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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
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**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION
TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
ON ELECTIONS IN AFRICA FOR THE PERIOD OF
JULY - DECEMBER 2024**

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ABBREVIATIONS / ACCRONYMS

ACDEG	African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance
ADMP	Action Democratic Movement Party
AP	Alliance for Progressives
APP	All People's Party
AR	Affirmative Repositioning
AU	African Union
AU PAPS	African Union Political Affairs, Peace and Security
AUC	African Union Commission
AUEOM	African Union Election Observation Mission
BCP	Botswana Congress Party
BPF	Botswana Patriotic Front
BCP	Body of Christ Party
BDP	Botswana Democratic Party
CC	Constitutional Council
CC	Constitutional Court
CD	Congress of Democrats
CDV	Christian Democratic Voice
CNE	Comissão Nacional de Eleições (National Electoral Commission)
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DEU	Democracy and Elections Unit
DGPR	Democratic Green Party of Rwanda
DMM	Democratic Movement of Mozambique
DPAPS	Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security
EC	Electoral Commission
EISA	Electoral Institute for Sustainable democracy in Africa
EMBs	Election Management Bodies
EOM	Electoral Observer Mission
GCPD	Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate
IDP	Ideal Democracy Party
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission
IPC	Independent Patriots for Change
ISIE	Instance Supérieure Indépendante pour les Élections (Independent High Authority for Elections)
LP	Liberal Party
LPM	Landless People's Movement
MPs	Members of the Parliament
MS	Member State
NAM	Need Assessment Mission
NDC	National Democratic Congress
NDP	National Democratic Party
NEC	National Electoral Commission
NEFC	National Empowerment Fighting Corruption
NEFF	Namibian Economic Freedom Fighters
NEMA	National Election Management Agency
NPF	National Patriotic Front
NUDO	National Unity Democratic Organisation
OAU/AU	Organization of African Unity/African Union
PAM	Pre-Election Assessment Mission

PAP	Pan African Parliament
PDM	Popular Democratic Movement
PoW	Panel of the Wise
RDP	Rally for Democracy and Progress
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RP	Republican Party
RPF	Rwanda Patriotic Front
SDP	Social Democratic Party
SPI	Social Party Imberakuri
STO	Short Term Observer
SWAPO	South West Africa People's Organisation
TFPs	Technical and Financial Partners
UCGs	Unconstitutional Changes of Governments
UDC	Umbrella for Democratic Change
UDF	United Democratic Front
UNP	United Namibians Party
UPM	United People's Movement

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON ELECTIONS IN AFRICA FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY - DECEMBER 2024

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This is the second Report of the Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission on Elections in Africa for the period from July to December 2024.
2. Democratic governance, being at the core of Aspiration 3 of the AU Agenda 2063, the majority of Member States continued to uphold the shared and cherished values of advancing the participation of citizens in the selection of their leaders through the ballot, respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms, enhancing rule of law and accountability.
3. Equally important is that Member states are focusing more on citizen empowerment especially women and youth, to engage in decision-making processes and the peaceful resolution of conflicts through inclusive dialogue and mediation.
4. The AU Commission continues to support Member States to enhance their democratic processes through technical support and capacity enhancement programmes in the governance domain.
5. Overall in the year 2024, a record number of fifteen (15) Member States in the Union organized General, Presidential, and Parliamentary elections during 2024, namely; Algeria, Botswana, Chad, Comoros, Ghana, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo and Tunisia. And one Member State under suspension, Gabon, organized a referendum as part of its roadmap for a return to democratic constitutional rule.
6. Upon invitations to the AU, the Chairperson of the Commission, in the year 2024, as mandated by the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG), deployed observation missions to thirteen (13) of the above-mentioned fifteen (15) countries, that held democratic elections.
7. The AU Election Observation Missions conducted a comprehensive assessment and documentation of electoral processes and identified areas for improvement and strengthening, through policy recommendations. The Missions afforded the Commission to accelerate the implementation of the AU normative frameworks for democratic elections.
8. In the Member States where observer missions were deployed, the AU identified commendable practices and proffered solutions to address emerging challenges associated with electoral processes. This also informs subsequent targeted technical assistance, in order to strengthen democratic and peace institutions and future processes. The overall outcomes from AUEOMs to Member States in 2024 may be summarised as follows;
 - a) visible increased participation of women and youth in the political system as voters, election officials and party agents;
 - b) however, fewer female and youth candidates were presented by political parties or as independent candidates for presidential, parliamentary, and local elections;
 - c) rise in the number young persons as registered voters;

- d) improving efficient delivery by many national electoral management bodies;
- e) preventive diplomacy and lessons learning and exchange have become key components of AUEOMS;
- f) evolving closer synergies between Member States, Regional economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), and AUC to ensure seamless conduct of African Union Election Observation Missions (AUEOM) deployment;
- g) a majority of Member States are now increasingly using domestic financial resources to organize elections, thereby drastically reducing the dependence on partners to fund election processes;
- h) managing election results in some cases, is a huge concern and sometimes leads to post-election protests and violence despite peaceful and orderly pre-election and Election Day processes;
- i) the continuing reorganization of the AU election observation system to ensure inclusivity across the broad categories of participation by African youth, women, and civil society organizations as well as relevant AU Organs is already producing results. For example, in the case of the AU's commitment to achieving gender parity in its election observation deployments, the ratio of female participation moved to 66% in 2024.

9. The peaceful and smooth nature of political transitions following democratic elections in the Republics of Botswana, Ghana, Mauritius, and Senegal, are also landmarks achieved in 2024. However, in a few cases, election results have been contested culminating in post-election violence by losing political parties, citing mistrust and non-transparency in election outcomes management. In effect, some parties alleged that election results did not reflect the will of the people. It is therefore important for election administration authorities to ensure higher levels of transparency and accountability, particularly in results collation and transmission processes. African Governments are also encouraged to ensure the timely provision of budget resources for elections to give the EMBs adequate preparation for elections.

10. The AUEOM were enriched by the presence of Electoral Observers and Core Team Experts trained during the initiatives that took place during 2024. The presence of female observers, as well as youths was significant.

11. Political parties and coalitions played a dynamic and constructive role in almost all the States observed with post-electoral disputes being settled in accordance with the legal procedures in force. The results of the elections were generally accepted, which denotes political maturity and presents proof of democratic progress in Africa despite the emotive conduct of the actors competing during the electoral processes.

12. The Election Management Bodies (EMBs) played their role in regulating electoral processes in most of the States covered by our Missions through prioritization of inclusive approaches of consultation with all stakeholders while integrating delegates of the candidates in order to supervise their work to better strengthen the transparency of the elections. This, in few instances, led to peaceful democratic alternations.

13. The media and related regulatory bodies as well as social networks also played an important role in enhancing access to information and providing a level playing field. Equal access to the media,

distribution of airtime, non-violence and rejection of hate speech; all contributed to a healthy political environment for citizens to be informed about their political choices at the ballot. This context undoubtedly denotes progress in our democratic dispensation.

14. In terms of jurisprudence, there were very few disputes in the electoral processes in Member States where elections were observed. This implies that the actors increasingly accepted the rules of the game and also that EMBs were able to fulfil their regulatory functions more effectively and efficiently with full responsibility. This shows progress in terms of systemic advances in the consolidation of the rule of law and equality between the various political protagonists.

15. Regarding the interactions of our Missions with the RECs/RMs; Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) and the African Diplomatic Corps in situ in the Member States covered, positive exchanges were noted during missions and this allowed them to have a better overview of the national dynamics which ultimately contributed to the success of their mandate.

16. However, despite the above, the Missions noted the following limitations:

- The non-invitation of the AU by a Member State to observe its elections does not contribute to strengthening the credibility of AU Missions in the eyes of public opinion. Member States are encouraged to comply fully with the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance which compel the invitation of African Union Election Observer Missions when elections are held;
- The non-respect of the date of the planned elections and their postponement may create an institutional vulnerability for the rule of law and sow seeds of political tensions that could have been avoided between the actors;
- The continuation of transitional regimes resulting from unconstitutional changes of governments (UCGs) through coups d'état in Africa constitute major challenges facing the African Union;
- The question of the significant increase in voter apathy in some Member States raises the underlying issue of a certain disaffection of voters with electoral processes. The phenomenon should be a wakeup call to our leaders and politicians to review their strategies for mobilising their people to vote, as well as methods of governance that prioritise the national interest and good governance;
- The limited budgets allocated to AU Missions mean that they are obliged to reduce their intensity, to reduce the number of experts and the length of their stay on the ground in the States, which impact on the number of polling stations and constituencies covered and sometimes creates a feeling of dissatisfaction for certain actors who very often criticize our activities on this point;
- And, finally, considering the imperatives of change, it is necessary to refocus the electoral processes on the ideal debates taking due account of the most relevant national mobilizing issues such as youth employment, environmental sustainability, urbanization of cities, competitiveness of economies and social justice and access to basic commodities.

17. If qualitative adjustments are made in these areas, Africa will be able to further consolidate democratic governance in its Member States through more transparent, credible, regular, and inclusive electoral processes in order to refocus on better resilient civic citizen participation. This

requires strengthening ever more and better the role and resources of EMBs, CSOs and candidates, parties and coalitions in the running on the one hand, as well as that of the AU Missions and/or with those of the RECs/RECs in order to ensure the transparency of the elections and the consolidation of pluralist democracy and the rule of law throughout the continent. This also requires strict compliance with the constitutional order, the electoral calendar and the rules of the fair play game in the national political chessboard of our Member States without exception. In this context, it will also be necessary to review and strengthen the financing of the AU Missions to meet the expectations of our populations.

AU Support to Electoral Processes

18. The AUC continues to support Member States through the Electoral Management Bodies in the preparation for elections.

19. Through the assessment, the AUC identified the needs of public institutions and processes supporting democracy to design an appropriate technical support mechanism ahead of elections. The Commission prepared a comprehensive strategy to support the request from the Republic of South Sudan. This entailed the capacity building of the electoral commission including the procurement of fifty (50) laptops, and training programmes conducted for various stakeholders, including women and youth, on effective participation in the electoral processes throughout the electoral cycle.

