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FINAL REPORT
INTERREGIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSION

COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
DEPARTMENT FOR ELECTORAL COOPERATION AND OBSERVATION AND
THE AFRICAN UNION ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE UNIT



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Organización de los Estados Americanos

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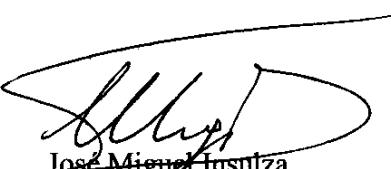
19 de agosto de 2010

**Excelentísima señora
María Isabel Salvador
Embajadora, Representante Permanente
del Ecuador
ante la Organización de los Estados Americanos
Presidenta del Consejo Permanente
Washington, DC**

Estimada Embajadora:

Tengo el honor de dirigirme a Vuestra Excelencia para solicitarle que tenga a bien disponer la distribución a los miembros del Consejo Permanente del informe de la Interregional Technical Cooperation Mission de la OEA en Togo. En este informe se da cuenta de las actividades emprendidas por la Misión durante la observación de las Elecciones Presidenciales celebradas el 4 de marzo de 2010.

Hago propicia la oportunidad para reiterar a Vuestra Excelencia, las seguridades de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.


José Miguel Insulza
Secretario General



Organization of American States

FINAL REPORT INTERREGIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSION

**COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
DEPARTMENT FOR ELECTORAL COOPERATION AND OBSERVATION AND
THE AFRICAN UNION ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE UNIT**

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
REPUBLIC OF TOGO
MARCH 4, 2010**

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1. BACKGROUND

On February 26, 2010 the Organization of American States (OAS) received an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Togolese Republic to participate as an international observer in the country's presidential election to be held on March 4, 2010.

In order to collaborate with the African Union and bear witness to this electoral process, the OAS Department for Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the Secretariat of Political Affairs (SPA) sent four specialists who coordinated efforts with the electoral observation mission of the African Union deployed in Togo. The observers arrived in Togo on Tuesday, March 2 and remained in the country until Saturday, March 6.

This cooperative effort evolved as a follow up to the Democracy Bridge Conference held in 2007 in which the African Union (AU) and the OAS agreed to mutually collaborate in diverse strategic areas including electoral issues. In addition, the Mission complied with resolutions AG/RES. 2419 (XXXVIII-O/08) and AG/RES. 2489 (XXXIX-O/09), passed respectively in 2008 and 2009 by the OAS General Assembly, and with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the AU Commission and the OAS General Secretariat on October 1, 2009, which resolved to support deepened inter-regional cooperation with the African Union in the promotion of democracy.

2. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Since gaining its independence from France in 1960, violence marked Togo's political life. In 1963, the authoritarian regime of the first president of Togo, Sylvanus Olympio, is overthrown and Olympio is killed and replaced by his rival Nicolas Grunitzky. The latter will then be removed from power following the coup of General Étienne Gnassingbé Éyadéma in 1967.

The introduction of a multiparty system and the holding of a national conference in 1991, does not bring an end to violence and some opponents of Éyadéma's Rally of the Togolese People (RPT) are forced into exile. During the 1990s, Éyadéma is regularly re-elected in disputed and sometimes boycotted elections. His death in 2005, following 38 years in power, plunged the country into socio-political turmoil marked by the arrival of his son, Faure Gnassingbé, rise to power in a disputed presidential election. According to United Nations' estimates, 400 people were killed in the political violence surrounding the presidential election, and approximately 40,000 Togolese fled to neighboring countries.

Democratic gains since then allowed Togo to hold legislative elections in October 2007, which were described as relatively

free and fair by the international observers. After years of weak relations with international organizations, Togo is finally being re-welcomed into the international community, and expectations among national stakeholders regarding the March 4, 2010 presidential election were very high.

3. PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

The initial activity carried out by the members of the Interregional Technical Cooperation Mission was to attend a press conference in which the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Koffi Esaw, the Minister of Cooperation, Development and Territorial Administration, Gilbert Bawara, and the Minister for Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Local Collectivities, Pascal Bodjona, expressed their satisfaction of a peaceful two-week electoral campaign and the stakeholders' compromise towards the electoral process. Minister Bodjona reminded the international observers present that this was the first presidential election organized and supervised by an independent institution: the National Independent Electoral Commission (CÉNI), and assured the biometric voters' registry was reliable. The three ministers welcomed the various international observers and ensured their full support and that no restrictions would apply to their work.

Among the international observers, the European Union (EU), led by José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil from Spain, comprised a large group with more than 130 observers throughout the country.

Several African regional organization s monitored the election, including the Economic Community of West



African States (ECOWAS) Mission, led by Babacar Ndiaye, former President of the African Development Bank (ADB). This group was the largest, with approximately 300 civilian and security observers. The OAS Interregional Technical Cooperation Mission met with other electoral observation missions before, during, and after the electoral process, exchanging observations on the events unfolding.

As previously noted, operations for this Mission were developed in direct coordination with observers from the African Union, which had a group of 40 observers deployed throughout the country. The AU Mission was led by Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria (1999-2007), who met

members of the OAS Mission. The OAS observers, teamed with AU observers, visited polling stations in the urban areas of the capital, Lomé, as well as rural areas of the country. OAS observers utilized forms supplied by the African Union for its work.

Beyond the electoral context, the Mission observed the operations of the African Union and noted the valuable work and professionalism performed by its officials. It is important to note that unlike the electoral observation missions of the OAS, the African Union uses a financial basket for all the electoral missions taking place across the region. The financing for these

missions stems from the regular quotas provided by member states, in addition to resources provided by donor countries.

This mechanism allows officials of the AU to focus primarily on their electoral observation without diverting time and energy to fundraise for each mission.



4. ELECTORAL STRUCTURE

The maximum electoral authority in Togo, the National Independent Electoral Commission (CÉNI), is comprised of 17 members: five members appointed by the parliamentary majority, five members by the parliamentary opposition, three members by the political parties not represented in the parliament, three members by civil society, and one member by the administration. Following disagreements regarding the election of his predecessor, Issifou Taffa Tabiou was unanimously elected president of the CÉNI in October 2009.

