



PRESS RELEASE

Nairobi, 5th August 2022: The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Election Observation Mission to the August 9th 2022 General Elections in the Republic of Kenya was officially launched today at the Sarova Panafric Hotel by the Head of Mission H.E. Amb. Ismael Abraão Gaspar Martins, a Diplomat and Former Minister of Finance and of External Trade of the Republic of Angola.

Also present was the Deputy Head of the ICGLR Observation Mission, Honourable Claude Nahayo, the Executive Secretary of the ICGLR, Amb. João Samuel Caholo, and the Secretary General of the Forum of Parliament of the ICGLR, Amb. Onyango Kakoba and the former Vice President of the Republic of Zambia Hon. Enoch P. Kavindele.

In his arrival statement, the Head of Mission invited Members to observe a moment of silence in honour of the late H.E. President Emilio Mwai Kibaki, the 3rd President of the Republic of Kenya and one of the Founding Fathers of the ICGLR. He also noted that the ICGLR mandate to observe the elections is derived from Article Six (6) of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region in which the ICGLR Heads of State and Government committed to promote democracy, good governance and human rights. He further noted that the ICGLR Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance obliges Member States to commit to the promotion of the universal values and principles of democracy, good governance, human rights and the right to development.

While applauding the general peace and tranquility that has reigned in the country during the campaign period, Amb. Martins looked forward to a free, fair, and peaceful transition. He also commended the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) for the electoral arrangements put in place to ensure the success of the electoral process and urged all parties to keep the momentum and spirit of peaceful, free and fair elections.

The launch was preceded by a two-day training of 81 observers drawn from 10 ICGLR Member States, the Conference Secretariat, the Levy Mwanawasa Centre for Democracy and Good Governance and the Forum of Parliaments of the ICGLR. It was facilitated by the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) where participants were trained on the role and responsibilities as observers during the forthcoming elections. It is envisaged that the ICGLR Observers will be deployed to various parts of the country and will be guided by the Provisions of the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance during the observation exercise.