



Brussels

31/07/2019 - 14:48

Press releases

## EU deploys Election Observation Mission to Mozambique

The European Union will deploy an Election Observation Mission (EOM) in the country to observe the general elections to be held on 15 October

Following an invitation from the Mozambican authorities, the European Union will deploy an Election Observation Mission (EOM) in the country, to observe the general elections which will be held on 15 October. This decision reflects once again the European Union's commitment to support democracy in Mozambique, where the EU has observed all elections conducted since 1994.

Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, has appointed as Chief Observer of the Election Observation Mission Ignacio Sánchez Amor, Member of the European Parliament.

Federica Mogherini said: *"The 2019 elections in Mozambique come at an important moment in the country's history, when real progress towards a comprehensive peace agreement opens the way to permanent reconciliation and accelerating reforms. A successful electoral process can help to generate the stability and confidence needed for growth and development. I am confident that Chief Observer Ignacio Sánchez Amor MEP will lead a successful EOM that will once more contribute positively to the strengthening of democracy in Mozambique."*

Chief Observer Sánchez Amor declared *"I feel honoured to head the EU EOM to Mozambique. These elections take place in the context of important changes in the country's administrative structure, notably with the decentralization of key aspects of governance. My objective is for the EOM to provide a positive input – through impartial and objective assessments and constructive recommendations – to an overall credible, transparent and inclusive process. And I would add that we will of course continue our work with the Mozambican authorities to implement recommendations from previous observation missions"*.

The Electoral Observation Mission's core team, consisting of 9 analysts, will arrive in Maputo on 31 August. The team will stay in the country until the completion of the electoral process, and will prepare a comprehensive final report. The core team will be joined shortly after its arrival by 32 long-term observers to be deployed across the country. A further 76 short-term observers will be deployed around election day. The EU EOM also looks forward to cooperating and communicating with other

international and domestic observation missions.

## Background

Mozambique's ongoing electoral cycle began with municipal elections on 10 October 2018, to be followed by the presidential, legislative and provincial elections on 15 October. The cycle introduces a new feature in the governance of the country with the decentralisation of key political powers.

Shortly after the elections day, the mission will issue a preliminary statement of its findings at a press conference in Maputo. A final report, including recommendations for future electoral processes, will be presented at a later stage to the Mozambican Government, after the finalization of the electoral process. The EU will continue to work with the Mozambican authorities and all relevant actors on the implementation of the recommendations of its Observation Missions in Mozambique.

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