. Notwithstanding its trust deficit with some stakeholders, the ECZ conducted the 2021 general elections in a largely transparent and professional manner.

- The legal framework under which the elections were conducted was largely in line with regional and international norms and commitments relating to the conduct of democratic elections. However, concerns were raised by stakeholders over the selective application of the Public Order Act (POA) and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Covid-19, as well as the threat posed by the Cyber Security Law on fundamental rights and freedoms.
- Ahead of the Elections, the ECZ compiled a new biometric Voter Register. At the end of the registration exercise, a total of 7,023,499 voters were registered, representing 83.5% of the projected eligible persons. The AUEOM was informed that the previous Voter Register was outdated and contained an estimated 1.4 million deceased persons. While this seems justifiable, opposition parties and CSOs raised concerns over the accuracy and credibility of the new register.
- The campaigns were competitive but marred by incidents of politically motivated violence, that sometimes compelled the ECZ to suspend or bar some candidates from campaigning, including those from the ruling Patriotic Front (PF) and the main opposition United Party for National Development (UPND) parties, in line with the extant Electoral Code of Conduct for political parties. The campaign environment was dominated by the PF and UPND, whose campaign activities were the most visible. The lack of regulations on campaign financing accountability was particularly disadvantageous to smaller parties with limited resources to vigorously canvass voters. Overall, the misuse of state resources and restrictions placed on the activities of opposition parties and candidates by state agencies tilted the campaign environment in favour of the incumbent President Edgar Lungu and his PF party.
- Zambia has a diverse and pluralistic media profile, including an active social media landscape, which helped in the dissemination of election-related information. However, the media environment was polarised along political party lines. Hate speech, misinformation, and cyberbullying messages were amplified through various media channels.
- CSOs played an active role in educating voters and monitoring the electoral process, notwithstanding the cumbersome accreditation process and restriction on the number of monitors that they can deploy in each constituency introduced by the ECZ. CSOs and international observer groups also played a pivotal role in ensuring a largely peaceful electoral outcome and smooth transition of power through the promotion of messages of peace and direct engagement with the key political actors.
- The Zambian Police Service (ZPS) and other state agencies were consistently accused of selectively applying aspects of the Public Order

Act and Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in favour of the ruling party and against opposition candidates and supporters.

- Despite the tense political environment in the pre-electoral period, overall, the AUEOM observed that election day operations and the immediate post-election activities were carried out in a generally peaceful environment. Most polling stations observed opened on time. However, most did not close on time due to the long queues observed throughout the day.
- The ECZ announced the results of the 2021 general elections in a timely manner on 16 August 2021, in line with the timeline that is set. The results showed the presidential election was won by Hakainde Hichilema of the UPND who secured a landslide victory of 2,852,348 (59.4%) votes over his long-time rival and incumbent president Edgar Lungu who garnered 1,870,780 (38.3%) votes. The UPND also won the majority of parliamentary seats with 82 against 59 for the PF. The final turnout was 70.61% out of 7,023,499 registered voters.

Based on its findings and overall assessment, the AUEOM concludes that the 2021 General Elections were peaceful and transparent and their outcome reflected the genuine will of voters. It offers the following recommendations to improve the framework and conduct of future electoral processes in Zambia:

The Government:

- Ensure an enabling environment prevails during elections by urgently undertaking measures to address underlying causes of tension and politically motivated violence that impacted constitutionally guaranteed rights and freedoms.
- Review provisions of the Public Order Act that infringe upon the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens in order to expand the democratic space.
- Strengthen the capacity of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) to enhance professional standards in the media and ensure equitable coverage of activities of political parties and candidates during elections.

The National Assembly:

- Review Article 52 (6) of the Constitution, which provides for fresh nomination of candidates in the event of death, resignation, or disqualification of a candidate. Implementation of this provision at a time too close to election day could heighten political tension and also cause an unnecessary financial burden to the State.
- The AUEOM would like to reiterate its 2016 recommendation on the need to enact enabling legislation to give effect to constitutional provisions for political party funding and campaign finance accountability.

The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ):

- Improve communication and engagement with electoral stakeholders, particularly with opposition parties and CSOs, to enhance transparency in the electoral process, as well as ensure that the ECZ is widely and at all times perceived as an effective, independent, impartial and credible institution.
- Reduce the number of voters per polling station to ease overcrowding and associated challenges on election day such as delay in counting and tabulation of results.

Political Parties:

- Channel any disputes on the electoral process or its outcomes through appropriate dispute resolution mechanisms as provided for in the law.
- Dismantle party cadres who have been implicated in perpetrating electoral violence, hate speech, and harassment of political opponents. These acts constitute a threat to the peace and stability of the country and the integrity of the electoral process, and can affect women and other vulnerable groups' participation as voters and candidates.

The Media:

- The media, particularly the public broadcaster, should ensure equal access and balanced coverage to all electoral contestants.
- Strictly adhere to ethical reporting standards, including fact-checking of information before publication.
- Support efforts to combat fake news and misinformation on the elections, and refrain from amplifying unverified information that has the potential to fuel controversy and increase polarisation in the society.

Civil Society Organisations:

- Continue with efforts towards ensuring peaceful, inclusive, transparent and credible electoral processes in Zambia.
- Improve collaboration with ECZ and other stakeholders to enhance the transparency and credibility of the electoral process.

Security Agencies:

- Remain professional and stay neutral throughout the electoral process.
- Protect all citizens, irrespective of their political affiliations, from election-related violence, intimidation and coercion, and ensure that all rights violations are subject to prompt, independent and impartial judicial remedy.
- Ensure that restrictions on campaign activities of political parties and candidates are reasonable and non-discriminatory.