20. Furthermore, pre-election assessment missions were conducted in three (3) countries, namely Mozambique, Botswana and Ghana, during the review period. The missions assessed the state of preparedness of each country and provided technical guidance accordingly by reviewing the progress made in implementing AUC's recommendations based on thematic priorities relevant to each country's democratic trajectory

21. Training for African Technical Experts: A training program for a core group of technical experts, was organized by the PAPS Department, in Gaborone in August 2024. This program was supported by the European Union, EISA, and International IDEA.

22. International Cooperation in Election Observation - In the spirit of promoting South/South Cooperation, the AU was invited to the presidential elections of the Bolivian Republic of Venezuela in South America. The AU participation afforded the Commission the opportunity to witness and study democratic elections being organized in another developing region of the Global South. This provided a platform for African electoral stakeholders and AUC to share experiences, build partnerships and promote global standards for democratic elections.

23. Furthermore, the Commission engaged in the 2024 platform on the Declaration of Principles (DoP) for International Election Observation in Warsaw, Poland. The DoP platform was an opportunity for the AUC to influence global perceptions about elections in Africa

Key Recommendations

24. It is hereby recommended that the Council may wish to congratulate the Member States that successfully conducted democratic elections during the period in 2024, highlighting the specific smooth transfer of power in Botswana, Ghana, Mauritius and Senegal. The Council may commend all Member States for making fervent efforts towards consolidating democratic governance and the peace dividends, in the spirit of realizing Agenda 2063 and respecting the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance.

25. The PSC may also wish to encourage all Member States to continue to strengthen institutional mechanisms that will enhance women and youth participation in national political and electoral processes.

26. Furthermore, the PSC may wish to urge Member States to consistently invite the African Union to observe their national elections and prioritize the timely facilitation of the deployment of such Missions.

27. The PSC may wish to encourage Member States to support the AU Commission in the training and deployment of observers including through voluntary contributions to the budget for elections.

28. The Council may wish to specially acknowledge the voluntary contribution of US\$ 1 million dollars by the then Government of the Republic of Niger in 2023, which was used as the budget for AUEOMs deployment in 2024, and encourage other Member States to emulate Niger's example.

II. INTRODUCTION

29. In accordance with the relevant AU provisions, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki MAHAMAT deployed, during the second half of 2024, nine (9) AUEOMs and technical missions in the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Tunisia, the Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Botswana, the Republic of Mauritius, the Gabonese Republic, the Republic of Senegal, the Republic of Namibia, and the Republic of Ghana.

30. However, no AU Mission was deployed in the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Republic of Chad, as invitations were not received as per Article 19 (1) of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG). In Guinea Bissau, the election initially scheduled for 24 November 2024 was postponed indefinitely.

31. The mandate to initiate and undertake electoral support activities is derived from the OAU/AU Constitutive Act, more specifically, the provisions of its Article 3 (g)¹; the Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa (2002); the Guidelines for African Union Electoral Observation and Monitoring Missions (2002); the Maputo Protocol (2003); the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) (2007); the AU Vision 2030 and Aspirations 3 and 4 of Agenda 2063² and the Accra and Malabo Declarations (2022) on Unconstitutional Changes of Government.

32. Through the established mandate, the AUC has contributed to supporting democratic and electoral processes, including the provision of technical assistance in over 43 (78.18 %) of the 55 of AU Member States since 2021.

33. This 2024 second bi-annual report focuses on Elections in Africa and the deployment of AU election observation missions, pre-election assessment missions and technical assistance.

34. The report also outlines commendable practices that were noted in elections observed, key democracy and election trends on the continent, and proposes recommendations for the consideration of the PSC.

¹ Article 3 (g) of the AU Constitutive Act, which tasks the Union to "promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance."

² Aspirations 3 and 4 respectively envisage an "Africa of good governance, democracy and respect for human rights and rule of law"; and "a peaceful and secure Africa."

35. The report is divided into the following sections:

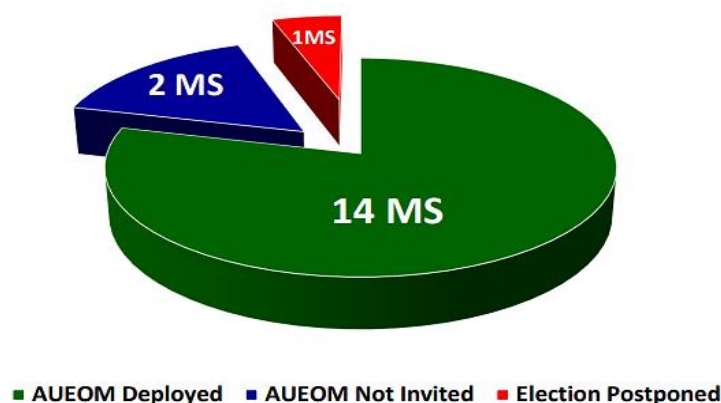
- III) Review of the Elections conducted between July and December 2024;
- IV) AU Electoral and Democratic Assistance ;
- V) Global Role of AUEOMs;
- VI) Enhanced Capacity Building of AUEOMs;
- VII) Key Milestones and Commendable Practices in Africa's Democratic Trajectory;
- VIII) Overview of Governance Trends;
- IX) Snapshot of upcoming Elections: January - June 2025;
- X) Key Results Attributable to AU Election Observation and Technical Assistance Initiatives for Democratic Peace in Africa;
- XI) Policy Recommendations;
- XII) Conclusion.

III. REVIEW OF ELECTIONS CONDUCTED BETWEEN JULY AND DECEMBER 2024

36. Observers deployed for the nine AUEOMS were drawn from the members of the Permanent Representative Committee (PRC) of the AU, the Pan African Parliament (PAP), EMBs, Independent Electoral, Academic and Governance Experts, Professional groups, women and youth organisations and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from AU Member States. These were also drawn from short term observers trained during the first half of 2024 and reported in the previous report.

37. Equally, over 50% of core team experts deployed to support election observer missions during the second half of 2024 were drawn from those trained during the second half of the year.

Graph 1: AUEOMs Deployment in Member States (MS) in 2024

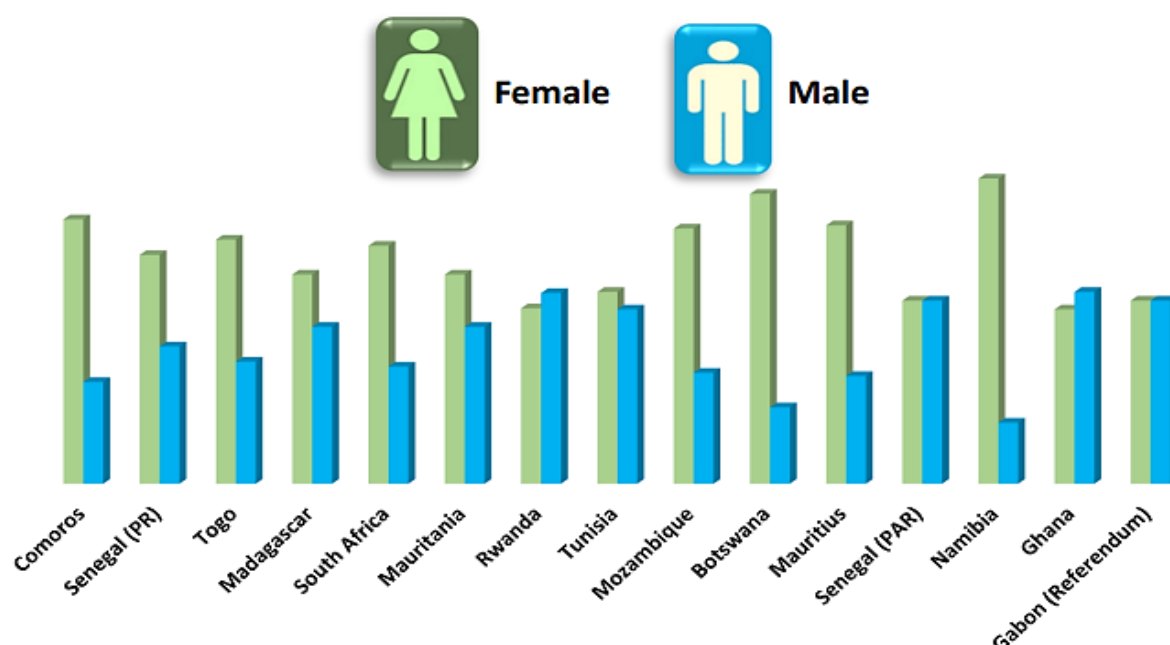


Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU)

Table and Graph 2: Gender Analysis of AUEOMs in 2024

No	MS	Female Observers	Male Observers
1	Comoros	72.22%	27.78%
2	Senegal (PR)	62.50%	37.50%
3	Togo	66.66%	33.34%
4	Madagascar	57.14%	42.86%
5	South Africa	65.00%	32.00%

6	Mauritania	57.14%	42.86%
7	Rwanda	47.92%	52.08%
8	Tunisia	52.38%	47.62%
9	Mozambique	69.69%	30.31%
10	Botswana	79.16%	20.84%
11	Mauritius	70.58%	29.42%
12	Senegal (PAR)	50.00%	50.00%
13	Namibia	83.33%	16.67%
14	Ghana	47.61%	52.39%
15	Gabon (Referendum)	50.00%	50.00%



Source Table and Graph 3: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU)

A. REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

38. The Republic of Rwanda held its General Elections from 14 to 16 July 2024 to elect a President and 80 Chamber of Deputies representatives. On 14 July, Rwandans living abroad began voting at Rwandan embassies and diplomatic missions, on 15 July, Rwandans in the country voted for the president and 53 of the 80 seats in the Chamber of Deputies, and on 16 July, the remaining 27 seats for women, youth and disabled representatives, were elected. It should be noted that the July 2024 election was the fifth presidential election after the 1994 genocide. A joint AU/COMESA election observation mission was deployed led by His Excellency Jorge Carlos Fonseca, Former President of Cabo Verde, deputised by Rt. Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda and a Member of the COMESA Committee of Elders and comprising a core team and 48 Short Term Observers (STOs).

