



**JOINT HIGH-LEVEL PRE-ELECTION MISSION OF ECOWAS AND THE AFRICAN
UNION TO GHANA**

November 15-17, 2020

1. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the 2001 ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, and the 2002 OAU/AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, a joint high-level mission of ECOWAS Commission and African Union Commission visited Ghana from November 15 to 17, 2020. The purpose of the joint mission was to engage key stakeholders in the election process, particularly the key institutions involved in the preparation of the elections, political parties and representatives of civil society towards the December 7, 2020 general elections.
2. The Joint Mission, which was led by H.E. Jean Claude Kassi Brou, President of the ECOWAS Commission, comprised Madam Minata Samaté Cessouma, Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union, General Francis Béhanzin, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the ECOWAS Commission and Ambassador Baba Gana Wakil, ECOWAS Resident Representative, Ghana.
3. Whilst in Ghana, the mission seized the opportunity to extend the deepest condolences of the ECOWAS Commission and the African Union Commission to the Government and people of Ghana, and in particular to

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the family of the late former President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. Jerry John Rawlings, who recently passed on.

4. The mission paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairperson of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, Honorable Shirley Ayorkor Botchway, who expressed appreciation to the ECOWAS Commission and the African Union Commission for the timely conduct of the joint-mission. She assured the mission of the commitment of the Government to ensure peaceful, free, fair, credible and transparent elections on December 7, 2020.
5. The Mission held consultations with key stakeholders, including the Minister of National Security, Minister of Interior, the Electoral Commission of Ghana (EC), and representatives of the major political parties. In addition, the delegation met with the Group of African Ambassadors, Board of the National Peace Council (NPC) and some representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).
6. The Joint Mission took note of the progress and assurances by the Electoral Commission on the preparation towards the conduct of credible, free, fair and transparent elections. It urged the EC to continue working closely with all stakeholders for an inclusive process, whilst ensuring that adequate measures are put in place for the strict adherence to the protocols on the Covid-19 pandemic during the elections.



7. The Joint Mission urged the authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure violence-free elections, and expressed satisfaction on the passing of the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, 2019, by the Parliament of Ghana, and the signing of the Code of Conduct on the Eradication of Political Vigilantism in Ghana, under the auspices of the National Peace Council. In this regard, the joint mission commended the authorities for the security measures put in place to ensure a peaceful conduct of elections, and further encouraged all stakeholders to resort to the use of dialogue as a mechanism to addressing all differences and disputes on issues relating to the elections.
8. The Joint Mission reiterated the support of ECOWAS and the African Union and assured the stakeholders that both institutions will deploy Election Observation Missions to support the ongoing process. The Joint Mission expressed its appreciation to the Authorities for the warm and fraternal welcome as well as for all the facilities made available for a successful mission.

Done in Accra, November 17, 2020

ECOWAS Commission



African Union Commission

