2024

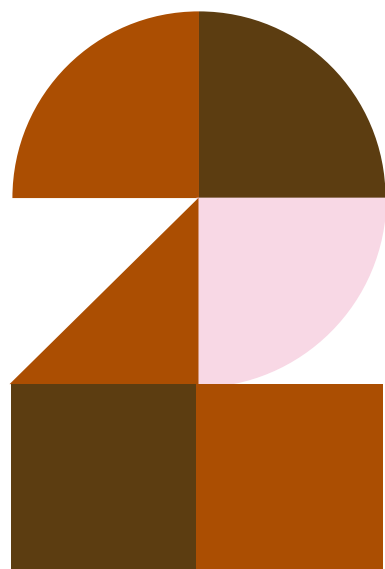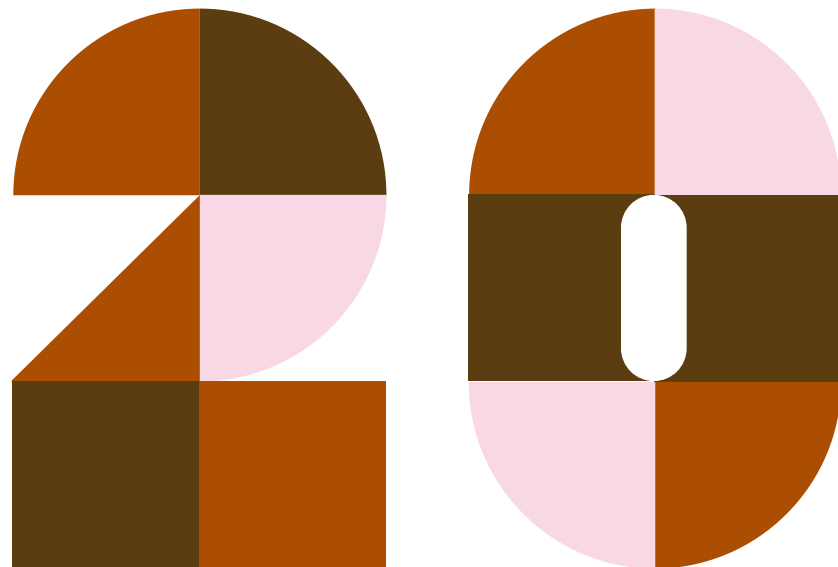**Southern Africa Elections**

ESN-SA
ELECTORAL SUPPORT NETWORK OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Compendium of Election
Observers
Recommendations

AHEAD Africa

Co-funded by the European Union

Introduction

Elections in Southern Africa remain a cornerstone of democratic governance. In 2024, seven SADC countries conducted elections at various levels, prompting extensive observations by Election Observer Missions **(EOMs)**. These EOMs played a critical role and were instrumental in safeguarding democratic norms, ensuring transparency and promoting accountability in electoral processes. EOMs provided recommendations targeted at improving each countries' electoral governance. The recommendations were contextualised within a framework of national, regional and international commitments to which the countries are bound such as legal instruments, political declarations and good practice.

In light of the EOMs observations the Electoral Support Network of Southern Africa **(ESN-SA)** prepared this Compendium which serves as a comprehensive compilation of EOMs recommendations. It highlights electoral experiences and insights from Botswana, Comoros, Namibia, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa and Mauritius. The Compendium of EOMs recommendations provides critical observations on legal, administrative and political areas requiring improvement, thereby fostering the need for continuous enhancement of electoral integrity and effective governance. By illuminating challenges in diverse electoral contexts, this Compendium facilitates consideration of the identified gaps by different bodies within the afore-mentioned countries.