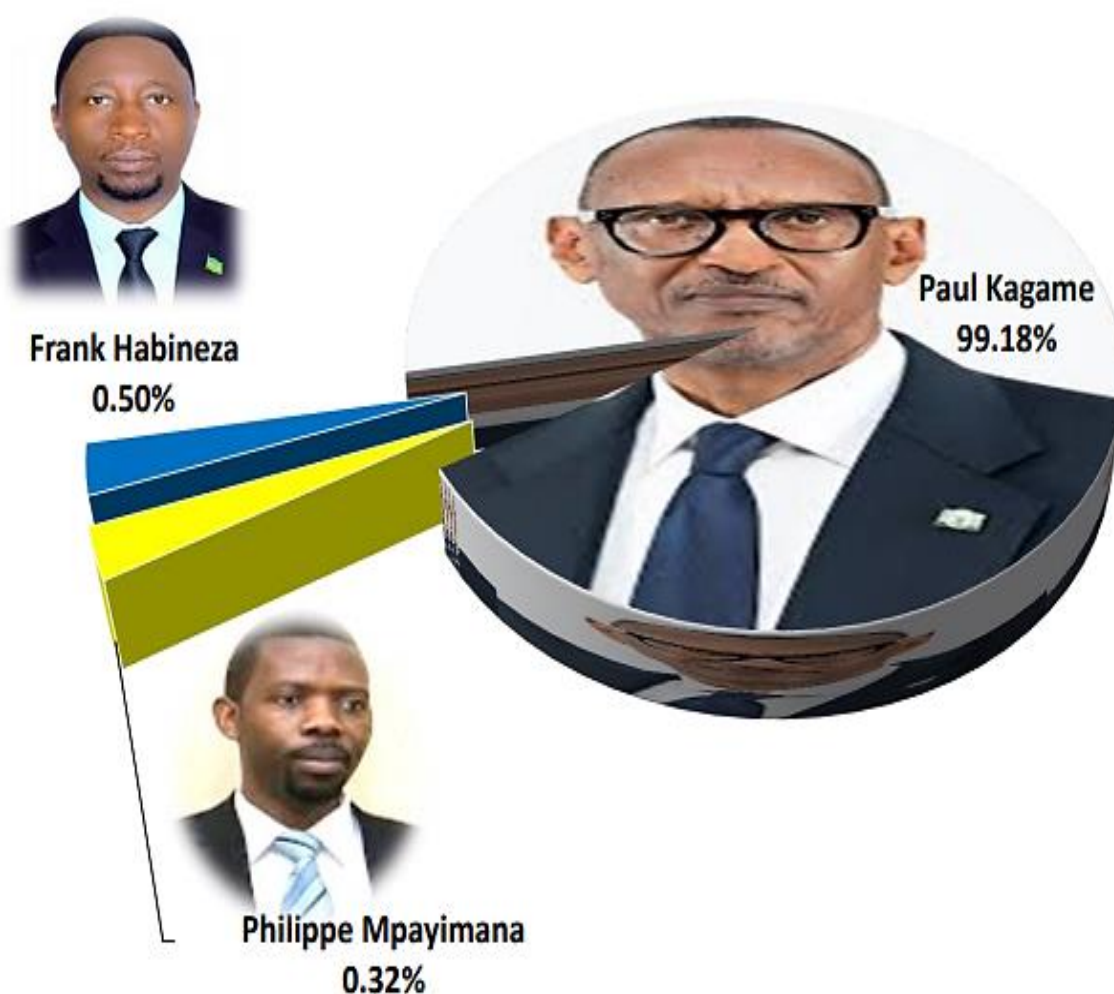
39. The Joint AU-COMESA EOM concluded that the elections were conducted in a generally peaceful, procedural and compliant manner.

40. In particular, the mission applauded the Government of Rwanda for adapting a “consensual democracy” model that sufficiently responds to the country’s history and prioritises sharing of power beyond its distribution according to votes received.

Table and Graph 3: Final results of the 2024 Presidential and Chamber of Deputies Elections in the Republic of Rwanda

No	Candidates	Political Party	Votes	%
1.	Paul Kagame	Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF)	8,822,794	99.18
2.	Frank Habineza	Democratic Green Party of Rwanda (DGPR)	44,479	0.50
3.	Philippe Mpayimana	Independent	28,466	0.32
Total			8,895,739	100
Valid votes			8,895,739	99.86
Invalid/Blank votes			12,137	0.14
Total votes cast			8,907,876	100
Registered voters/Turnout			9,071,157	98.20

Source: National Electoral Commission (NEC)

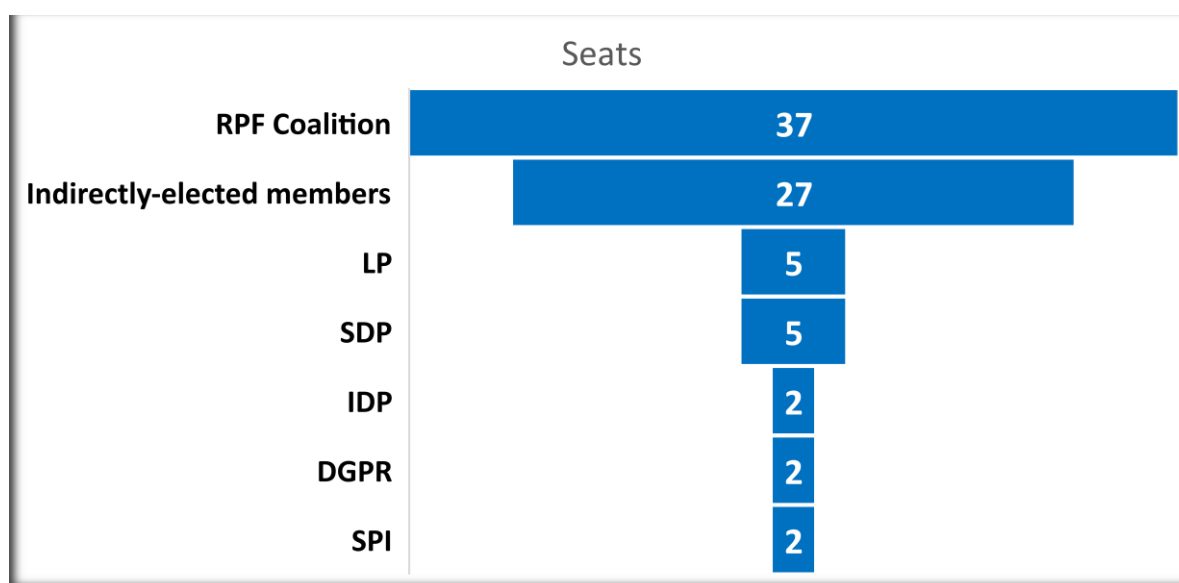


Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU)

For Chamber of Deputies

No	Party or Alliance	Votes	Seats
1.	RPF Coalition	6,126,433	37
2.	Liberal Party (LP)	770,896	5
3.	Social Democratic Party (SDP)	767,143	5
4.	Ideal Democratic Party (IDP)	410,513	2
5.	DGPR – Green Party	405,893	2
6.	Social Party Imberakuri (SPI)	401,524	2
7.	Nsengiyumva Janvier	19,051	0
8.	Indirectly-elected members		27
Total		8,901,453	80
			%
Valid votes		8,901,453	99.93
Invalid/Blank votes		6,423	0.07
Total votes cast		8,907,876	100
Registered voters/Turnout		9,071,157	98.20

Source: NEC



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU)

41. Following the declaration of the final results, the joint AU/COMESA mission did not witness any objections or record any petitions against the outcome of the elections.

B. PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

42. The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria conducted its 2024 Presidential elections on 7 September 2024. Originally scheduled for December 2024, the elections were moved up from September to 21 March 24 on the reason that the new date coincided with the end of the summer vacations and would facilitate a high voter turnout.

43. The African Union Commission was not deployed to observe the elections.

Table and Graph 4: Final results of the 2024 Presidential Election in the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

No	Candidates	Votes	%
1.	Tebboune Abdelmadjid	7 976 291	84.30
2.	Hassani Chérif Abdelaali	904 642	9.56
3.	Aouchiche Youcef	580 495	6.14
Voters registered in the national territory			23,486,061
Voters registered at diplomatic and consular stations			865,490
Voters registered in the national territory and abroad			24,351,551
Voters			11,226,065
Turnout			46.10 %
Invalid Votes			1,764,637
Votes cast			9,461,428
Absolute majority			4,730,715

Source: Constitutional Court



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU)

C. REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA

44. On 6 October 2024, Tunisians resident in Tunisia and in the Diaspora turned out to the polls to vote for their President in the first presidential election organised under the new constitution adopted in July 2022. The AU Commission deployed a short-term Election Observation Mission to the Republic of Tunisia. The Mission was led by H.E. Komi Selom KLASSOU, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Togo and comprised Forty (40) short-term observers, drawn from Twenty-One (21) Member States.

45. The final results of the presidential election was announced by ISIE on 11 October 2024, showed that the incumbent President Kaïs SAÏED in the first round of the vote, with 90.69% of the valid ballots, with a voter turnout of 28.7% thereby securing the President – elect, a second 5-year mandate.

Table and Graph 5: Final results of the 2024 Presidential Election in the Republic of Tunisia

No	Candidates	Votes	%
1.	Kaïs SAIED	2,438,954	90.69
2.	Ayachi ZAMMEL	197,551	7.35
3.	Zouheir MAGHZAOU	52,903	1.97
Voters registered		9,753,217	28.80
Voters		2,808,548	100
Votes cast		2,723,595	96.98
Turnout			28.80
Blank votes		34,187	1.22
Invalide votes		84,953	3.02

Source: ISIE



Source: ISIE

D. REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

46. The AU was invited to observe the General Elections held in Mozambique on 9 October 2024 and deployed the African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) to Mozambique, led by His Excellency Bornito de Sousa Baltazar Diogo, former Vice President of Angola. The AUEOM comprised a team of 42 short-term observers (STOs) from 20 African countries in Maputo from 3 to 12 October 2024 to observe and assess the electoral process.