I. INTRODUCTION

Following an invitation from the Government of the Republic of Zambia to the African Union Commission (AUC) to observe the 12 August 2021 General Elections, and in accordance with the AU's mandate of promoting peaceful and democratic elections in all Member States, the Chairperson of the Commission, His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat, deployed an African Union Short-Term Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) from 4 August 2021 to 19 August 2021. The Mission was led by His Excellency Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, former President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, who was assisted by Her Excellency Dr. Speciosa Naigaga Wandira Kazibwe, former Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, and His Excellency Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security. It comprised 30 short-term observers (STOs) from 21 African countries¹, four (4) independent experts, and a technical team from the AUC and the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA).

The Mission's objectives were two-fold: First, to assess the technical compliance of the 2021 electoral process with AU's principles and normative frameworks and other international obligations and standards for democratic elections, as well as Zambia's national legal framework; and, second, to ensure that there is a peaceful atmosphere - free from violence - and acceptance of the electoral outcome. To achieve these objectives, several activities were undertaken, including briefing of the leadership and observers of the Mission to orientate them about the context and preparations for the elections, regularly holding meetings and consultations with several stakeholders such as representatives of political parties, Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), human rights institutions, the Zambia Police Service, media, the diplomatic community, among others, and developing and implementing a preventive diplomacy strategy.

This report presents the Mission's overall findings, conclusions and recommendations based on consultations held with stakeholders and direct observation and assessment of the conduct of the 2021 General Elections, including the political context, the legal framework, election administration, election dispute resolution, election day operation, the results management and post-election development.

¹ Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, The Gambia, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

II. PRE-ELECTION FINDINGS

A. Background and Political Context

Zambia practices a multiparty democracy based on the respect for human rights and the rule of law. It has consistently held periodic elections every five years, with the 2021 general elections being the seventh since the country reverted to multiparty politics in 1991. The country has managed well several democratic transitions and has remained stable since independence in 1964. However, since the 2016 elections, the country has seen significant levels of violence and injustice that threatened its long-held reputation for stability. Lack of employment opportunities, particularly among the youth, limited social protection mechanisms, the rural-urban divide, and high levels of poverty are among the major factors that contributed to the violence.

The 2021 General Elections were held against the backdrop of growing political polarisation in the country. This can be traced back to the disputed 2016 elections, where post-election demonstrations and riots resulted in the arrest and detention of many opposition figures, including Hakainde Hichilema, the leader of the United Party for National Development (UPND), who was charged with treason - the charges were later dropped. The tense political situation was compounded by a shrinking economy caused by declining export earnings in the mining industry – the country's main revenue base – and low internal revenue collection, which caused the country to default on its sovereign debt. The declining economy resulted in huge socio-economic inequalities and increased social disenchantment by citizens who have borne the brunt of the recession. These developments increased the stakes in the 2021 elections as political parties intensely competed to provide viable solutions to the economic problems facing the country.

Evidence of the heightened political situation in the country was noted in the increased spates of violence, hate speech, insults, cyber-bullying, and disinformation especially between the major political parties during the election campaigns. These incidents sometimes compelled the ECZ to suspend or bar some candidates and parties from campaigning in line with the Electoral Code of Conduct for political parties.

A total of sixteen (16) candidates registered to compete for the presidential election. However, the race was between the incumbent president Edgar Lungu of the Patriotic Front (PF), and main opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema of the UPND. Both candidates competed in the 2015 presidential by-election and 2016 presidential election. Both elections were won by Edgar Lungu by narrow margins. It would be recalled that the results of the 2016 elections were disputed by the UPND candidate.

The AUEOM received reports of arrests and detention of members of opposition parties by the Zambia Police Service (ZPS) and undue restrictions placed on their activities by state agencies. This and the reported widespread misuse of state resources in favour of the incumbent president and his party created an unlevelled playing field during the pre-electoral period.

B. Legal Framework

An all-encompassing legal framework is crucial for the conduct of genuinely democratic elections. Zambia is a signatory to several regional and international instruments guiding the conduct of democratic elections, some of which have been domesticated. As a result, the August 2021 elections were governed by a number of national and international normative instruments, notably :

- the 1991 Constitution (as amended);
- the 2016 Electoral Processes Act; (as amended);
- the 1955 Public Order Act;
- the 2015 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections;
- 2002 OAU/AU Declaration of Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, the 2007 African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
- the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and
- the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Zambia's legal framework provides a reasonable basis for democratic elections that protect and advance human rights. Several legal reforms undertaken before the 2021 elections extended the right to vote to prisoners and strengthened the security of the tenure of electoral commissioners.

However, there were concerns about the limitations on fundamental rights and freedoms posed by the Public Order Act and the recently enacted Cyber Security law. There were also concerns about the discriminatory way the COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the Public Order Act were enforced, particularly against members and supporters of opposition parties. For instance, the ZPS was accused of discriminatory application of the 1955 Public Order Act, which apparently exempts the President, Vice President, and other executive officials from adhering to certain protocols or procedures such as written notification to the police before holding public meetings.

C. Election Administration

An independent, impartial, professional, and effective Election Management Body (EMB) is important for the conduct of credible elections and the facilitation of participation of citizens in the democratic process. In line with the provisions of the 2007 African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) and the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, Zambia establishes the ECZ under the 1996 Constitution as an independent body mandated to conduct and supervise elections and referenda, compile and update the voter register, demarcate electoral boundaries, educate citizens on the electoral process, accredit monitors and observers, and manage electoral conflicts and resolve disputes.