The insights gathered by EOMs, identified systemic challenges unique to each country while also reflecting on shared commonalities and shared challenges across the region. EOMs pointed out to some similar issues, such as the strong emphasis across several countries on the need for timely amendments to electoral laws to ensure clarity and compliance before elections. This includes Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, and South Africa and Mozambique, all of which are advised to publish any changes well in advance to prevent misperception among voters and stakeholders. Additionally, the call to enhance results management and counting procedures to ensure electoral integrity cuts across almost all countries. Namibia is urged to amend its Electoral Act to count special votes alongside those cast on election day, while Mozambique should focus on timely and accurate results publication through digital media. Mauritius is urged to conduct ballot counting at polling stations, adhering to SADC guidelines and Madagascar is similarly advised to expedite the transportation of ballot papers and utilise technology for results management. Furthermore, Botswana is recommended to amend its Electoral Act to facilitate on-site counting and the publication of provisional results at polling stations. EOMs in all seven countries highlighted the critical importance of inclusive electoral processes, emphasising the need for representation of gender, youth and persons with disabilities in electoral processes. There is a shared recognition of the necessity for policies that enhance the participation of marginalised communities in politics, reflecting the significance of commitment to fostering a more inclusive democratic environment in the region. These recommendations collectively highlight the importance of transparency, efficiency and adherence to democratic principles in the electoral process.
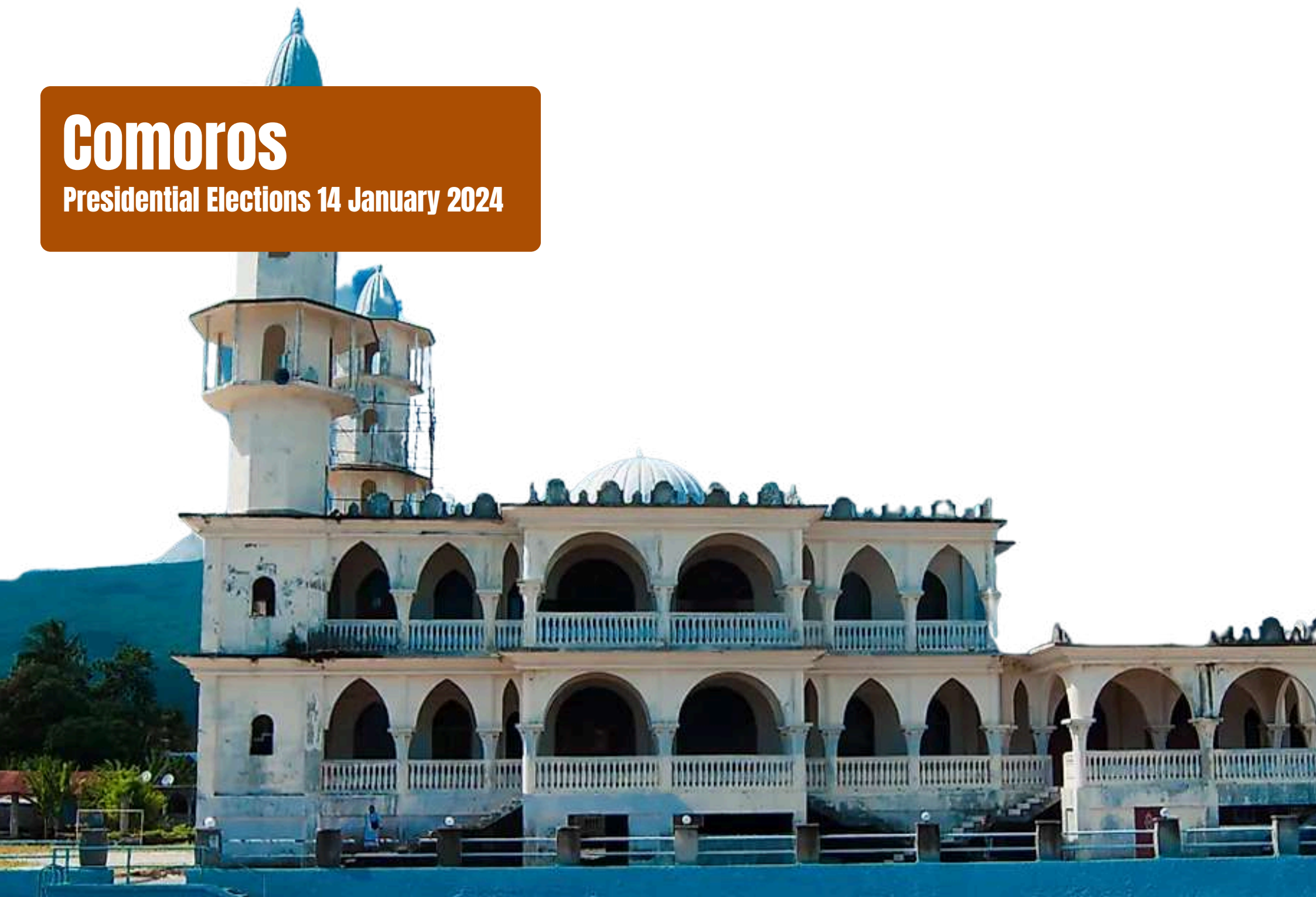
Through their observations, EOMs documented their findings in preliminary statements or final reports concerning the elections. Consequently, this Compendium is exclusively based on reports in the public domain accessed by the ESN-SA. The following observer missions deployed observers in at least one of the seven countries that conducted elections in the region;

- African Centre for Governance **(ACG-EOM)**,
- African Union Election Observer Mission **(AUEOM)**,
- African Union and the East African Standby Force **(AU-EASF EOM)**,
- Commonwealth Observer Group **(COG)**
- Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries Electoral Observer Mission **(CPLP MOE)**,
- Electoral Commission Forum of SADC **(ECF-SADC)**,
- European Union Electoral Observation Mission **(EUEOM)**,
- International Republican Institute's **(IRI)** Election Observation Mission **(IEOM)**,
- SADC Electoral Observer Mission **(SEOM)**,
- Southern Defenders Election Observation Mission **(SDEOM)**
- South African Human Rights Commission **(SAHRC)**
- Zimbabwe Election Support Network and the Electoral Support Network of Southern Africa Election Observer Mission **(ZESN-ESN-SA EOM)**

Basing on recommendations by the afore-said observer missions, ESN-SA posits that implementation of these recommendations is essential for SADC countries to develop more robust electoral frameworks that uphold the principles of good governance and respect for human rights.

Comoros
Presidential Elections 14 January 2024

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
Amendment and Enactment of Laws	Initiate consolidating reforms and create optimal conditions for inclusive dialogue among all the nation's vital forces in order to find areas of convergence that can improve the electoral and political system. **(AU-EASF EOM)**	CSOs
	Relaunch the Consultation Framework and ensure the effectiveness of the measures to be taken to transcend existing political divisions and disagreements, particularly regarding: the organization of elections; issues of proxies and accreditations. **(AU-EASF EOM)**	CSOs
	Further strengthen parity and the representation of young people, women, and people living with disabilities in the political system. **(AU-EASF EOM)**	IEC, Political Parties, Government
	Carry out a qualitative reform of the Constitution and the Electoral Code to clarify contentious issues once and for all and ensure a more consensual legal framework in the future. **(AU-EASF EOM)**	IEC, Political Parties, Government
Voter Registration and Education	Continue life-saving initiatives in civic and electoral education and national election observation. **(AU-EASF EOM)**	CSOs
Election Administration	Deploy electoral materials to polling stations on time and issue accreditation to citizen observation missions on time. **(AU-EASF EOM)**	EMB-CENI
	Develop Communication strategy that provides continuous, appropriate and timely information to national and international stakeholders to raise awareness about the avenues of appeal during the various stages of the electoral process. **(AU-EASF EOM)**	EMB-CENI