47. On 9 October, Mozambicans participated in their 7th Presidential, Legislative, and Provincial Elections, voting to elect a President, 250 Members of the Legislative Assembly, and 11 Provincial Governors. Notably, incumbent President Filipe Nyusi was not seeking re-election, making the presidential race highly competitive. FRELIMO nominated Daniel Chapo, a youthful candidate who aimed to appeal to younger voters, while RENAMO put forth its leader, Ossufo Momade. Venancio Mondlane, a new entrant in the presidential race, initially announced his intention to run under the Democratic Alliance Coalition (CAD). The party was, however, barred from fielding candidates by the CNE. He later successfully filed his nomination papers under the Optimistic Party for the Development of Mozambique (PODEMOS, which led to his securing the second-highest number of votes in the 2024 Presidential election.

48. The elections occurred amidst ongoing security challenges, particularly in the northern provinces where terrorists and insurgents in Cabo Delgado had threatened election inclusivity since 2018. Although the situation had improved, the AUEOM noted that voter participation and protection depended heavily on cooperation between the CNE and security forces, given that rising violent extremism had spurred political apathy and mistrust in the Government.

49. The post-election environment was characterised by large-scale violence including the alleged assassination of Elvino Dias (the legal advisor of Venancio Mondlane) and Paulo Guambe (representative of PODEMOS). which were roundly condemned by international election observer missions that were accredited to observe the elections.

50. The provisional presidential election results released by CNE placed FRELIMO candidate Daniel Chapo as the winner of the Presidential Election with 4,912,762 votes (70.67%) of the total votes cast. The validity of the provisional results was challenged by the runner up, Venancio Mondlane, who reportedly received 1,412,517 votes (20.32%) of the total votes cast. RENAMO's presidential candidate, Ossufo Momade, provisionally received 403,591 (5.81%) of the total votes cast. The provisional parliamentary results are also in the table below.

51. On 23 December 2024, following Decision No.24/CC/2024 of 22 December 2024, the Constitutional Council (CC) proclaimed the final results as in the table below:

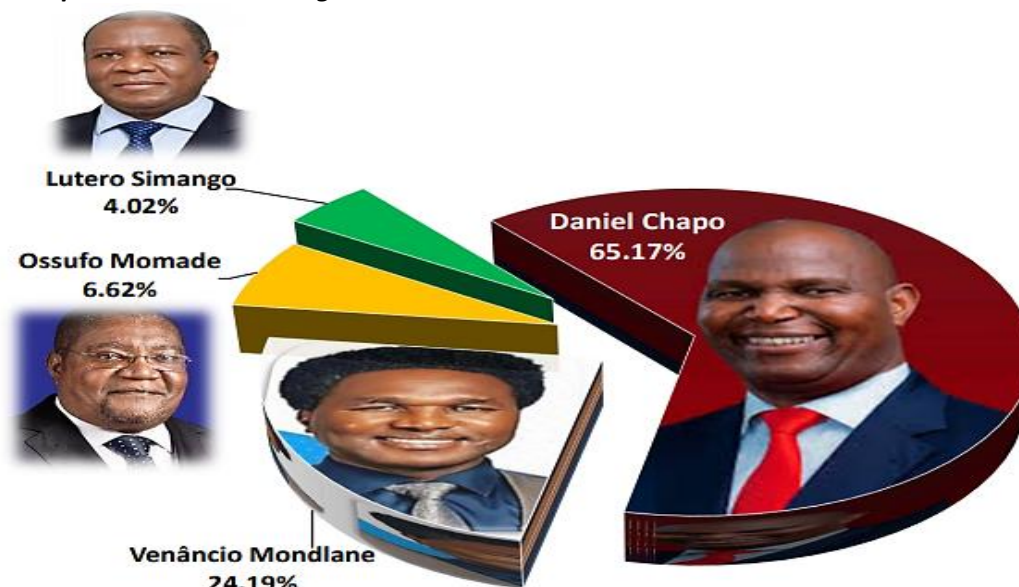
Table and Graph 6: Final results of the 2024 Presidential & Legislative Elections in the Republic of Mozambique

✓ **Table of Presidential & Legislative Elections (Source: Constitutional Council)**

ELEIÇÃO PRESIDENCIAL			ELEIÇÕES PARA DEPUTADOS DA ASSEMBLEIA DA REPÚBLICA	
Total de votantes	7 238 027		Total de eleitores inscritos	17 169 239
Total de abstenções	9 931 212		Total de votantes	7 245 651
Total de votos válidos	6 777 113		Total de abstenções	9 923 588
Total de votos definitivamente nulos	205 601			
Total de votos em branco	255 313			
Nome do candidato	N.º de votos	Percentagem (%)	POLITICAL PARTY	SEATS
Lutero Chimbirombiro Simango	272 736	4,02%	FRELIMO	171
Daniel Francisco Chapo	4 416 306	65,17%	PODEMOS	43
Venâncio António Bila Mondlane	1 639 333	24,19%	RENAMO	28
Ossufo Momade	448 738	6,62%	Democratic Movement of Mozambique (DMM)	8
			Total	250

With these results, the candidate Daniel Francisco Chapo was declared the winner of the presidential election with 65.17 % of votes out of 17,169,239 registered voters. He was sworn in as the new President of the Republic of Mozambique on 15 January 2025.

✓ *Graphs Presidential & Legislative Elections*



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU)



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU)

52. Overall, the AUEOM noted that the 2024 Mozambique General Election reflected Mozambique's democratic progress amid challenges. It identified both strengths and areas for improvement in the electoral process, noting Mozambique's commitment to democratic governance despite ongoing political, economic, and security issues.

53. In the meantime, the elections in Mozambique remain heavily contested with ongoing protests that have resulted in hundreds of casualties, extensive damage to infrastructure and disruption of regional trade. Venancio Mondlane and other opposition presidential candidates have rejected the election results with regional and international partners calling for dialogue to resolve the evolving crisis in the country.

54. In a press statement released on 26 December 2024, the AUC Chairperson called for calm and restraint to address the post-election violence and the readiness to collaborate with SADC towards safeguarding the constitutional democracy in the Republic of Mozambique.

E. REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

55. The Republic of Botswana held General Elections on 30 October 2024 to elect members of Parliament and Local Councils. In line with its mandate to consolidate democratic elections in Africa, the AU Commission deployed the Africa Union Election Observation Mission to the elections from 22 October to 3 November 2024. Led by H.E. Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Mission was made up of 30 observers from the Pan African Parliament (PAP), Election Management Bodies (EMBs), independent electoral and governance experts, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from 14 AU Member States.³

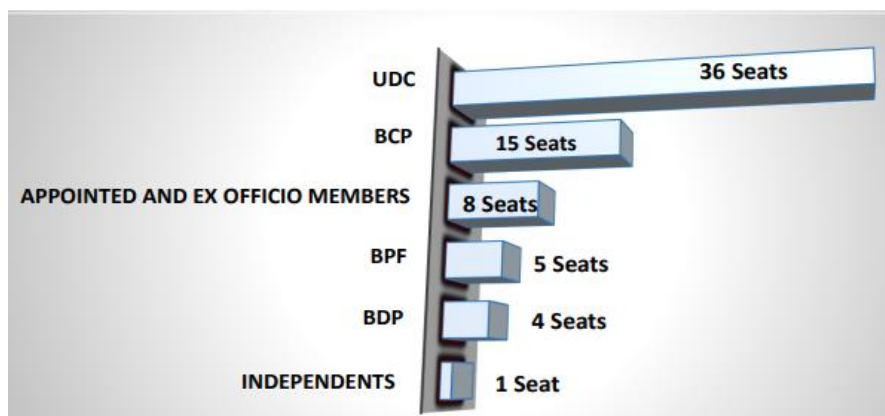
56. From the total 836,268 votes cast, the UDC garnered the popular vote by 37% (307,177), while BDP, with 31% (250,504), was second and BCP came third with 21% (172,344). The BPF, BRP, Botswana Movement for Democracy (BMD), and Real Alternative Party (RAP) acquired 8% or less. The elections were won by the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), ending the over five decades of rule of the then ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP). 8 seats are allocated to Appointed and ex officio members.

Table and Graph 7: Final results of the 2024 General Elections in the Republic of Botswana

Party	2019		2024	
	Seats	Percentage	Seats	%
Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC)*	15	26.3	36	59.02
Botswana Congress Party (BCP)	0	0	15	24.59
Appointed and ex officio members			8	
Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF)	3	5.3	5	8.2
Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)	38	66.7	4	6.56
Alliance for Progressives (AP)*	1	1.8	-	-
Independent Candidate(s)	0	0	1	1.64
Total	57	100	69	100
Valid votes			835,249	98.80
Invalid / Blank votes			10,145	1.20
Total votes			845,394	100
Registered voters / Turnout			1,038,275	81.42

* The UDC is a coalition of the BPP, BNF and AP

Source: Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU)

³ Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

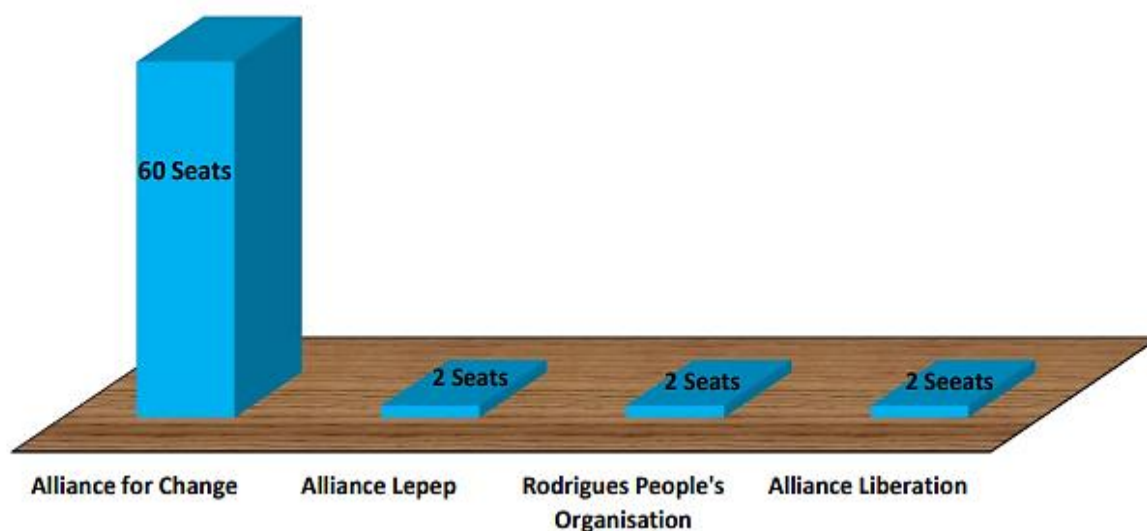
F. REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

57. On 10 November 2024, Mauritius held National Assembly Elections to elect members of the National Assembly, the country's unicameral parliament. An AUEOM was deployed to the country from 4 to 14 November 2024 and was led by H.E Dr. Joice Teurai Ropa Mujuru, former Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe. The Mission comprised 50 observers drawn from Pan African Parliament (PAP), Election Management Bodies (EMBs), academia and governance experts, and civil society organisations (CSOs) from 21 AU Member States.⁴
58. The Alliance for Change won the 2024 National Assembly Elections in a landslide with 60 elected Members of Parliament (MPs); and the Alliance Lepep, the Alliance Liberation, and the Rodrigues People's Organisation obtained 2 seats, respectively. The voter turnout was 77.82%, or 684,768 electors out of 879,897 registered.

Table and Graph 9: Final results of the 2024 Legislative Elections in the Republic of Mauritius

Party or alliance	Votes	%	Seats		
			Cons	Best loser (BL)	Total
Alliance for Change	1,438,333	61.38	60	0	60
Alliance Lepep	639,372	27.29	0	2	2
Rodrigues People's Organisation	22,416	0.96	2	0	2
Alliance Liberation	20,540	0.88	0	2	2
Total			62	4	66

Source: Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU)

59. The AUEOM concluded that the 2024 elections were conducted in compliance with the national laws. The elections were also in line with regional, continental, and international standards, and were, therefore, credible, transparent, and peaceful.

⁴ Angola, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

G. GABONESE REPUBLIC

60. The AU deployed a Solidarity Mission made up of 20 experts to the 16 November 2024 Constitutional Referendum in the Gabonese Republic from 13 to 20 November 2024. This Constitutional Referendum, resulting from the inclusive national dialogue of April 2024, now opens the way to a return to elections and democratic order in Gabon.

61. Overall, the process went smoothly and peacefully. Under the combined provisions of Articles 53 of the Transition Charter and 66 of the Organic Law on the Constitutional Court as amended; and considering that no appeal relating to the regularity of the referendum operations was received at the Constitutional Court registry within 10 days from the announcement of the provisional results by the Minister of the Interior and Security, according to Decision No. 06-CC of November 29, 2024 proclaiming the results of the constitutional referendum of November 16, 2024 in Gabon, the Constitutional Court validated the results of the referendum and definitively adopting the Constitution. The new Constitution provides for its effective entry into force at the end of the next presidential election in 2025, thus leading to the establishment of the Second Republic in the country.

62. The Gabonese Republic has submitted a request to the AU PAPS Department to deploy a needs assessment mission (NAM) in the preparation of the 2025 elections. The Department plans to deploy a NAM during the first quarter of 2025.

Table and Graph 9: Final results of the 2024 Constitutional Referendum in the Gabonese Republic

Choice	Votes	%
Yes	381,581	91.64
No	34,802	8.36
Valid votes	416,383	90.09
Invalid or blank votes	45,784	9.91
Total votes	462,16	100
Abstention	390,861	45.82
Registered voters/turnout	853,028	54.18

Source: Constitutional Court



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU)

H. REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL

63. The Republic of Senegal organized early legislative elections on 17 November 2024, to elect the 15th legislature (165 members) of parliament since 1960. These elections were held eight (08) months after the presidential election of 24 March 2024. The Mission was composed of fourteen (14) short-term observers (STOs) from twelve (12) Member States. It was coordinated by Ambassador

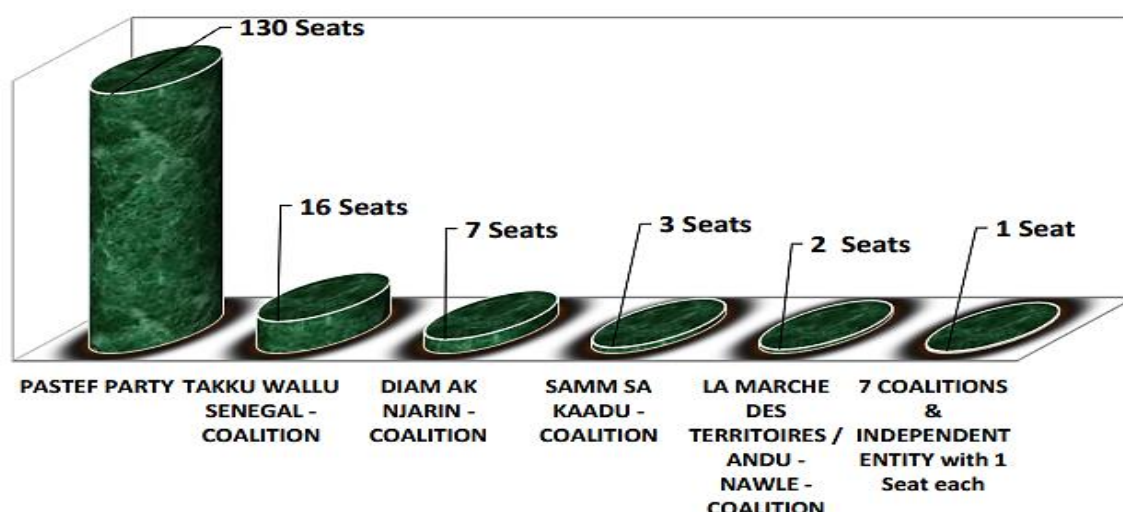
Calixte Aristide MBARI, Head of the Democracy, Elections and Constitutionalism Division of the African Union Commission. The mission was conducted jointly with ECOWAS.

64. In accordance with Article 92 of the Constitution and Article 2 of Organic Law No. 2016-23 of 14 July 2016, relating to the Constitutional Council, in its decision No. 20/E/2024 of 27 November 2024, the Constitutional Council has rendered its decision relating to the results of the elections of 17 November 2024. The electoral statistics are as follows:

Table and Graph 10: Final results of 2024 Legislative Elections in the Republic of Senegal

Registered voters	7,371,891
Voters	3,650,120
Invalid votes	26,487
Voters cast	3,623,633
National quotient	68,370.43
Turnout	49.51%
Political Party/Coalition/ Independent entity	Seats
PASTEF PARTY	130
TAKKU WALLU SENEGAL (TWS) - COALITION	16
DIAM AK NJARIN - COALITION	7
SAMM SA KAADU - COALITION	3
LA MARCHÉ DES TERRITOIRES / ANDU - NAWLE - COALITION	2
FARLU - COALITION	1
ENTITÉ INDÉPENDANTE LES NATIONALISTES / JEL LINU MOOM	1
POLE ALTERNATIF 3ÈME VOIE KIRAAY AK NATANGUE - COALITION	1
SENEGAAL KESE - COALITION	1
SOPI SENEGAL - COALITION	1
AND CI KOOLUTE NGUIR SENEGAL (AKS) - COALITION	1
AND BEESAL SENEGAL - COALITION	1

Source: Constitutional Council



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU)

65. The AUEOM noted with satisfaction the exhibition of a true democratic culture in the Republic of Senegal, which manifested, among other things, through the acceptance of the results by political

actors well before the proclamation of the results by the competent authorities. This culture of recognizing and accepting the outcome of an election, and therefore the victory of the competitor, contributes substantially to calming down post-election political tensions.

I. REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

66. The Republic of Namibia held Presidential and National Assembly Elections on 27 November 2024 to elect the President and members of the National Assembly. H.E. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) received 638,560 (57.7%) of the total votes cast (1,114,134) and was declared the winner in the presidential election. She is the first woman to become president in the Republic of Namibia. The National Assembly elections were won by the SWAPO, continuing its dominance over all Namibian elections since independence in 1990.

67. In line with its mandate to consolidate democratic elections in Africa, AU Commission deployed an AUEOM to the elections from 21 October to 29 November 2024. The AUEOM was led by H.E. Dr Speciosa Kazibwe Wandira, former Vice President of the Republic of Uganda. The Mission comprised 47 short-term observers (STOs) from 23 AU Member States⁵.

68. According to the Electoral Commission's Election Day statistics, voter turnout for the presidential election was 1,114,134 (76.86%) out of the 1,449,569 registered voters. For the National Assembly, the voter turnout was 1,108,583 (76.48%). Compared to the 2019 elections, there was a 16.04% increase in voter turnout for the presidential and a 16.11% increase in voter turnout for the National Assembly elections.

69. The AUEOM concluded that the 2024 elections were conducted in a peaceful environment characterised by high tolerance and competition by political parties and their supporters and citizens in general.

70. However, due to some polling stations which ran out of paper and long queues during election day, voting period was extended under the powers vested in the President by section 64(1)(b) of the Electoral Act, 2014 (Act No.5 of 2014) based on the recommendations of the ECN.⁶

71. Based on its consultations with electoral stakeholders, assessment, and observation, the AUEOM concludes that the 2024 Namibian elections were conducted in a peaceful environment. Namibian citizens demonstrated patience and commitment to exercising their democratic rights.