The ECZ is composed of five (5) members - a chairperson, vice-chairperson and three other members - all of whom are appointed by the President and approved by the National Assembly for a seven-year renewable term. Of the current five members of ECZ, only one is a woman and serves as the vice-chairperson. The Commission is supported by a management team at the headquarters, which is led by a Chief Electoral Officer (CEO). The CEO is responsible for the management and administration of the ECZ, and the implementation of all decisions made by the Commission. The ECZ operates as a centralised body, with no formal structures outside of the capital. Rather, it appoints *ad hoc* committees and operates through the local government administration.² The Commission has the power to make and enforce rules and regulations in the form of statutory instruments such as those relating to the electoral procedures and Code of Conduct for political parties and CSOs.

In preparation for the 2021 elections, the ECZ undertook several activities, including the delimitation of constituencies and wards, compilation of a new biometric Voter Register, the nomination of candidates, civic and voter education, and accreditation of monitors and observers, among others. The AUEOM noted that it carried out all these activities on time and in line with its electoral calendar.

Political parties and CSOs had access to observe all the preparations and activities carried out by the ECZ. However, some interlocutors complained about inadequate consultation and sharing of information by ECZ in the implementation of key electoral processes in the pre-election period. They also complained about the ECZ's decision to restrict the number of monitors CSOs can deploy in each constituency, which impedes their ability to comprehensively monitor the electoral process.

² In the run-up to the 2021 general elections, the ECZ established *ad hoc* committees to help in the implementation of its mandate relating to political parties, voter education and conflict management.

Despite the low public trust and confidence in the ECZ, especially among opposition parties and some CSOs, the AUEOM found that it conducted the elections in a timely and technically sound manner.

D. Voter Registration

Transparency and verifiability are some of the key principles of a credible voter registration process. The Constitution of Zambia guarantees the right of citizens who are 18 years and above to register as voters. In this regard, Zambia operates a continuous voter registration system that allows the ECZ to regularly update the register in between elections to take into account new eligible voters.

Before starting voter registration for the 2021 elections, the ECZ audited the 2016 register with the help of an international expert. The findings of the audit exercise revealed that the 2016 register was bloated and contained an estimated 1.4 million deceased persons. Based on this finding and in accordance with the legal requirement, the ECZ compiled a new biometric voter register from 9 November to 20 December 2020 using both online and in-person approaches. The online method was merely a pre-registration exercise to speed up the process. At the end of the exercise, a total of 7,023,499 voters were registered, representing 83.5% of eligible voters - an increase of 4.6% in the number of registered voters compared to 2016. The ECZ also registered 14,070 prisoners in compliance with the 2017 judgement of the Constitutional Court.

Despite the ECZ's efforts to remove deceased and illegible voters from the register, some political parties and CSOs raised concerns about the accuracy and credibility of the new register. This was mainly due to the refusal of the ECZ to allow for an independent audit of the new register to assess its accuracy and credibility, as was done in 2016. The huge difference in the number of voters in the stronghold of the incumbent president and that of the opposition candidates contributed to stakeholders' suspicion about the credibility of the register. The ECZ's argued that there was no legal basis for an independent audit of the register. The inability of ECZ to address concerns about the accuracy and credibility of the voters' register contributed to distrust between it and the opposition parties and some CSOs.

E. Registration of Political Parties and Candidates

Political parties and candidates are key stakeholders in the electoral process and the functioning of democracy. Not only do they represent the interests and opinions of citizens and offer them the possibility of influencing politics and decisions that affect them, but they also increase participation in the electoral

process by mobilising voters and helping them make informed choices. As registration is a vital first stage of the functioning and participation of political parties and candidates in the electoral process, it is important that the rules and requirements for registration be reasonable, fair, and without undue restrictions.

The AUEOM found that the qualifications and requirements to register as a party or candidate for the 2021 elections were reasonable, and the management of the nominations did not represent undue obstacles to the freedom of association. This contributed to the overall competitiveness and inclusiveness of the elections, as seen from the high number of contestants in all three types of elections.³

However, the AUEOM found the nomination fees for the elections, which were non-refundable, to be excessive. Despite some variations in terms of gender, age and physical condition of the contestants, the high nomination fees may have negatively impacted the participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities (PWDs), whose economic circumstances have been exacerbated by the country's current economic decline and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following are the fees for the 2021 General election.

Election	Category	Amount (ZMK)	Equivalent (USD)
Presidential	Male	95,000.00	5675
	Female	75,000.00	4480
	Youth	60,000.00	3587
	Person with Disability	60,000.00	3587
National Assembly	Male	15,000.00	896
	Female	13,500.00	806
	Youth	10,000.00	597
	Person with Disability	10,000.00	597
Mayoral	Male	15,000.00	896
	Female	13,500.00	806
	Youth	10,000.00	597
	Person with Disability	10,000.00	597
Council Chairperson	Male	3,500.00	209
	Female	3,000.00	179
	Youth	2,500.00	149

³ A total of sixteen (16) political parties and candidates contested the presidential election. Nineteen (19) political parties, with over 800 candidates, including independents, contested the parliamentary election. Twenty-five (25) political parties, with more than 6,000 candidates, including independents, contested the local council election.

	Person with Disability	2,500.00	149
Councillor (City/ Municipal)	Male	1,500.00	89
	Female	1,000.00	59
	Youth	1,000.00	59
	Person with Disability	1,000.00	59
Councillor (Town/ District)	Male	600.00	35
	Female	500.00	29
	Youth	500.00	29
	Person with Disability	500.00	29

Source: ECZ website: <https://www.elections.org.zm/tag/2021-nomination-fees/>

Similarly, the educational requirement of a grade twelve (12) certificate to contest in the elections puts an unreasonable restriction on the participatory right of, especially, citizens living in rural areas with low literacy rates.