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
	Strengthen dialogue and trust between all stakeholders in the electoral process. **(AU-EASF EOM)**	EMB-CENI
	Relaunch the Consultation Framework and ensure the effectiveness of the measures to be taken to transcend existing political divisions and disagreements, particularly regarding: the organisation of elections; issues of proxies and accreditations; **(AU-EASF EOM)**	Government of Comoros
	Provide the Election Management Bodies with adequate operational resources for election administration. **(AU-EASF EOM)**	Government of Comoros
Electoral Dispute Resolution	Maintain dialogue within the Consultative Framework to resolve contentious issues and transcend current and future divisions; **(AU-EASF EOM)**	Political Parties and Candidates
Fundamental Freedoms and Inclusion	Promote greater parity and youth representation in their bodies. **(AU-EASF EOM)**	EMB-CENI
	Further promote parity and the representation of young people and women as candidates rather than voters. **(AU-EASF EOM)**	Political Parties, & Political Coalition
	Ensure the effectiveness of the diaspora vote in upcoming elections to include all eligible voters to participate. **(AU-EASF EOM)**	EMB-CENI
Election Dispute Resolution	Use legal channels in the event of potential disputes and minimize sources of political crises, especially during electoral processes. **(AU-EASF EOM)**	Political Parties & Political Coalitions

South Africa
General Elections 29 May 2024

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
Amendment and Enactment of Laws	Review campaign regulations to set time frame for campaigning, especially Section 108 of the Electoral Act that provides for prohibitions on election day. **(AUEOM)**	Government
	Consider having a time limit to the amendments to the electoral laws before an election to allow the IEC sufficient time to implement the electoral calendar. **(EISA)**	Government
	The need to enact legislation in terms of the management of the court cases in terms of timelines for concluding election related cases. Electoral laws should be amended in good time to allow for stakeholders to familiarise themselves with the amended laws. **(ECF-SADC)**	Government of South Africa & National Assembly
	Ensure that substantive electoral law reforms are debated and adopted early in the next electoral cycle to avoid the introduction of electoral reforms close to the election periods. **(SEOM)**	Government & the National Assembly
	Consider amending section 108 of the Electoral Act to ensure that activities such as those taking place at temporary structures erected by political parties and candidates are not located within a certain distance from the boundaries of polling stations. **(SEOM)**	Government
	Creating a regulatory framework that protects citizens from cyberbullying. **(ESN-SA/ZESN)**	Government

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
	Refrain from violence, hate speech and any other acts that could undermine the stability of the country. **(EISA)**	Political Parties
	Review the PPFA's provisions to cover independent candidates and improve enforcement mechanisms by empowering the IEC through enhanced resources and capacity to enforce the campaign finance regulations to improve the equality, transparency, and accountability of the elections.. **(AUEOM)**	National Assembly
	Review the Electoral Act, in line with best democratic practices, to create avenues for citizens to participate in the process of selecting their legislators. The practice where political parties impose candidates lists on citizens without their full participation does not conform to good democratic practices. **(AUEOM)**	National Assembly
	Strengthen legislations on independent candidates to ensure equality of their votes with political parties, especially at the level of seat allocation. **(AUEOM)**	National Assembly
Voter Registration and Education	Consider reviewing civic and voter education programmes, learning from the challenges experienced in 2024, and design new programmes that comprehensively address the new electoral processes. **(SEOM)**	IEC
	There is need to enhance voter education especially when laws and election procedures are changed. **(ECF-SADC)**	IEC

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
	Continue collaborating with stakeholders including CSOs to improve the conduct of civic and voter education. **(EISA)**	IEC
	There is a need to strengthen voter education efforts about the changes in electoral laws. **(ESN-SA/ZESN)**	IEC
Transparency of Electoral Processes	Reconsider regulations relating to the canvassing for support by political parties within the vicinity of voting stations during voting. **(ESN-SA/ZESN)**	IEC
	Improving enforcement mechanisms and extending the Political Party Funding Act's **(PPFA)** provisions to cover independent candidates would ensure full financial transparency and accountability in future elections. **(AUEOM)**	IEC
	Political parties should be discouraged from mounting campaign tents and political activities at polling stations, whose presence had elements of interference to the voters. **(SEOM)**	Political Parties
Election Administration	Assess options on how best to ensure that the Voter Management Devices do not present challenges encountered on election-day. The IEC could consider a manual voter's roll to be displayed at polling stations so that voters can verify where they are registered. **(SEOM)**	IEC
	Ensure that an adequate number of VMDs are available to all voting stations and that they should provide a backup internet connection. **(ESN-SA/ZESN)**	IEC

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
	There is a need to set up the polling station before the voting time or the day prior to elections **(ECF-SADC)**	IEC
	Ensure that there is adequate lighting for all voting stations. **(ESN-SA/ZESN)**	IEC
	Enhance logistics management to avoid late arrival of essential materials on election day in future elections **(SEOM) & (ECF-SADC)**	IEC
	Improve VMD reliability to prevent delays and ensure smoother verification of voters. **(AUEOM)**	IEC
	Given the introduction of a third ballot and the increasing number of registered voters, consider increasing the number of voting stations to ensure efficient processing and reduce delays. **(AUEOM) & (ESN-SA/ZESN)**	IEC
	Increase the number of voting stations to avoid the long queues witnessed in some voting centres, which lead to voter fatigue and late voter processing and counting. **(AUEOM)**	IEC
	Increase Voting Stations to address long queues observed at some voting stations by increasing the number of voting stations across the country. This will help to streamline the voting process and reduce waiting times for voters. **(SDEOM)**	IEC

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
	Conduct a thorough assessment of the effectiveness and potential challenges associated with the use of Voter Management Devices (VMD). This includes addressing network issues that may arise and ensuring that the VMDs facilitate rather than hinder the expression of political rights by voters. **(SDEOM)**	IEC
	Given the introduction of a third ballot and the increasing number of registered voters, increase the number of voting stations to ensure efficient voter processing and to minimise delays, and consider setting a limit on the voting population per voting station following best practices in other Africa countries. **(AUEOM)**	IEC
	Review the recruitment process of polling staff to bring in more qualified persons with a level of managerial capacity, at least for the Presiding Officer position. **(AUEOM)**	IEC
	Election officials need further training on the management of voting stations, handling of technology as well as implications of legal reforms in order to address inconsistencies at the voting stations. **(ECF-SADC)**	IEC
	Design a Results Collation/Accounting Form to make it easier for Presiding Officers to provide specific details that respond to required ballot data and that create columns for political party agents to authenticate the final results. **(AUEOM)**	IEC

