

AFRICAN UNION

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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1327TH MEETING**

**26 JANUARY 2026
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/RPT.1327 (2026)

(REV 1)

**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 2025**

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ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

ACDEG	African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
AUCTC	African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AU-COMESA EOM	African Union–COMESA Election Observation Mission
AUEOM	African Union Election Observation Mission
AUEOMs	African Union Election Observation Missions
BDC	Christian Democratic Bloc
BRIDGE	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections
CAR	Central African Republic
CNCM	National Coordination of Cameroon’s Movement
CNSF	Cameroon National Salvation Front
CODE	Coalition for Democracy and Equality (Côte d’Ivoire)
CPDM	Cameroon People’s Democratic Movement
CPNR	Cameroon Patriotic National Rally
CDU	Cameroon Democratic Union
DEC	Democracy, Elections and Constitutionalism Division
ECF	Electoral Commissions Forum
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECOWARN	ECOWAS Early Warning System
EMBs	Electoral Management Bodies
FCD	Front for Change and Democracy (Cameroon)
FDS	Socialist Democratic Front
GCP	Governance and Conflict Prevention
GP-PAIX	Group of Parties for Peace (Côte d’Ivoire)
H.E.	His Excellency
IB	Invalid Ballots
LAP	Liberty and Progress Party (Cameroon)
MEC	Malawi Electoral Commission
MGC	Movement for Grassroots Change (Côte d’Ivoire)
MNJTF	Multinational Joint Task Force (against Boko Haram)

NCTC	Nigeria Counter-Terrorism Centre
NEA	National Elections Authority
NUDP	National Union for Democracy and Progress (Cameroon)
NORCAP	Norwegian Capacity (Norwegian Refugee Council Program)
PAP	Pan African Parliament
PAPS	Political Affairs, Peace and Security
PVT	Parallel Vote Tabulation
PSD	Social Democratic Party (Gabon)
PSC	Peace and Security Council
PDG	Gabonese Democratic Party
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RPM	Rally for the Fatherland and Modernity
RHDP	Rally of Houphouëtists for Democracy and Peace (Côte d'Ivoire)
RNR	Rally for the New Republic
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDF	Social Democratic Front (Cameroon)
STO	Short-Term Observer
TA	Technical Assistance
UDB	Union of Democratic Builders
UDG	Union for Democracy and Development (Gabon)
UPNR	Union for the New Republic
UPSR	Union of Peoples for Social Renewal (Cameroon)
UNIVERS	Universal Party (Cameroon)
UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the second half of 2025, fourteen (14) African Union (AU) Member States conducted electoral processes, including presidential, legislative and general elections as well as constitutional referendum. These include Egypt (Senate 4-5 August, and House of Representatives 10-11 November), Malawi (16 September), Guinea (constitutional referendum – 21 September), Seychelles (25-27 September and 9-11 October), Gabon (27 September), Cameroon (12 October), Côte d'Ivoire (25 October and 27 December), Tanzania (29 October), Guinea-Bissau (23 November), Central African Republic (CAR) and Guinea (both held their elections on 28 December). These elections provided millions of African citizens with the opportunity to elect leaders of their choice.

In fulfilment of its mandate, the African Union Commission (AUC) deployed the African Union Election Observation Missions (AUEOMs), Pre-Election and Needs Assessment Missions, Technical Assistance, and Election Conflict Prevention initiatives. These efforts were undertaken in close collaboration with election management bodies, regional economic communities and AU organs.

Pre-election and needs assessment missions were deployed in the Seychelles, Guinea, and CAR. These missions provided an opportunity to assess preparations for elections and areas where the AU could offer technical assistance, as well as situations where there would be the need for preventive diplomacy to avoid potential electoral conflict.

In the period under review, capacity building initiatives were conducted, including political academies for women parliamentary election candidates and capacity building for the Malawi Electoral Commission in Malawi; election observation training for women and youth in Ghana and Nairobi; a Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) training exercise in Senegal targeting election officials and observers; training for technical experts in Algeria; and training of members of the Pan African Parliament in South Africa.

It was noted from all the efforts undertaken that:

1. Capacity building and provision of technical assistance to Member States provide opportunities to complement election observation to strengthen democratic and electoral processes.
2. Deployment of technical assistance to Member States must take into account election calendars of Member States to ensure timely and relevant support is extended.
3. Democracy and election trends noted during the second half of the year make it essential that capacity building curricula for core team experts and observers be updated to ensure that the relevance of election observation efforts is maintained.

Based on the above, the following recommendations are extended for consideration of the Peace and Security Council (PSC):

- (a) Encourage Member States to support follow up missions, technical assistance and preventive diplomacy initiatives ahead of upcoming elections;
- (b) Urge Member States planning to hold their elections during the first half of 2026 to spare no effort to comply with democratic principles and the rule of law in order to create the optimal conditions for holding democratic, inclusive, credible, regular, fair and transparent elections, without resorting to hate speech and violence in the political arena;

- (c) Reiterate the AU's firm condemnation of unconstitutional changes and find appropriate means to support countries in crisis and in transition for rapid return to constitutional order in a peaceful, orderly and inclusive manner in the target countries to avoid the continuation of the cycle of coups d'état;
- (d) Confront more fiercely terrorism, rebellions and all other forms of internal and external threats aimed at destabilizing our Member States, creating temporary limitations to the proper conduct of elections in destabilized areas, and to better facilitate the deployment of our Missions on the ground throughout the national territory;
- (e) Encourage Member States to expand efforts to ensure equitable participation of men, women and young people in democratic and electoral processes, while prioritizing the inclusion of women and youth generally in democratic governance;
- (f) Member States should address the question of low voter turnout which fluctuates from country to country by investing in civic education for citizens to know their rights;
- (g) Member States should be discouraged from shutting down internet during elections which is an electoral management risk factor, and it violates the citizen's right to freedom of information;
- (h) Member State, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AU Commission should all invest more in peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange at national, regional and continental levels e.g. Senegal;
- (i) Commend the continued impactful role of the Panel of the Wise (PoTW) in conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy and request additional resources to support their important mediation work;
- (j) Member States are urged to maintain election stability in a predictable and orderly manner to avoid unprecedented coup d'état and political violence;
- (k) Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the AU must continue to discourage the intimidation of political opposition leaders and opposition parties to avoid the disruption of law and order before, during and after elections; and
- (l) Support the increase in AUC budget allocation to promote the strengthening of stakeholder consultations and engagements ahead of elections and democracy and elections technical assistance to Member States.

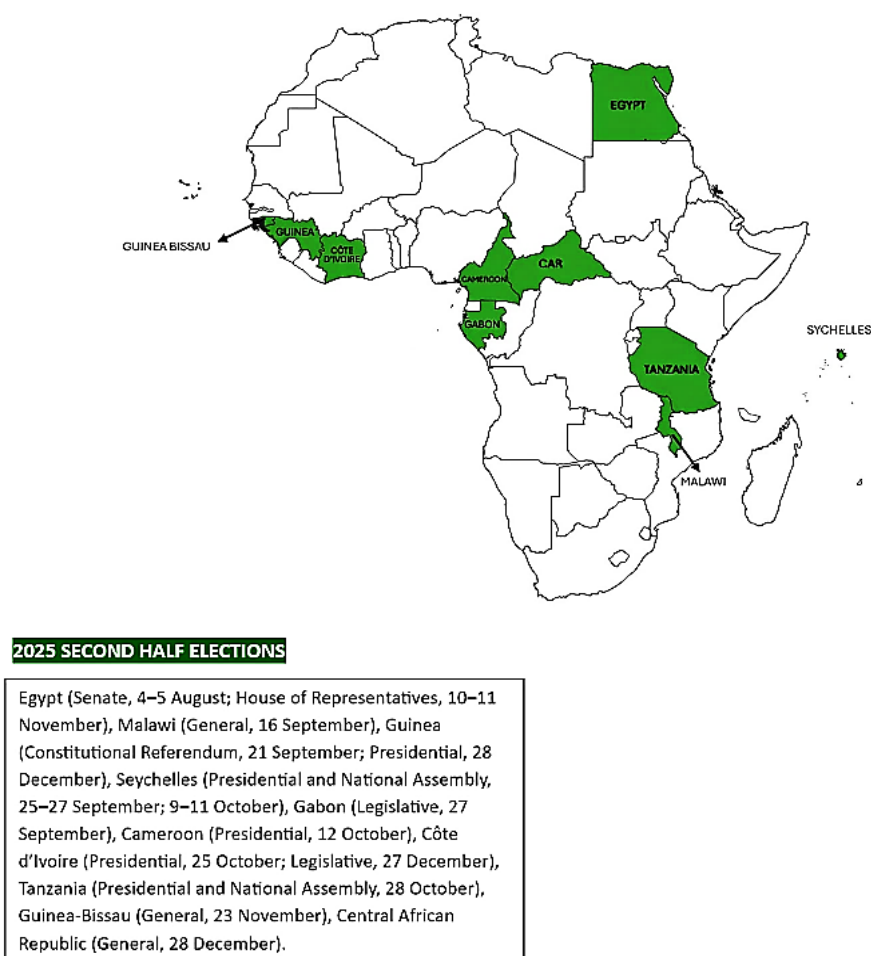
I. INTRODUCTION

1. The promotion of democratic governance, constitutional order and credible electoral processes remains a core pillar of the African Union's mandate on political affairs, peace, security and stability in accordance with the provisions of Articles 3 and 4 of the Constitutive Act.
2. In accordance with its normative frameworks, including the African Charter on Democracy (ACDEG), Elections and Governance, and in support of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), the African Union advances democratic principles as an integral component of the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law, as well as the promotion of conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustainable development in Africa.
3. During the period from July to December 2025, Africa experienced a more intense electoral cycle, characterized by competitive elections and, in some cases, heightened political tensions. In this regard, the Chairperson of the AUC deployed 10 AUEOMs during the period.
4. This report is submitted to the PSC and provides an overview and analysis of elections conducted between July and December 2025, reviews the deployment of pre-election and needs assessment missions, highlights enhanced capacity building initiatives, and documents policy dialogues, experience-sharing platforms and commendable democratic practices observed during the period. It further assesses the trends in peace, security and governance related to these electoral processes, provides a snapshot of upcoming elections from January to June 2026, and concludes with policy recommendations and lessons learned.

II. REVIEW OF ELECTIONS CONDUCTED BETWEEN JULY AND DECEMBER 2025

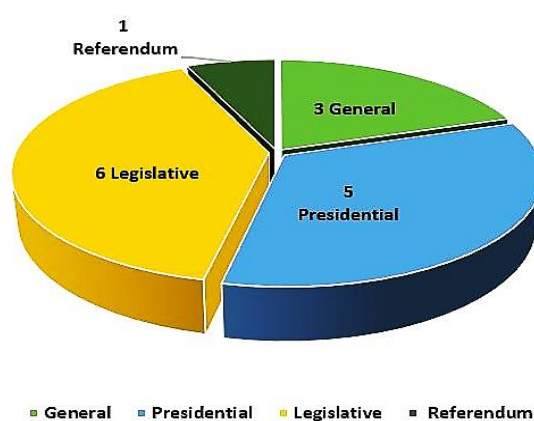
5. The mapping of electoral processes scheduled for the second half of 2025 highlights a notable increase of electoral processes across the African continent. On average, one to two elections took place each month, reflecting the growing consistency with which elections are now being held. These electoral milestones encompass a wide range of processes, including general, presidential, and legislative elections, as well as referendums.
6. While most of these elections unfolded in relatively peaceful environments, the period also witnessed significant variations in electoral stability, ranging from calm and orderly processes to more fragile contexts, including a coup d'état and violent election-related protests that occurred during or after elections.
7. Although such extreme cases remained limited, they nonetheless underscored the risky landscape surrounding electoral processes and reinforced the importance of the AU's mandate in promoting credible, transparent and peaceful elections, strengthening preventive diplomacy, and supporting Member States in anticipating and mitigating electoral related risks.