The CENI is divided into 35 Local Independent Electoral Commissions (CELI), which execute the decisions of the CENI at the local level. The CENI also has several Local Committees for the Voters' Lists and I.D. (CLC), which register citizens, review the electoral list, and distribute voters' I.D. The 5,930 polling stations are comprised by six members appointed in a similar manner as the CENI, including a president and a rapporteur from different political parties.

5. OBSERVATI ONS

From the outset, the elections proceeded peacefully and with much



anticipation among the citizenry. In the streets of the capital city of Lomé, the seven candidates for the presidency displayed their electoral campaign posters, although the ruling RPT party propaganda was significantly more prominent.

On the morning of Election Day, the members of the Mission teamed with AU observers to observe the opening of the polling stations at 7:00 a.m. Those polling stations observed opened just a few minutes after 7:00 a.m. and poll workers had all the necessary materials. The voters crowded outside the voting stations which were predominantly installed in schools.

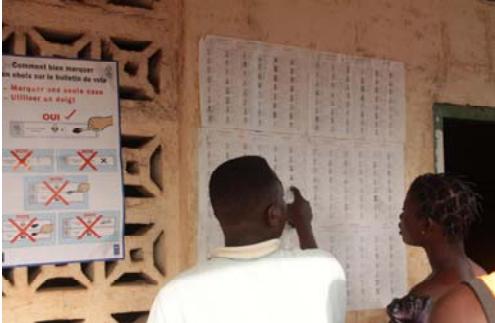
The long lines of voters showed the importance of this electoral process, as some voters arrived as early as 4:00 a.m. to wait in line.



In one voting center observed, some voters in line decided not to cast their ballot at the opening of the polling stations, alleging that the ballots did not have the required identification number to prevent against fraud. After heated discussions with poll workers, expressing their lack of trust in the electoral process, the voters proceeded to cast their vote.

At all polling stations observed, representatives of the main political parties were present to monitor the voting process. Poll clerks were also present and easy to identify with their electoral commission colored vest. It also appeared that security provided by the police at voting centers was present and sufficient.

All voting centers had a voters' list located inside and outside the polling stations in order for the voter to properly identify his or her polling station. In addition to providing



the name and the voter's national identification number, the voter's list included the occupation and a picture of the voter. A total of 3,277,492 citizens were registered to vote for a population of just over six millions inhabitants.

The voting process was peaceful and proceeded smoothly at those polling stations visited. Poll workers seemed to be sufficiently trained and adequately guided voters who waited patiently in line, which were much shorter in the afternoon. In the voting centers, voters were surrounded by posters, funded by the EU and the United Nation Development Fund, promoting participation in the electoral process and explaining how to mark correctly a ballot.

Polling stations closed on time at 5:00 p.m. In some voting centers of Lomé, agitated crowds made the closing of the polls chaotic and additional security forces were brought in as a precautionary measure.

In most areas, the polling stations were set up in classrooms without electricity, which complicated the vote count during the evening hours. Poll workers and party agents used candles to count the ballots and fill the required forms, while many curious citizens observed the count through windows. Despite



these complications, though, the voting concluded peacefully

6. RESULTS

On March 6, the CÉNI announced the preliminary results: RPT's Faure Gnassingbé garnered 60.89%, while UFC's Jean-Pierre Fabre received 33.94% of the votes cast by the citizens of Togo. Before the publication of the results, Fabre declared victory and still has not, to this date, accepted the results. Various protests have been organized by the UFC in the streets of Lomé, the UFC supporters claiming victory.

On March 6, 2010 the AU electoral observation mission, declared the election free, fair and transparent, and encouraged the parties presenting the allegations to provide evidence to the appropriate authorities of Togo.

The Mission wishes to highlight the participation of women and youth in the electoral process and the relatively high voter turn out at 64.68%, especially considering the fear of violence shared among the population. Additionally, it also recognizes the peaceful environment in which the elections took place, which could be considered the principal achievement of this election, since protests after the 2005 presidential election had taken too many lives.



7. LESSONS LEARNED

Given that the Interregional Technical Cooperation Mission did not have resources or elements necessary to conduct a thorough analysis of the electoral process, it focused on the objective of bringing together and extending cooperative relations with the African Union. As such, the following recommendations and observations differ from those of a traditional OAS electoral observation mission.

- Firstly, it is important to emphasize the fruitful collaboration between the OAS and the African Union. The Mission recommends continuing strengthening avenues between these organizations, exchanging specialists to participate as observers in electoral observation missions on both continents, offering unique political and institutional perspectives.

2. Second, the Mission exchanged practical tools for electoral observation, such as forms, manuals and other documentation, which represent the accumulated experience of the OAS electoral observation methodology. The Mission noted several differences between OAS and AU electoral observation methodologies and recommends to organize a seminar between officials from OAS and AU electoral departments to promote deeper collaboration.

3. In a similar initiative in 2008 in Angola, the OAS Mission provided one of the OAS vests to its African Union counterpart



who expressed his interest in designing vests for future AU electoral observation missions. Two years later, the members of the OAS Mission noticed that AU observers in Togo wear similar vests in order to be identified easily.

4. Fourth, the OAS Mission suggests continuing to invite members of the African Union to other OAS activities and to participate in AU activities, such as electoral management body meetings on both continents. Linguistic similarities, as well as that of government structures, could provide particularly effective cooperation, particularly in the Caribbean region.

5. Fifth, and on this electoral process in particular, at each polling station observers were kindly asked to fill out a form with their name and the name of the organization they represented in order for the CÉNI to identify which organization visited the polling station and how much time was allowed per visit. Such practice incorporates the observer into the electoral process and could easily be implemented by the electoral management bodies of Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. Sixth, the OAS can also learn best practices from the African Union, particularly with regards to its methods of financing. For example, as previously indicated, the African Union has continuous and stable sources of financing, which are not subject to the political exigencies of its Member States or other donor countries. This mechanism allows officials to ensure a high level of effectiveness in each mission by

dedicating their time and efforts to the principle task of electoral observation.