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
	Conduct comprehensive training programme for all polling staff to ensure their coherent procedure implementation and avoid procedural errors. **(AUEOM)**	IEC
	Adopt a proactive communication pertaining to logistical challenges to allay stakeholders' fears and concerns. **(AUEOM)**	IEC
	Consider reviewing the colour coding of ballot boxes to ensure that they correspond with the colour of ballot papers to minimise confusion of ballot paper placement **(EISA).**	IEC
	Training of presiding officers on key aspects of the elections, such as Special Voting and Home Visits procedures needs to be enhanced. **(SEOM)**	IEC
	Review electoral logistics and operations strategy to ensure timely deployment of and adequate training of staff, thus ensuring uniform implementation of procedures **(EISA)**	IEC
	Review the use of surname-based polling station allocation to balance the voter load and reduce queue lengths, especially in stations where certain surnames are concentrated **(EISA)**	IEC
	There is a need to increase the visibility of law enforcement in all polling stations. **(ACG-EOM)**	IEC
	Consider enhancing the security of IEC Officials especially those conducting special votes during home visits. **(ACG-EOM)**	IEC

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
	Improve its logistical arrangements prior to the Election Day. **(ACG-EOM)**	IEC
	Consider doing more to improve the technology being incorporated in the elections including the VMDs. **(ACG-EOM)**	IEC
	There is need to implement Special Voting procedures that guarantee the secrecy of the vote, particularly through discreet labelling of the envelopes for the special voting ballots. **(SEOM)**	IEC
	Consider recruiting adequate police officers to be permanently stationed all polling stations. **(SEOM)**	SAPS
Fundamental Freedoms and Inclusion	In line with the Affirmative Action and Employer Equity Act (Act No. 55 of 1998), consider incorporating specific gender equity legislation in the Electoral Act to bolster female representation and implement measures for the integration of women in political parties throughout the electoral cycle to ensure compliance with constitutional, regional and International gender equality commitments. **(AUEOM)**	Government and National Assembly
	Embark on targeted efforts to promote voter registration, particularly among the youth. **(EISA)**	IEC
	Incorporate specific gender equity legislation to bolster female representation and ensure compliance with constitutional and international gender equality commitments. **(AUEOM)**	IEC

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
	Improve on accessibility to aid participation by people with disabilities privacy in voting booths was a concern. **(SAHRC)**	IEC
	Facilitate a post-election review process soon after the elections in order to obtain stakeholder consensus on issues that presented challenges in the context of this current electoral cycle. **(SEOM)**	IEC
	Actively support and promote female candidates, ensuring equitable representation in candidate lists and leadership positions. **(AUEOM)**	Political Parties
	Continue to advocate for women's rights and gender equality in politics, lobbying for legal reforms and supporting female candidates through various initiatives. **(AUEOM)**	CSOs
	Political parties that have not done so are urged to adopt the "Zebra list" system for party lists in order to ensure 50-50 gender parity for purposes of elections at all levels. **(SEOM)**	Political Parties
Election Dispute Resolution	Consider adjudicating all complaints in a more expedient manner to increase public confidence in the process in line with the principle of the right to an effective remedy as provided for in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance (ACDEG), Act, 17**(AUEOM).**	Courts

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
	Sufficient funding should be provided for training on electoral offenses and dispute resolution for the IEC and political parties. **(AUEOM)**	Government
	Establish mechanisms and develop strategies to facilitate the inclusion of marginalised groups, including women and PWDs, in active politics by promoting them to hold leadership positions in parties and also as a priority on the candidate's list. This may include the "zigzag" listing of candidates, special quotas for women and PWDs, and mentorship programs, among others. **(AUEOM)**	Political Parties
	Channel any arising electoral disputes through legally instituted mechanisms. **(EISA)**	Political Parties
	The increased confidence of the public in the judiciary to resolve electoral matters is encouraged. The courts are encouraged to expedite judgements involving electoral matters. **(SEOM)**	Citizens, Courts

Madagascar
Legislative Elections 29 May 2024

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
Amendment and Enactment of Laws	Civil society organisations to continue actions targeting legal and major electoral reforms to increase the level of citizen participation. **(AUEOM)**	CSOs
	Ensure full compliance with Article 61 of the Organic Law on General Elections and Referendums and avoid activities such as launches or inaugurations which may appear to be in contravention with the law. **(SEOM)**	Government
	Implement the Recommendations made by SEOM in the Report of the First and Second Rounds of the 2018 Presidential Elections, the Legislative Elections of 2019 and the Presidential Elections of 2023. The implementation of those Recommendations will improve the electoral process in Madagascar. **(SEOM)**	Government and CENI
	Continue actions targeting legal and major electoral reforms to increase the level of citizen participation. **(ECF-SADC)**	CSOs, Political Parties, Government in consultation with CENI
Voter Registration and Education	Pursue the reinforcement of civic and voter education sensitization in collaboration with the civil society organizations. **(AUEOM)**	CENI
	Mobilise the voters to turnout massively to vote on election days. **(AUEOM)**	Political Parties
	Reinforce civic and voter education sensitization campaigns to improve the participation of youth and women in elections. **(AUEOM)**	CENI

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
	Enhance its civic and voter education in a timely manner to ensure that the electorate fully understand electoral procedures. **(SEOM)**	CENI
Election Administration	Further endow the Independent National Electoral Commission **(CENI)** with sufficient means to enable it to fulfil its missions. **(AUEOM)**	Government of Madagascar
	Prioritize the effective operationalization of all the institutions linked to the electoral process in conformity with the respective laws. **(AUEOM)**	Government of Madagascar
	Proceed with the codification of the texts relating to the electoral process to render them more accessible. **(AUEOM)**	CENI
	Implement past and present recommendations made by the SEOM which would enhance the quality of the electoral systems in Madagascar. **(SEOM)**	CENI
	Continue to accompany the Republic of Madagascar in her efforts targeting the consolidation of peace and democracy. **(AUEOM)**	AU & the International Community
Promotion of Media Freedom	Expedite the operationalisation of the National Authority for the Regulation of Media Communication to ensure equal coverage of political parties and candidates by the public media. **(SEOM)**	Government
Results Management	Maintain calm during the process of compilation of the results and to resort to legal means in the case of any eventual contestation. **(AUEOM)**	Political Parties & Supporters
	Consider factoring the need to expeditiously transport ballot papers to the collection centres and the use of technology. **(SEOM)**	CENI