Graph 1: AU Elections Map – Second Half 2025¹



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

Graph 2: Disaggregation of the 2025 Second Half Elections²



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

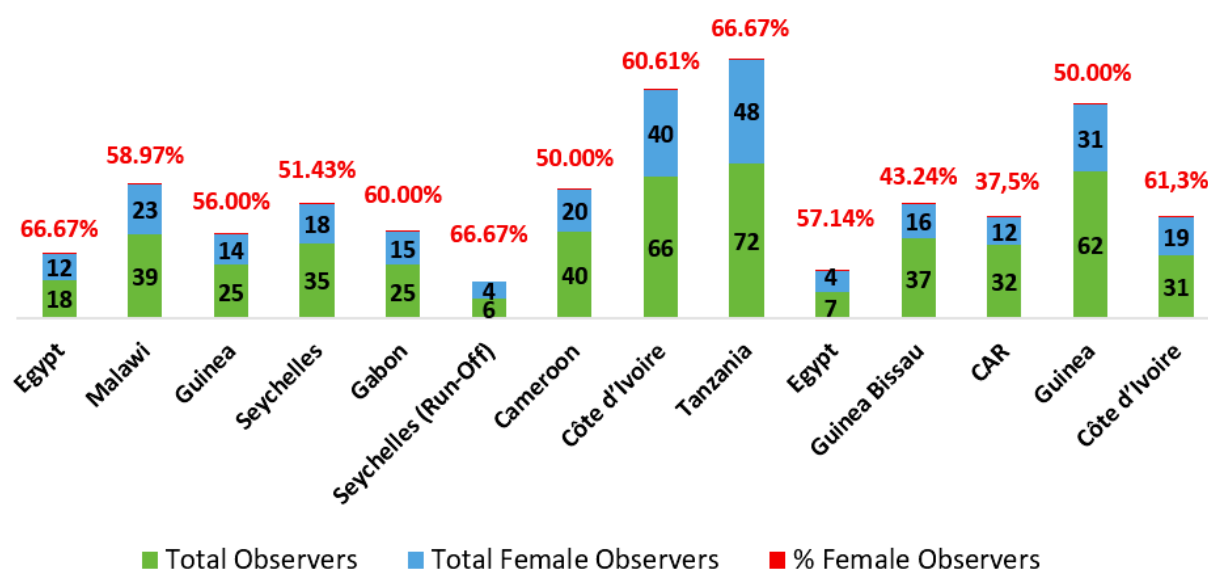
¹ Fourteen (14) Election Observation Missions were deployed, across ten (10) AU Member States during the second half of 2025.

² Excluding the Runoff in Seychelles (9-11 October 2025)

Table 1: Table of Participation of Women and Youth in AUEOMs – Second Half 2025

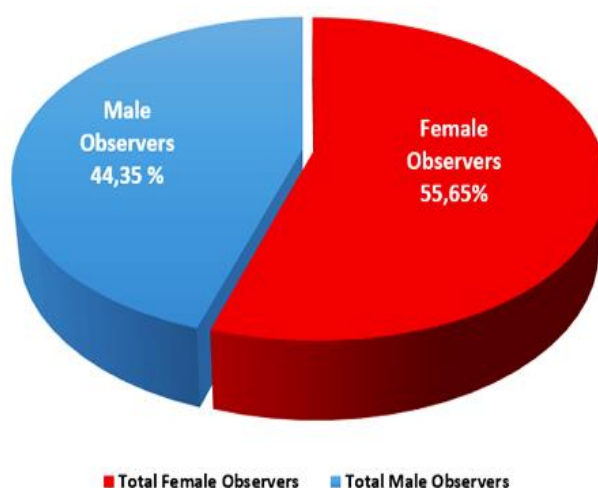
No	Member State	Total Observers	Total Female Observers	% Female Observers	Total Youth Observers	% Youth Observers	Total Female Youth	% Female Youth Observers
1	Egypt	18	12	66,67%	6	33,33 %	3	16,67 %
2	Malawi	39	23	58,97%	12	30,77 %	10	25,64 %
3	Guinea	25	14	56,00%	5	20%	5	20%
4	Seychelles	35	18	51,43%	7	20%	7	20%
5	Gabon	25	15	60,00%	6	24%	5	20%
6	Seychelles	6	4	66,67%	3	50%	2	33,33 %
7	Cameroon	40	20	50%	8	20%	7	17,5 %
8	Côte d'Ivoire	67	40	60,61%	10	15,15 %	5	7,58 %
9	Tanzania	72	48	66,67%	20	27,78 %	13	18,06 %
10	Egypt	7	4	57,14%	2	28,57 %	1	14,29 %
11	Guinea Bissau	37	16	43,24%	5	13,51 %	4	10,81 %
12	CAR	32	12	37,5%	6	18,75%	5	15,63 %
13	Guinea	62	31	50%	25	40,32%	14	22,58%
14	Côte d'Ivoire	31	19	61,3%	20	64,5%	14	45,16%
Total		496	276	55,65%	135	27,22%	100	20,16%

Source : AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

Graph 3: Women's Participation in AUEOM – Second Half Elections 2025

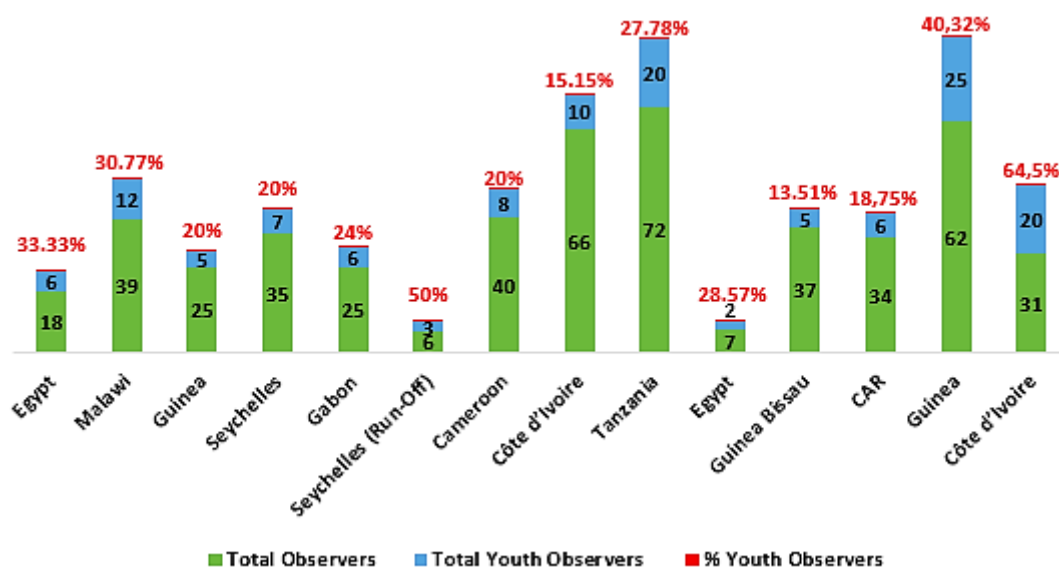
Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

Graph 4: Participation of Male and Female in AUEOMs – Second Half Elections 2025



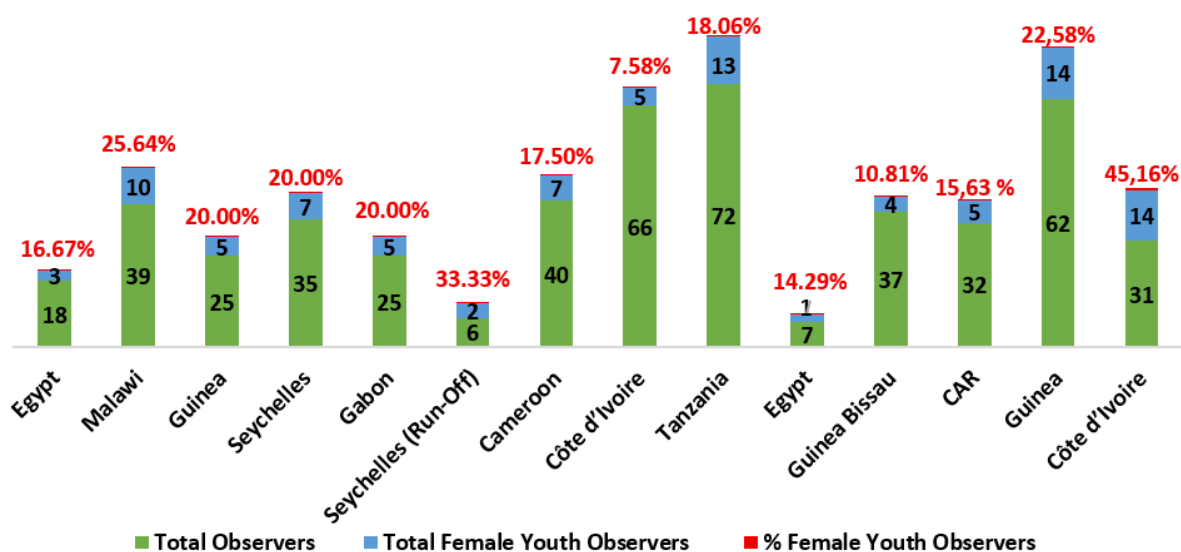
Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

Graph 5: Total Number of Youth Observers – Second Half Elections 2025



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

Graph 6: Total Number of Female Youth Observers – Second Half 2025



Source : AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

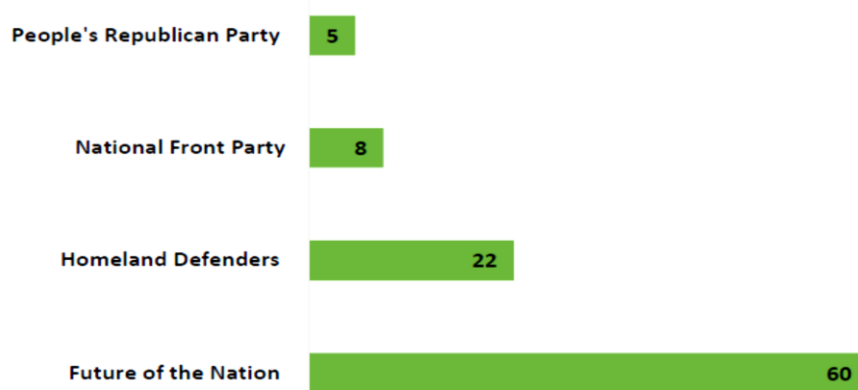
A. EGYPT

i. Senatorial Election

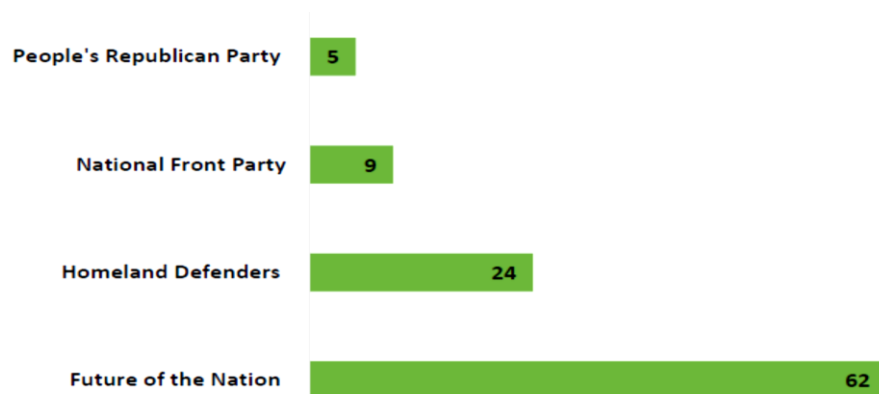
8. In accordance with the ACDEG, the AU deployed an AUEOM composed of 18 observers to assess the second Senatorial Elections in Egypt held from 4 to 5 August 2025 from 31 July to 9 August 2025. The Mission was coordinated by the Director for Governance and Conflict Prevention, Ms. Patience Zanelie Chiradza and included observers from 14 AU Member States.

9. The Mission concluded that the 2025 Senatorial Elections were conducted in a generally calm environment and in line with national legal provisions. The Mission recommended all stakeholders pursue further measures to enhance inclusivity, transparency, and public confidence in future electoral processes.

