

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي

UMOJA WA AFRICA



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

UNIÓN AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321

Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1288TH MEETING

4 JULY 2025
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/RPT.1288 (2025)

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION
TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
ON ELECTIONS IN AFRICA FOR THE PERIOD OF
JANUARY - JUNE 2025

TABLE OF CONTENT

ABBREVIATION / ACRONYMS 2

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 3

II. INTRODUCTION 5

III. REVIEW OF ELECTIONS CONDUCTED BETWEEN JANUARY AND JUNE 2025..... 6

Graph 1: AU Elections Map - First Half 2025 6

Graph 2: AUEOMs Gender Graph - First Half 2025..... 7

A. UNION OF THE COMOROS (East Africa)..... 7

Table and Graph 3: Final results of the 2025 Deputies and Municipal Councillors Elections in the Union of the Comoros..... 8

B. GABONESE REPUBLIC (Central Africa) 8

Table and Graph 4: Final results of the 2025 Presidential Election in the Gabonese Republic... 9

C. REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI (Central Africa) 10

Table and Graph 5: Provisional results of 2025 Legislative Elections in the Republic of Burundi 11

IV. AU ELECTORAL AND DEMOCRATIC ASSISTANCE 11

V. GLOBAL ROLE OF AUEOMs 12

VI. ENHANCED CAPACITY BUILDING OF AUEOMs..... 12

VII. COMMENDABLE PRACTICES IN AFRICA’S DEMOCRATIC TRAJECTORY 13

VIII. OVERVIEW OF GOVERNANCE TRENDS 14

IX. SNAPSHOT OF UPCOMING ELECTIONS: JULY – DECEMBER 2025..... 14

Table 6: Upcoming elections from July to December 2025 14

X. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS..... 17

XI. CONCLUSION 17

XII. ANNEX: AU PROVISIONAL MAP CALENDAR OF ELECTIONS IN 2025..... 18

ABBREVIATION / ACRONYMS

AAEA	African Association of Electoral Authorities
ACDEG	African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance
AU	African Union
AU PAPS	African Union Political Affairs, Peace and Security
AUC	African Union Commission
AUEOM	African Union Election Observation Mission
CC	Constitutional Court
CENI	Commission Électorale Nationale Indépendante (INEC: Independent National Electoral Commission)
CCT	Constitutional Court of the Transition
CRC	Convention for the Renewal of the Comoros
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CTRI	Committee for the Transition and the Restoration of Institutions
DEU	Democracy and Elections Unit
DPAPS	Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security
DRCE	Democratic Rally of the Comoros for Equality
EC	Electoral Code
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EISA	Electoral Institute for Sustainable democracy in Africa
EMBs	Election Management Bodies
EOM	Electoral Observer Mission
GCPD	Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPs	Members of the Parliament
MS	Member State
NAM	Need Assessment Mission
NCDD - FDD	National Council for the Defense of Democracy - Forces for the Defense of Democracy
OAU/AU	Organization of African Unity/African Union
OPDs	Organizations of Persons with Disabilities
PAIR	Party for Institutional Reform
PAM	Pre-Election Assessment Mission
PAP	Pan African Parliament
PCNS	Policy Center for the New South
PoW	Panel of the Wise
PSC	Peace and Security Council
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
STO	Short Term Observer
TFPs	Technical and Financial Partners
UCG	Unconstitutional Changes of Government

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON ELECTIONS IN AFRICA FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY - JUNE 2025

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), His Excellency (H.E.) Mahmoud Ali Youssouf presents his sincere compliments to the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU). The Chairperson has the distinguished honour of presenting to it this biannual report on elections held on the continent between January and June 2025.

By the requirements relating to the functioning of our continental Organisation in this area, the AUC Chairperson informs the PSC that during this period, it deployed three (3) Electoral Observation Missions to the following Member States (MSs): the Union of the Comoros, the Gabonese Republic, and the Republic of Burundi. Also, there were five (5) Pre-electoral Assessment Missions (PAMs) respectively to the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and the United Republic of Tanzania. In addition, the PAMs also had a technical needs assessment component to strengthen the capacities of national Election Management Bodies (EMBs).

The AUC Chairperson commends the efforts made by Governments, EMBs, candidates, political parties and coalitions, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), other internal and external electoral observation missions, Members of the African Diplomatic Corps accredited in the Member States and Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) met on the ground for their excellent cooperation enabling successful carrying out of AU Missions in the States under review.