F. Election Campaign

The 2021 election campaign was conducted within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that the freedom to campaign was restricted as the state put in place some measures of control, such as a ban on large public gatherings and public rallies, to curb the spread of the disease. In view of this, political parties and candidates resorted to alternative means of campaigning, relying mostly on the use of radio and television, virtual (social media) platforms, and limited door-to-door canvassing. The major themes in the campaign revolved around the economy, unemployment, and corruption.

The ban on large public gatherings notwithstanding, the election campaign was competitive, with mass rallies carried out especially by the PF and UPND, who dominated the campaign environment. Throughout the campaign, the opposition accused the ZPS and other state agencies of selective application of the provisions of the 1955 Public Order Act and COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures in favour of the incumbent president and PF supporters. It was alleged that supporters of the ruling party were generally exempted from arrest by the ZPS as against those of opposition parties whose rallies and meetings were frequently disrupted.

The election campaigns were marred by violence, carried out mostly by party cadres and supporters of the PF and UPND. The situation sometimes compelled the ECZ to suspend or bar candidates from campaigning, in line with the extant

Electoral Code of Conduct. The campaign was also characterised by heightened political hatred, hostility, insults, cyber-bullying, and disinformation. These undermined the freedom of expression and the right of citizens to participate in public affairs.

To curb the violence during the election campaigns, and for the first time in the electoral history of Zambia, the President authorised the deployment of the Zambian Army. The Army's deployment elicited mixed reactions from stakeholders. On the one hand, the pro-government supporters viewed it as necessary to ensure law and order. On the other hand, opposition parties were sceptical about the President's reason for involving the Army in the elections. By and large, the Army's conduct remained professional throughout the elections.

G. Campaign Finance

Financing election campaign helps political parties and candidates to vigorously influence votes. However, unregulated and disproportionate campaign finance can undermine the free choice of voters and distort the democratic process.

The AUEOM notes the lack of an enabling legislation to give effect to the Constitutional provision for public funding for parties and candidates and campaign financing limit and accountability in the 2021 elections⁴. This was particularly disadvantageous to smaller parties with limited resources to vigorously canvass voters. In addition, the alleged misused of state resources in favour of the incumbent president and PF and restrictions placed on the activities of opposition parties and candidates by state agencies due to the COVID-19 pandemic tilted the campaign environment.

H. Participation of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

Women's Participation

Women in Zambia constitute more than half of the population.⁵ This was also reflected in the number of registered voters for the 2021 elections. Out of 7,023,499 registered voters, 3,751,040 (53.4%) were women. The Mission noted that despite being in the majority as registered voters, political parties did not nominate many women as candidates. Out of 16 presidential candidates, only one (1) was a woman. Of the more than 800 candidates who took part in the National Assembly elections, women constituted about 21%. The Local Council

⁴ Article 60 (4) of the 1991 Constitution of Zambia (as amended) authorises the creation of a Political Parties' Fund.

⁵ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/967971/total-population-of-zambia-by-gender/>

election had the lowest number of women, with only 10% of the 6,130 candidates. However, there were more women running mates (4 in total) in the 2021 elections than in 2016 (which was 3).

Of the 155 members elected during the elections for the National Assembly, only 20 were women, and only 10 women were elected out of 116 mayoral seats. The AUEOM notes that although Zambia has an enabling legal framework for women's political and social inclusion, however, worryingly, the number of women elected to public offices remains low.

For the presidential election, the UPND and PF nominated women as running mates. The result is that the UPND, having won the election, the current vice President of Zambia is a woman. It is also worth noting that women constituted the majority of polling staff recruited by the ECZ, and they were equally represented in high numbers as monitors and party agents on Election Day.

By and large, the AUEOM found that the heightened political situation in the country, including the increased spates of violence, hate speech, insults, and cyber-bullying, was a major deterrent to women's effective participation in the 2021 Elections.

Youth Participation

Zambia is considered a youthful country, with about 82% of the population below the age of 35 years. Despite this youth bulge, there is no enabling legal framework that expressly speaks to their participation in electoral and political processes, save for the Constitution, which demands the equitable representation of the youth.

However, the AUEOM noted that some organisations made efforts to ensure youth participation and engagement in the 2021 electoral process, which resulted in 56.33% of youth registering as voters.

Youth organisations informed the AUEOM that they also lobbied political parties for the nomination of youth as candidates and funded the campaign of youth candidates where they were nominated. Overall, the AUEOM observed a moderate level of youth participation in the electoral process.

Participation of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

A study report by the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD), a quasi-government institution established by an Act of Parliament, indicates the prevalence of disability among the adult population aged 18 and above is estimated at 10.9%, with the majority being women. Both the Constitution of Zambia and the 2012 Persons with Disabilities Act guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities in Zambia, including their equitable representation in public affairs at all levels. However, the AUEOM notes that these legislative frameworks have not been effectively implemented, leading to a lack of measures for the effective participation of PWDs in the electoral process. The increased spate of political violence in the run-up to the elections also hindered the effective participation and inclusion of PWDs.

However, the AUEOM received reports that some non-governmental organisations, such as the Zambia National Women's Lobby and Disability Rights Watch, conducted advocacy programs for the strengthening of the political participation and inclusion of PWDs in the electoral process. Through this, several political parties embraced PWDs not only as party members but also as candidates. As a result, out of the four PWDs who contested the National Assembly elections, one was elected. In addition, out of the six local councillors and two Mayorship PWD candidates, one won as a councillor, and another was elected as a mayor. While these numbers appear to be negligible, they demonstrate the importance of concerted efforts to help PWDs realise their rights to participate in the political and civic life of the country.

The ECZ also put in place measures and services that enhanced the participation of PWDs in the elections. The measures include locating most polling stations at accessible places, developing sign language videos, and adopting the use of tactile ballot for the visually impaired.