Graph 7: Number of seats won by party affiliated candidates (1st Round)



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, based on results announced by the National Elections Authority on 12 August 2025

Graph 8: Number of seats won by party affiliated candidates (2nd Round)

Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate, based on results announced by National Elections Authority on 4 September 2025

ii. Egypt House of Representatives Elections

10. The AUC and COMESA deployed a joint seven (7) members in their technical EOM from 8 to 13 November 2025, at the invitation of the Government and the National Election Authority (NEA). The Mission observed the first phase of the elections held on 10–11 November. In the areas observed, particularly in Giza governorate, the elections were conducted peacefully and in an orderly manner, with well managed polling stations, visible security personnel, and commendable efforts to support women and vulnerable voters.

11. At the same time, the Mission identified some areas needing improvement, such as enhanced voter education to provide clarity on voting procedures. The election management body is encouraged to enhance communication, coordination, and inclusivity to further reinforce the credibility of future electoral processes.

12. On 10 January 2026, the National Elections Authority (NEA) announced the final results of Egypt's 2025 House of Representatives elections.

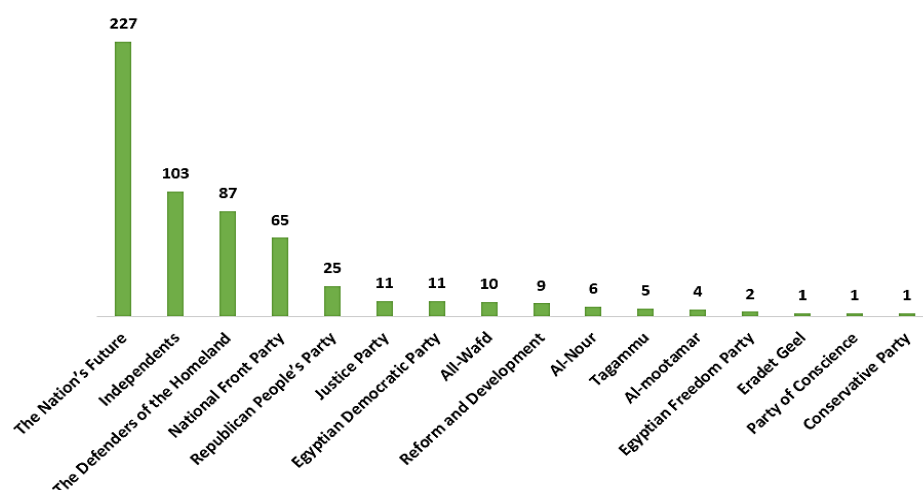
Table 2: Final results of the 2025 House of Representatives Elections in the Arab Republic of Egypt

Political parties	number of seats
The Nation's Future	227
The Defenders of the Homeland	87
National Front Party	65
Republican People's Party	25
Egyptian Democratic Party	11
All-Wafd	10
Justice Party	11
Reform and Development	9
Al-Nour	6
Tagammu	5
Al-mootamar	4
Egyptian Freedom Party	2

Eradet Geel	1
Party of Conscience	1
Conservative Party	1
Independents	103

Source: NEA

Graph 9: Number of seats won by party



B. MALAWI GENERAL ELECTIONS

13. In line with its mandate to promote democratic consolidation, the AU and COMESA deployed a Joint Election Observation Mission (AU-COMESA EOM) to the Malawi 16 September General Election from 8 to 20 September 2025, led by H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn Boshe, former Prime Minister of Ethiopia. The elections were conducted peacefully, with high voter participation and professionalism from polling staff. Key improvements made ahead of the elections included enhanced voter registration, operational reforms such as constituency tally centres, and transparent communication by the MEC, strengthening efficiency and public confidence. Overall, the elections largely met regional and international standards, and the national legal and institutional framework provided an adequate basis for credible outcomes.

14. Recommendations offered by the mission included: enacting campaign finance reforms, introducing gender and youth representation measures, institutionalizing continuous voter registration, improving electoral technology reliability, and enhancing accessibility and civic education. Strengthening multi stakeholder collaboration including government, the MEC, political parties, and civil society will be essential for maintaining transparency, inclusivity, and integrity in future elections.

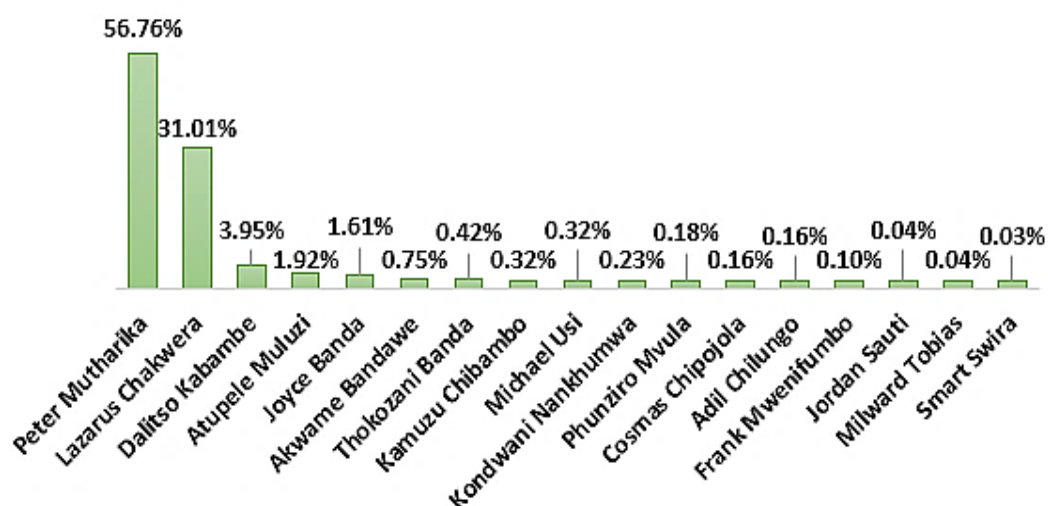
Table 3: Final results of the 2025 Presidential Election in the Republic of Malawi

Rank	Candidate	Party	Votes	Percent
1	Peter Mutharika	DPP	3035249	56.76%
2	Lazarus Chakwera	MCP	1765170	33.01%
3	Dalitso Kabambe	UTM	211413	3.95%

4	Atupele Muluzi	UDF	102744	1.92%
5	Joyce Banda	PP	86106	1.61%
6	Akwame Bandawe	AAA	40052	0.75%
7	Thokozani Banda	IND	22614	0.42%
8	Kamuzu Chibambo	PETRA	17274	0.32%
9	Michael Usi	OZAM	16922	0.32%
10	Kondwani Nankhumwa	PDP	12251	0.23%
11	Phunziro Mvula	IND	9378	0.18%
12	Cosmas Chipojola	IND	8638	0.16%
13	Adil Chilungo	IND	8462	0.16%
14	Frank Mwenifumbo	NDP	5354	0.1 %
15	Jordan Sauti	PCC	2196	0.04%
16	Milward Tobias	IND	2086	0.04%
17	Smart Swira	IND	1848	0.03%

Source: Malawi Electoral Commission

Graph 10: Histogram of Final Results



Source : AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

C. GUINEA CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM

15. Following the Constitutional Referendum held on 21 September 2025 in the Republic of Guinea, the AU deployed an Observation and Solidarity Mission composed of 25 electoral experts from 17 Member States of the continent. This Mission was preceded by the Mission of the AU PSC and the AU Pre-Electoral Assessment Mission, which took place from 31 May to 2 June 2025. Coordinated by Ambassador Calixte Aristide MBARI, Head of DEC/PAPS, the AUEOM took place from 16 to 23 September 2025 and observed a process that was peaceful, credible, and transparent.

16. The Mission concluded that Guinean citizens freely exercised their constitutional rights, and that the referendum reflected the country's strong commitment to democratic governance, sovereignty, and institutional resilience despite minor logistical challenges. The Mission further noted that the new Constitution became the Fundamental Charter of the State following its promulgation by the Head of State on 26 September 2025 and the subsequent publication in the Official Journal on

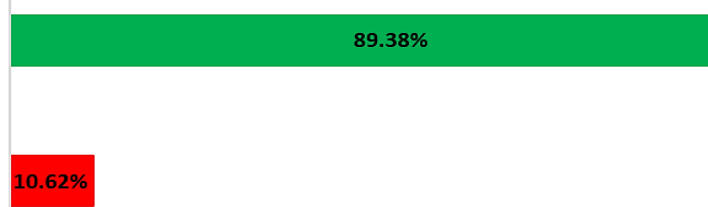
27 September 2025³. This swift and orderly process underscored the Government's commitment to ensure a rapid and effective return to constitutional order, which paved the way for the presidential election held on 28 December 2025. It is noteworthy to mention that Guinea understudied Gabon and Senegal as it prepared for its constitutional referendum. Similarly, the referendum process in Guinea was partly sponsored by the Africa Facility to Support Inclusive Transition (AFSIT) funds.

Table 4: Final Results of the Referendum

Registered Voters	6 768 458
Number of Voters	5 951 807
Valid Votes	5 746 327 (96,55%)
Voter Turnout	86,42%
Invalid Ballots (IB)	205 480
Votes in favour of Yes	5 135 951 (89,38%)
Votes in favour of No	610 376 (10,62%)

Source: Supreme Court

Graph 11: Histogram Final Results



Source : AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

D. GUINEA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

17. The Republic of Guinea held the first round of its presidential election on 28 December 2025 and was observed by an African Union Election Observation Mission deployed by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. The Mission which was led by H.E. Domitien Ndayizeye, former President of Burundi and Chairperson of the Panel of the Wise comprised 62 observers from 30 AU Member States. The Mission commended the peaceful and credible conduct of the elections in line with international standards, noted a deliberate move to transition into democratic rule, and welcomed the authorities' commitment towards completing the electoral cycle and restoring constitutional order.

18. The Mission recommended strengthening democratic governance, the rule of law, inclusive political dialogue, the capacities of election management bodies, political inclusiveness, and the alignment of the Electoral Code with the Constitution.

19. The final results of the presidential election held on 28 December 2025 were proclaimed following the Supreme Court Decision No. 01 of 4 January 2026, relating to electoral matters.

Table 5: Final Results of the 2025 Presidential Election

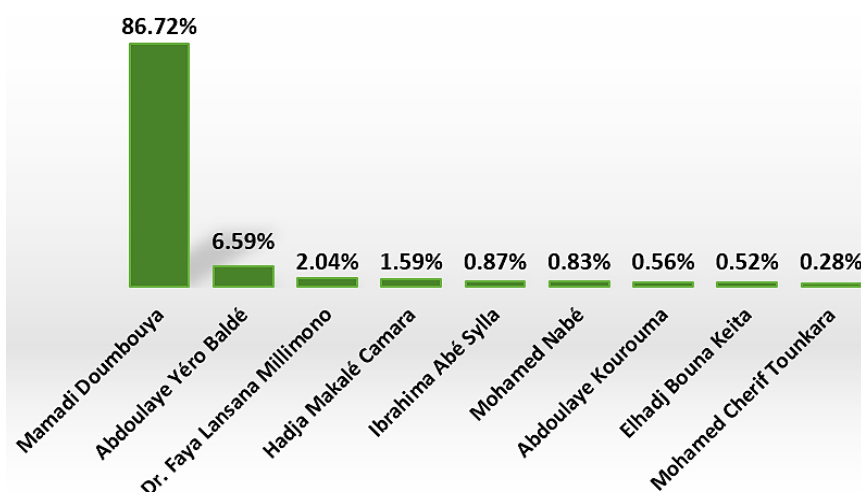
³Presidential Decree No. D/2025/0177/PRG/SGG enacting Organic Law No. L/2025/026/CNT establishing the new Electoral Code.