Table and Graph 11: Final results of 2024 General Election in Republic of Namibia

Presidential Election				
No	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1	Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah	SWAPO	638,56	58.07

⁵ Benin, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

⁶ https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://d4f7y6nbupj5z.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/20241128-Commission-Media-Statement-on-Way-Forward-on-the-Status-of-Polls-Edited-ETN.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwjV0aT07_SKAxWbSaQEHWeiAqsQFnoECBkQAQ&usg=AOvVaw0rwtarB6C8oyJXcPhZVojC

C. Accessed 1 January 2025

2	Panduleni Itula	Independent Patriots for Change (IPC)	284,106	25.84
3	McHenry Venaani	Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)	55,412	5.04
4	Bernadus Swartbooi	Landless People's Movement (LPM)	51,16	4.65
5	Job Amupanda	Affirmative Repositioning (AR)	19,676	1.79
6	Hendrik Gaobaeb	United Democratic Front (UDF)	12,604	1.15
7	Henk Mudge	Republican Party (RP)	8,988	0.82
8	Evilastus Kaaronda	SWANU	7,991	0.73
9	Ambrosius Kumbwa	All People's Party (APP)	5,197	0.47
10	Epafras Mukwiilongo	Namibian Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF)	3,978	0.36
11	Festus Thomas	Body of Christ Party (BCP)	3,641	0.33
12	Mike Kavekatora	Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP)	2,974	0.27
13	Erastus Shuumbwa	Action Democratic Movement Party (ADMP)	2,069	0.19
14	Sakaria Likuwa	United Namibians Party (UNP)	2,013	0.18
15	Vaino Amuthenu	Congress of Democrats (CD)	1,213	0.11
Total			1,099,582	100.00

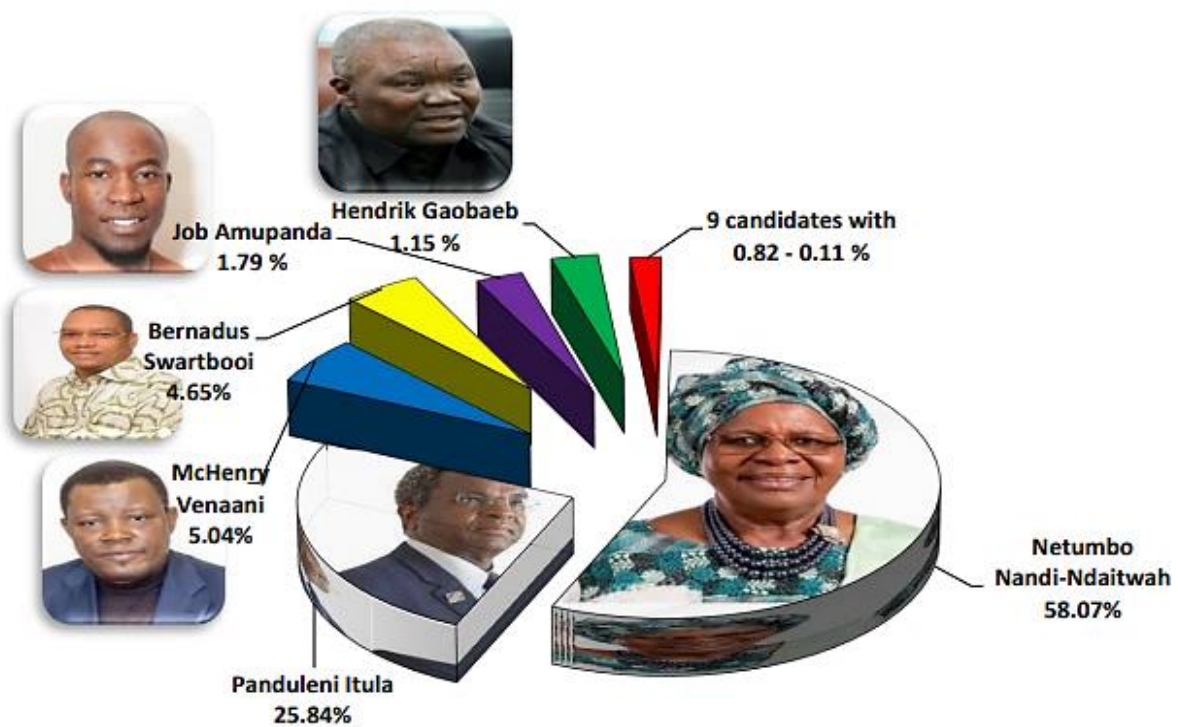
Source: Electoral Commission (EC) of Namibia

National Assembly Elections

No.	Party	Votes	%	Seats	+/-
1	SWAPO	583,3	53.38	51	-12
2	Independent Patriots for Change (IPC)	220,809	20.21	20	New
3	Affirmative Repositioning (AR)	72,227	6.61	7	New
4	Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)	59,839	5.48	5	-11
5	Landless People's Movement (LPM)	56,971	5.21	5	1
6	United Democratic Front (UDF)	16,828	1.54	1	-1
7	Namibian Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF)	11,743	1.07	1	-1
8	SWANU	11,484	1.05	1	0
9	Republican Party (RP)	10,942	1.00	1	-1
10	National Unity Democratic Organisation (NUDO)	10,687	0.98	1	-1
11	All People's Party (APP)	7,219	0.66	1	-1
12	National Democratic Party (NDP)	6,647	0.61	1	1
13	Body of Christ Party (BCP)	5,763	0.53	1	New
14	Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP)	3,308	0.30	0	-1
15	National Empowerment Fighting Corruption (NEFC)	3,216	0.29	0	New
16	United Namibians Party (UNP)	2,706	0.25	0	New
17	Action Democratic Movement Party (ADMP)	2,286	0.21	0	New
18	United People's Movement (UPM)	2,143	0.20	0	New
19	Congress of Democrats (CD)	1,8	0.16	0	0
20	Christian Democratic Voice (CDV)	1,452	0.13	0	-1
21	National Patriotic Front (NPF)	1,315	0.12	0	0
Appointed members				8	0
Total		1,092,685	100.00	104	-

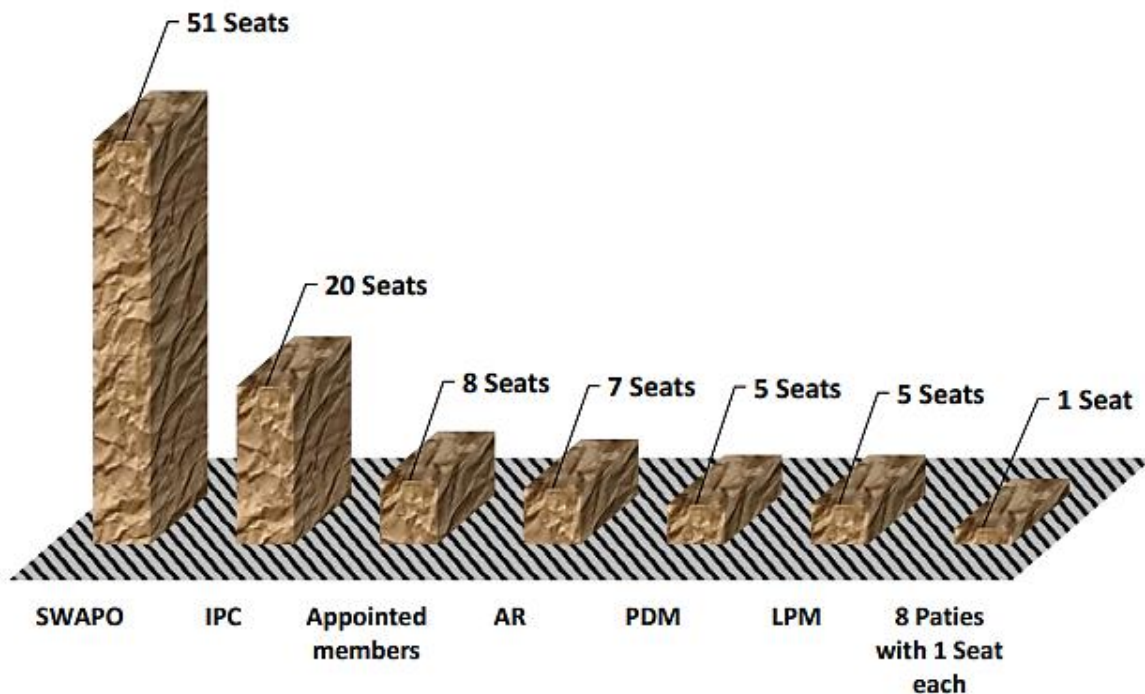
Source: Electoral Commission (EC) of Namibia

Presidential Election



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU)

✓ National Assembly Elections



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU)

J. REPUBLIC OF GHANA

72. The people of the Republic of Ghana went to the polls on the 7 December 2024 to elect their President and Members of Parliament. The Mission was led by H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde, Former President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and supported by H.E. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Member of the Panel of the Wise (PoW) and Former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa. The Mission was comprised of 60 short-term observers (STOs) and technical electoral experts drawn from 27 AU Member States. This deployment was preceded by the deployment of a Pre-election assessment Mission in Ghana from 28 October to 2 November 2024.

73. The former President John Dramani Mahama (candidate of the National Democratic Congress: NDC) won with 56.55% of the vote. Dr Mahamudu Bawumia (candidate of the New Patriotic Party: NPP) conceded defeat on 8 December, congratulating President Mahama on his victory. The results were officially certified on 9 December by the Electoral Commission. H.E. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang, will be the nation's first female vice president of the Republic Ghana.

74. The provisional results of the parliamentary elections show that the NDC won a two-thirds majority (183 seats) of the nation's 276 parliamentary seats. The NPP obtained 85 seats and the independents 4 seats.