I. The Media

Zambia's legal framework guarantees fundamental freedoms, including freedom of the media and access to information for all citizens, especially during elections. Generally, the country enjoys a pluralistic media environment with dozens of public and private media outlets, which helped in the dissemination of election-related information. It also allowed citizens access to a variety of viewpoints to make informed choices on issues that affect them.

Despite this diversity, the media landscape was polarised along partisan lines. The public broadcaster, Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC), gave unequal coverage to the incumbent president and PF. Private media outlets, on

their part, tilted towards coverage of the activities of opposition parties. In addition, media content was frequently unbalanced, with hate speech, misinformation and cyberbullying messages amplified through various media outlets. By and large, the AUEOM found the conduct of the state and private media contravened the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for broadcasting set by the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA).

While the passage of the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act in March 2021 was meant to address the increasing incidents of cyberbullying and online harassment, the AUEOM found that it adversely affected freedom of expression and the right to privacy. The law can help protect individuals from cyber extortion and enhance national security, if well implemented. However, some of its provisions contain vague definitions that can be used against critics. During the elections, it was reportedly used to target freedom of expression and speech of critics of government and political opponents.⁶

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, social media was widely used by different stakeholders for sharing information on the elections. Despite the limitations posed by the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act, access to social media and the internet remained largely unrestricted and individuals could freely express their views via the internet. The AUEOM noted that social media platforms provided additional opportunities for political parties, candidates and citizens to disseminate and access election-related information. However, during the counting phase, there was a brief internet interruption, particularly on social media platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp.

J. Voter Education

Articles 79 and 80 of the Electoral Process Act 2016 provide for the ECZ and interested stakeholders to undertake voter education during elections. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the outreach strategies employed by ECZ involved mostly the use of public address systems, radio and TV advertisements, distribution of posters and brochures, and social media platforms to convey information on the electoral process.

To increase access to electoral information by stakeholders and citizens, the ECZ recruited voter education trainers and facilitators. The Commission also set

⁶ For instance, Section 27 of the Act provides for the establishment of the Central Monitoring and Co-ordination Centre as an authorised centre for interception of communications. Section 39 of the Act requires electronic communication service providers to collect personal data from individuals.

up voter education committees at national and district levels to implement its voter education programs. It further established voter education clubs in various schools as well as a voter education virtual resource library to educate students on electoral issues.

The ECZ also worked with several CSOs, faith-based organisations and traditional leaders under the 'Democracy Strengthening in Zambia' (DSZ) project supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to deliver voter education programs to citizens. These stakeholders were provided with technical capacity and information, education and communication materials such as handbooks, guides, posters, brochures and leaflets.

The ECZ's voter education activities targeted all potential voters, but more specifically women, youth, PWDs, persons in lawful custody, and rural voters. The content of the voter education campaigns revolved around educating stakeholders on the management of the electoral process, the electoral system, voting procedures, the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders and, above all, the importance of peaceful elections.

Overall, the AUEOM noted the structured voter education approach employed by the ECZ positively impacted the 2021 electoral process, as can be seen from the high voter turnout and relatively low percentage of rejected votes.

K. Role of National Monitoring and International Election Observation Organisations

Civil Society and national organisations played an active and crucial role in the 2021 elections through civic and voter education, dispute resolution programmes, and monitoring of the electoral process. Overall, their activities enhanced the credibility and transparency of the electoral process. The most active and prominent group of CSOs was the Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG), which deployed several thousand monitors across the country on Election Day.

Notwithstanding the important and active role that CSOs played in the 2021 electoral process, the ECZ introduced a cumbersome accreditation process that limited the number of monitors that they could deploy in each constituency.⁷ These measures hindered CSOs' ability to effectively observe election day

⁷ The new accreditation requirements introduced by ECZ for domestic monitors required submission of notarised forms and in-person application. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the ECZ limited the accreditation of monitors to five (5) monitors per constituency per organisation.

operations and were an undue infringement on the right of citizens to participate fully in public affairs.

In addition to domestic groups, international organisations such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the European Union (EU), the Commonwealth Secretariat, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Eastern African Standby Force (EASF) and The Carter Center (TCC) deployed election observation missions. The Commonwealth Secretariat also facilitated the signing of a peace pledge by political parties and, together with the AUEOM, engaged in preventive diplomacy to ensure a peaceful electoral outcome.

III. ELECTION DAY OBSERVATION

On Election Day, the AUEOM deployed 30 observers to cover seven (7) provinces across the country where they observed opening, voting, closing and counting procedures. The Mission's observers visited a total of 249 polling stations, of which 73% (181) were in urban areas and 27% (68) in rural areas. Overall, the atmosphere was generally peaceful and calm on Election Day, except in the North-Western province, where two killings (both members of the PF) were reported.

Most of the polling stations visited by the AUEOM teams opened and closed on time. Of the 18 polling stations visited, only two (2) opened late, while six (6) did not close on time (18:00). The delay in opening was because the polling officials were waiting for party agents to arrive and also had difficulty in setting up the polling stations. However, all voters on the queue at the time of the closing of polls were allowed to vote.

At opening time, ballot boxes were shown to observers and party or candidate agents, sealed properly and placed in full public view. Copies of the Voter Register were given to all party or candidate agents present at the stations, which allowed them to verify the details of voters. At closing time, the results were announced publicly and posted outside the polling station. Party/candidates agents were given a copy of the results. These measures contributed to the transparency of the process.

Domestic monitors and international observers were granted unhindered access to the voting process. The presence of PF and UPND party agents was observed in all polling stations visited, while agents for the Socialist Party and independent candidates were seen in a few. The agents, monitors and observers demonstrated good knowledge of their duties and conducted themselves

peacefully and responsibly. The presence of the police was also observed in all stations visited. Their conduct was professional and nonintrusive.