Rank	Candidate	Political Party	Votes	Percentage
1	Mamadi Doumbouya	GMD	4,594,262	86,72%
2	Abdoulaye Yéro Baldé	FRONDEG	349,129	6,59%
3	Dr. Faya Lansana Millimono	BL	108,177	2,04%
4	Hadja Makalé Camara	FAN	84,175	1,59%
5	Ibrahima Abé Sylla	NGR	46,261	0,87%
6	Mohamed Nabé	ARP	44,102	0,83%
7	Abdoulaye Kourouma	RRD	29,529	0,56%
8	Elhadj Bouna Keita	RGP	27,529	0,52%
9	Mohamed Cherif Tounkara	MST Renouveau	14,767	0,28%

Registered voters	6,768,458
Total voters	5,608,520
Voter Turnout	82.86%
Valid votes	5,297,931 (94.46%)
Invalid votes	310,589

Source: Supreme Court

Graph 12: Histogram of Final Election Results



Source : AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

E. SEYCHELLES PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

20. Seychelles held general elections on 27 September 2025 for the Presidency and National Assembly. With no candidate winning an outright majority, a runoff on 11 October resulted in the victory of Mr. Patrick Herminie. The AU-COMESA Election Observation Mission (EOM), led by H.E. Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili, former Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho, deployed 35 Short-Term Observers for the first round, and later deployed seven electoral experts to follow post-election developments and observe the runoff. Based on its assessments, the Mission concluded that Seychellois voters were able to exercise their rights freely in elections that were peaceful, transparent, and broadly consistent with regional and international standards.

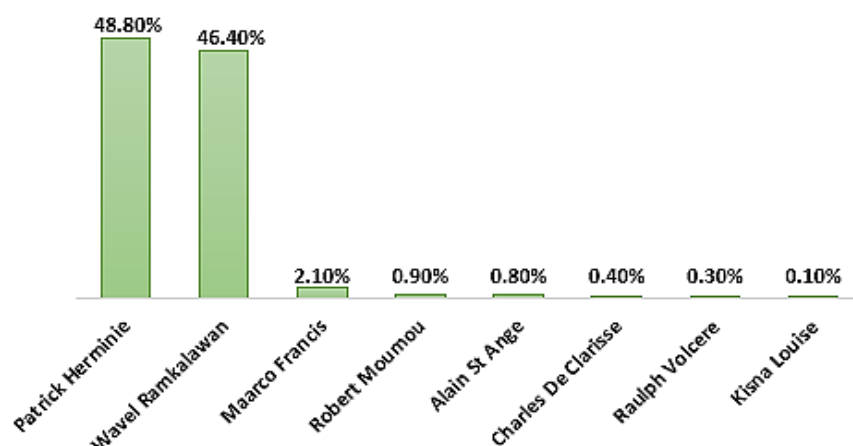
21. The Mission nevertheless identified areas where further strengthening could enhance future electoral processes, including completing constitutional and electoral reforms well in advance of elections, improving representation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities, refining voter and disability data management, revisiting boundary delimitation, and adjusting operational procedures such as nomination timelines and polling hours.

Table 6: Presidential Election Results (First Round)

Presidential Election Results	Representation	Votes	%
Alain St Ange	Lalyans Nouvo Sesel	513	0.80%
Patrick Herminie	United Seychelles	30,736	48.80%
Kisna Louise	Independent	68	0.10%
Raulph Volcere	Independent	217	0.30%
Robert Moumou	Seychelles People's National Movement	593	0.90%
Charles De Clarisse	Independent	253	0.40%
Wavel Ramkalawan	Linyon Demokratik Seselwa	29,230	46.40%
Maarco Francis	Seychelles United Movement	1,329	2.10%

Source: <https://ecs.sc/>

Graph 13: Histogram of Final Results – First Round

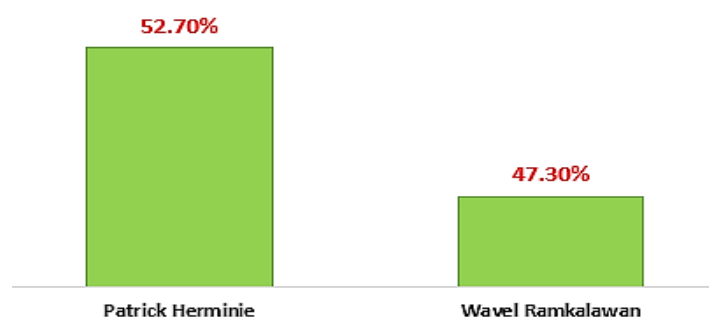


Source : AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

Table 7: Presidential Election Results (Second Round)

Presidential Election Results	Representation	Votes	%
Patrick Herminie	United Seychelles	34,389	52.7%
Wavel Ramkalawan	Linyon Demokratik Seselwa	30,823	47.3%

Source: <https://ecs.sc/>

Graph 14: Histogram of Final Results – Second Round

Source : AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

F. GABON LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

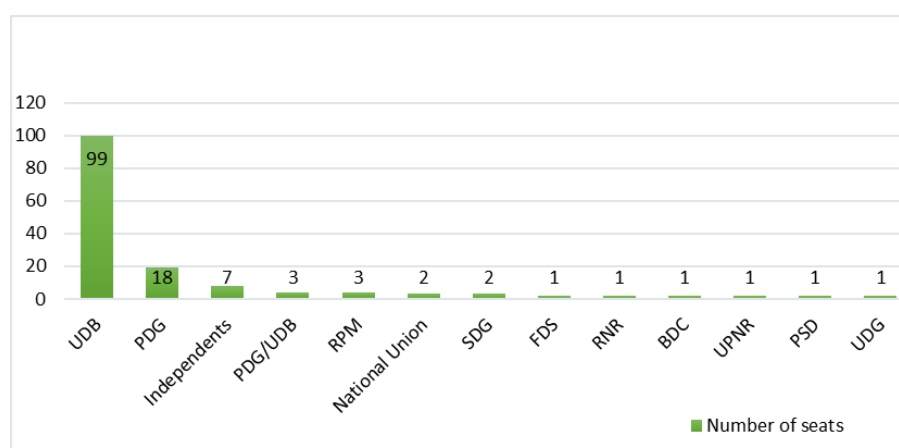
22. On the occasion of the legislative and local elections held on 27 September and 11 October 2025 in the Gabonese Republic, the AUC deployed a technical Election Observation Mission coordinated by Ambassador Calixte Aristide Mbari, Head of the Democracy, Elections and Constitutionalism Division (DEC). The Mission deployed, during the first round of the elections, 25 Short Term Observers drawn from 19 AU Member States. Their deployment formed part of the AU's continued commitment to supporting Gabon's return to constitutional order and reinforcing democratic governance during the ongoing transition.

23. The Mission noted that the first round of the 2025 legislative and local elections was conducted in a generally peaceful, competitive, and transparent environment. While some logistical and procedural challenges emerged, the overall conduct of the process reflected the determination of Gabonese institutions and citizens to advance political stability and democratic renewal. Although the AUEOM did not observe the second round, it maintained close engagement with key stakeholders and systematically followed the electoral process, enabling it to gather the information required for an informed assessment of the overall electoral environment.

Table 8: Final Results of the Legislative Elections

N°	Political Parties	Number of seats
1	Union of Democratic Builders (UDB)	99
2	Gabonese Democratic Party (PDG)	18
3	PDG/UDB	3
4	Rally for the Fatherland and Modernity (RPM)	3
5	National Union	2
6	Gabonese Social Democrats (SDG)	2
7	Socialist Democratic Front (FDS)	1
8	Rally for the New Republic (RNR)	1
9	Christian Democratic Bloc (BDC)	1
10	Union for the New Republic (UPNR)	1
11	PSD	1
12	UDG	1
13	Independents	7

Source: Constitutional Court

Graph 15: Histogram of Final Results

Source : AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

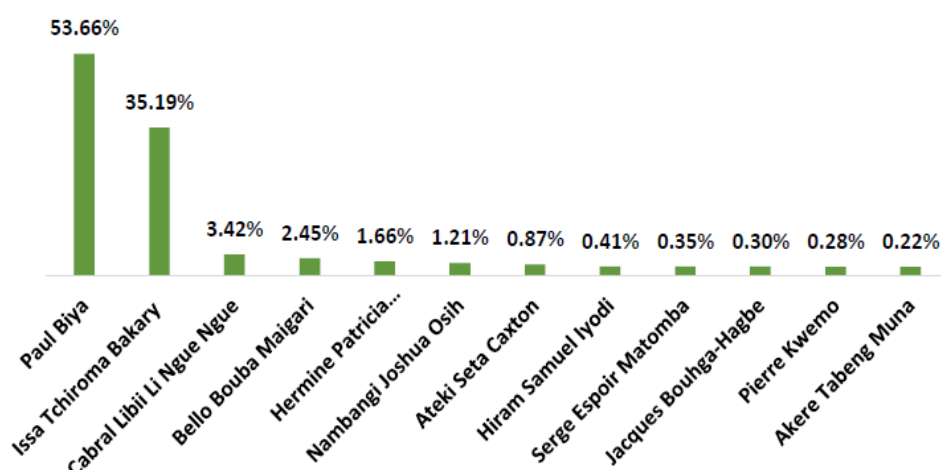
G. CAMEROON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

24. The Republic of Cameroon conducted its presidential election on 12 October 2025. In accordance with its mandate to promote and consolidate democratic elections in Africa, the AUC deployed an AUEOM in the Republic of Cameroon from 6 to 16 October 2025. The Mission was led by H.E. Bernard Makuza, former Prime Minister and former President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda. It comprised 40 observers from 28 AU Member States.

25. The electoral process on 12 October proceeded in an orderly manner, without major incidents of violence. While the vote was conducted peacefully, the post-election period experienced delayed results, restiveness and heightened tensions in certain regions which led to the main opposition leader fleeing the country. The Mission emphasized the importance of all political and social actors conducting themselves within the legal and institutional frameworks to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process and ensure adherence to established procedures.

Table 9: Final Election Results

Rank	Candidate	Party	Votes	Percentage
1.	Paul Biya	CPDM	2,474,179	53.66
2.	Issa Bakary Tchiroma	CNSF	1,622,334	35.19
3.	Cabral Libii	CPNR	157,568	3.42
4.	Bello Bouba Maigari	NUDP	112,758	2.45
5.	Hermine Patricia Tomaino Ndam Njoya	CDU	76,721	1.66
6.	Joshua Osih	SDF	55,841	1.21
7.	Seta Caxton Ateki	LAP	39,935	0.87
8.	Hiram Samuel Iyodi	FCD	18,828	0.41
9.	Serge Espoir Matomba	UPSR	15,925	0.35
10.	Jacques Bouhga Hagbe	CNCM	13,612	0.30
11.	Pierre Kwemo	USM	12,873	0.28
12.	Akere Muna	UNIVERS	10,252	0.22
Total			4,610,826	100

Graph 16: Final Election Results Histogram – Percentage Distribution

Source : AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

H. CÔTE D'IVOIRE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

26. The AUEOM was deployed to Côte d'Ivoire from 12 October to 2 November to observe the 25 October 2025 presidential election. The Mission was conducted jointly with ECOWAS under the leadership of H.E. Yemi Osibanjo, former Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, supported by H.E. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chad and former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for UNOWAS. The Mission composed of sixty-six (66) observers drawn from twenty-four (24) AU Member States. The Mission noted several positive developments, including full state funding of the elections, the availability of gender disaggregated voting statistics, and the use of biometric voter verification, all of which contributed to enhancing transparency and public confidence. Overall, this election took place in a generally calm and transparent environment.

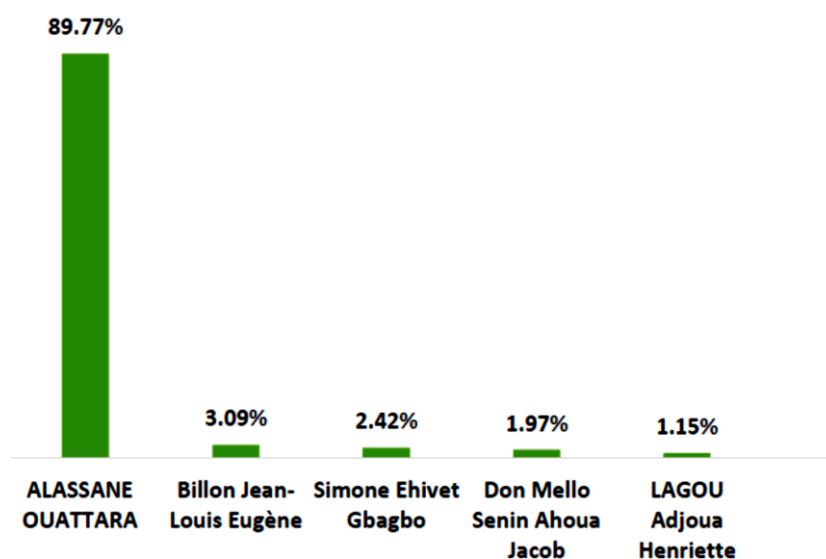
27. Despite these strengths, the Mission noted challenges such as recurring demonstrations and low voter turnout among youth, underscoring the need for sustained civic and voter education initiatives to enhance inclusivity and participation. In addition, some stakeholders raised concerns that some leading political figures were not able to participate in the elections due to the disqualification of their candidacy before elections. Nevertheless, the Mission noted the need for the Ivorian authorities and all stakeholders to pursue inclusive political dialogue involving political actors, civil society, and community leaders to strengthen trust, promote social cohesion, and further consolidate democratic governance, the rule of law, peace, security and stability in Côte d'Ivoire.

