

## **A Statement on behalf of the Development Partners Group (DPG) on the start of the Voter Registration Exercise**

by the DPG co-chairs,  
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and Mr. Johannes Zutt, World Bank Country Director

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**The International Community congratulates the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and the people of Kenya for the start of voter registration.** This is an important milestone towards meeting the March 4 elections date. The IEBC has said that **registration will only take place for 30 days, so we urge all Kenyans to register early** to ensure that their voices count in building a peaceful and prosperous Kenya.

While acknowledging the significant efforts that the Government of Kenya has made to prepare for the next elections, we urge the Ministry of Immigration and the National Registration Bureau to **expedite issuance of identification (ID) cards** to enable young Kenyans as well as those who may have lost their ID cards to participate in the voter registration exercise.

We call on IEBC and civil society organisations to **enhance voter education to ensure that Kenyans are sufficiently aware and mobilized to register and vote.**

We recognize that, with **just over 100 days left to the elections**, there will be challenges in meeting the timelines currently set out in law, and so we urge **Parliament and IEBC to engage in dialogue to ensure the March 4 2013 election date is met.**

As friends of the Government and the people of Kenya, the Development Partners Group calls on all parties to ensure that preparations for the election as well as the election itself take place in a peaceful atmosphere. We support the conduct of free, fair and credible elections that will help ensure Kenya's future stability and prosperity. **We encourage the political leadership, IEBC, and the police to continue working towards that goal.**

The IEBC has an enormous task ahead of it in preparing for and conducting the first general elections to be held under the new Constitution. **We urge Kenya's leaders and all Kenyans to safeguard and promote the independence of IEBC.**