



**DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

**Press Release**

**African Union deploys Election Observers to the Republic of Guinea Bissau**

**Addis Ababa, 18 November 2019:** The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, **H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat**, has authorized the deployment of the African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) ahead of the Republic of Guinea Bissau 24 November 2019 Presidential Election.

The deployment of the AUEOM takes place in two phases: the Long and Short Term Observers (LTOs and STOs). The first phase comprises the deployment of 14 LTOs Experts and takes place from 19 November to 31 December 2019. This is to ensure that the AUEOM conducts a comprehensive observation and analysis of all relevant aspects of the electoral process. The Long Term Experts will to be joined by 40 STOs from 20 to 30 November 2019 during the second phase of the Mission.

The objectives of the AUEOM are: (a) to provide an accurate and impartial reporting or assessment of the quality of 24 November 2019 Presidential Election, including the degree to which the conduct of the elections meets regional, continental and international standards for democratic elections; (b) to offer recommendations for improvement of future elections based on the findings; and (c) to demonstrate AU's interest to support Guinea Bissau's elections and democratization process to ensure that the conduct of genuine elections contributes to the consolidation of democratic governance, peace and stability.

The AUEOM draws its mandate from various African Union instruments, most importantly: (a) the African Union Guidelines for Elections Observation and Monitoring Missions (2002); (b) the OAU/AU Declaration on Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa (2002); (c) the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (1981) and (d) the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2007). This is in line with Aspirations No.3 of Agenda 2063, which aims to ensure good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law on the continent.

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