Table 10: Final Results of the 2025 Presidential Election

N°	Candidates	Political parties	Provisional results	
			Votes	%
1	Alassane OUATTARA	RHDP	3 759 030	89,77
2	EHIVET Simone GBAGBO	MGC	101 238	2,42
3	LAGOU Adjoua Henriette	GP-PAIX	48 261	1,15
4	BILLON Jean-Louis Eugène	CODE	129 493	3,09
5	DON-MELLO Senin Ahoua Jacob	Independent	82 508	1,97
Voters			4 292 474	
Blank ballots			66 788	
Null ballots			105 156	
Valid votes			4 187 318	
Voter turnout			50,10%	
Registered voters			8.727.431	
Voters present at (P.S) without casting a ballot			158 975	

Source: Constitutional Court

Graph 17: Histogram of Final Election Results



Source : AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

I. CÔTE D'IVOIRE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

28. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) deployed an African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire from 22 to 31 December 2025 to observe the parliamentary elections held on 27 December 2025. The Mission was coordinated by Ms Patience Zanelie Chiradza, Director for Governance and Conflict Prevention at the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department (PAPS), and comprised twenty-nine (29) short-term observers drawn from nineteen (19) African Union Member States.

29. The African Union Election Observation Mission commends the commitment of the Ivorian authorities to the organization of the legislative elections in accordance with the Constitution and the

Electoral Code, and notes with satisfaction the peaceful environment that prevailed on polling day. The atmosphere observed within and around the polling stations visited was generally calm and orderly. The African Union Election Observation Mission recommends strengthening gender parity and the capacity of electoral personnel, improving accessibility for all voters, and calls on political parties and candidates to adhere to electoral codes of conduct while promoting the participation of women and youth in the electoral process.

30. On January 9, 2026, following the electoral dispute, the Constitutional Council annulled the results in two (2) constituencies and ordered a new election. Following these decisions, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) indicated the same day, in a press release, that the provisional results announced through the Decision No. 003/CEI/EDAN/CC of 29 December 2025, are now final for all other constituencies.

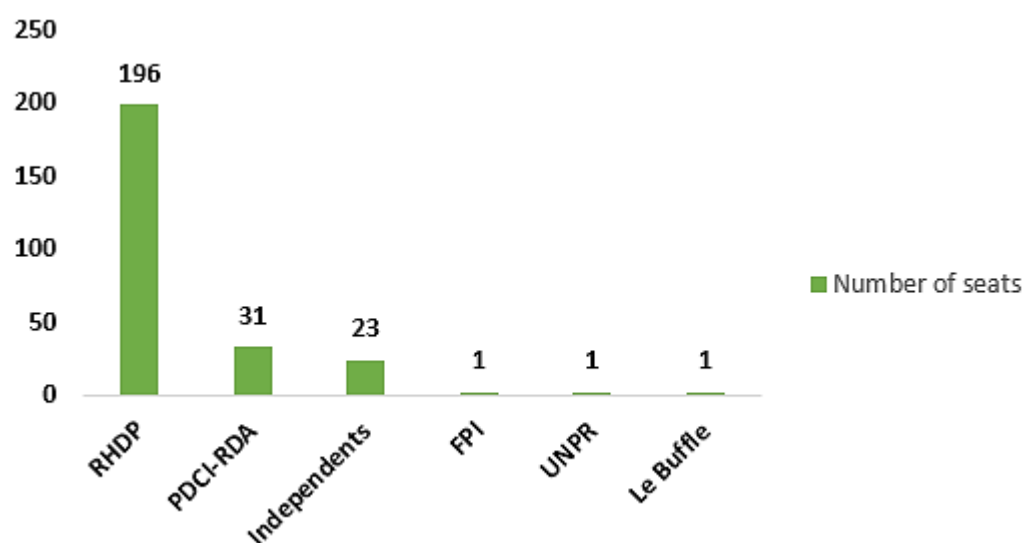
Table 11: The Final results

Political party	Number of seats
Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)	1 Seat
Independents	23 Seats
Le Buffe- The victory for development	1 Seat
Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire – African Democratic Rally (PDCI-RDA)	31 Seats
Rally of Houphouëtists for Democracy and Peace (RHDP)	196 Seats
Union for the Republic (UNPR)	1 Seat

Registered voters	8,597,092
Voter turnout	35.04%
Invalid ballots	68,525
Blank ballots	29,578
Valid votes	2,943,569

Source: Constitutional Council

Graph 18: Histogram of the final results



Source : AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

J. TANZANIA PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

31. The African Union deployed an EOM to Tanzania from 14 October to 3 November 2025 to observe the 29 October 2025 General Elections, following an invitation from the Government. This is in line with its mandate to promote democratic consolidation. Led by H.E. Mokgweetsi Masisi former Botswana President and supported by H.E. Geoffrey Onyeama former Nigerian Foreign Minister, the Mission consisted of seventy-two (72) observers from thirty (30) AU Member States. The Mission acknowledged several positive elements, including strong preparatory work by electoral authorities, full national funding of the elections, adequate deployment of materials, and gender balanced polling staff who generally adhered to procedures.

32. The elections were marred by election-related violence leading to internet challenges and curfews lasting several days. The Mission noted several areas requiring improvement to further strengthen the credibility of electoral process which affected access to information. The Mission encouraged the Government to release political detainees, pursue constitutional and legal reforms, enhance results management and logistical arrangements, and improve accreditation and accessibility measures. It also highlighted the continued importance of civil society's engagement in promoting voter education, observation, and broader electoral reforms.

Table 12: Final Results of the 2025 Presidential and National Assembly Elections

Final results of the Presidential Elections

Candidate	Political Party	Vote	Percentage
Samia Suluhu Hassan	CCM	31,913,866	97.66%
Mwalim Salum Juma	Chama cha Ukombozi wa Umma	213,414	0.65%
Gombo Samandito Gombo	Civic United Front	164,050	0.50%
Almas Hassan Kisabya	National Reconstruction Alliance	99,396	0.30%
Coaster Jimmy Kibonde	Chama Cha Makini	59,117	0.18%
Kunje Ngombale Mwiru	Alliance for African Farmers Party	42,457	0.13%
Abdul Juma Mluya	Democratic Party	26,257	0.08%
Ambar Khamis Haji	NCCR–Mageuzi	25,190	0.08%
Saum Hussein Rashid	United Democratic Party	21,964	0.07%
Doyo Hassan Doyo	National League for Democracy	18,037	0.06%
Rwamugira Mbatina Yustas	Tanzania Labour Party	17,583	0.05%
Bussungu Georges Gabriel	African Democratic Alliance Party	14,377	0.04%
Noty Mwajuma Mirambo	Union for Multiparty Democracy	13,814	0.04%
Kyara Majalio Paul	Sauti ya Umma	13,203	0.04%
Wilson Elias Mulumbe	Alliance for Democratic Change	12,898	0.04%
Mwaijojele David Daud	Chama Cha Kijamii	12,516	0.04%
Twalib Ibrahim Kadege	United People's Democratic Party	10,705	0.03%

Source : <https://www.eatv.tv/uchaguzi/2025>

Final Results of the National Assembly Composition

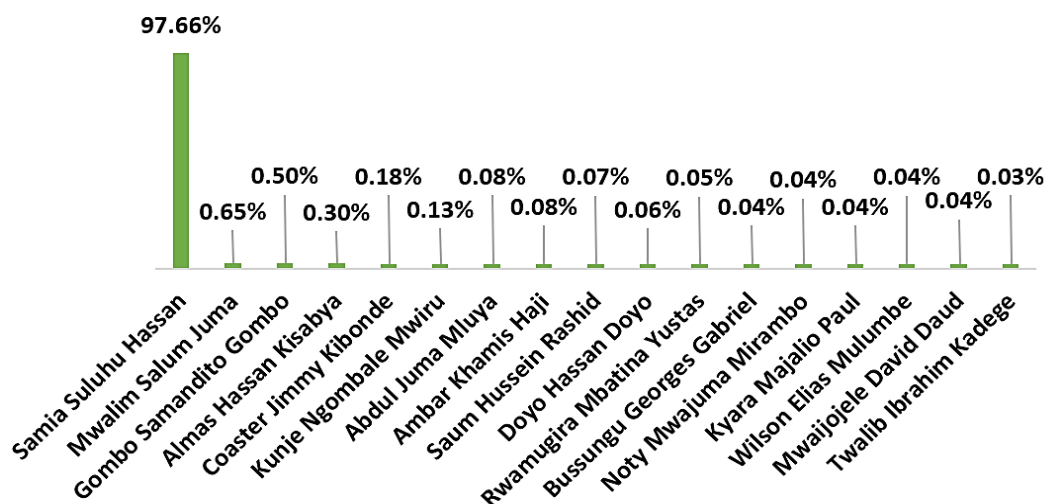
Party	Seat
Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM)	383
Alliance pour le changement et la transparence (ACT)	2
Chama cha Ukombozi wa Umma (CHAUMMA)	2
Appointed Members	10
Members elected by the Zanzibar House of Representatives	5

Ex officio Member	1
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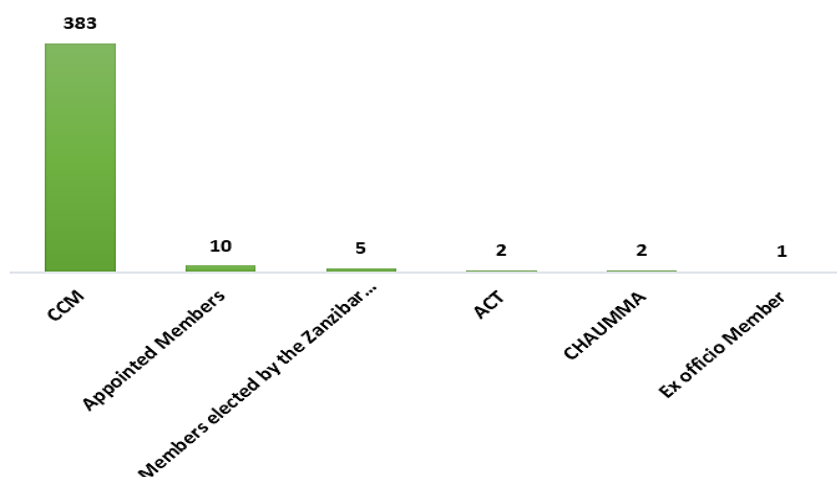
Source : <https://www.eatv.tv/uchaguzi/2025>

Graph 19: Histograms of Final Election Results of the Presidential and National Assembly Elections

Final results of the Presidential Elections



Final Results of the National Assembly Composition



Source : AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

K. GUINEA BISSAU GENERAL ELECTIONS

33. The Chairperson of the AUC deployed an AUEOM for the general elections of 23 November 2025 in Guinea Bissau. The Mission was led by H.E. Mr Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, former President of Mozambique, and comprised thirty-seven (37) observers from twenty (20) AU Member States. Following the elections, and before the conclusion of the election process and announcement of election results, the country experienced a military coup on 26 November 2025, led by Brigadier General Víctor Tchongo, which suspended constitutional authorities, detained senior officials, and disrupted the electoral process.

