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Press Release

African Union Deploys a Peer-Learning Mission on Management of Diaspora Elections in Cape Verde for the Electoral Commission of Burkina Faso

Addis Ababa, 12 August 2019: The Department of Political Affairs (DPA) of the African Union Commission (AUC) deployed a peer-learning mission on the management of diaspora elections from 12-13 August 2019 in Praia, Republic of Cape Verde, for the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) of the Republic of Burkina Faso. Within the framework of cooperation between the AUC-DPA and Regional Economic Community networks of electoral commissions, the DPA has collaborated with the ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions (ECONEC) of which the Election Management Bodies (EMBs) from Burkina Faso and Cape Verde are members. The seven-member peer-learning mission is part of the overall support programme to the CENI in Burkina Faso following the latter's request for electoral assistance in preparation for the general elections scheduled to take place in 2020.

The CENI in Burkina Faso is planning to organise the first diaspora elections during the general in 2020 which will commence registration of voters in order to allow the opportunity of this special category of citizens to exercise their democratic right in electing their leaders. The study tour will enable the CENI to acquire useful experience and draw lessons from Cape Verde which has a long-track record of organising diaspora elections for nearly three decades.

The peer-learning is part of the overall strategy of the AUC-DPA in providing support to EMBs in the Member States in order to manage peaceful, democratic and credible elections as envisioned in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG).

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