The Chairperson notes with satisfaction the political maturity of voters for their peaceful participation in the electoral processes, and the rejection of hate speech and violence in the political field. The Chairperson congratulates, in particular, the Gabonese Republic for the return to constitutional order through the election of the President of the Republic by universal suffrage, paving the way for the end of the political transition. To complete this process, the Chairperson hopes for the peaceful holding of upcoming legislative and local elections in this Member State to close the electoral timeline aimed at the full return to constitutional order.

In addition, technical assistance, capacity building, and exchange of experiences at the continental level were held, including:

- i. the ninth (9th) edition of the Continental Annual EMBs Forum and the African Association of Electoral Authorities (AAEA) General Assembly, held from March 12 to 14, 2025 in Accra in the Republic of Ghana, bringing together the EMBs of Africa who exchanged on experiences and lessons to mutually strengthen their capacities in collaboration with the AU, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Election Networks and Partners;
- ii. The fourth (4th) Training Cycle for Short-Term Election Observers (STOs) from April 22 to 25, 2025, held in the Kingdom of Morocco, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Moroccans Abroad, co-organised since 2022 by the Kingdom of Morocco and the AUC. The Second (2nd) Dialogue-Seminar on Elections and Democracy in Africa was also jointly held at the Policy Center for the New South (PCNS) of the Mohamed VI Polytechnic University of Rabat on the sidelines of this training.

This Report constitutes a breviary of lessons learned. It reflects the results of the elections during this review period on the activities and missions carried out and submit for the consideration of the PSC

as one of the significant operating organs of the African Union. It also shares aspects of the electoral timelines and feedback from the AU Missions, given the elections scheduled in other Member States during second half of 2025.

The following recommendations are presented for due consideration by the PSC:

- i. Prioritize the culture of dialogue and inclusive consensus to prevent conflicts or crises, particularly from the perspective of good governance and credible elections;
- ii. Promote inclusive electoral processes and consolidate reforms in all pre-election, electoral, and post-election phases;
- iii. Maintain equality among candidates, parties, and coalitions in the running and renounce hate speech and violence in the political arena;
- iv. Continuously strengthen the resources and capacities of EMBs in all circumstances to better succeed in their mandates;
- v. Continue to ensure state self-funding for elections to preserve optimal conditions for the national ownership and sovereignty of Member States;
- vi. Promote the pluralist rule of law, social justice, peace, and security, and the greater participation of women and the youth in AU Missions and among candidates running for elected and semi-elected positions;
- vii. Continue perpetuating equal access to public media among the various protagonists running for elections;
- viii. Systematise the development of access ramps in all polling stations and prioritise the elderly and those living with disabilities or reduced mobility to promote inclusive participatory democracy; and
- ix. Encourage the increased participation of local observers and continue to strengthen AU cooperation on the ground with other RECs and accredited international organisations.

II. INTRODUCTION

1. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssof, deployed three (3) African Union Election Observation Missions (AUEOMs) to the Union of the Comoros, the Gabonese Republic, and the Republic of Burundi during the first half of 2025.

2. The African Union election-related mandate is derived from Article 3 (g)¹ of the OAU/AU Constitutive Act; the Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa (2002); the Guidelines for African Union Electoral Observation and Monitoring Missions (2002); the Maputo Protocol (2003); the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG, 2007); the AU Vision 2030 and Aspirations 3 and 4 of Agenda 2063², and the Accra and Malabo Declarations (2022) on Unconstitutional Changes of Government (UCG).

3. The first bi-annual report for 2025 captures efforts made by the African Union in pursuit of its objectives, including the promotion of a democratic culture and practice, and the holding of credible elections in Africa.

4. To complement the deployment of three election observer missions, the African Union Commission also deployed five pre-election assessment missions to the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. In the case of Malawi, Guinea-Bissau, and Côte d'Ivoire, the pre-election assessment missions also incorporated Needs Assessment, intended to locate election technical needs of the Member States, particularly those of the election management bodies.

5. The first half of 2025 also witnessed the hosting of the 9th Edition of the Annual Association of African Election Authorities (AAEA) Forum, which focused on addressing the growing incidence of spoiled/rejected/invalid ballots on the continent. The report also focused on the hosting an Annual Reflection Meeting of the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, and Election Management, in 2025. These two initiatives aimed to enhance the capacity of the election management bodies to contribute to credible elections on the continent.