The ECZ used Biometric Voter Identification Devices (BVIDs) in polling stations with high numbers of registered voters, which expedited the voter verification process. The AUEOM noted with satisfaction that the BVIDs functioned well in all polling stations where its teams visited. Tactile ballot jackets were used for visually impaired voters, which aided their participation. Priority was given to PWDs, the elderly, expectant, and nursing mothers. Additionally, assistance was provided to voters who required such support. While these measures facilitated the right to vote, almost a fifth of the polling stations visited had accessibility issues for voters with reduced mobility either due to long and sometimes disorderly crowds outside the polling stations or the elevated grounds in which the polling stations were located.

Secrecy of the ballot was ensured in the majority of polling stations visited by AU observers, except in a few cases where it was deemed to be compromised due to poor layout, limited space and overcrowding. No campaigning or campaign materials near the polling stations visited were observed.

All the polling stations visited had the full complement of six (6) staff. Participation of women as polling staff was high, with an average of four (4) of the six (6) staff being females. The staff demonstrated adequate levels of professionalism, competence and understanding of their roles and responsibilities. They followed laid down procedures, including the display of ballot boxes, verification and inking of voters, ballot stamping, sealing of ballot boxes, reconciliation and counting, provision of copies of the polling station voters list to party agents, among others, were largely adhered to and conducted in a transparent and professional manner. However, COVID-19 measures, such as disinfecting the hands of the voters and asking voters to keep a distance between each other and wear the mask properly, were strictly not followed.

Overall, AU observers assessed the performance of polling officials and conduct of Election Day operations as mostly good.

IV. POST-ELECTION OBSERVATION

Results Management

Well ahead of Election Day, the ECZ published its results management framework outlining the various steps for tabulating, transmitting and announcing official results. The framework outlined a nine-step procedure that starts from the end of the counting process at the polling station level to the transmission of election results to the tallying centres at constituency and national levels.

Between the polling station and constituency level, results were transmitted physically by the presiding officer, while the completed results forms from the constituency tallying centre to the national tallying centre were transmitted electronically. The results for National Assembly, Mayoral and local council Chairperson elections were announced at the constituency level, while the announcement of presidential election results was done at the national level by the Chairperson of the ECZ.

The AUEOM noted that at every stage of the results management process, party and candidate agents were allowed access and given copies of the results forms. Accredited observers and representatives of the media were also granted access to the tallying centres. Copies of the completed results forms were posted at each tallying centre for public viewing. Although opposition parties and some CSOs had earlier on expressed concerns about the results management procedures, in part due to insufficient information provided to them by ECZ, the AUEOM found every stage of the process was verifiable and transparent. Thus, the results announced at the national level accurately captured those at lower levels.

The ECZ announced the official results of the elections in a timely manner on 16 August 2021. According to the results announced, the presidential election was won by the opposition candidate Hakainde Hichilema of the UPND, with 2,852,348 (59.02%) of the valid votes cast, while the incumbent President Edgar Lungu came in second with 1,870,780 (38.71%) votes. Harry Kalaba of the Democratic Party (DP) came to a distant third position with 25,231 (0.52%) votes. The voter turnout was 70.61%. Below is a distribution of the Presidential Election Results:

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Party</i>	<i>Votes gained</i>	<i>%</i>
Hakainde Hichilema	UPND	2,852,348	59.02
Edgar Lungu	PF	1,870,780	38.71
Harry Kalaba	DP	25,231	0.52
Andyford Banda	PAC	19,937	0.41
Fred M'Membe	SP	16,644	0.34
Highvie Hamududu	PNUP	10,480	0.22
Chishala Kateka	NHP	8,169	0.17
Charles Chanda	UPPZ	6,543	0.14
Lazarus Chisela	ZUSD	5,253	0.11
Nevers Mumba	MMD	4,968	0.10
Enock Tonga	3 rd LM	3,112	0.06
Musonda	UNIP	3,036	0.06
Sean Tembo	PEP	1,813	0.04
Stephen Nyirenda	NAREP	1,808	0.04

Kasonde Mwenda	EFF	1,345	0.03
Richard Silumbe	LM	1,296	0.03
Total votes cast	4,959,332		
Votes rejected	126,569		
Registered voters	7,023,499		
Turnout	70.61%		

Source: ECZ website: <https://zambiaelections2021.org.zm>

Shortly after the official announcement of the results, President Lungu conceded defeat and congratulated the President-elect Hakainde Hichilema in a televised statement. In line with the Constitution, the President-elect Hakainde Hichilema and his running mate were sworn in on Tuesday, 24 August 2021.

The UPND also won a majority of the National Assembly seats with 82 over 59 for the PF. However, it has fewer seats to be able to make any substantial changes to the Constitution on its own.

Below is a distribution of National Assembly Results.

Party	Seats	%
UPND	82	52.9
PF	59	38.1
PNUP	1	0.6
Independents	13	8.4
Total seats	155 ⁸	

Source: ECZ website: <https://zambiaelections2021.org.zm/nationalAssembly>

Post-Election Political Environment

Prior to the announcement of official results, President Lungu issued a public statement declaring that the elections were “not free and fair” because of incidents of violence against his party’s agents in some provinces in the country. In response, officials from the opposition UPND dismissed the President’s statement as “a desperate final act of an outgoing administration” that was trying to “cling on to their jobs”. The public spat between officials of the two main political parties created a tense political atmosphere in the immediate aftermath of the elections as there were fears that a disputed election could plunge the country into post-election violence. This led to a series of behind-the-scene diplomatic engagements with leaders of both the PF and UPND by some heads of international election observation missions, the leadership of CCMG and

⁸ This did not include results for the election in Kaumbwe constituency, which was postponed to 21 October 2021: <https://www.elections.org.zm/2021/09/13/elections-for-kaumbwe-constituency-chisamba-lusangazi-districts-and-four-4-local-government-wards/>

others. These interventions helped ensure the peaceful acceptance of the election results by President Lungu and his party.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

The 12 August 2021 General Elections were held under challenging circumstances that include the Covid-19 pandemic, increased political tensions and violence, and a declining economy characterised by a high rate of unemployment and poverty. Notwithstanding these challenges, the elections were competitive, transparent and credible. They were conducted in a manner that generally complied with Zambia's national legal framework and international commitments for democratic elections.