34. In response, the PSC suspended Guinea-Bissau on 28 November 2025 from all AU activities in accordance with the provisions of Articles 23, 25 and 30 of the Constitutive Act, the Accra and Malabo Declarations of 2022 relating to the condemnation of unconstitutional changes of government in Africa and the decisions of the AU PSC acting under Paragraph 7 (g) of its Protocol. The PSC called upon the military leaders in Guinea Bissau to respect the laws of the land, and the will of the people, and to this end, allow the National Electoral Commission to finalise the tabulation and proclamation of the results of the elections as well as accompany the electoral process to the end with the inauguration and assumption of office of the winner.

35. The ECOWAS Parliament, at its 2025 Second Ordinary Session, condemned the coup, the arrest of Parliamentarian Marciano Indi, and violations of constitutional and democratic principles, calling for the immediate restoration of constitutional order and protection of democratic institutions.

36. On 8 December 2025, the military authorities published a “Charter of the Transition” for a one-year period, barring the President of the Transition and the Prime Minister from running in future elections. The charter establishes a 65-member National Transition Council (CNT) responsible for preparing constitutional revisions and appointing a new leadership for the National Electoral Commission.

L. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR) GENERAL ELECTIONS

37. The CAR held its general elections on 28 December 2025. The AUC deployed an EOM led by H.E. Bernard Makuza, former Prime Minister and former President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda. The Mission had a total of 32 observers drawn from 21 AU Member States.

38. The AUEOM commended the people of the Central African Republic, the Government, and all electoral stakeholders for the effective conduct of a peaceful, responsible, and citizen-driven vote, and encouraged continued efforts to consolidate democratic gains and preserve lasting peace.

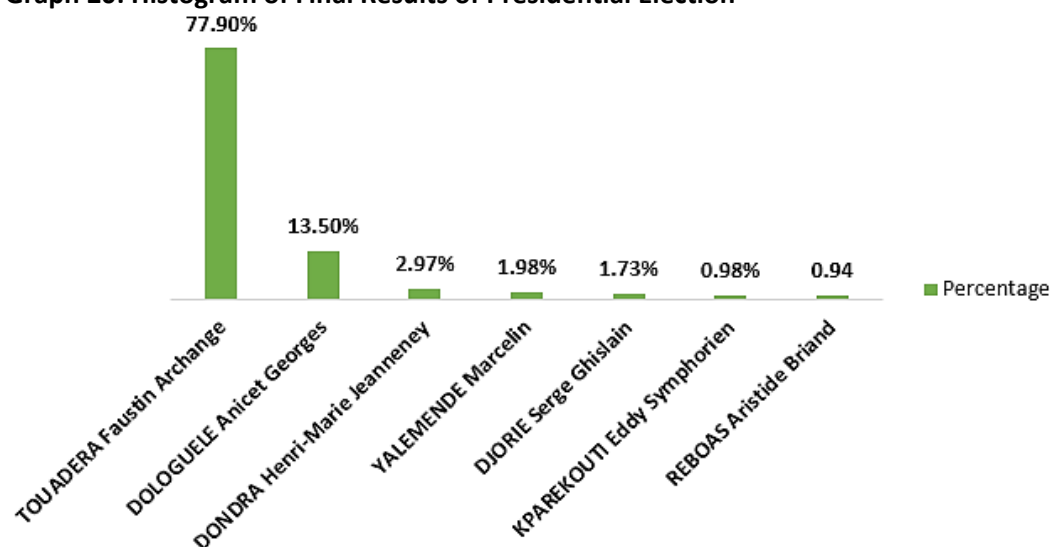
39. The final results of the presidential election held on 28 December 2025 were published by the Constitutional Court on 19 January 2026.

Table 13 : The final results of Presidential Election

Rank	Candidate	Votes Obtained	Percentage
1	TOUADERA Faustin Archange	1 005 451	77.90%
2	DOLOGUELE Anicet Georges	174 220	13.50%
3	DONDRA Henri-Marie Jeanneney	38 277	2.97%
4	YALEMENDE Marcelin	25 503	1.98%
5	DJORIE Serge Ghislain	22 352	1.73%
6	KPAREKOUTI Eddy Symphorien	12 609	0.98%
7	REBOAS Aristide Briand	12 174	0.94%

Total Registered Voters	2,392,946 2,392,946
Total Voters	1 370 680
Voter Turnout	64.24%
Blank Ballots	38 159
Invalid Ballots	41 943
Valid Votes	1 290 586

Source: Constitutional Court

Graph 20: Histogram of Final Results of Presidential Election

Source : AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

III. PRE-ELECTIONS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSIONS

40. To assess electoral preparedness in Member States holding elections in 2025 and early 2026, the AUC conducted pre-election assessment missions in the Central African Republic (CAR), the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Seychelles, the Republic of Tanzania, and Republic of Uganda during the reporting period.

41. These five missions incorporated a technical needs assessment to identify targeted areas for capacity building and electoral support. Some missions were led by a former Foreign Affairs Minister to facilitate preventive diplomacy and contribute to the de-escalation of pre-election tensions, demonstrating the strategic integration of political engagements with technical assessments. The findings from these missions directly informed the deployment and composition of AUEOMs, guided the provision of technical assistance, and established priority areas for observation. By combining assessments, peer learning, and diplomatic engagement, these missions reinforced the AU's commitment to strengthening the institutional capacity of national electoral bodies, promoting transparent and credible electoral processes, and ensuring alignment with continental democratic governance standards.

42. In some cases, these missions were conducted in joint coordination with Regional Economic Communities and regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) across the continent, and sometimes even in close cooperation with Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) such as EISA and the UNDP-managed AFSIT program, among others. The exemplary cooperation with ECOWAS and COMESA, among others, bodes well for the qualitative strengthening of subsidiarity between our organization and our regional institutions in democratic consolidation.

IV. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS

43. From 17 to 24 August 2025, a Building Resources in Democracy, Governance, and Elections (BRIDGE) initiative was convened in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, bringing together thirty (30) participants representing Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) and Supreme Court (SC) officials from AU Member States preparing for elections between 2025 and 2027. The training strengthened

participants' technical competencies in electoral governance and reinforced their preparedness for upcoming electoral cycles.

44. Later that same month, representatives of Guinea's electoral institutions participated in a peer-to-peer exchange visit to the Republic of Senegal, providing an opportunity to observe comparative electoral practices and engage in structured knowledge sharing. The exercise contributed to strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing procedural understanding, and supporting the development of actionable strategies to improve the administration of elections.

45. Collectively, these initiatives reaffirm the AU's commitment to reinforcing the operational effectiveness of national electoral bodies and supporting Member States in conducting credible, transparent, and peaceful elections in accordance with continental norms.

46. Ahead of the 2025 General Elections in Malawi, the AUC initiated a series of capacity-building training programmes in this Member State in July and August 2025. The AUC delivered targeted capacity building for 204 aspiring women parliamentary candidates, focusing on campaign design, strategic communication, and approaches to mitigate gender-based violence and discrimination. The training produced measurable results, with 202 participants, ninety-eight percent point five ninety eight percent (98.5%) successfully filing nomination papers, and fifty-two percent (52%) of women elected to parliament (25 out of 48) having benefited from the programme. Notably, Rt Hon. Justice Jane Ansah, Malawi's second female Vice President, is an alumnus of the AUC Women's Political Participation Academy, demonstrating the direct impact of AU interventions on women's political empowerment.

47. The AUC also strengthened the operational capacity of the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC). Through technical support, 53 civic and voter education officers had their knowledge and application of gender equality principles enhanced, 48 logistics and warehouse clerk trainers got their management of sensitive and non-sensitive electoral materials improved, and twenty-six (26) internal auditors were upskilled to monitor resources efficiently and ensure value for money. Significantly, no areas receiving AUC support were subject to negative assessments by election observers, reflecting improved compliance and operational performance.

48. Furthermore, the AUC reinforced the capacity of the Malawi Civil Society Situation Room, a platform established to monitor, escalate, and respond to electoral challenges. The deployment of two gender and media experts enhanced the platform's analytical capability, enabling timely identification and reporting of gender-specific issues and supporting civil society organizations in formulating evidence-based recommendations to advance inclusivity in future electoral processes.

V. ELECTION CONFLICT PREVENTION MISSIONS

49. In partnership with COMESA, the AUC's preventive diplomacy initiative around the 2025 General Elections in Malawi produced tangible conflict mitigation outcomes. The engagement reached 180 election stakeholders across all regions, strengthening their capacity to identify local conflict triggers and developing consensual strategies to address them. The initiative also facilitated the establishment of regional political dialogue platforms, 13 high-level pre-election consultations, and eight post-election engagements, which collectively helped reduce tensions throughout the electoral period. These efforts contributed directly to the early concession by the incumbent candidate prior to the announcement of final presidential results and to a marked de-escalation of inflammatory rhetoric during the post-election phase, supporting a more peaceful and credible electoral process.

VI. PEER TO PEER LEARNING

50. In 2025, the AUC, through the Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate (GCPD), actively engaged in peer-to-peer learning and international cooperation to strengthen electoral integrity and democratic governance. From 3 to 12 September 2025, AUC officials participated in NORCAP's Observation Program for the Norwegian Parliamentary Elections in Oslo, providing a structured platform for comparative learning and exchange of best practices. This peer-to-peer process enabled AU staff to observe diverse electoral methodologies, assess innovative approaches to election observation, and integrate practical insights into the refinement of the AU election observation framework. Such exchanges are critical for ensuring that AU missions remain adaptive, technically robust, and aligned with international standards, ultimately enhancing the Commission's capacity to support credible, transparent, and inclusive elections across Member States.

VII. AU ENGAGEMENTS IN POLICY DIALOGUES AND LESSONS LEARNED PLATFORMS

i. Bi-Annual Consultations between the AUC, ECOWAS Commission & Other Stakeholders in Addressing Governance, Peace and Security Issues in the West African Region

51. The African Union Commission (AUC), through PAPS and in collaboration with ECOWAS, convened a Biannual Consultation in Abuja from 18–19 November 2025. The consultation brought together AU, ECOWAS, AUCTC, the Accra Initiative, the MNJTF, and other partners to exchange information, harmonize policies, and coordinate capacity building in governance, peace, security, and counterterrorism. Participants recognized the deteriorating security situation in the Sahel and its spillover to coastal states, identified institutional gaps in coordination and intelligence-sharing, and emphasised the link between elections and stability. Key outcomes included establishing a joint AU–ECOWAS election risk assessment, mechanism, formalising intelligence-sharing frameworks, linking AU Early Warning Systems with ECOWARN and enhancing oversight of election technologies. A field visit to Nigeria's NCTC further reinforced operational understanding, strengthening regional coordination and preparedness.

ii. Bi-Annual Consultations with the Electoral Commissions Forum (ECF) of the SADC Annual General Conference and Roundtable Discussion on AI and Elections (From 1 to 5 December 2025)

52. The 2025 ECF SADC Annual General Conference focused on the topic: "Artificial Intelligence and Elections: Threats and Opportunities". It was hosted in Eswatini, and it sought to explore the question of artificial intelligence and elections with a particular focus on opportunities and threats. The topic resonated with the AU's prioritization of AI as a crucial vehicle in the promotion of peace and security on the continent. The discussions, therefore, informed how the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union could conceptualise democracy and elections interventions relevant to emerging trends on AI to meet the expectations and needs of institutions supporting democracy such as election management bodies.

53. The event, attended by all leaders of EMBs in SADC contributed to raising EMB awareness of opportunities and threats of AI and elections, increased awareness of technical assistance opportunities at the disposal of EMBs from the African Union and the identification of technical assistance needs of EMBs in Southern Africa.

iii. Bi-Annual Consultations with the Pan African Inter-Party Dialogue on Democracy (10-11 December 2025)

54. At the invitation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the department participated in the Pan African Inter-Party Dialogue in Maseru, Lesotho, which focused on the topic: “Advancing Governance through Strengthening Democratic Resilience for Early Warning and Conflict Prevention”. The platform sought to establish mechanisms for engagement of political parties within the APRM process, facilitate inter-party collaboration and networking at national, regional and continental levels, strengthen intra-party democracy, inclusivity and institutional resilience, promote gender equality and youth leadership and foster solidarity and international alliances among African political parties.

