



REPORT ON THE MEETING OF EXPERTS ON DOCUMENTS FROM THE APRIL  
2003 PRETORIA CONFERENCE ON ELECTIONS, DEMOCRACY AND  
GOVERNANCE, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA 15<sup>TH</sup> –18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2004

## 1.0 Introduction

The Government of Uganda was invited to nominate experts to the above-mentioned meeting convened in compliance with Assembly Decision AU/Dec. 18(II) and EX/CL/Dec. 31(III). The meeting was to consider the following documents:-

1. Conference Statement on Elections, Democracy and Governance
2. Guidelines for AU elections observation and monitoring
3. Prospects for the establishment of an Electoral Assistance Fund
4. Draft Document (Charter) on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

The Documents were adopted by the Pretoria Conference on Elections, Democracy and Governance where Uganda was represented by representatives from the Electoral Commission. Consequently the Electoral Commission nominated Commissioner Dr. Jenny Okello and Charles Nsimbi, Ag. Head Voter Registration department.

## 2.0 Arrivals and Accreditation

The delegation arrived in Addis Ababa on the night of 14<sup>th</sup> May 2004 and was received by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Secretary at the Uganda Embassy and taken to a pre-booked hotel. The embassy also provided transport to the AU headquarters on the morning of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2004 where the delegation was accredited.

The following Member States participated in the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Egypt, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

In addition, Observer Delegations that attended the meeting include; ECA, European commission, UNDP, ANPPCAN, IDEA, OIF, AIF Paris.

The Commissioner for Political Affairs at the AU, Mrs. Julia Dolly Joiner, opened the meeting.

After adoption of the agenda, the Bureau of the meeting was constituted as follows;

Chairperson	Kenya
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson	Tunisia
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson	Gabon
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Chairperson	Mozambique
Rapporteur	Nigeria

### **3.0 Consideration of the Documents of the April 2003 Pretoria Conference on Elections, Democracy and Governance**

It was noted that several member states had submitted written observations and comments prior to the meeting. These would be taken into consideration.



Head of Uganda Delegation Commissioner Dr. Jenny Okello (centre) at the AU Conference Centre, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2004.

### 3.1 Pretoria Conference Statement on Elections, Democracy and Governance

It was observed this put more emphasis on elections and their management but was short on governance and democracy.

Uganda raised the issue of funding of election management bodies stressing that not only should the funding be adequate but it should also be **timely**.

The meeting noted the importance of a **Code Of Conduct** for parties involved in an election. Uganda suggested imposition of deterrent measures for those who would not respect this code of conduct. This was adopted by the meeting.

### **3.2 Guidelines for Election Observation and Monitoring Missions**

The following areas were examined; Criteria for determining the nature and scope of AU Electoral Observation and Monitoring, Mandate, Rights and Responsibilities of AU Observation and Monitoring Missions, Code of Conduct for AU Election Observers and Monitors and principles Governing democratic Elections in Africa.

It was agreed that AU should and must observe all elections in Member States and in the spirit of the Durban Declaration, it was agreed that Member states should always invite the AU Commission to be involved in monitoring and observing elections.

Uganda proposed an amendment to Chapter 5 of the guidelines to the effect that AU Observers and Monitors must recognize and respect the culture of the host country and must behave with courtesy to all people they come in contact with. This amendment was adopted by the Meeting.

It was further proposed that the AU should explore the possibility of observing elections outside the continent.

### **3.3 Prospects for the establishment of an Electoral Fund**

The AU Commission highlighted its new mandate that requires it to strengthen its efforts in advancing the democratization process especially with regard to mobilizing funds to cover its role in monitoring and observing elections.

It was proposed that that Electoral Fund should be operated as a Trust Fund. It was further proposed that multinational Corporations operating in Member states be encouraged to contribute to the fund.

The Commission was called upon to speed up the study on Alternative Sources of Funding for the Union and explore the possibility of accessing such sources for the electoral Assistance Fund.

### 3.4 Consideration of the Draft Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance

The meeting agreed with the Commission on the proposal to opt for a Charter rather than yet another Declaration.

However, taking into consideration the legal nature of such a document and the required procedures of a Charter, the meeting recommended that the Executive Council mandates the Commission to convene a meeting of Legal and other experts to examine the Draft and put it in appropriate legal language for adoption of competent AU policy organs.

### 4.0 Closure of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 11.35 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2004 after discussion and adoption of the Rapporteur's report.

The delegation is grateful to the Uganda Government and the Electoral Commission in particular for availing it the opportunity to participate in this forum. We are also grateful to the Embassy of the Republic of Uganda in Addis Ababa and the AU Secretariat for the cordial welcome and pleasant stay during the course of the Meeting.

Dr. Jenny Okello,  
Commissioner/ Electoral Commission (Ug.)

Charles B. Nsimbi,  
Ag. H/Voter Registration Dept./EC