To this end, the AUEOM commends the people of Zambia for their commitment to democratic rule.

Recommendation

In the spirit of cooperation and commitment to improving the framework and conduct of future elections in Zambia, the AUEOM offers the following recommendations for consideration by stakeholders:

The Government:

- Ensure an enabling environment prevails during elections by urgently undertaking measures to address underlying causes of tension and politically motivated violence that limited constitutionally guaranteed freedoms and rights.
- Review provisions of the Public Order Act that infringe upon the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens to expand the democratic space.
- Set up enforcement mechanisms to ensure that state resources (both human and material) do not serve partisan interests.
- Strengthen the capacity of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) to enhance professional standards in the media and ensure equitable coverage of political parties and candidates' activities during elections.
- Ensure that the rule of law is applied fairly and consistently throughout the electoral process.

The National Assembly:

- Review Article 52 (6) of the Constitution, which provides for fresh nomination of candidates in the event of death, resignation or

disqualification of a candidate. Implementation of this provision, especially for the presidential election, at a time too close to the election day may heighten political tension and cause unnecessary financial burden to the State.

- The AUEOM would like to reiterate its 2016 recommendation on the need to enact enabling legislation to give effect to constitutional provisions for political party funding and campaign finance accountability.

The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ):

- Improve communication and engagement with electoral stakeholders, particularly with opposition parties and CSOs, to enhance transparency in the electoral process, as well as ensure that the ECZ is widely and at all times perceived as an effective, independent, impartial and credible institution.
- Undertake and/or permit an independent audit of the Voter Register by stakeholders to enhance its credibility.
- Review the process of accreditation to enable active participation of observers, monitors, party agents and others to increase transparency and accountability in the electoral process.
- Reduce the number of voters per polling station to ease overcrowding and associated challenges on election day such as delay in counting and tabulation of results.

Political Parties:

- Put in place measures to increase the participation and representation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities within political parties, especially in leadership positions.
- Channel any disputes on the electoral process or its outcomes through appropriate dispute resolution mechanisms as provided for in the law.
- Dismantle party cadres who have been implicated in perpetrating electoral violence, hate speech, and harassment of political opponents. These acts constitute a threat to the peace and stability of the country and the integrity of the electoral process, and can affect women and other vulnerable groups' participation as voters and candidates.

The Media:

- The media, particularly the public broadcaster, should ensure equal access and balanced coverage to all electoral contestants.
- Strictly adhere to ethical reporting standards, including fact-checking reports to combat fake news and misinformation on the elections, which have the potential to fuel controversy and increased polarisation in society.

Civil Society Organisations:

- Continue with efforts towards ensuring peaceful, inclusive, transparent and credible electoral processes in Zambia.
- Improve collaboration with ECZ and other stakeholders to enhance the transparency and credibility of the electoral process.

Security Agencies:

- Remain professional and stay neutral throughout the electoral process.
- Protect all citizens, irrespective of their political affiliations, from election-related violence, intimidation and coercion, and ensure that all rights violations are subject to prompt, independent and impartial judicial remedy.
- Ensure that restrictions on campaign activities of political parties and candidates are reasonable and non-discriminatory.

Annexure 1: List of Observers and Area of Deployment

Name	Title/Position	Nationality	Gender	Area of Deployment
H.E. Ernest Bai Koroma	Head of Mission, Former President of Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	Male	Lusaka
H.E. Dr. Speciosa Kazibwe	Former Vice President of Uganda	Uganda	Female	Lusaka
H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye	AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security	Nigeria	Male	Lusaka
Kaston Adeniyi Ojomo	Special Assistant to H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye	Nigeria	Male	Lusaka
Sheriff Mahmud Ismail	Special Assistant to H.E. Ernest Bai Koroma	Sierra Leone	Male	Lusaka
Ibrahim Sesay	Personal Security to H.E. Ernest Bai Koroma	Sierra Leone	Male	Lusaka
H.E. Amb. Jean Njeri Kamau	Ambassador of Kenya to the AU	Kenya	Female	Lusaka - covering
Mr. Eric Randrianantoandro	Charge d' Affairs of Madagascar to the AU	Madagascar	Male	Kanyama, Chawama, Linda, Mapepe & Chilanga
Chimango Edward Chirwa	Short-Term Observer	Malawi	Male	Lusaka - covering Matero, Lilanda,
Henrietta Morenike Omaiboje	Short-Term Observer	Nigeria	Female	Kabanana, Chazanga
David Claude PIERRE	Short-Term Observer	Seycheles	Male	Lusaka - covering Mutendere,
Laraba Elsie Bhutto	Short-Term Observer	Nigeria	Female	Kaunda Sqaure, Obama, Helen, Kaunda
Nfamara Kuyateh	Short-Term Observer	Gambia		Lusaka - covering
Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko	Short-Term Observer	Sierra Leone	Male	Nampundwe, Garden House,
Gladys Modupeola Quist Adebisi	Short-Term Observer	Nigeria	Female	Lusaka West
Thierry Junior Hot	Short-Term Observer	Burkina Faso		Southern
Kanlou Atany	Short-Term Observer	Togo		Province –