In conclusion, the Interregional Technical Cooperation Mission for the presidential election in Togo wishes to thank the officials of the National Independent Electoral Commission and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Togo, the representatives of political parties, and the members of civil society for the attention provided, in addition to their valuable perspectives to support its work on the electoral process of their country. In particular, the Mission wishes to express its appreciation to the officials of the African Union Commission for generously receiving and incorporating its delegates in their observation activities. Finally, the Mission would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to the OAS Permanent Mission of the United States of America for its financial support and particular interest in making this Mission possible.

ANNEX 1: MAP OF THE TOGOLESE REPUBLIC



Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit Limited 2010

ANNEX 2: LETTER TO THE AFRICAN UNION DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS



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Ambassadeur Matondo

ambassadeur

matondo

canada



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Par ailleurs, les coûts reliés aux observateurs de l'OEA qui feraient partie de la Mission de l'UA seraient entièrement couverts par l'OEA.

Si vous avez des questions sur cette initiative, n'hésitez pas à contacter Jean-François Ruel, Spécialiste du DECO, au 1-202-458-3187, ou par courriel à jruel@oas.org.

Veuillez agréer, Ambassadeur Ognimba, l'expression de mes plus sincères salutations.

P/BH M

Pablo Gutiérrez
Directeur
Département pour la Coopération et l'Observation électorales

ANNEX 3: LETTER OF INVITATION FROM THE AFRICAN UNION



Reference : *Ref/DIR/J18/291-10*

Date : 10 février 2010

Monsieur Gutiérrez,

J'ai bien reçu votre lettre référencée SG/SAP/DECO-114/10, du 05 février 2010, par laquelle vous réitérez votre souhait non seulement de poursuivre la coopération avec l'Unité d'Assistance Electorale de l'Union africaine(UA), mais aussi de renforcer la collaboration entre les missions d'observations électorales de l'UA et de l'Organisation des Etats Américains(OAS), dans le cadre de l'élection Présidentielle du 28 février 2010 en République Togolaise. Soyez en remercié.

A cet effet, je voudrais vous assurer que le Département dont j'ai la charge ne ménagera aucun effort en vue de mettre en œuvre les accords de coopération qui lient nos deux organisations depuis juillet 2007.

Dans ce contexte, en me fondant sur la réussite de notre collaboration passée dans le cadre des élections législatives de septembre 2008 en Angola, je voudrais marquer mon accord pour la collaboration logistique des missions d'observations électorales de nos deux organisations, pour l'élection présidentielle du 28 février 2010 en République Togolaise.

Pour toute information relative à cette question, je vous prie de prendre attache avec M. Guy Cyrille Tapoko, de l'Unité d'Assistance Electorale au + 251 11 5517 700 ext. 309, ou par courrier électronique tapokog@africa-union.org.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur Gutiérrez, l'expression de ma considération distinguée.



M. Pablo Gutierrez
 Directeur
 Département pour la Coopération et l'Observation Electorale
 Organisations des Etats Américains
 Email : jruel@oas.org
 Fax : +1 202 458 62 99

ANNEX 4: LETTER TO THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION OF TOGO



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SG/SAP/DECO-141/10

Argentine

24 février 2010

Bahamas

Barbade

L'Honorable Kofi Esaw

Belize

Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et de l'Intégration Régionale

Bolivie

Lomé, Togo

Brésil

Canada

Chili

Honorable Ministre,

Colombie

Au nom du Département pour la Coopération et l'Observation électorales (DECO) de l'Organisation des États américains (OÉA), c'est avec grand plaisir que je vous exprime, Honorable Ministre, l'intérêt de l'OÉA à observer l'élection présidentielle du 4 mars prochain dans la République togolaise.

Costa Rica

Tout comme l'Union Africaine et l'Union Européenne, l'OÉA est signataire de la Déclaration des Principes en Observation Électorale et du Code de Conduite pour les Observateurs Internationaux. En Amérique latine et dans les Caraïbes, l'OÉA a observé plus de 150 processus électoraux et a ainsi développé une méthodologie d'observation électorale professionnelle et reconnue à l'international.

Cuba

Dominique

El Salvador

Équateur

États-Unis

Grenade

Guatemala

Guyana

Haiti

Honduras

Jamaïque

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Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis

Sainte-Lucie

Saint-Vincent-et-Grenadines

Suriname

Trinité-et-Tobago

Uruguay

Venezuela

Par ailleurs, en vertu d'un Mémorandum d'Accord (octobre 2009) et de la Conférence *Democracy Bridge* (juillet 2007) entre l'UA et l'OÉA, ces deux organisations régionales pour l'Afrique et l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes respectivement, se sont formellement engagées à renforcer leur coopération interinstitutionnelle dans divers domaines, entre autres, celui de l'observation électorale. De fait, l'OÉA a participé aux côtés de ses collègues de l'UA à l'élection législative en Angola en septembre 2008.

Dans le but de continuer cette importante collaboration avec nos très chers collègues africains et d'échanger sur nos méthodologies d'observation électorale, l'OÉA a entrepris des démarches pour inclure quelques-uns de ces observateurs à la mission d'observation



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Sainte-Lucie
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Suriname
Trinité-et-Tobago
Uruguay
Venezuela

électorale de l'UA pour l'élection présidentielle du 4 mars prochain au Togo.

Pour ce faire, nous vous serions très reconnaissants, Honorable Ministre, si vous pouviez nous faire parvenir une invitation officielle à observer le processus électoral et faciliter notre accréditation auprès de la Commission Électorale Nationale Indépendante. Les spécialistes Wendy Martinez, David Alvarez, Simplicio Menezes et Jean-François Ruel du DECO de l'OEA seraient les fonctionnaires désignés pour cette observation électorale et remplir les mandats de coopération électorale avec l'UA lors de l'élection togolaise.