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
Fundamental Freedoms and Inclusion	Ensure that Polling stations are accessible to persons with disabilities, the aged and pregnant women through the provision of access ramps. **(AUEOM)**	CENI
	Propose law projects encouraging the participation of women and youth in elective political positions. **(AUEOM)**	Political Parties & Candidates
	Further mobilize the voters to turnout massively to vote on election days. **(AUEOM)**	Candidates
	Reinforce fundamentally, civic and voter education sensitization campaigns to improve the participation of youth and women in elections. **(AUEOM)**	CSOs
	Promote female and youth candidatures in the electoral process with the framework of promoting participative and inclusive democracy. **(AUEOM)**	Political Parties & Candidates
	Improve the social, cultural and political environment to enhance the participation and inclusion of female candidates in the political process, and to increase the representation of women in elected offices in line with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. **(SEOM)**	Government & Political parties
	In line with Article 4.1.1 of the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2021), which encourages full participation of all citizens in democratic and development processes, the Government and Political stakeholders are urged to develop policies that will create a more conducive environment to facilitate full participation of youth in politics and electoral processes. **(SEOM)**	Government & Political parties

Mozambique
Presidential and Legislative Elections
9 October 2024

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
Amendment and enactment of laws	Electoral laws should be amended in good time to allow stakeholders to familiarise themselves with the amended laws. There should be consideration for harmonisation of electoral laws where pieces of legislation are put together. **(ECF-SADC)**	Parliament
	Future amendments to the electoral framework should be introduced well in advance of election day to allow adequate time for implementation and voter education. **(ACG-EOM)**	Parliament
	Ensure that electoral law reforms are enacted early in the electoral cycle in order to avoid the introduction of electoral reforms close to the election periods. **(SEOM)**	The Government and Parliament
	Publish electoral law amendments well in advance of election day to prevent mix-up. Late Electoral Law Changes/Amendments, published less than seven weeks before election day, caused wrong perceptions over dispute resolution. **(IEOM)**	The Government and Parliament
	Consider timely passing of electoral amendments to allow sufficient time for implementation and the sensitisation of the relevant stakeholders. **(AUEOM)**	The Government and Parliament
Voter Registration and Education	There is need for an external auditing process of the biometric voter registration process. It is also noted that biometric registration is being undertaken without data protection law and it is recommended that such a law be enacted. Creation of a dedicated funding stream for voter education should be considered. **(COG)**	The Government and Parliament

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
	Consider early enactment of electoral laws. Several amendments to the legal framework were introduced within two months of the election, contrary to international good practice, including the ACDEG. The late enactment of electoral laws causes suspicion and left little time for voter education. **(COG)**	The Government and Parliament
	A comprehensive voter education strategy should be developed, with a focus on reaching rural populations, persons with disabilities, and IDPs. Greater collaboration with civil society and international partners is recommended to strengthen these efforts. **(ACG-EOM)**	EMB-CNE
	Accuracy of the voters' roll. Voter Registration Concerns especially inflated voter rolls which exceeded population estimates, particularly in FRELIMO strongholds. Consider a permanent voter register to maintain updated voter information during election years and allow voters to confirm their registration ahead of election day to ensure their names are correctly listed. **(IEOM)**	EMB-CNE
	Consider implementing a continuous model of voter registration that is linked to the civil register. Evolve the voter registration model to minimise recurring costs. **(AUEOM)**	EMB-CNE
	Accuracy of the voters' roll. In several provinces the voter register reflected a higher number of voters than the overall voting age population derived from the national census. **(EUEOM)**	EMB-CNE

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
Transparency of Electoral Processes	Continue to explore mechanisms for strengthening transparency and accountability across all spheres of election administration such as procurement recruitment of personnel and management of election results. **(AU EOM)**	
	Composition of the electoral body and the administration of previous elections have been raised as concerns by multiple stakeholders, with the body perceived to be political in its decision-making. **(COG)**	
	Strengthening Independent Institutions and Combatting Misuse of State Resources, including strengthening CNE budgetary independence by ensuring direct and timely access to approved election funds and avoiding government control over election finances. Enforce prohibitions on state resource misuse to ensure governing authorities do not exploit public assets or mobilise civil servants for political campaigns. **(IEOM)**	
Election Administration	Revisit the composition of the Electoral Management Body (EMB) in order to professionalise these critical electoral institutions on the basis of non-partisanship, whilst retaining the inclusion of Civil Society Organisations **(SEOM)**	Government of Mozambique
	The budget for the election body CNE should be timeously approved and disbursed in line with the electoral cycle. It is advisable that the government adequately funds the election management body in order for it to deliver credible and legitimate elections. **(ECF-SADC)**	Government of Mozambique

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
	Efforts should be made to address logistical challenges, particularly in rural and remote areas. There is a need to invest in better infrastructure for the timely delivery of materials and the transmission of results. **(ACG)**	CNE and STAE
	Improve the training of Polling Station Members considering changes to the Electoral Law. **(CPLP MOE)**	EMB-CNE
	Ensure timely accreditation for party agents and citizen observers to guarantee access to polling centres and prevent intimidation, in line with international human rights standards. **(AU EOM)**	
Results Management	Ensure the verification of correspondence between the number of votes cast in the ballot box and the number of ballots registered on the voter lists; speed up the tabulation of results at each assembly; accelerate the calculation of results at national level; ensure the proper and timely publication of results, possibly using digital media, at all levels, from the assembly to the national level. **(CPLP MOE)**	EMB-CNE
	Transparency in Results as there is limited transparency in result collation and publication risks undermining credibility. **(IEOM)**	EMB-CNE
	Defer to legal process to address any disputes that may arise. In case of disputes arising, the mission implores stakeholders to follow the laid-out mechanisms and procedures. **(AUEOM)**	Political Parties, candidates and electoral stakeholders