Kagnaguine				covering Mazabuka
Muhammed Lawal Gougbe	Short-Term Observer	Benin	Male	Southern Province – covering Livingstone
Haseena P. Masechaba Mdak	Short-Term Observer	South Africa	Female	
John Charles Vanjah	Short-Term Observer	Sierra Leone	Male	Central Province - covering Kabwe
Thato Patience Moeti	Short-Term Observer	Lesotho	Female	
Ernestine Kenya Bass	Short-Term Observer	Liberia	Female	Eastern Province - covering Nyimba
Mukadi Mutoke Tshimanga	Short-Term Observer	DRC	Male	
Samboujang Njie	Short-Term Observer	Gambia	Male	Copperbelt Province - covering Ndola
Laetitia Musomandera	Short-Term Observer	Rwanda	Female	
Abilio Da Conceicao Lino Guilherme Diruai	Short-Term Observer	Mozambique		Copperbelt Province - covering Chingola
Leonard Njenga	Short-Term Observer	Kenya	Male	
Marie Louise Adelaide Ndiaye	Short-Term Observer	Senegal	Female	North Western Province - covering Solwezi
Lovemore Chikumbutso Hauya	Short-Term Observer	Malawi	Male	
El Kadhi Ahmed	Short-Term Observer	Tunisia	Male	Western Province - covering Kaoma Town
Abera Hailemariam Woldeyesus	Short-Term Observer	Ethiopia	Male	
Mary Catherine Nkosi	Short-Term Observer	Malawi	Female	Lusaka - covering central business district
Naphtaly Sekamogeng	Technical Support - EISA	South Africa	Male	
Idrissa Kamara	Mission Coordinator - Core Team	Sierra Leone	Male	
Ellen Dingani	Election Analyst - Core Team	Zimbabwe	Female	
Faith Titia Achieng Adu	Political Analyst - Core Team	Kenya	Female	
Jespa Tichock Ajereboh	Legal Analyst - Core Team	Cameroon	Male	

Titi Pitso	Media And Social Inclusion Analyst - Core Team	South Africa	Female	
Lenny Taabu	Technical Support - EISA	Kenya	Female	
Mukundeleli Mpeiwa	Mediation Expert	South Africa	Female	
Andre Sozinho Paulo Socrates	Regional Desk Officer - Conflict Early Warning	Angola	Male	
Demeke Tesfaye Wordofa	Database Coordinator - Mission Support	Ethiopia	Male	
Mudzingwa Gideon Mushininga	Finance Officer - Mission Support	Zimbabwe	Male	
Melvis M. Ndiloseh	Program Officer - Mission Support	Cameroon	Female	
Junior Muke	Program Officer - Mission	DRC	Male	
Sanatek Haile Woldemariam	Admin. Assistant - Mission Support	Ethiopia	Female	
Meskerem Tekeste Ketema	Private Secretary to H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye - Mission Support	Ethiopia	Female	

Annexure 2: Observers Orientation and Briefing Programme - 8-9 August 2021

DAY ONE: 8 August 2021

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER/FACILITATOR
09:45-10:00hrs	Arrival and registration	
10:00-10:45	Introductions	AU Coordination Team
	Welcome Remarks	Head of AU EOM and AU Commissioner
	Mission Background, ToRs & Code of conduct (signing observer pledge)	AU Coordination Team
10:45-11:00	Group Photo & Tea/ Coffee Break	
11:00-11:30	The constitutional and legal framework for the elections in Zambia - Presentation and discussion	Edward Sakala- Director, Law Association of Zambia (LAZ)
11:30 – 13:30	Perspectives from Civil Society Organisations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of the media in elections • Gender issues in the electoral process • The role of civil society in the electoral process • Youth representation and participation in the electoral process 	Peter Mwanangombe – Program Manager, The Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG)
		Engwase Mwale – Director, Non-Governmental Coordination Council
		Austin Kayanda – Director, Media Institute for Southern Africa (MISA)
		Doreen Kabwe - Director, Zambia Centre for Inter-party dialogue
		Guess Nyirenda – Director, Operation Young Vote
	Patience Kanguma – Program Manager, Zambia Federation of the Disabled	
13:30 – 14:30	LUNCH	

14:30- 15:30	Briefing by the Electoral Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Overview of the Commission's mandate</i> • <i>The Commission's interaction with stakeholders and involvement of stakeholders in the electoral process (political parties and civil society)</i> • <i>Preparedness for the elections (procurement, personnel recruitment and training, logistics and operations)</i> <i>Others</i>	Emma Mwiinga Manager – Voter Education-Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ)
15:30 – 16:30	Plenary	
16:30	Tea break and end of day one	

DAY TWO: 9 August 2021

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER/FACILITATOR
08:30-09:00	Understanding the concept, rationale and methodology of election observation	EISA
09:00-10:00	Benchmarks for credible elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>International and AU instruments</i> • <i>Principles for democratic elections</i> Election Day observation	EISA/Legal expert
10:00 –10:30	Political and Historical Context of the 2021 Elections - Presentation and discussion	Mcdonald Chipenzi – Executive Director, Governance, Elections, Advocacy, Research Services (GEARS) Initiative
10:30-11:00	Tea/Coffee break	
11:00-12:30	Introduction to the use of tablets for data collection on E-Day	EISA / AU
12:30-13:30	Observer reporting:	EISA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Checklists and phone check-in	
13:30-14:30	LUNCH	
14:30-15:30	Use of checklists on tablets	EISA
15:30-16:15	Deployment briefing and guidelines for election day observation	AU/ EISA
16:15-17:00	Distribution of deployment kits, supplies and tablets	AU/ EISA
17:00	Tea break and end of day two	

Annexure 3: Political Map of Zambia



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