Permettez-moi de vous inviter, Honorable Ministre, à consulter notre site Internet pour plus d'information sur l'OEA (<http://www.oas.org/fr/>). De plus, le cas échéant, sachez que nous sommes entièrement disponibles à rencontrer vos collègues de l'Ambassade du Togo à Washington, États-Unis d'Amérique, si désiré. C'est en fait cette même Ambassade qui nous a conseillé d'entrer en contact avec votre Ministère afin d'obtenir l'invitation requise.

Si vous avez quelconque question concernant cette initiative, Honorable Ministre, n'hésitez surtout pas à contacter M. Jean-François Ruel, Spécialiste du DECO (tél. : 1-202-458-3187, fax : 1-202-458-6299, courriel : jruel@oas.org). Je vous remercie pour votre collaboration très appréciée et souhaite au peuple togolais un excellent processus électoral.

Veuillez agréer, Honorable Ministre, l'expression de mes plus sincères salutations.

Pablo Gutiérrez
Directeur

Département pour la Coopération et l'Observation électorales

**ANNEX 5: LETTER OF INVITATION FROM THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL
INTEGRATION OF TOGO**

HTK
MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
ET DE L'INTEGRATION REGIONALE

REPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE
Travail-Liberté-Patrie

CABINET

N° 1757 MAEIR/CAB

Lomé, le 26 février 2010

*Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
et de l'Intégration Régionale*

A

**MONSIEUR LE SECRETAIRE
DES AFFAIRES POLITIQUES DE L'OEA**

WASHINGTON

Monsieur le Secrétaire Général,

J'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que dans le cadre de l'élection présidentielle du 04 mars 2010, les Autorités compétentes togolaises invitent l'Organisation des Etats Américains (OEA) à envoyer une mission de quatre (04) observateurs.

Vous voudrez bien notamment nous faire parvenir dans les meilleurs délais possibles les noms et photos desdits observateurs.

Toutefois, je vous informe que les frais de déplacement et de séjour de vos délégués sont à la charge de votre organisation.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire Général, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée./-

POUR LE MINISTRE & P.O,
LE DIRECTEUR DE CABINET



ANNEX 6: OBSERVERS FORMS OF THE AFRICAN UNION ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION

AFRICAN UNION
الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243

Telephone 251-11-5517700

Fax. 251-11-5517844

LISTE DE CONTROLE DES VISITES DES EQUIPES D'OBSERVATEURS DANS LES BUREAUX DE VOTE

1. Numéro de l'équipe :.....
2. Province :.....
3. Circonscription électorale :.....
4. Nom ou numéro du bureau de vote :.....
5. Nombre d'électeurs inscrits :.....
6. Heure de visite :.....

Numéro de l'élection/Nombre d'agents délégués au scrutin :.....

Nombre d'agents délégués aux partis et noms des partis qu'ils représentent :.....

Nombre de surveillants :.....

Electeurs inscrits sur liste d'attente :..... Taux de dépouillement.....

OBSERVATIONS

Le bureau de vote a-t-il été ouvert à temps ? (Enregistrer l'heure d'ouverture) ..Oui/Non

Le scrutateur d'élection disposait-il de tout le matériel nécessaire ?.....Oui/Non

Les urnes étaient-elles placées dans un endroit visible ?.....

A quelle heure le scrutin a-t-il débuté ?.....

Y a-t-il eu des ingérences/intimidations au cours de la procédure de vote ?.....Oui/Non

Les urnes sont-elles vides et mises sous-scellés au début du scrutin ?.....Oui/Non

Les électeurs bénéficient-ils d'une assistance et de bonnes informations sur le processus ?.....Oui/Non

7. D'autres observateurs étaient-ils présents ?..... Oui/Non ; Quels groupes d'observateurs étaient présents ?.....

8. Les identités des électeurs étaient-elles correctement vérifiées ?.....Oui/Non
9. Les doigts des électeurs sont-ils marqués à l'encre indélébile ?.....Oui/Non
10. Les noms des électeurs sont-ils rayés de la liste des électeurs après qu'ils aient voté ?.....Oui/Non
11. Existe-t-il un registre électoral supplémentaire ?.....Oui/Non
12. Est-il permis aux électeurs non-inscrits sur les registres électoraux de participer au scrutin ?.....Oui/Non
13. Le scrutin est-il tenu secret ?.....Oui/Non
14. Y a-t-il eu intimidation des électeurs ?.....Oui/Non.....
15. A quelle heure le scrutin a-t-il pris fin* ?.....A l'heure ?.....Y a-t-il encore des électeurs dans les files d'attente ?.....
Les procédures sont-elles suivies ?.....Oui/Non
16. Certains électeurs ont-ils été refoulés ?.....Oui/Non. Si oui ?
Pourquoi ?.....
17. Comment les urnes sont-elles gérées ?.....
18. Le personnel chargé du scrutin était-il..... Efficace ?.....
Satisfaisant ?.....Médiocre ?.....
19. Les gardes de la sécurité étaient-ils présents ?Discrets ?.....
Indiscret ?..... Tyranniques ?.....
20. Des plaintes ont-elles été déposées par les agents des partis, les électeurs, les observateurs nationaux ?
Donner des explications.....
21. Quelle était l'ambiance dans les bureaux de vote ?...Bonne ? Tendue ? Désordonnée ?

**EVALUATION GLOBALE DU SCRUTIN/CONTROLE/PROCESSUS DE DEPOUILLEMENT DU
SCRUTIN**

Problèmes identifiés.....

Les problèmes identifiés peuvent-ils influencer les résultats des élections ?.....

* Vérifier l'état des urnes - à la clôture du scrutin et noter l'état dans lequel elles ont été retournées le jour suivant (si nécessaire).

Oui/Non Si oui, dans quelle mesure ?.....

La comparaison entre la participation au scrutin et le nombre d'électeurs inscrits sur les listes électorales fait-elle ressortir une participation ?

