



I- INTRODUCTION

1. By presidential decree issued on Friday 16 December 2022, **His Excellency General Umaro Sissoco Embaló**, President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau and Chair of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, called for the legislative elections to be held on Sunday 4 June 2023.
2. Pursuant to Article 12 and other relevant provisions of the 2001 Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, and other relevant regional and international instruments, the President of the ECOWAS Commission, **His Excellency Omar Alieu Touray**, deployed an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to Guinea Bissau, led by the former President of the Republic of Cabo Verde, **His Excellency Jorge Carlos Fonseca**, and the former President of the ECOWAS Court of Justice, Mediator of the Togolese Republic, **Her Excellency Awa Amadou Aboudou Nana**, Deputy Head of Mission, and supported by the ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Ambassador **Abdel-Fatau Musah** and the ECOWAS Resident Representative to Guinea Bissau, Professor **Hamidou Boly**.
3. The main objective of the Mission is to monitor all stages of the electoral process and to support the institutions and other stakeholders involved in the elections in their efforts to ensure free, transparent and peaceful elections. The Election Observation Mission comprises 13 experts in election-related matters, audit of voters' register, security and legal issues, as well as conflict prevention, and 62 observers, including representatives of Member States accredited to the ECOWAS Commission, representatives of Electoral Commissions and Member States' Ministries of Foreign Affairs, representatives of the ECOWAS Parliament, the Court of Justice and the Council of the Wise, members of civil society, as well as a technical team from the ECOWAS Commission.



II- GENERAL CONTEXT OF THE ELECTIONS

4. Twenty-two (22) political parties and coalitions of political parties took part in the elections.
5. Overall, the stakes are high for the elections to the new legislative term for the period 2023-2027, as they will, on the one hand, restore constitutional legality and, on the other, clarify the country's political landscape and ensure its stabilisation.
6. Furthermore, it is important to recall that these elections have been organised following the 10 March 2019 elections, after which Guinea-Bissau experienced a tense socio-political situation that led to the dissolution of the People's National Assembly (ANP) by the President of the Republic on 16 May 2022.
7. The legislative elections were also held in an economic context where cashew nut producers experienced a crisis in the cashew nut market (the failure of the cashew nut marketing campaign), which is an important source of income for rural producers and for the country.
8. It is in this socio-political and economic context, coupled with the impact of managing COVID-19 and the worrisome international relations that the Technical Support Office for the Electoral Process (GTAPE), in application of Law 10 / 2013 of 25 September 2013 governing the Electoral Law for election to the Office of President of the Republic and to the People's National Assembly, Law N° 11/2013 of 25 September 2013 on the Electoral Census and Law N° 12 / 2013 of 27 December 2013 on the National Electoral Commission, transmitted the finalised voters' register to the National Electoral Commission (CNE) before the deadline of 4 May 2023 as stipulated in the electoral law.
9. A total of 893,618 voters (434,009 male voters and 459,609 female voters), including 35,816 (22,181 men and 13,635 women) from the diaspora, were enrolled on the voters' register to take part in the elections.



These voters were distributed among 3,516 polling units nationwide. The polling units are made up of (approximately) 400 voters per unit.

10. Furthermore, to accompany the electoral process, ECOWAS deployed a pre-electoral fact-finding mission to Guinea-Bissau from 24 to 30 April 2023, led by the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security. The purpose of the mission was to gather information and update the President of the Commission on the state of preparations for the elections and the pre-electoral socio-political situation in Guinea-Bissau ahead of 4 June 2023. Following the mission, three experts were placed at the disposal of the National Electoral Commission (CNE) from 17 May to 11 June 2023.
11. Similarly, ECOWAS has kept its promise to cover the unpaid bills for the last legislative elections owed to election officials, which amounted to \$60,000, and the amount for the current elections (\$60,000) to be paid to election officials to avoid any boycott of the elections by the officials. This totalled \$120,000.
12. In addition, ECOWAS provided financial support of \$500,000 to CNE to ensure the proper conduct of electoral operations and \$92,000 to the ECOWAS Stabilisation Force to secure the electoral process. All in all, ECOWAS provided \$712,000 in financial support for the electoral process. With regard to electoral technical assistance, ECOWAS provided GTAPE and CNE with experts in the audit of voters' register, election matters and electoral operations.
13. In the discharge of his mandate, the Head of the Electoral Mission and his entourage paid a courtesy call on His Excellency, General Umaro Sissoco Embaló, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior, the Chairman of CNE and the Commander of the Joint Command for the Security of Elections. The Head of the Electoral Mission also held working sessions with the election management bodies, the Chief of Defence Staff, the Heads of Mission of the African Union (AU), the Organisation Internationale de la