55. The discussions contributed to the building of consensus and commitments about the role of political parties in APRM processes and structures. Political parties were also assisted to consider recommendations to strengthen intra-party democracy, inclusion and resilience. Through engagements with political parties in Southern Africa, the AU was able to identify some of the needs of political actors to enhance their capacity to participate in democratic processes.

iv. Bi-Annual Consultations with the Partners to the Declaration of Principles (DoP) for International Election Observation (IEO) – 25th Anniversary (December 2025)

56. The AU Commission actively engaged with competent partners during the 2025 Annual Implementation Meeting of the Declaration of Principles (DoP) for International Election Observation from 10 to 12 December 2025 at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Declaration and provided a platform to reflect on achievements, challenges, and future direction in international election observation.

57. The engagements allowed the AU to contribute to discussions on emerging trends in election observation and share experiences from the implementation of AU Election Observation Missions (AUEOMs) on issues such as political polarization on election administration, elections in the digital age, elections in high-risk security environments and new tools for election observation. Through such an engagement, the department was able to take note of policy and operational recommendations which will be submitted for approval and incorporated into AU’s election observation methodology.

VIII. ENHANCED CAPACITY BUILDING OF AUEOMs

i. Short Term Election Observation Trainings in the Republic of Ghana and the Republic of Kenya

58. During the second half of 2025, the AUC organised two (2) training sessions aimed at strengthening the capacities of Short-Term Observers on the continent in both the Republic of Ghana and the Republic of Kenya. From 21 to 24 July 2025 in Ghana, the AUC expanded its partnerships with think tanks by strengthening skills of 35 women and youth from across the continent with AU election observation tools and reporting mechanisms. The training produced concrete capacity gains, with participants successfully completing Election Day simulation exercises and developing practical competencies in inclusion monitoring, media tracking, parallel vote tabulation (PVT), and situational analysis. They were equipped with standardised observation templates and inclusion checklists, enabling them to collect more disaggregated and gender-responsive electoral data. As a result, the initiative increased the pool of qualified observers in the AU election observation database, thereby enhancing the Union’s overall capacity to support credible and inclusive elections in Member States.

59. From 26 to 30 December 2025, in Kenya, the Department trained thirty (21) short term election observers as part of its efforts to enhance the AU's capacity to observe elections in Member States. The trained observers were taken through sessions on emerging democracy and election trends in Africa, updated observation checklists and continental standards for the conduct of democratic elections. A review exercise implemented after the training revealed that the majority of those trained were ready for deployment as observers, while others could be elevated to core team experts based on their performance.

ii. Training of Core Team Experts

60. From 1 to 4 September 2025, the AU's organised a three-day training exercise in Algiers for thirty-seven (37) core team experts of AUEOMs. The training programme strengthened skills in electoral assessment, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and the application of international best practices. Held for the first time in Algeria, the training reinforced the AU's commitment to capacity building, harmonized observation methodologies, and increased the pool of skilled election experts at its disposal. In collaboration with Algerian authorities and EISA, the training included networking and cultural exchanges, emphasizing methodological consistency, technical proficiency, and inclusive governance to support credible, transparent, and context sensitive election observation.

iii. Pan African Parliament (PAP) Training

61. The PAP as an AU Organ is a key component of the AU's Election Observation framework, and the training of its sixty (60) Members of Parliament took place from 12 to 14 November 2025, in Pretoria, South Africa. The targeted capacity building activity sought to align PAP Members of Parliament's understanding with that of other deployed observers on the mandate, code of conduct, and operational expectations of AU Election Observation Missions. Through simulation exercises, participants had their observation skills strengthened, their understanding of AUEOM methodology enhanced, and they were able to demonstrate their capacity to adhere to ethical standards. The training underscored the AU's ongoing commitment to professionalizing election observation, promoting inclusive participation, and ensuring that all stakeholders including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and PAP Members are fully equipped to support credible, transparent, and participatory electoral processes across the continent.

IX. INTERMITTENT RESURGENCE OF COUPS IN AFRICA

62. The resurgence of coups d'état in Africa raises the persistent and crucial question of the challenge of democratic consolidation, the preservation of constitutional order, and the peace, security, and stability of some of our Member States. These developments undermine democratic legitimacy, constitutional governance, and the credibility of electoral processes as mechanisms for political accountability. Following the pattern of coups d'état that have occurred across the continent in recent years, the reporting period recorded two successful coups d'état: one in Madagascar on 12 October 2025 and the other in Guinea-Bissau on 26 November 2025. The Republic of Benin also reported a failed coup attempt on 7 December 2025. The prompt engagement of national authorities and ECOWAS contributed to the preservation of constitutional order in Benin.

63. In this context, these developments reflect persistent vulnerabilities in democratic consolidation and early-warning mechanisms across the continent. While it is true that Africa possesses a normative framework capable of discouraging unconstitutional changes of government; existing instruments have not always proven sufficient to deter such actions before their occurrence. This situation highlights the need for strengthened political, legal and diplomatic preventive

mechanisms and coordination at the national, regional, continental, and even international levels, to address emerging threats to constitutional order in a timely and effective manner.

64. Geopolitical dynamics and transnational security pressures further complicate responses to unconstitutional changes of government, requiring enhanced vigilance and coordination which will be necessary to further restore the trust required to bring about the crucial, qualitative reforms necessary for a swift, peaceful, effective, orderly, and inclusive return to constitutional order in states in transition. This must be achieved while ensuring that all stakeholders involved renounce the use of violence, force, hate speech, and unconstitutional means of gaining or maintaining power.

65. In this regard, prioritizing inclusive national dialogues, confidence-building measures, and sustained engagement with civilian and political leadership remains critical to reducing political polarisation and preventing future disruptions of constitutional order. In this context of uncertainty, Africa must unite to address the numerous emerging challenges and issues that undermine its operational effectiveness, its individual and collective resilience, and its power projection for the present and the future.

66. The AU must therefore continue to strengthen its preventive diplomacy, mediation, and post-transition support initiatives in close collaboration with RECs and international partners, to facilitate peaceful, inclusive, and orderly return to constitutional governance in Member States in transition.

67. Finally, the PSC reiterates its firm condemnation of unconstitutional changes of government, including coups d'état in Africa, as well as any other undemocratic means of seizing or retaining power. It reaffirms its full commitment to spare no effort to halt this chaotic and destabilizing cycle of transitions imposed by coups d'état, a cycle which, unfortunately, shows no sign of abating in the short and medium term.

X. COMMENDABLE PRACTICES IN AFRICA'S DEMOCRATIC TRAJECTORY

- (a) Resorting to legal channels in case of any disputes and acceptance of elections outcomes before the declaration of final results;
- (b) Timely release of election calendar and general compliance with its projected timelines;
- (c) Growing pattern of political parties accommodating both gender in presidential tickets that use the running mate system;

XI. OVERVIEW OF GOVERNANCE TRENDS

- (a) Holding of elections when due;
- (b) Invitation of the African Union to observe elections in Member States;
- (c) Early conceding of election outcomes before the declaration of results;
- (d) Limited inclusive preparations for elections with the input of all election stakeholders;
- (e) Elimination of electoral competition/competitors through disqualification of political opponents or incarceration;

- (f) Post-election protests;
- (g) Heavy handed containment of post-election protests.

XII. NEW INNOVATIONS/PERSPECTIVES/APPROACHES

- (a) Early deployment of core team experts ahead of the arrival of short-term election observers of the AUEOMs;
- (b) Review of election assessments and observations in line with provisions of the ACDEG;
- (c) Institutionalisation of peer-to-peer learning for Election Management Bodies (EMBs) to promote democratic elections;
- (d) Annual reflection forums of the AU with RECs and EMBs with elections to improve coordination;
- (e) Establishment of a model and resources to promote women's political participation in elections as candidates;
- (f) Establishment of a model and resources to promote inclusion of persons with disability (PWD) in elections as voters, candidates, election administrators and observers;

XIII. SNAPSHOT OF UPCOMING ELECTIONS: JANUARY – JUNE 2026

Table 14: Upcoming elections from January to June 2026

1. REPUBLIC OF BENIN – Legislative and Local Authority elections – 11 January 2026	The Republic of Benin operates under a presidential republican system governed by the Constitution, recently revised by the constitutional amendment adopted on 14 November 2025 and promulgated on 17 December 2025. Legislative authority is vested in a unicameral National Assembly composed of 109 members.
2. REPUBLIC OF UGANDA – General Elections – 15 January 2026	Uganda is governed as a presidential republic under the Constitution of 1995, as amended. The general elections provide for the simultaneous election of the President, Members of Parliament, and local government representatives.
3. REPUBLIC OF CONGO – Presidential Elections – 15 March 2026	The Republic of the Congo is governed by the Constitution of 25 October 2015, as amended. Under this constitutional framework, the President of the Republic is elected by direct universal suffrage for a five-year term.
4. REPUBLIC OF BENIN – Presidential Elections (1st Round) – 12 April 2026 (Second Round, if applicable) – 10 May 2026	The Republic of Benin operates under a presidential system. The President is elected by direct universal suffrage through a two-round majority electoral system.
5. REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI – Presidential Elections – April 2026	The Republic of Djibouti is constituted as a presidential republic under the Constitution of 15 September 1992, as amended. Under this framework, the President of the Republic is elected by direct popular vote. The President's mandate is set at five years.
REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE – Parliamentary Elections – 17 May 2026	

6.	The Republic of Cabo Verde will hold parliamentary elections in 2026 under the Constitution of the Republic of Cabo Verde of 2010, as amended, which establishes a semi-presidential system. The elections will determine the composition of the National Assembly.
7.	FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA – House of Assembly Representatives Elections – 1 June 2026 The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is constituted as a federal parliamentary republic under the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, adopted in 1994 and in force since 1995. The forthcoming elections concern the House of Peoples' Representatives, the lower chamber of the Federal Parliament and the principal legislative body at the federal level.
8.	PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA – Legislative Elections – June 2026 The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria functions under the Constitution of 2020. Legislative authority is vested in a bicameral Parliament, comprising the People's National Assembly (lower chamber) and the Council of the Nation (upper chamber).

Note: The DPAPS will be ready to deploy election observers pending invitations from 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.

XIV. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

68. Considering the observations and trends identified during the reporting period, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission submits the following recommendations for the consideration of the Peace and Security Council (PSC):

- (a) Encourage Member States to support AU follow up missions, technical assistance and preventive diplomacy initiatives ahead of upcoming elections.
- (b) Urge Member States planning to hold their elections during the first half of 2026 to spare no effort to comply with democratic principles and the rule of law in order to create the optimal conditions for holding democratic, inclusive, credible, regular, fair and transparent elections, without resorting to hate speech and violence in the political arena;
- (c) Reiterate the AU's firm condemnation of unconstitutional changes and find appropriate means to support countries in crisis and in transition in the rapid return to constitutional order in a peaceful, orderly and inclusive manner in the target countries and to avoid the continuation of the cycle of coups d'état;
- (d) Confront more fiercely terrorism, rebellions and all other forms of internal and external threats aimed at destabilizing our Member States, creating temporary limitations to the proper conduct of elections in destabilized areas, and to better facilitate the deployment of our Missions on the ground throughout the national territory;
- (e) Encourage Member States to expand efforts to ensure equitable participation of men, women and young people in democratic and electoral processes.
- (f) Recommend the PSC and AUC to convene the Accra Reflection Forum on Unconstitutional Changes of Government (UCG)

- (g) Support the increase in AUC budget allocation to promote the strengthening of stakeholder consultations and engagements ahead of elections and democracy and elections technical assistance to Member States.

XV. CONCLUSION

69. The second half of 2025 was marked by a series of socio-political changes in Africa fluctuating between generally well-organized electoral processes and disputes due to differences between majority and opposition political parties, as well as the resurgence of coups and attempts at unconstitutional changes of government.

70. Despite these complex challenges affecting peace, security, and stability on the continent, most of our Member States exhibited multi-level resilience which requires persistent support from Regional Economic Communities and the AUC. Such support is imperative for the strengthening of a democratic culture which must be based on dialogue between stakeholders to consolidate "democratic peace," and reinforce national unity.