Massive ? **Moyenne ?** **Faibles ?**

Aspects positifs du renforcement du processus démocratique (Donner des exemples)

Selon l'équipe des observateurs, les élections se sont-elles déroulées conformément à la législation électorale/aux principes et pratiques en vigueur/dans la transparence, etc... (Donner des exemples):

ANNEX 7: PRESS RELEASE OF THE AU ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION, MARCH 4, 2010

AFRICAN UNION
الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243

Telephone 251-11-5517700

Fax. 251-11-5517844

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Communiqué de presse N.7 /2010 – Election présidentielle au Togo

«LE REJET DE LA VIOLENCE ELECTORALE EST LA VICTOIRE DE TOUS »

Lomé, le 4 mars 2010 – Plus de trois millions de Togolais se rendront aux urnes le 4 mars 2010 pour choisir celui qui présidera aux destinées du pays pour les cinq prochaines années à venir. Sur invitation du Gouvernement du Togo, le Président de la Commission de l'Union africaine (UA), Monsieur Jean Ping a dépêché une mission de quarante observateurs dans le cadre de l'élection présidentielle. Cette observation qui porte sur la régularité, la transparence, l'équité et le bon déroulement du scrutin est sur le terrain depuis le 23 février 2010.

Dans ce cadre, la mission d'observation électorale de l'Union africaine(UA) a rencontré le 2 mars les candidats à l'élection présidentielle du 4 mars et les institutions impliquées dans le processus. Ces entretiens avaient pour objectif de s'informer du niveau d'avancement des préparatifs en vue du vote du 4 mars et de recueillir des données sur le rôle d'institutions telles que la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (CENI), la Cour constitutionnelle ou encore la Haute autorité de l'audiovisuel et de la communication (HAAC) dans le scrutin. Elles avaient également pour objectif d'appeler tous les acteurs à faire du vote du 4 mars un franc succès en faisant de cette date une référence pour les prochains rendez-vous électoraux dans le pays et d'une manière générale, en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Dans cette optique, le Chef de la mission d'observation de l'Union africaine(UA), S. E. M. Olusegun Obasanjo, ancien Président de la République fédérale du Nigeria a rappelé que son équipe n'a pas pour vocation d'interférer dans le processus électoral mais de veiller à ce que les résultats qui seront proclamés «correspondent aux attentes du peuple togolais». «Cela sera une victoire pour tous » a-t-il ajouté.

Lors de ses rencontres avec les candidats en lice pour la magistrature suprême et parmi les informations recueillies sur le terrain, la mission d'observation de l'UA a constaté un sentiment unanime favorable au rejet de la violence électorale et un appel massif au calme et à la sérénité quel que soit le résultat issu des urnes. Conformément à son mandat et avec la plus grande impartialité, la mission de l'UA s'est informée sur la fiabilité des urnes, l'authentification et le transfert des bulletins vers les centres de collecte afin de s'assurer de la transparence et la liberté du vote. Par ailleurs, comme l'a indiqué le Président Obasanjo, la mission de l'UA a aussi

une fonction d'écoute. Cela a permis aux différents acteurs de faire état des défis rencontrés et des solutions mises en œuvre en vue d'une élection libre, transparente, juste et pacifique.

La campagne a pris fin le 2 mars 2010 dans une ambiance sereine et pacifique constatée par toutes les missions d'observation, de sécurité et d'information présentes sur le terrain. Néanmoins, la mission d'observation de l'Union africaine, à travers son chef de délégation, M. Olusegun Obasanjo, réitère son appel envers toutes les parties prenantes togolaises à se rendre aux urnes dans le calme et à bannir toute violence pour le bénéfice de tous. A l'issue de sa mission, l'équipe d'observateurs de l'UA exprimera son opinion, et formulera – s'il y a lieu- des recommandations destinées à l'administration électorale compétente.

ANNEX 8: PRESS RELEASE OF THE AU ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION, MARCH 6, 2010

AFRICAN UNION
الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243

Telephone 251-11-5517700

Fax. 251-11-5517844

BUREAU DE LA MISSION D'OBSERVATION DE L'UNION AFRICAINE POUR L'ELECTION PRESIDENTIELLE DU 04 MARS 2010 AU TOGO

DECLARATION PRELIMINAIRE

Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre des dispositions pertinentes de la Déclaration de Durban sur les principes régissant les élections démocratiques en Afrique adoptée en juillet 2002 par les Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de l'Union africaine, S.E. M. Jean Ping, Président de la CUA a dépêché une mission d'observateurs multidisciplinaires d'une quarantaine de membres en République Togolaise à l'occasion de l'élection présidentielle du 04 mars 2010.

La mission d'observation électorale de l'Union africaine dirigée par S.E. M. Olusegun Obasanjo, ancien Président de la République fédérale du Nigéria, est composée de parlementaires panafricains et nationaux, des membres d'organisations de la société civile et de défense des droits de l'Homme ainsi que des experts électoraux.

Les équipes d'observateurs de l'Union africaine ont été déployées dans les cinq régions du pays et dans la Commune de Lomé ;

Elles ont observé le processus électoral et noté ce qui suit :

- la campagne électorale s'est déroulée dans le calme et la sérénité ;
- les opérations de vote se sont déroulées dans la liberté et la régularité

La mission félicite les autorités du Togo et toutes les institutions impliquées dans le processus électoral pour l'organisation du scrutin.

Elle salue en outre la maturité du peuple et des acteurs politiques togolais qui ont permis la tenue du scrutin dans un climat de paix et de sérénité.

Au regard de ce qui précède, la mission d'observation de l'Union africaine déclare que le scrutin du 04 mars 2010 a été libre, transparent, régulier et équitable.

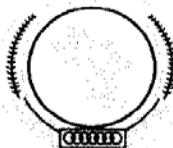
La Mission invite les acteurs politiques de la République du Togo à respecter la volonté populaire exprimée à travers les résultats qui sortiront des urnes et à utiliser les voies légales de recours pour toute réclamation. Elle les encourage à collaborer en vue de consolider la démocratie et promouvoir l'Etat de droit, la paix et la stabilité pour le développement dont le pays a tant besoin.

Fait à Lomé, le 06 mars 2010.