6. As customary every year, and in partnership with the Kingdom of Morocco, the African Union Commission hosted the fourth Annual Specialised Training of Short-Term Election Observers in Rabat from 22 - 25 April, 2025. This process added one hundred (100) new observers from all regions of the African continent to its ever-growing database of election observers equipped for deployment in future elections. Since its launch in 2022, the AU and the Kingdom of Morocco have trained two hundred fifty (250) STOs within this framework. This contributes immensely to the qualitative success of the AU Missions.

7. On the sidelines of this important event, the Second Dialogue - Seminar on Elections and Democracy in Africa was held at the Policy Center for the New South (PCNS) of the Mohamed VI Polytechnic University, in Rabat. During the Dialogue - Seminar, a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was jointly signed between the PCNS and the AUC by the Executive Chairman of the Moroccan centre and the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security.

¹ Article 3 (g) of the AU Constitutive Act, which tasks the Union to “promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance.”

² Aspirations 3 and 4 respectively envisage an “Africa of good governance, democracy and respect for human rights and rule of law”; and “a peaceful and secure Africa.”

8. The report also acknowledges commendable practices which stood out in electoral processes during the first half of 2025, which present learning opportunities for other Member States if adapted sensitively to the various political contexts.

9. The report is structured into the following sections.

- Review of the elections conducted between January and June 2025;
- AU electoral and democratic assistance;
- Global role of AUEOMs;
- Enhanced capacity building of AUEOMs;
- Commendable practices in Africa's democratic trajectory;
- Overview of governance trends;
- Snapshot of upcoming elections: July – December 2025;
- Policy Recommendations;
- Conclusion;
- Annex: AU provisional map calendar of elections in 2025.

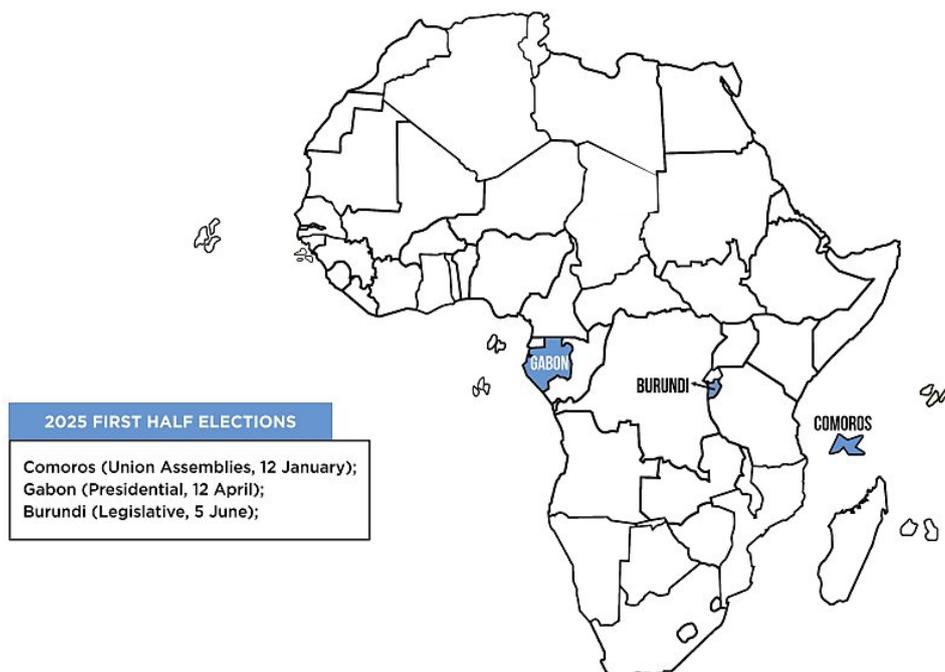
III. REVIEW OF ELECTIONS CONDUCTED BETWEEN JANUARY AND JUNE 2025

10. Within the first six months of 2025, the continent witnessed the holding of three elections: Parliamentary elections in the Union of the Comoros on 12 January 2025, Presidential elections in the Gabonese Republic on 12 April 2025, and Legislative elections in the Republic of Burundi on 5 June 2025.