Table and Graph 12: Final results of the 2024 Presidential Elections in the Republic of Ghana



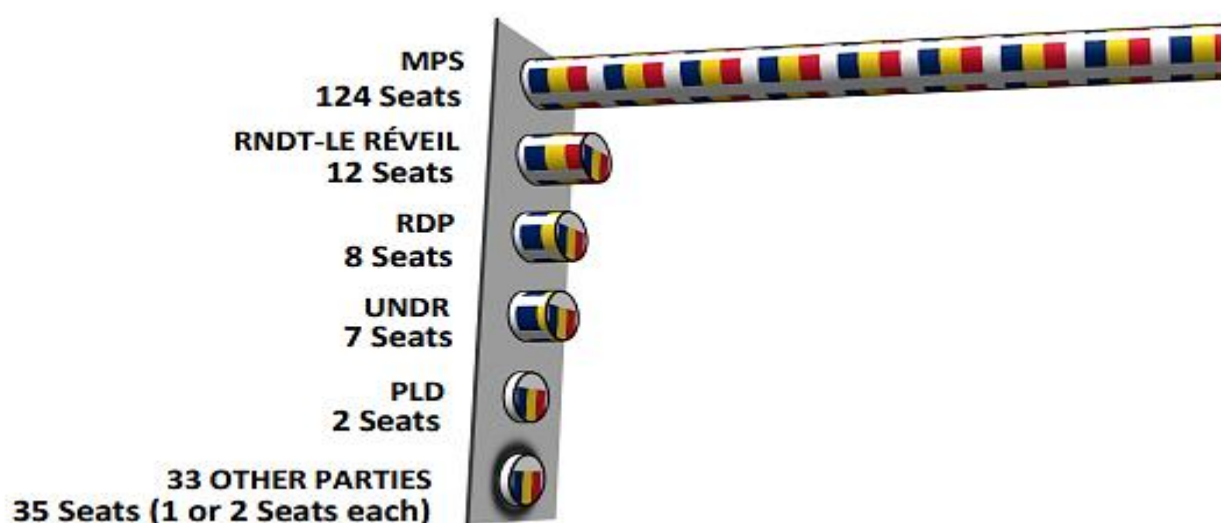
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DECLARATION OF PRESIDENTIAL RESULTS FINAL DECLARATION OF RESULTS </div>  </div>					
S/NO	NAME OF CANDIDATE	PARTY INITIAL	VOTES OBTAINED IN FIGURES	VOTES OBTAINED IN WORDS	PERCENTAGE OF VOTES OBTAINED
1	MAHAMUDU BAWUMIA	NPP	4,657,304	Four Million, Six Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand, Three Hundred and Four.	41.61%
2	DANIEL AUGUSTUS LARTEY JNR.	GCPP	16,673	Sixteen Thousand, Six Hundred and Seventy-Three.	0.15%
3	AKUA DONKOR	GFP	-	-	-
4	CHRISTIAN KWABENA ANDREWS	GUM	16,461	Sixteen Thousand, Four Hundred and Sixty-One.	0.15%
5	KOFI AKPALOO	LPG	5,219	Five Thousand, Two Hundred and Nineteen.	0.05%
6	MOHAMMED FRIMPONG	NDP	4,413	Four Thousand, Four Hundred and Thirteen.	0.04%
7	NANA AKOSUA FRIMPOMAA	CPP	23,397	Twenty-Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Ninety-Seven.	0.21%
8	JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA	NDC	6,328,397	Six Million, Three Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand, Three Hundred and Ninety-Seven.	56.55%
9	HASSAN ABDULAI AYARIGA	APC	17,461	Seventeen Thousand, Four Hundred and Sixty-One.	0.16%
10	KOFI KORANTENG	INDEPENDENT	3,320	Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Twenty.	0.03%
11	GEORGE TWUM-BARIMAH-ADU	INDEPENDENT	3,097	Three Thousand and Ninety-Seven.	0.02%
12	NANA KWAME BEDIAKO	INDEPENDENT	84,478	Eighty-Four Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventy-Eight.	0.75%
13	ALAN JOHN KWADWO KYEREMATEN	INDEPENDENT	31,202	Thirty-One Thousand, Two Hundred and Two.	0.28%
A	Total Valid Votes		11,191,422	Eleven Million, One Hundred and Ninety-One Thousand, Four Hundred and Twenty-Two.	100.00%

Table and Graph 14: Provisional results of the 2024 Legislative Elections in the Republic of Chad

No	Party	Seats
1.	Mouvement Patriotique du Salut (MPS)	124
2.	Rassemblement National des Démocrates Tchadiens - le Réveil (RNDT-Le Réveil)	12
3.	Rassemblement pour la Démocratie et le Progrès (RDP)	8
4.	Union Nationale pour la Démocratie et le Renouveau (UNDR)	7
5.	Parti pour les Libertés et le Développement (PLD)	2
6.	33 Other Parties with 1 or 2 seats each	35
Total		188

Source: NEMA



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU)

78. According to the official results, 184 political parties presented candidates in the legislative elections, and only 38 won seats. The turnout for the legislative and provincial elections is 51.56%; that of the municipal elections is 50.41%. It should be noted that the AU was not invited to observe the parliamentary elections.

IV. AU ELECTORAL AND DEMOCRATIC ASSISTANCE

79. In support of its mandate to promote democracy in Africa, the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (DPAPS) also conducted the following activities:

- (a) **Pre-Election Assessment Missions (PAM) to the Republic of Botswana, the Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of Ghana:** As part of its pursuit of democratic elections in Africa, the AU Commission with technical assistance from the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) deployed a Pre-election Assessment Mission to South Africa from 2 to 5 April 2024. The Mission: i) assessed the political environment in the country; (ii) assessed the level of preparedness of the EMBs; (iii) engaged with political actors and stakeholders in the country and support efforts to build the necessary consensus for an inclusive and peaceful political environment that will be conducive to the conduct of credible elections; and (iv) identified gaps and areas of further support to ensure the conduct of inclusive, free, fair, transparent, peaceful and credible elections. It is important to note that the missions also had preventive diplomacy elements that were supported by DPAPS technical partners, specifically in

Ghana. The Ghana pre-election preventive diplomacy mission was headed by the Chairperson of the Panel of the Wise, Retired Lady Justice Effie Owour. Reports from the missions were used to inform the form and nature of AUEOMs deployed during the second half of 2024.

- (b) ***The 2023 Annual Report on Elections in Africa – Comparative Commendable Lessons Learned:*** To enhance knowledge resources capturing the rich diversity of the continent’s election experiences, the DPAPS finalised for publishing the 2023 Annual Report on Elections in Africa. As noted in the previous report, the publication also contributes to profiling some of the gains being made in election practice as part of encouraging Member States to embrace and adapt what has been working for others while navigating the challenges that others have been facing.

V. GLOBAL ROLE OF AUEOMs

80. AU Commission Participation in the Annual Convening and Implementing Meetings of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation: The DPAPs participated in the 2024 Annual Meetings on the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation as part of its effort to strengthen its capacity to discharge its election observation mandate, to popularise that rich African experiences on elections, some of which are not sufficiently told by other election observers and to assert and consolidate the AUC position as a competent and credible institution supporting democracy and elections at a global stage. One important takeaway from the participation was lessons on new tools currently being implemented. Specifically, in Africa, the meeting recognised peer learning, preventive diplomacy missions and coordination among international election observation missions during deployment as progressive tools enhancing election observation.

VI. ENHANCED CAPACITY BUILDING OF AUEOMs

81. ***Capacity building of Core Team Experts of AUEOMs:*** Given the technical and ever-evolving nature of elections and the need to constantly upskill teams that provide analysis and support to AUEOMs, the DPAPs trained 30 election experts on a range of specialised topics consistent with the election trends at a global level. Beyond building their appreciation on the various normative frameworks against which elections in our Member States are assessed, the capacity building effort also ventured into strengthening research and analytical skills on key themes such as inclusion, media, election administration and political analysis. 50% of core team experts trained during the second half of 2024 were deployed to support elections in during the same period.

VII. KEY MILESTONES AND COMMENDABLE PRACTICES IN AFRICA’S DEMOCRATIC TRAJECTORY

82. Given the diverse experiences noted in the assessed elections during the second half of 2024, it was refreshing to note the following commendable practices that reflect positively on the positive democratic trajectory the continent has embarked on.

- (a) **Accountability to Voters:** The taking of public oaths by polling officials in the presence of voters committing to adhere to the code of conduct before opening of polling stations. The practice acknowledges that elections are a public process conducted for the public good and may have an effect of reassuring voters that the officials are accountable to them.
- (b) **Celebration of voting:** The calm and orderly culture of celebrating elections and voting as a patriotic duty through associating the process with national colors, culture, and music to promote tolerance and cohesion.
- (c) **Voter Education at Polling Stations:** Use of public address systems to provide voter education at the polling stations guiding voters on how to cast their ballots.

- (d) **Power Sharing:** The constitutional provisions that the majority party cannot have more than 50% of Cabinet positions or occupy the position of Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies to ensure power is shared among the electoral competitors.
- (e) **Inclusion:** Reserved quotas and dedicated elections by special electoral colleges for women, youth, and PwDs to enhance inclusion in political participation and representation.
- (f) **Manageable Voter Threshold:** A threshold was established for the number of registered voters per polling table, facilitating more efficient and organised voting.
- (g) **Proportional State Funding to candidates and political parties:** State funding was allocated to successfully nominated parties and candidates in proportion to the contested seats, promoting fair competition among all contestants, including new political parties.
- (h) **Media Funding for Fair Coverage:** State funding was provided for media coverage of parties and candidates, levelling the playing field and promoting equitable political competition.
- (i) **Ballot Security:** Allowing political parties to put their own seals on ballot boxes
- (j) **Sharing voter registers with political parties:** Giving voter register access to political parties
- (k) **Election Litigation:** Publishing of election litigation procedures to entrench predictability in how election disputes and petitions are managed.
- (l) **Media Access to Tally Centres:** Granting media access to tallying centres and allowing them to publish their tallying of results to eliminate speculation about the management of election results.
- (m) **Multiple Options to Verify Voters:** Introduction of multiple options to verify voters using the voter verification machines to reduce instances of voters being turned away from voting.
- (n) **Nomination Fees:** Low nomination fees for parliamentary and local authority candidates
- (o) **Election Day Communication:** Publishing of hourly voter turnout updates by election management bodies
- (p) **Access to polling stations:** Creation of special polling stations for the elderly and disabled to promote inclusion.