ANNEX 9: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



Organization of
American States



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION

AND

**THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION
AND THE
GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

THIS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into between the Commission of the African Union (AU) (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"), an International Intergovernmental Organization with its Headquarters along Roosevelt Road in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS), a public international organization with its headquarters at 1889 F Street, N.W. Washington DC 20006 USA, and jointly referred to hereafter as the "Parties".

BEARING IN MIND the provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which calls, inter alia, for the encouragement of international cooperation and that the African Union is an international organization whose objectives include promoting peace, security, and stability; human and people's rights; and sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural levels with the Commission which is an Organ of the Union and the Secretariat and the other Organs of the African Union, and by virtue of the Statutes of the Commission Article 3(2)(a) represents the Union;

BEARING IN MIND that the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) establishes in its preamble that "representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region" and establishes that one of its essential aims is "to promote and consolidate representative democracy" and that the General Secretariat of the OAS is the central and permanent organ of the OAS and has the power to establish and foster ties of cooperation under Article 112.h of the OAS Charter and General Assembly Resolution AG/RES. 57 (I-0/7);

AFFIRMING the importance of coordinating the efforts of both Parties to attain their common objectives and desirous to collaborate and cooperate in areas of mutual interest;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

**Article I
OBJECTIVE AND AREAS OF COOPERATION**

- 1.1 The objective of this MOU is to establish cooperation between the Commission and the General Secretariat of the OAS in areas agreed to between the Parties.
- 1.2 The Parties have agreed to cooperate, through their appropriate organs, on issues relating to the: promotion of democracy and strengthening of democratic institutions and processes; conflict resolution; protection of human and people's rights; and social and economic development , as well as any other areas of common interest that may be defined in the future by the Parties.



**Article II
MODALITIES FOR CO-OPERATION**

- 2.1** The Parties shall prepare programs for cooperation, through their appropriate organs, in the areas outlined in Article I, paragraph 2, of this MOU.
- 2.2** The Parties shall develop specific plans of collaborative work in the areas outlined in Article 1, within six (6) months of the signing of this MOU or any other period that may be agreed to between the Parties. These work plans shall specify the actions to be taken and the resources, financial and of any other nature to be contributed by the Parties to each of them, where appropriate. Implementation of the work plans shall be reviewed on an annual basis by the Parties.
- 2.3** Where appropriate, the Parties shall undertake to invite each other to attend and to send observers to meetings of their respective organs, on matters of mutual interest in line with their respective rules and procedures.
- 2.4** The Parties shall co-operate in order to attain their specific objectives, at national, continental and international levels, and promote the achievement of the political, social and economic aspirations of their respective member States.
- 2.5** The appropriate organs of the Parties shall consult with a view to coordinating and harmonizing their positions, activities and programs on matters of common interest agreed to by the Parties.
- 2.6** Each Party shall endeavor, as far as is appropriate within its own framework, to respond favorably to requests for cooperation in accordance with this MOU.
- 2.7** Similarly, and in so far as is practical within their respective frameworks, the Parties shall undertake to cooperate in the field of training, capacity building, and joint resource mobilization for projects agreed to by the Parties.

**ARTICLE III
FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

Financial obligations incurred by the Parties as a result of the programs for cooperation resulting from this MOU shall be subject to the decisions taken by their respective governing bodies as to the availability of funds and to their respective budgetary and financial rules and regulations.

**ARTICLE IV
EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS**

Subject to arrangements that may be required to preserve the confidential or restricted nature of certain information and documents, the Parties shall undertake to exchange information on matters of common interest.

[Signature]

[Signature]

ARTICLE V
COORDINATION AND NOTIFICATIONS

5.1 The Secretariat for External Relations of the GS/OAS, through the Director of the Department of International Affairs, and the Bureau of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, through the Chief of Staff, shall be the persons/bodies designated with the coordination of this MOU and shall receive all correspondence dealing with matters envisaged in this MOU.

5.2 Notifications and communications should be addressed to the aforementioned coordinators at the following addresses:

Secretariat for External Relations
 Director of Department of International Affairs
 General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS)
 17th Street & Constitution Avenue N.W.
 Washington DC 20006 U.S.A.
 Tel: 202-458-6072
 Fax: 202-458-6319

Chief of Staff
 Commission of the African Union
 Roosevelt Road
 Addis Ababa
 Ethiopia
 Tel: 251-115-51-30-36
 Fax: 251-115-58-28-38

5.3 Communications and notifications issued under this MOU shall be valid only when addressed by mail or fax to the representatives above mentioned. When communications are by electronic mail they shall be valid only when sent directly from the electronic address of the coordinator of either Party to the electronic coordinator of the other Party.

5.4 The Parties may establish a Joint Committee for Consultation and Cooperation to further the institutionalization of effective consultation and cooperation.

5.5 Either Party may change the body responsible, the designated representative or the address and fax number by notifying the other Party to that effect in writing.

ARTICLE VI
PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

6.1 The Parties mutually recognize the privileges and immunities they enjoy by virtue of the relevant agreements and laws on the subject and general principles of international law.

6.2 No provision of this MOU shall be understood as an express or implicit waiver of the privileges and immunities to which the Parties are entitled.

HP



**ARTICLE VII
SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

Any dispute that may arise over the interpretation or application of this MOU shall be settled by direct negotiations between the Parties. Should this not provide a solution satisfactory to the Parties, they shall submit the dispute to an arbitration procedure to be agreed upon by them.

**ARTICLE VIII
AMENDMENTS**

This MOU may be amended with the consent of the Parties. Any amendments shall be notified in writing and the instruments expressing these amendments shall be appended to become an integral part of the MOU.

**ARTICLE IX
ENTRY INTO EFFECT**

This MOU shall enter into effect as of the date of its signature by the duty authorized representatives of the Parties.

**ARTICLE X
TERMINATION**

10.1 Either Party may terminate this MOU by giving six (6) months written notice to the other party.

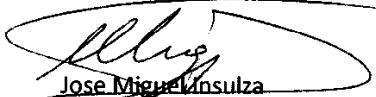
10.2 This MOU shall cease to exist within ninety (90) days of the date of written notification of termination.