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
	The Mission noted that late electoral law changes, published less than seven weeks before election day, caused confusion over dispute resolution. **(IEOM)**	The Government and Parliament
	In the event of any electoral disputes, the Mission appeals to all contestants to channel their concerns through established legal procedures and processes. **(SEOM)**	Political parties & all electoral contestants
	If any disputes do arise, we would also encourage candidates in these elections to allow the rule of law to prevail. **(COG)**	Political parties & all electoral contestants
Fundamental Freedoms & Inclusion	Improve the accessibility of polling stations for persons with disabilities and the elderly. Political parties urged to support female candidates to stand for leadership positions and adhere to gender quotas. **(AUEOM)**	EMB-CNE
	Promote inclusive elections practices that encourage the participation of vulnerable groups. Increase the role of women and underrepresented groups in leadership and campaigning by encouraging political parties to develop internal democratic processes. **(IEOM)**	Political Parties, EMB-CNE
	Political parties that have not done so are urged to adopt the "Zebra list" system for party lists in order to ensure 50-50 gender parity for purposes of elections at all levels. The EMBs are urged to engage both central and local government authorities to ensure that all polling stations and voting stations are accessible to people living with disabilities. The EMBs are urged to engage both central and local government authorities to ensure that all polling stations and voting stations are accessible to people living with disabilities. **(SEOM)**	Political Parties

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Botswana
General Elections 30 October 2024

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
Amendment and enactment of laws	Consider announcing the election day well in advance, at least two (2) months before, to give the IEC, political parties, candidates and other stakeholders enough time to prepare for the General Elections. Further, the Government of Botswana to amend the Electoral Act to allow more categories of people to participate in advance voting, including persons with disabilities, the elderly and expectant mothers. **(SEOM)**	Parliament of Botswana
	Revisit the constitutional review process should ensure citizen views on electoral reforms are addressed. **(AUEOM)**	Parliament of Botswana
	Ratify the 2007 African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the 2003 Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, Relating to the Rights of Women (Maputo Protocol) and the 2006 African Youth Charter. **(AUEOM)**	Parliament of Botswana
	Adopt the Political Parties Act to regulate the conduct of political parties before, during and after elections. Having the Act could also address political party funding and financing. **(AUEOM)**	Parliament of Botswana
	Promulgate the laws to govern the registration, funding and regulation of political parties in Botswana. **(ECF-SADC)**	Parliament of Botswana
	Complete the constitutional review process and relevant legislative reforms and provision of state funding for political parties. **(ACG-EOM)**	Parliament of Botswana

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
Voter Registration and Education	Amend the Electoral Act to introduce continuous voters' registration and permanent electoral roll; and amend the Electoral Act to obligate the IEC to make both hard and electronic copies of the electoral roll available for inspection and verification by stakeholders. **(SEOM)**.	Parliament of Botswana
	Amend the country's Electoral Law to obligate the IEC to provide voter education during and after electoral periods, taking into consideration persons with disabilities. **(SEOM)**	Parliament of Botswana
	Introduce technology for some aspects of voter registration and verification process to reduce double registration. **(AUEOM)**	IEC of Botswana
	Strengthen the voter education programmes. Use of innovative technology by IEC during the voter registration and verification exercise must be encouraged. **(ECF-SADC)**	IEC of Botswana
Transparency of Electoral Processes	Amend the Electoral Act to include display of voters roll outside polling stations; use of transparent ballot boxes during voting; counting of votes at polling stations; and publication of provisional results at Polling Stations. **(SEOM)**	Parliament of Botswana
	Avail electronic copies of the voters' roll to political parties in a timely manner for auditing and to improve credibility in the electoral process. **(AUEOM)**	Botswana IEC
	Engage political parties and stakeholders to establish consensus on measures to enhance transparency in the management of elections in particular the printing, storage and transportation of ballot papers. **(ECF-SADC)**	Botswana IEC

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
	Increase public trust in the process and the Commission, consider improving the administration of advance voting. **(ZESN – ESN-SA)**	IEC
	Empower CSOs to engage in the electoral process meaningfully, especially as domestic observers. This can strengthen democratic processes, promote transparency, and ensure inclusive representation. **(ZESN -ESN-SA)**	Government of Botswana
	Consider the use of translucent boxes, as this practice enhances transparency in the voting process. **(ZESN –ESN-SA)**	IEC of Botswana
Election Administration	Ensure that the IEC is independent, impartial, professional, inclusive, accountable and staffed by eminent, non-partisan and capable commissioners, and efficient and professional personnel per Section 5.1.3 of the Revised SADC Principles and Guideline **(SEOM)**	Government of Botswana
	Plan and implement deliberate measures to ensure the availability of voting materials during advance voting both locally and in the diaspora **(SEOM)**	IEC of Botswana
	Prioritise timely release and sharing of the election activities road map (election calendar) and related materials and information (e.g. Voters Roll). On appointment of Commissioners for IEC Botswana, there is need to ensure continuity by including staggered appointment of commissioners and their appointment and dismissal procedures should be clearly articulated with processes that are impartial, accountable and transparent. **(ECF-SADC)**	IEC of Botswana