VIII. OVERVIEW OF GOVERNANCE TRENDS

83. The elections observed during the year 2024 present the following significant trends:

- (a) **Successful holding of elections when they were due** - Of the 19 presidential and legislative / parliamentary elections in 17 Member States scheduled for the year, 18 in 16 Member States were held when they were due;
- (b) **Invitation of AU to observe elections** - AU was invited to 15 (in 14 Member States) of the 18 elections held in the year;
- (c) **Electoral transitions** – 4 (Senegal, Botswana, Mauritius and Ghana) successful election transitions in Africa in 2024 (a record in one year on the continent);
- (d) **Election of female President** – In Namibia, a woman has been elected President of the Republic for the first time since the independence;
- (e) **Election conceding before the declaration of final election results** – The continent recorded 3 concessions by incumbent political parties and leaders before the declaration of election results signifying confidence in the election process and its outcome (Botswana, Mauritius and Ghana);
- (f) **Post-election disturbances** – of the 18 elections held in 2024, only one had significant post-election disturbances;
- (g) **General acceptance of electoral outcomes and submission to legal avenues to contest those that were not accepted** – all parties that did not accept electoral outcomes pursued legal means to address their concerns;
- (h) **Invitation and accreditation of domestic observers and access granted** for them to conduct their work with no hindrances;

- (i) **2024 matched 2023 in terms of elections** in which voting materials were recorded as insufficient;
- (j) **Diminishing role of civil society** in elections during elections apart from election observation.

IX. SNAPSHOT OF UPCOMING ELECTIONS: JANUARY – JUNE 2025

84. During the first half of 2025, two (2) legislative elections are scheduled as indicated below.

Table 15: Upcoming Elections from January to June 2025

1.	UNION OF COMOROS Union Assembly and Municipal elections were held on 12 January 2025 and the AUC deployed a technical mission to observe and report on the electoral process.
2.	REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI According to the Electoral Commission, legislative elections are due on 5 June 2025. A technical mission will similarly be deployed.

Note: The DPAPS will be ready deploy election observers pending invitations by the Member States. Where financial resources of the Commission permit, some form of technical assistance will be provided to some of the Member States who may so require.

X. KEY RESULTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO AU ELECTION OBSERVATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INITIATIVES FOR DEMOCRATIC PEACE IN AFRICA

85. Supports and efforts provided to accomplish the mandate in terms of election observation and technical assistance over years help to specifically achieve the following:

- (a) Increased levels of acceptance of election outcomes by losing competitors – the frequency of formal petitioning to dispute electoral outcomes reduced marginally over the last 4 years, showing improved confidence in electoral processes;
- (b) Increased practice of conceding elections before the formal declaration of election results – Candidates and parties have increasingly conceded elections showing an increased measure of confidence in how elections would have been conducted;
- (c) Increased stakeholder engagements organized by election management bodies ahead of elections;
- (d) Establishment of alternative administrative dispute resolution mechanisms to address rather than escalate election disputes while the election process is ongoing;
- (e) Improved acceptance and accreditation of domestic election observers;
- (f) Improved efficiency in the management of election day processes (logistics) by election management bodies;
- (g) Adaption of technology solutions to address voter registration and voter verification challenges experienced in the part.

XI. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

86. In view of the above, the AU Commission proposes the following recommendations:

- (a) Perpetuate the democratic culture in our Member States by respecting electoral timetables, transparency, equity and fair play, guarantees of peaceful electoral processes and sources of consolidating democratic legitimacy;

- (b) Guarantee equal treatment between candidates, parties and coalitions throughout the electoral processes in order to strengthen equality between them to preserve the pluralist rule of law through a more equitable composition of EMBs and their more inclusive structural and functional openness to reduce the sources of litigation and political tensions;
- (c) Encourage Member States to spare no effort in order not to neglect their responsibility to invite AU Missions in their electoral processes with a view to preventing crises before and after elections and to reduce as much as possible tensions at the national level;
- (d) Strengthen the role and resources of EMBs and CSOs in carrying out their missions, especially in terms of stimulating inclusive, participatory democracy, while reducing as much as possible the abstention rate noted in certain States;
- (e) Renounce to violence and hate speech to perpetuate the strengthening of national stability, without which there is no lasting democracy or consolidated rule of law;
- (f) Technical assistance approaches should be sustained for a long-term period that recognizes that capacity building and support is a process and not an event. Current approaches to technical assistance are limited to the election year and very close to election day (often a few months before elections);
- (g) Increase the means of action for AU Missions to increase their size and duration and cover more areas in the States in order to better strengthen their credibility considering the expectations of the populations. The AUEOMs must, in the very least, match or surpass the scale and scope of deployment of other international election observers on the continent to competitively lead the democracy and elections discourse and narrative before and after the elections. The African voice on democracy and elections is sometimes being drowned in competitive contexts because of the limited scale of our Election Observer Missions (EOMs).

XII. CONCLUSION

87. The AU commends the political maturity of the Peoples of the Member States covered by its Missions throughout the Second Half of 2024 and indeed the whole year of 2024. Such maturity transcends candidates, parties and coalitions and EMBs giving a rounded impression of democratic consolidation improving the quality of electoral democracy in Member States.

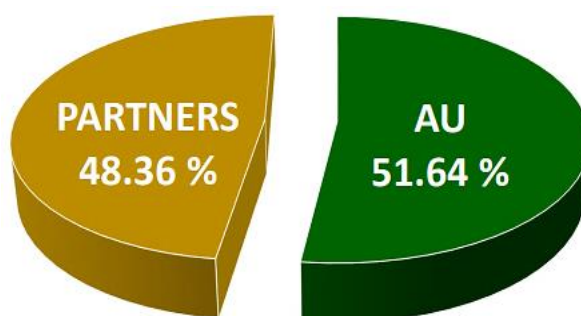
88. All this suggests commendable progress in democracy and pluralist rule of law in the continent, notwithstanding the nuances and the conjunctural and systemic limits noted in this present Report, including: the survival of controversies on the independence or functioning of EMBs, the latent question of voter apathy in certain African countries but also the often-limited involvement of CSOs in national citizen observation. Added to this is the rather limited dimension of the resources allocated by the AU for its Missions, which deserves to be reviewed and increased if we want to have more effective Missions in order to meet the expectations of our respective populations.

89. The AUC is encouraged by the parity induced in its Missions and invites all Member States to draw inspiration from it while prioritizing and stimulating the involvement of women, young people and people with disabilities or reduced mobility, pregnant and breastfeeding women, the elderly, throughout the electoral processes as candidates and as well as delegates. This is to better embody in the facts on the empirical level, the inclusive participatory democracy and social justice in our Member States.

90. Finally, the AUC remains attentive to the changes underway in the Member States in general, including those countries in transition in particular. It urges MS to spare no effort in adopting practical timetables for a rapid return to constitutional order. The AUC is willing to provide support in this regard in a constructive manner. It invites States that have postponed their elections to next year or are waiting to set dates for their elections to do so in order to allow the populations to vote and thus freely choose their leaders without hindrance.

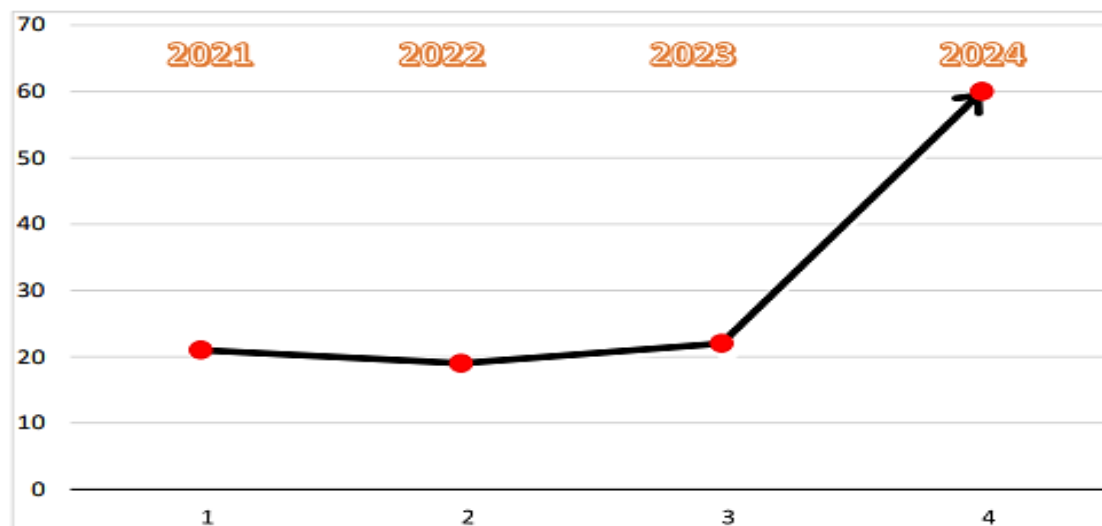
Note:

- Over the last four (4) years, the AU PAPS / GCPD – DEU has implemented 122 activities covering 43 (78.18%) Member States (MS) through deployment of election observer missions in 39 MS (70.9%) and technical assistance initiatives in 21 MS (38.18%) – See the map above, pg. 35.
- In the last 4 years, the AU's interventions through the PAPS / GCPD – DEU have been largely supported by Member States for 51.64% of activities while the remaining has been supported by partners (48.36%).



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU)

- However, specific to elections alone, their number per year has been fluctuating over the last 4 years with an average of 15 Member States per year holding presidential and legislative / parliamentary elections in the continent. 2024 witnessed the highest number of elections in Africa in recent history with 19 (in 17 MS) presidential and legislative / parliamentary elections being planned and 18 (in 16 MS) were undertaken with the AUC observing 15 (in 14 MS) – See AUEOMs deployment graph in 2024, pg. 9.
- In 2024 alone, the AU PAPS / GCPD – DEU implemented over sixty (60) activities, three times more than the average per year since 2021. Considering that 2021 and 2022 were during the post COVID period which explains the subdued number of initiatives.



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU)

- The record of over 60 activities implemented in 2024 is the first time since the creation of the AU Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU).