

Memorandum of Understanding

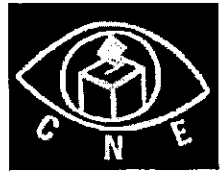
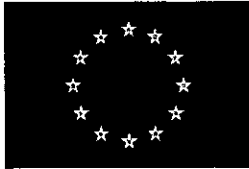
between

The European Union

and

The National Electoral Commission of Timor-Leste

**Concerning the observation of the
2017 General Elections**



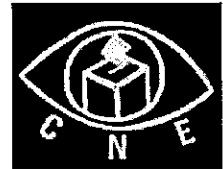
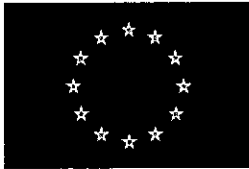
The National Electoral Commission (CNE) of Timor-Leste and the European Union

Considering:

- that the Government of Timor-Leste has invited the European Union to observe the general elections due to take place in 2017;
- that the European Union, has accepted the invitation to observe the election and that an EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) is ready for deployment;
- that the Government of Timor-Leste is signing with European Union a Memorandum of Understanding containing respective rights and obligations in connection with the above mentioned elections (document to be attached);

Hereby agree on the following arrangements for setting up a European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM):

- The present agreement applies to the general elections scheduled both for March and July 2017.
- The EU EOM and its members will maintain strict impartiality, objectivity and independence in the conduct of their mandate. All EU EOM observers will abide by the Code of Conduct for European Observers (attached). The EU EOM will abide by the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and Code of Conduct for International Election Observers (attached) which was commemorated at the United Nations in New York in October 2005.
- The National Electoral Commission will provide the EOM with any assistance required for the implementation of the mission's mandate, in accordance with the RDTL Constitution and laws in force in Timor-Leste and the terms of the present agreement.
- In the framework of their observation mandate, the members of the EU EOM will enjoy freedom of movement throughout the country, without the need for prior permission or notification. They will have freedom of access to all political parties, candidates and election officials, as well as representatives from civil society and voters.
- The European Union will inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the number of observers deemed necessary to guarantee a credible observation of the entire electoral process and the names of all EU observers.



- All members of the EU EOM will be supported by the National Electoral Commission of Timor-Leste without discrimination, during the whole period of its presence in the country, to access all activities and information managed by the CNE in particular, the conduction of the election campaign, including the announcement of official results and the processing of complaints and appeals.
- On polling day and thereafter, the National Electoral Commission will guarantee the EU EOM, its members, including assistants, freedom of access, at any time, to all polling stations and counting/tabulation centres, as well as all bodies of the electoral administration, in order to observe voting and counting procedures, as well as the aggregation and tabulation of results.
- The EU will nominate a Chief Observer and a Deputy Chief Observer who will lead the EU EOM. The Chief Observer, or in case of absence the Deputy Chief Observer, will be the only representatives authorised to make public comments and statements on the electoral process on behalf of the EU EOM throughout the whole duration of the mission. The Chief Observer will present the final report of the Election Observation Mission to the Government of Timor-Leste. This will take place between one and three months after Election Day.
- The EU EOM will give to the National Electoral Commission a copy of the EU EOM Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions, which will be issued after Election Day, and a copy of the EU EOM Final Report which will be issued some weeks after the declaration of the final results.

For the European Union

Alexandre Leitão
Ambassador
Head of EU Delegation

For the National Electoral Commission

Dr. Alcino de Araújo Baris
Presidente da CNE
Chair of the CNE

Date: 09-02-2017