10.3 Termination of this MOU shall not affect irrevocable obligations assumed by the Parties with respect to programs of cooperation made pursuant to this MOU prior to termination. In this respect, such irrevocable obligations shall be paid from, and shall be limited to, the special funds identified or contributed for any program of cooperation made pursuant to this MOU.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the duty authorized representatives of the Parties have hereby signed the present Memorandum of Understanding in four equally authentic originals at the place and on the dates indicated below.

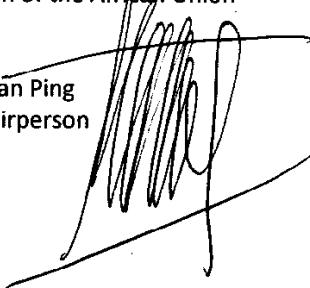
Washington DC, October 1, 2009

For the OAS General Secretariat



Jose Miguel Insulza
Secretary General

For the Commission of the African Union



Jean Ping
Chairperson

ANNEX 10: RESOLUTION AG/RES. 2489 (XXXIX-O/09)

SUPPORT FOR ENHANCED INTER-REGIONAL COOPERATION WITH THE AFRICAN UNION (AU)

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 4, 2009)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING AG/RES.. 2419 (XXXVIII-O/08) entitled "Support for Enhanced Inter-Regional Cooperation with the African Union (AU)";

AWARE of the historical bonds and shared experiences which tie together the American and African continents, the fundamental contributions of persons of African descent and their communities in the Americas, and the importance of recognizing and preserving that heritage;

COMMITTED, through regional and inter-regional cooperation, to support states in their efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, values, practices, and governance, to fight corruption, to enhance the rule of law, to bring about the full exercise of human rights, and to reduce poverty, hunger, inequity, and social exclusion;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the presentations made during the special meeting of the Permanent Council on December 11, 2002, regarding Western Hemisphere-Africa cooperation, resolution 1631 (2005) of the United Nations Security Council, "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security," AG/RES.. 2016 (XXXIV-O/04), and "Cooperation between the Organization of the American States and the United Nations System, the Central Integration System and the General Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)";

BEARING MIND that, in recognition of racial discrimination that persist against persons of African descent in the Americas, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) established in February 2005 a Special Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons of African Descent and on Racial Discrimination;

NOTING the progress achieved by the Working Group to Prepare a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance;

RECALLING the commitments of the inter-American and African systems to the regional promotion and protection of human rights, as reflected in instruments such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, and the American Convention on Human Rights;

RECOGNIZING that democracy, transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory governance responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people, and respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are essential for the effective prevention and elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

CONSIDERING that countries of Africa and the Americas, in the framework of bilateral and

multilateral fora, have committed themselves to encourage regional and interregional initiatives to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and to exchange experiences with other regional organizations, including the African Union, in matters of strengthening democracy at regional and interregional levels through the OAS;

RECOGNIZING the value of collaborative sharing of experiences and best practices for the deepening and implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance (ACDEG), adopted on January 30, 2007;

RECALLING that both the Inter-American Democratic Charter, in Chapter 6, and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance, in Chapter 5, affirm the importance of civil society organizations and civic education for the strengthening of democratic culture;

RECALLING ALSO that the Inter-American Democratic Charter, in Chapter III (Democracy, Integral Development, and Combating Poverty), Articles 11 and 12, recognizes that democracy and social and economic development are interdependent, and that “poverty, illiteracy, and low levels of human development are factors that adversely affect the consolidation of democracy”;

CONSIDERING that in July 2007 the African Union established a diplomatic representational mission in Washington, D.C., and that, beginning in 2002, the African Union collaborated with the Western Hemisphere African Diaspora Network to engage with the Diaspora community and persons of African descent;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the report prepared by the Secretary General and presented to the General Committee of the Permanent Council (CP/CG-1757/09), which notes best practices and challenges for enhanced inter-regional cooperation and includes future collaborative actions for cooperation;

TAKING NOTE WITH SATISFACTION of the July 10 to 12, 2007, forum entitled “Democracy Bridge: Multilateral Regional Efforts for the Promotion and Defense of Democracy in Africa and America,” which included the participation of senior officials from the African Union and the OAS;

RECALLING that the World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed the right to development, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development, as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights. As stated in the Declaration on the Right to Development, the human person is the central subject of development. While development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights. States should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development. The international community should promote an effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development. Lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favorable economic environment at the international level;

REAFFIRMING that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives and that, while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy;

AWARE that “the effective exercise of representative democracy is the basis for the rule of law and of the constitutional regimes of the member states of the Organization of American States” and that one of the essential purposes of the OAS is “[t]o promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention”; and

REAFFIRMING that the participatory nature of democracy in our countries in different aspects of public life contributes to the consolidation of democratic values and to freedom and solidarity in the Hemisphere,

RESOLVES:

1. To express support for cooperative efforts undertaken by the African Union and the OAS, in particular the “Declaration of Intent” signed on July 10, 2007 between the General Secretariat of the Organization and the African Union Commission, which calls for future cooperation between the AUC and the General Secretariat of the OAS on areas of common interest to “include *inter alia* democracy promotion”
2. To continue to enhance and improve cooperation between the OAS and the African Union;
3. To urge member states, permanent observers, and other international organizations to strengthen their support for ongoing engagement between the two organizations, such as the sharing of best practices.
4. To endorse ongoing dialogue between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the Commission of the African Union which has a goal the adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding to guide inter-organizational cooperation in areas of mutual interest, to include *inter alia* democracy promotion, the promotion and protection of human rights, and cooperation for economic and social development and social inclusion, as well as the exchange of lessons learned and best practices in these areas.
5. To instruct the Permanent Council to convene a second special meeting on cooperation between the Americas and Africa, with the participation of the African diplomatic corps, representatives of the African Union Commission as well as of OAS Permanent Representatives, during the second half of 2009.
6. To request the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.
7. To request the Permanent Council to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its fortieth regular session.
8. To request the Secretary General to forward this resolution to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Secretary General of CARICOM, the Presidency Pro Tempore of MERCOSUR, the Secretary General of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), the United Nations Secretary-General, and the Pro Tempore Secretariat of UNASUR.