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
Results Management	Amend the Electoral Act to include counting of voted at the polling station and publication of provisional results at Polling Stations. **(SEOM)**	Parliament of Botswana
	Consider counting of votes at polling station level, and results should be posted to the polling stations as a best practice. This will increase the transparency of the process and electoral integrity. **(ZESN -ESN-SA)**	IEC
	Enact laws that provide for ballot counting at polling stations to uphold the principles of transparency and security of the ballots. **(AUEOM)**	Government of Botswana & Parliament
Fundamental Freedoms and Inclusion	Political parties in Botswana to encourage women's participation in politics and decision-making positions. The Mission urges the Government of Botswana to consider ratifying the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. Further, they should adopt policies to enhance youth representation in political party structures and participation in elections. Political parties should also promote policies of inclusion of persons with disabilities in politics. **(SEOM)**	Political parties
	Adopt affirmative action measures aimed at increasing participation of women, youth and PWDs in elective positions. Political parties should adopt affirmative action measures including a review of nomination requirements and introduction of quotas to enhance women's representation in elective positions. **(AUEOM)**	Government and Parliament of Botswana
	Develop strong legal and administrative mechanisms to encourage and support the adoption of women as candidates to ensure gender parity in political and decision-making positions in line with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. **(ECF-SADC)**	Government and Parliament of Botswana

Mauritius
General Elections 10 November 2024

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
Amendment and enactment of laws	Amend the electoral law to include the counting of votes and publication of provisional results at the Polling Stations. **(SEOM)**	Parliament in Consultation with ESC
	Develop and introduce a Political Party Funding Framework to regulate funding of political parties and candidates. **(ECF-SADC)**	Parliament in Consultation with ESC & Political Parties
	Introducing some legislative framework to promote participation of women in electoral matters. **(ECF-SADC)**	Parliament in consultation with Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare and Political parties
	Enacting legislation that establishes an Independent Election Management Body comprising Commissioners and Secretariat (including CEO) responsible for organizing and supervising elections. **(ECF-SADC)**	Government, Parliament, ESC and EBC
	Enact legislation that proposes election date or the timeous proclamation of election date to allow effective implementation of the electoral calendar **(ECF-SADC)**	Parliament
	Enact Legislation that institutes same day counting at polling stations in line with international best practices. **(ECF-SADC)**	Parliament
	Adopt the Political Parties Act to regulate the conduct of political parties before, during and after elections. **(AUEOM)**	Parliament
	Ratify the African Charter for Democracy, Elections and Governance. (ACDEG) **(AUEOM)**	Government and Parliament
	Strengthen the Political Party Finance Act to allow the monitoring of campaign funding to create a level playing field. **(AUEOM)**	Parliament

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
	Enact laws to provide for ballot counting at polling centres immediately after voting to uphold the principles of transparency and security of the ballots. **(AUEOM)**	Parliament
Voter Registration and Educations	Adoption of new electoral innovations to complement door-to door initiatives in voter registration. **(ECF-SADC)**	Parliament/ ESC
	Voter education must be strengthened to ensure the effective participation of the Mauritian electorate in the electoral process. **(SEOM)**	ESC
	Voter education should be strengthened to, among others, deal with prohibited conduct such as undue influence on voters. **(ECF-SADC)**	ESC
Results Management	Counting of ballots must be done at polling stations in line with the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections. **(SEOM)**	Parliament and ESC
Fundamental Freedoms and Inclusion	A concerted effort should be made to encourage women to stand as political candidate.s **(SEOM)**	Government & electoral Stakeholders
	The government should consider constitutional or legal quotas to increase the participation of women in line with the African Union Charter on Human and People's Right on the Rights of Women in Africa of 2003. **(AUEOM)**	Government
	The need to have statistics and strategies to facilitate participation of the marginalised groups including persons with disability in electoral processes. **(ECF-SADC)**	ESC

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICTs)	Adopt information communication technology in the registration, capturing, management and dissemination of electoral data and information to improve the efficiency of the electoral process. **(SEOM)**	ESC
Administrative Framework (Work of EMB)	Regular stakeholder engagements across all sectors to promote inclusive elections and an atmosphere of confidence between the Electoral Commissioners office and its stakeholders. **(ECF-SADC)**	ESC
	Strengthen and implement an engagement strategy with electoral stakeholders. **(ECF-SADC)**	ESC
	Implement strategies and initiatives by the Office of Electoral Commissioner to collaborate with media platforms in curbing the spread of misinformation, disinformation and misinformation as well as the growing abuse of social media. **(ECF-SADC)**	ESC
	Introduce the use of indelible ink to guard against multiple voting. **(ECF-SADC)**	ESC
Media	Consideration for an independent review of the media regulatory framework to address shortcomings including adoption of an enforceable media code of conduct. **(ECF-SADC)**	Parliament
Role of Civil Society	Promote involvement of civil society organizations in electoral matters, and domestic election observation Missions. **(ECF-SADC)**	Parliament
Special Vote	Consideration for advance voting as opposed to proxy voting. The advance voting is to be extended to other categories of voters such as polling staff and other essential services. **(ECF-SADC)**	Parliament

Namibia
Presidential Elections 27-29 November 2024

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
Amendment and Enactment of Laws	Consider reforming its electoral system as the current system where the country is perceived as one constituency, allowing voters to vote in any constituency irrespective of where they are registered creates logistical and administrative challenges such as shortage of ballot papers in some polling stations. **(SEOM)**	ECN/ Parliament
	Review electoral law to introduce polling station-based voting to reduce the logistical challenges experienced by the Commission, including enhancing proper planning. **(ECF-SADC)**	ECN/ Parliament
	There is a need to consider improving the electoral system by establishing a polling station-based registration and voting system. This would enhance the ability of the ECN to predict the possible turnout at each polling station and thus provide adequate sensitive and non-sensitive polling materials for each polling station. **(ZESN-ESN-SA EOM)**	ECN/ Parliament
	Enactment of data protection law to guide ECN Policy framework on cyber security, access to information and data protection. **(ECF-SADC)**	Ministry of Information and Communication Technology
	Consider enacting a legislation that provides for when the results should be announced; **(AUEOM)**	Parliament in Consultation with ECN
	Undertake comprehensive electoral reforms to address gaps in campaign finance regulation, transparency, and accountability as stipulated under Section 141 of the Electoral Act. **(ACG-EOM)**	Parliament in Consultation with ECN

