



ECOWAS COMMISSION  
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO  
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO



**JOINT PRESS STATEMENT BY THE ECOWAS COMMISSION AND THE AFRICAN UNION**  
**COMMISSION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS TO THE 2023 GENERAL**  
**ELECTIONS IN SIERRA LEONE**

The Elections Observation Missions of the ECOWAS and the African Union are concerned about incidents of violence and intimidation in some parts of the country ahead of the 24 June 2023 General Elections, noting that such incidents have the potential to mar the peaceful conduct of the elections.

In order to preserve the peace and stability of Sierra Leone before, during and after the elections, the ECOWAS and AU Missions state as follows: political parties, candidates and their supporters should be guided by the spirit of consensus building based on the rule of law and adhere to the political parties code of conduct; the security forces must remain apolitical and maintain professionalism in the discharge of their duties towards all citizens cognizant of the rights of all under the constitution of the Sierra Leone; the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone must continue to remain impartial in the execution of its mandate, in the greater interest of all Sierra Leoneans; and citizens and civil society groups must continue the pursuit of initiatives aimed at promoting peaceful elections and national cohesion.

The two Missions will continue to avail their good offices to all stakeholders in the elections in a bid to ensure that the elections are conducted in conformity with national, regional and international standards.

**Done, 22 June 2023**  
**Freetown – Sierra Leone**

**Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas,**  
Former Special Representative of the UN  
Secretary General to West Africa and the  
Sahel and Head of ECOWAS Observation  
Mission

**H.E. Hailemariam Desalegne Boshe**  
Former Prime Minister of the Federal  
Republic of Ethiopia and Head of AU  
Observation Mission