



**COMMUNIQUE OF THE JOINT ECOWAS AND AFRICAN UNION
PRE-ELECTION MISSION
TO THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER**

3-4 December 2020

1. In its continued quest for peace, stability and democratic consolidation in West Africa, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission and the African Union (AU) Commission undertook a pre-electoral mission to the Republic of Niger from December 3 to 4, 2020. The mission was undertaken within the frameworks of the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, the Organization of African Unity/African Union Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.
2. The year 2020 marks an election year for the Republic of Niger, as it holds municipal and regional elections on December 13, 2020, followed by legislative and presidential elections on December 27, 2020.
3. The Mission objective was to hold consultations with Nigerien stakeholders and heads of the key institutions in charge of organizing the general elections, and to assess the level of preparation for inclusive, transparent, credible and peaceful elections.
4. The Mission which was led by H.E. Jean-Claude Kassi BROU, President of the ECOWAS Commission, comprised H.E. Minata SAMATE Cessouma, Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union, Mr. Mohammed Nurudeen ISMAILA, Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana and Chair of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, and Madam Liliane ALAPINI, Resident Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission in the Republic of Niger, as well as technical teams from the two institutions.
5. The delegation paid a courtesy call on His **Excellency Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger** who expressed his appreciation for the initiative of the two institutions and assured the Mission of the Government's commitment to ensuring peaceful, credible and transparent elections.
6. The Mission held consultations with key stakeholders, including H.E, Brigi RAFINI, Prime Minister, Mr. Bouba MAHAMANE, President of the



Constitutional Court, H.E. Kalla ANKOURAO, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Abroad, Mr. Alkache ALHADA, Minister of the Interior,, Barrister Ali Sirfi Maiga, Mediator of the Republic, and Barrister Issaka SOUNNA, President of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI). In addition, the Mission met with a delegation of the opposition political parties, a delegation of the political parties of the presidential majority, a delegation of non-affiliated political parties, and delegations of the civil society, as well as traditional and religious leaders.

7. The Mission also held consultations with members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Republic of Niger.
8. The Mission took note of the Constitutional Court rulings of Friday, November 13, 2020, and Thursday, December 3, 2020, on candidatures in the presidential and legislative elections of December 27, 2020. After examining the applications of 41 presidential and 505 legislative candidates received from the Ministry of the Interior, the Court validated as eligible, 30 candidates for the presidential election and 359 for the legislative elections.
9. The Mission also took note of the state of technical preparations for the elections by CENI and welcomed the audit of the electoral register carried out by ECOWAS and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) in September 2020. It further encouraged INEC to continue to implement actions for the organization of elections, particularly mechanisms to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Mission invited all political parties to work with the Electoral Management Body in order to find consensual solutions to any difficulties.
10. The Mission noted the climate of mistrust that persists among stakeholders in the electoral process and encourages them to use dialogue to consolidate social cohesion and ensure a credible, transparent and peaceful electoral process. To this end, the Mission urges the presidential candidates to develop and sign a code of good conduct governing their relationship before, during, and after the ongoing electoral process. The Mission encouraged all



stakeholders to avoid acts of violence and hate speech and to resort to the courts to resolve any disputes.

11. The Mission appreciated the important efforts made by the authorities to improve the security situation in the country in general and invites them to continue the efforts to ensure the security of the electoral process.

12. Finally, the Mission renewed the support of ECOWAS and the AU to the brotherly people of the Republic of Niger and announced the deployment of electoral observation missions for the general elections of 27 December 2020.

Done in Niamey, December 4, 2020

THE MISSION OF ECOWAS AND THE AU