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
Voter Registration and Education	Review and revise the operational processes of voter registration and polling to address challenges identified, such as shortages of voting materials and malfunctioning Electronic Voter Verification Machine **(EVVMs)**, in line with the Electoral Act No. 5 of 2014, Section 9(1)(b), which mandates the ECN to ensure smooth and credible electoral operations. **(ACG-EOM)**	ECN
	Implement extensive voter education campaigns as per Section 49(2) of the Electoral Act, focusing on polling and counting procedures, proper documentation for voting, and the role of EVVMs to reduce errors and frustrations on election day. **(ACG-EOM)**	ECN
	Introduce a system to register voters to specific polling stations and publicly display the voters' roll in advance, as per Section 26 of the Electoral Act, to streamline voting and improve accountability. **(ACG-EOM)**	ECN/Parliament
Transparency of Electoral Processes	To rebuild stakeholder confidence, the Electoral Commission of Namibia **(ECN)** should conduct a post-election stakeholder review to address concerns raised during the electoral process. Recommendations from this review should be implemented to prevent recurrence. Furthermore, capacity-building workshops and periodic stakeholder engagement sessions can enhance mutual understanding and trust in the ECN's processes. **(SEOM)**	ECN and Electoral Stakeholders
	Consider drawing up a rotation plan for party and candidates' agents deployed at polling stations to enhance credibility and transparency of the election day processes. **(AUEOM)**	ECN

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
Election Administration	Consider establishing clear guidelines for engaging stakeholders, ensuring timely and transparent communication, particularly when making significant decisions such as changing counting venues or extending voting periods. Regular briefings or consultations with all stakeholders, including political parties, civil society organisations, and observers, should be institutionalised to maintain trust and credibility. **(SEOM)**	ECN
	Consider adopting a robust ballot paper management strategy to prevent shortages. This includes accurate voter registration data, contingency plans for unexpected surges, and periodic audits of ballot paper distribution. In cases of shortages, all stakeholders must be promptly informed and consulted to maintain transparency and accountability. **(SEOM)**	ECN
	There is a need to create a formal crisis management framework to address emergencies, such as ballot shortages or extending voting days. This framework should outline procedures for stakeholder consultation, decision-making timelines, and communication strategies to ensure all affected parties are informed and involved. **(SEOM)**	ECN
	Limit the number of voters per polling station by considering the use of a polling station segmented voters register; Provide sufficient polling booths in each polling station to speed up voting; Limit the locating of polling stations to public facilities. Polling stations should also be in places with access to basic amenities such as places of convenience and water. **(AUEOM)**	ECN

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
	Consider increasing the number of polling stations to help reduce long queue lengths outside polling stations. Consider segmenting the voting population into numbers that enable the prediction of quantities of polling materials and human resource person hours required to efficiently execute the voting exercise. **(AUEOM)**	ECN
	Whenever an extension of polling becomes necessary, it should be communicated in a timely and effective manner. **(AUEOM)**	ECN
	Review electoral logistics and operations strategy to ensure the timely deployment of materials and adequate training of staff to ensure uniform application of polling procedures. **(AUEOM)**	ECN
	There is a need to improve the timely and adequate distribution of election materials to polling stations. There is a need to devise a strategy to manage unpredictable voting numbers since the country is treated as one constituency during polling day. **(ECF-SADC)**	ECN
	There is a need for consistency in the administration of some of the election processes at polling stations such as the number of polling booths to use at the polling stations. **(ECF-SADC)**	ECN
	Ensure that spare voter verification devices and ultra-violet light detection machines are available to replace those that may malfunction on election day. The ECN needs to re-evaluate the adequacy of polling stations and booths in areas with a high density of voters. **(ZESN-ESN-SA EOM)**	ECN
	Establish contingency mechanisms to prevent material shortages and voting delays. **(ACG-EOM)**	ECN

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
Promotion of Media Freedom	The need to have strategies to mitigate misinformation and disinformation and building partnerships with the mainstream media and social media platforms. **(ECF-SADC)**	ECN in partnership with stakeholders in the media industry (Media Ombudsman, Fact Checkers)
	There is a need for political parties and their candidates to fully utilise available media platforms to canvass for votes and to educate voters on the issues that their parties and candidates stand for. (ZESN-ESN EOM).	Political parties
Results Management	Consider enacting a legislation that provides for when the results should be announced; **(AUEOM)**	Parliament in consultation with ECN
	The need to enact legislation that specifically outline the reasonable time frame for results announcement and not leave the matter at the discretion of ECN **(ECF-SADC)**	Parliament/Judiciary in consultation with ECN
	Amend the Electoral Act to provide for the special votes to be counted and tallied together with votes cast on the election day; **(AUEOM)**	Parliament
Election Dispute Resolution	The need to enact legislation regarding the management of the court cases for concluding election related cases. **(ECF-SADC)**	Parliament/Judiciary in consultation with ECN
	Channel any arising electoral disputes through legally instituted mechanisms. **(AUEOM)**	Political Parties/Electoral Stakeholders
	Utilize inter-party liaison committees for proactive conflict resolution and dialogue as stipulated in the Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2021). **(ACG-EOM)**	Political Parties

Main-Theme	EOM Recommendation	Responsible Implementing Body
Fundamental Freedoms and Inclusion	Political parties to adopt women-friendly policies and practises in efforts to break down barriers that make it difficult for women to contest internal party elections and national elections. **(AUEOM)**	Political Parties
	Commit to enhancing women's representation by actively promoting female candidates and leaders, in line with the Constitution of Namibia, Article 95(a), which encourages the promotion of gender equality. **(ACG-EOM)**	Political Parties
	To provide accessible facilities to facilitate voting by persons with disabilities. **(ECF-SADC)**	ECN
	Improve accessibility at polling stations for persons with disabilities and elderly voters, aligning with Namibia's commitment to inclusive electoral participation as per Article 10 of the Constitution of Namibia on equality and non-discrimination. **(ACG-EOM)**	ECN

www.esn-sa.org

Tel: +263 242 250736, 791443, 798193, 791803

Cell: +263 712 415 902

Email: sadcesn@gmail.com

@esn_sa

Electoral Support Network
of Southern Africa

@ESN-SA

ESN-SA
ELECTORAL SUPPORT NETWORK OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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