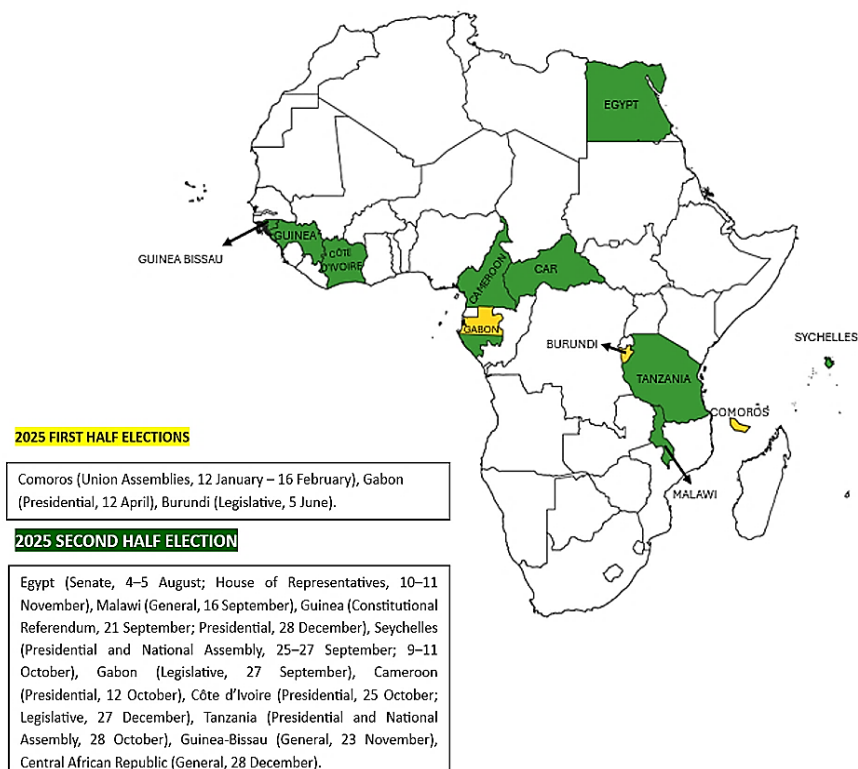
71. Furthermore, the PSC is encouraged strongly to urge stakeholders including Member States and the international community to spare no effort to further strengthen their cooperation in order to better address the several present and future democracy challenges.

72. The AUC warmly thanks the Heads of Mission, Member States that organized the polls and countries that hosted technical missions, preventive diplomacy missions and sometimes needs assessment or capacity building missions as well as that contributed to the smooth running of these activities.

73. Finally, the AUC urges Member States scheduled to hold elections during the first half of 2026 to do so in accordance with appropriate democratic standards and principles, respecting their national legal framework, and to conduct elections in an inclusive, impartial, and credible manner. This is particularly important to ensure a more transparent and successful electoral process in all respect, towards strengthening national, regional, and continental stabilization efforts in line with democratic consolidation in the states concerned.

XVI. ANNEXES

AU 2025 Elections Map



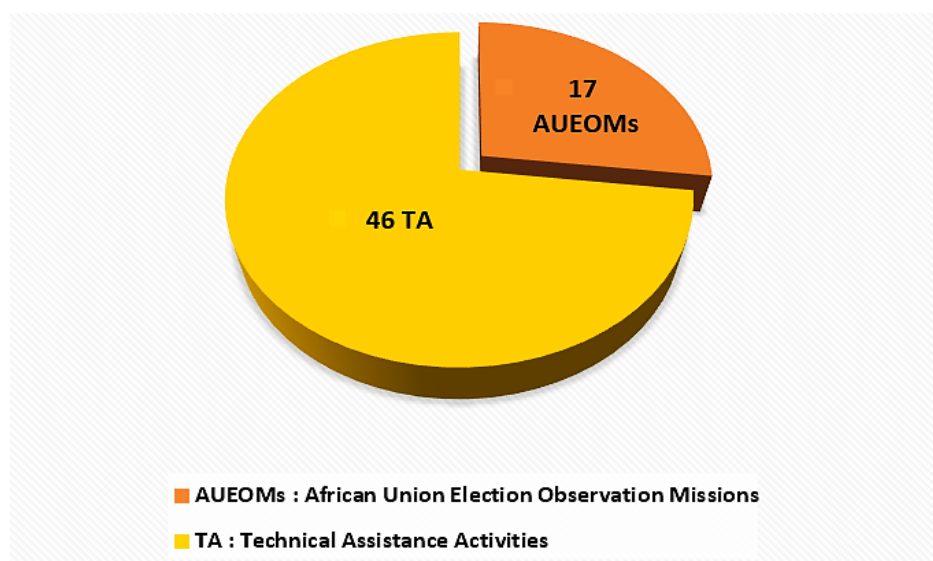
Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

Women and Youth Observers' Participation in 2025 AUEOMs

No	Member State	Total Observers	Total Female Observers	% Female Observers	Total Youth Observers	% Youth Observers	Total Female Youth	% Female Youth Observers
1	Comoros	17	12	70,59%	5	29,41%	3	17,65%
2	Burundi	21	12	57,14%	2	9,52%	1	4,76 %
3	Gabon	47	20	42,55%	18	38,3%	9	19,15 %
4	Egypt	18	12	66,67%	6	33,33 %	3	16,67 %
5	Malawi	39	23	58,97%	12	30,77 %	10	25,64 %
6	Guinea	25	14	56,00%	5	20%	5	20%
7	Seychelles	35	18	51,43%	7	20%	7	20%
8	Gabon	25	15	60,00%	6	24%	5	20%
9	Seychelles	6	4	66,67%	3	50%	2	33,33 %
10	Cameroon	40	20	50%	8	20%	7	17,5 %
11	Côte d'Ivoire	67	40	60,61%	10	15,15 %	5	7,58 %
12	Tanzania	72	48	66,67%	20	27,78 %	13	18,06 %
13	Egypt	7	4	57,14%	2	28,57 %	1	14,29 %
14	Guinea Bissau	37	16	43,24%	5	13,51 %	4	10,81 %
15	CAR	32	12	37,5%	6	18,75%	5	15,63 %
16	Guinea	62	31	50%	25	40,32%	14	22,58%
17	Côte d'Ivoire	31	19	61,3%	20	64,5%	14	45,16%
Total		580	300	51,72 %	168	28,97 %	108	18,62 %

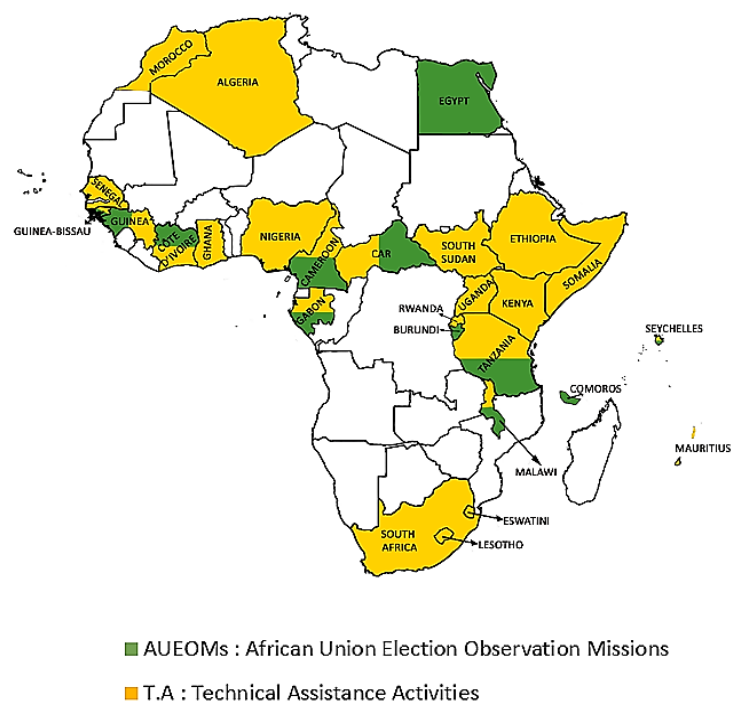
Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

Total of Electoral Activities Implemented in 2025 (63), i.e. 17 AUEOMs + 46 TA



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

Electoral Activities in Africa - Geographic Coverage in 2025⁴

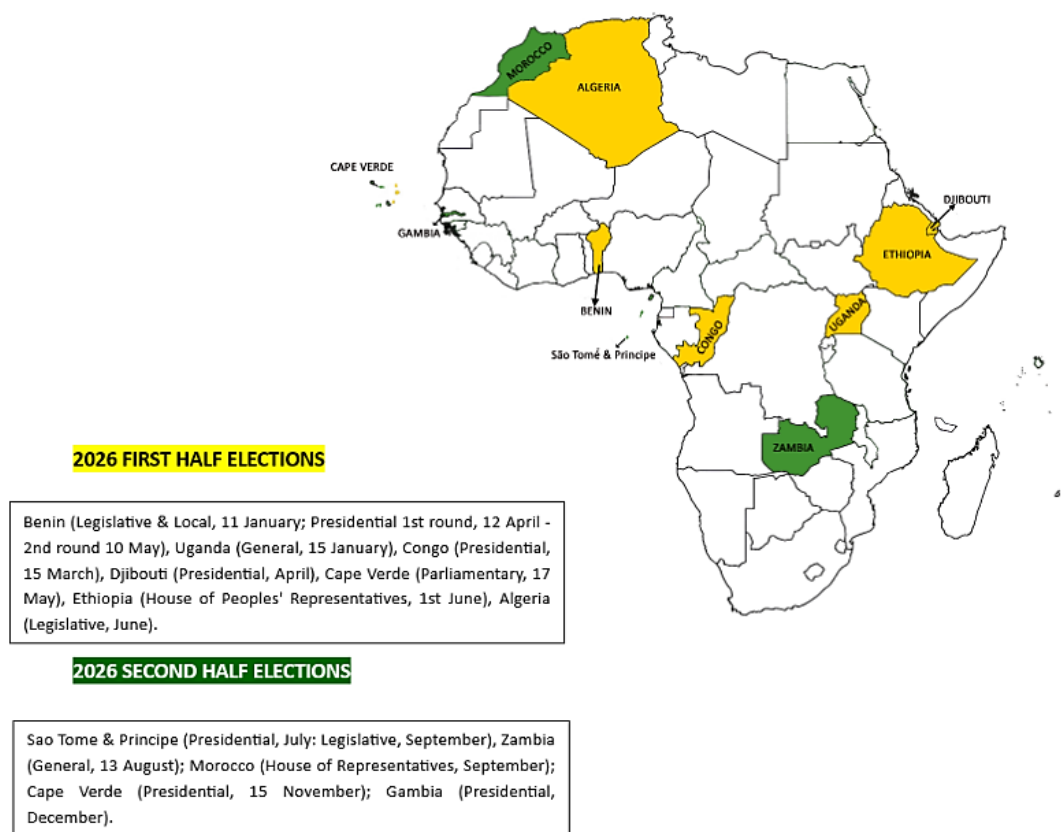


Source : AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

⁴ This map illustrates the geographic scope of activities conducted in 2025. While the focus is on Africa, several peer-to-peer learning activities were also organized outside the continent, notably in Norway, the United States, Switzerland, and Guyana.

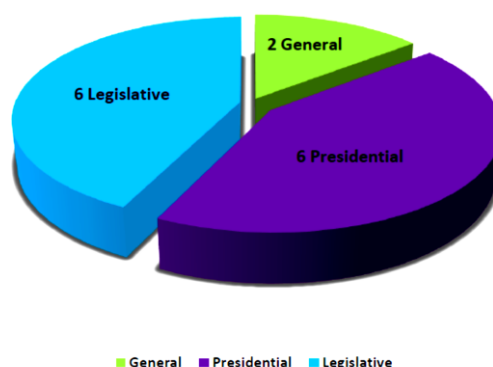
AU PROVISIONAL CALENDAR OF ELECTIONS IN 2026

AU 2026 Provisional Elections Map⁵



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

Disaggregation of the 2026 Elections⁶



Source: AU PAPS / GCP Directorate

⁵ These details are subject to change based on any new developments. In addition, some election dates have not yet been announced by the competent authorities. The AU PAPS will continue its regular monitoring to provide updated information as soon as it becomes available.

⁶ Excluding the Runoff