ANNEX 11: RESOLUTION AG/RES. 2419 (XXXVIII-O/08)

**SUPPORT FOR ENHANCED INTER-REGIONAL COOPERATION
WITH THE AFRICAN UNION (AU)**

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 3, 2008)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

AWARE of the historical bonds and shared experiences which tie together the American and African continents, the fundamental contributions of persons of African descent and their communities in the Americas, and the importance of recognizing and preserving that heritage;

COMMITTED, through regional and inter-regional cooperation, to support states in their efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, values, practices, and governance, to fight corruption, to enhance the rule of law, to bring about the full exercise of human rights, and to reduce poverty, hunger, inequity, and social exclusion;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the presentations made during the special meeting of the Permanent Council on December 11, 2002, regarding Western Hemisphere-Africa cooperation, resolution 1631 (2005) of the United Nations Security Council, "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security," AG/RES. 2016 (XXXIV-O/04), and "Cooperation between the Organization of the American States and the United Nations System, the Central Integration System and the General Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM);"

BEARING MIND that, in recognition of racial discrimination against persons of African descent in the Americas, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) established in February 2005 a Special Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons of African Descent and on Racial Discrimination;

NOTING the progress achieved by the Working Group to Prepare a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance;

RECALLING the commitments of the inter-American and African systems to the regional promotion and protection of human rights, as reflected in instruments such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, and the American Convention on Human Rights;

RECOGNIZING that democracy, transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory governance responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people, and respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are essential for the effective prevention and elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

CONSIDERING that countries of Africa and the Americas, in the framework of bilateral and multilateral fora, have committed themselves to encourage regional and interregional initiatives to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and to exchange experiences with other regional organizations, including the African Union, in matters of strengthening democracy at regional and interregional levels through the OAS;

AWARE that the 2003 Declaration of Mexico (CIDI/RME/DEC. 4 (III-O/03) adopted by the Ministers of Education of the Hemisphere recognized the importance of raising cultural awareness and promoting democratic values in present and future generations, especially in education, as a key means for alleviating poverty and fostering greater understanding among peoples; and that the 2008 Declaration of African Union Ministers in Charge of Youth recognized the “role of the African youth in the Diaspora” and the “urgent need to promote African Youth and to enhance youth involvement in the African development agenda”;

RECOGNIZING the value of collaborative sharing of experiences and best practices for the deepening and implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance (ACDEG), adopted on January 30, 2007;

RECALLING that both the Inter-American Democratic Charter, in Chapter 6, and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance, in Chapter 5, affirm the importance of civil society organizations and civic education for the strengthening of democratic culture;

RECALLING ALSO that the Inter-American Democratic Charter, in Chapter III (Democracy, Integral Development, and Combating Poverty), Articles 11 and 12, recognizes that democracy and social and economic development are interdependent, and that “poverty, illiteracy, and low levels of human development are factors that adversely affect the consolidation of democracy”;

CONSIDERING that in July 2007 the African Union established a diplomatic representational mission in Washington, D.C., and that, beginning in 2002, the African Union collaborated with the Western Hemisphere African Diaspora Network to engage with the Diaspora community and persons of African descent;

TAKING NOTE WITH SATISFACTION of the July 10 to 12, 2007, forum entitled “Democracy Bridge: Multilateral Regional Efforts for the Promotion and Defense of Democracy in Africa and America,” which included the participation of senior officials from the African Union and the OAS;

RECALLING that the World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed the right to development, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development, as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights. As stated in the Declaration on the Right to Development, the human person is the central subject of development. While development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights. States should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development. The international community should promote an effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development. Lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favorable economic environment at the international level;

REAFFIRMING that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives and that, while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy;

AWARE that “the effective exercise of representative democracy is the basis for the rule of law and of the constitutional regimes of the member states of the Organization of American States” and that

one of the essential purposes of the OAS is “[t]o promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention”; and

REAFFIRMING that the participatory nature of democracy in our countries in different aspects of public life contributes to the consolidation of democratic values and to freedom and solidarity in the Hemisphere,

RESOLVES:

1. To improve cooperation between the OAS and regional organizations; encourage the adoption, and support the implementation where these exist, of regional democracy charters and cooperative initiatives; and strengthen the capacities of regional organizations through the sharing of best practices, keeping in mind existing bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

2. To express support for deepened cooperation between the African Union and the OAS and, in particular:

a. To express support for the “Declaration of Intent” signed on July 10, 2007 between the General Secretariat of the Organization and the African Union Commission, which calls for future cooperation between the AUC and the General Secretariat of the OAS on areas of common interest to “include *inter alia* democracy promotion”, and

b. To urge member states, permanent observers, and other international organizations to strengthen their support for ongoing engagement between the two organizations, such as the sharing of best practices.

3. To request the General Secretariat, in consultation with the African Union Commission, to develop a framework document guiding inter-organizational cooperation in areas of mutual interest, to include *inter alia* democracy promotion, the promotion and protection of human rights, and cooperation for economic and social development, for consideration by the Permanent Council. This framework might include, for example, the exchange of lessons learned and best practices in the area of democracy promotion and human rights, as well as measures to fight hunger and poverty and to promote social inclusion.

4. To encourage the Secretary General to prepare a report for presentation to the Permanent Council noting best practices and challenges for enhanced inter-regional cooperation.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council to convene a second special meeting on cooperation between the Americas and Africa, with the participation of the African diplomatic corps and representatives of the African Union Commission, during the second half of 2008.

6. To request the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

7. To request the Permanent Council to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth regular session.

8. To request the Secretary General to forward this resolution to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Secretary General of CARICOM, the Presidency Pro Tempore of MERCOSUR, the Secretary General of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), and the United Nations Secretary-General. To consider sending it as well to the Chairman of the Community of Democracies Convening Group.