



Directorate of Information and Communication

Press Release

AUEOM Orientation and Briefing Programme concludes yesterday 23 March 2018 in Egypt



Cairo, Egypt, 24 March 2018 - His Excellency Abdoulaye Diop, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Mali arrived in Egypt on 22 March 2018 to lead the African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) to Egypt's presidential election. Mr. Diop was received upon his arrival by Mr. Mamadou Mangara, the Ambassador of Mali in Egypt as well as by officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt.

Being present in Egypt since 17 March 2018, the AUEOM will observe and assess the 26-28 March 2018 Presidential Elections with a view to contributing to the peacefulness, transparency and integrity of these elections.

The AUEOM is in the country at the invitation of the Government of Egypt and the National Elections Authority (NEA).

The short-term observer (STO) delegation will remain in Egypt until 30 March 2018, when the Mission will issue a statement of its preliminary findings and conclusions at a press conference in Cairo.

The leadership of the AUEOM is holding high level consultative meetings with national stakeholders as well as International Election Observation Missions present in Egypt. Upon his arrival the Head of AUEOM to Egypt has paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Foreign Minister for African Affairs, Ambassador Hamdy Louza. He also held consultations with the Chairperson of the National Electoral Authority (NEA), Judge Lashin Ibrahim, and discussed issues relating to NEA's state of preparedness for the

upcoming elections. Officials in NEA also briefed His Excellency Diop about the political context in the country and the legal framework governing the work of NEA.

Meanwhile, the AU Election Observation Mission concluded yesterday a two-day technical briefing programme for its Short-term Observers in Cairo. The purpose of the technical briefing was to provide key information on the political context of the 2018 election and the state of preparedness of NEA and other national stakeholders, as well as familiarization with AU election observation methodology, including the use forms to gather and analyze data. The Head of the African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM), H.E. Abdoulaye Diop lauded the



high spirit and commitment of all observers and encouraged to maintain such spirit throughout their deployment in Egypt as they represent the African Union. In addition, he emphasized the importance of effective coordination and communication and maintenance of high ethical standards.

AU Short Term observers will be deployed on 24 March to cover as many governorates in Egypt. They will observe the preparations for Election Days in their areas of deployment. After election, the STOs will be debriefed on their findings on 29 March 2018 upon their return from the governorates.

The AUEOM will release a statement on its preliminary findings on the conduct of the 2018 elections at a press conference in Cairo. The venue and time for the Press Conference will be communicated in due course.

The deployment of AUEOM to Egypt is in line with the AU's mandate of promoting and deepening democracy on the continent, as enshrined in relevant instruments of the continental body. It is also in line with the third aspiration of the AU Agenda 2063, which aims to ensure good governance, democracy, and respect for human rights, justice and rule of law on the continent. The conduct of transparent and credible elections in Member States, which AUEOMs aim to ensure, is a prerequisite to the realization of the aspirations of Agenda 2063, and the overall goal of ensuring an integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa.

The STO delegation comprises members from the African Union Permanent Representatives Council (PRC), Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), African Election Management Bodies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and Independent Experts from Think Tanks, Academic Institutions, etc.

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