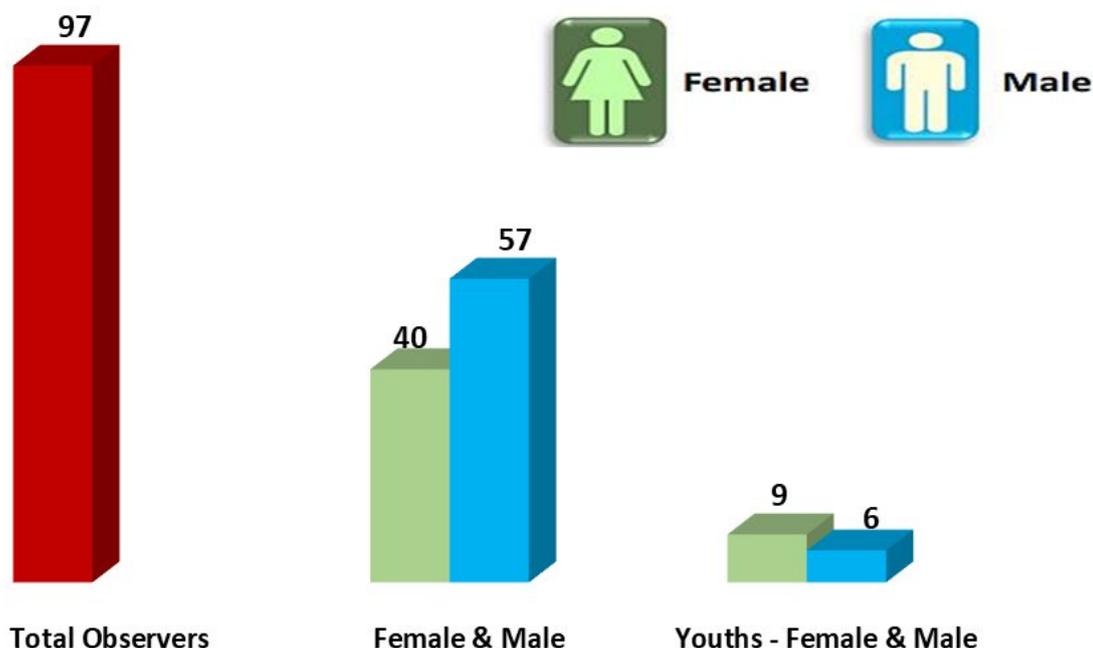
11. The African Union deployed a total of 97 observers. (50 observers) to the Presidential election in the Gabonese Republic, (17 observers) to the Assembly and Legislative elections in the Union of the Comoros and (30 observers) to the Republic of Burundi, in line with the standing methodology.

12. All deployed observers to support election observation and technical assessment missions were drawn from African male, female and youth stakeholder trained in 2024 and 2025.

Graph 1: AU Elections Map – First Half 2025



Graph 2: AUEOMs Gender Graph – First Half 2025



Source Graphs 1 & 2 : AU PAPS / DGCP, DEU

13. In total, the AU deployed ninety-seven (97) STOs during these Election Observation Missions, including forty (40) female observers (41.24%) and fifty-seven (57) male observers (58.76%), of which: nine (9) young women (9.27%) and six (6) young men (6.18%).

A. UNION OF THE COMOROS (East Africa)

14. The Union of the Comoros held its Deputies and Municipal Councillors Elections on January 12, 2025. Three Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred Forty (338 940) voters were called to elect their thirty-three (33) deputies for the new parliamentary legislature. These elections took place by the requirements of Article 2 of Decree 24-163/PR of October 12, 2024, convening the Electoral Body for the said elections, while the related partial polls took place on January 30, 2025 and the second round set for February 16, 2025.

15. An AU technical election observation mission was deployed and coordinated by Ms. Patience Zanelie Chiradza, Director, Governance and Conflict Prevention PAPS Department of the AUC. She was supported by H.E. Ms. Alice Nzomukunda, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission to Madagascar and the Union of the Comoros. It comprised a core team and 17 Short Term Observers (STOs) covering the period from 7 to 15 January 2025.

16. The Mission commended the inclusive dialogue within the framework of Permanent Consultation despite the existing divisions. The elections contributed to the strengthening of the consolidation of the transparency of elections, pluralist democracy, and the rule of law.

Table and Graph 3: Final results of the 2025 Deputies and Municipal Councillors Elections in the Union of the Comoros

No.	Party	Seats	%
1	Convention for the Renewal of the Comoros (CRC)	31	69.60
2	Republican Organization for the Future of New Generations (ORANGE)	0	4.94
3	Party for Institutional Reform (PAIR)	1	4.07
4	Hope of the Comoros (TWAMAYA)	0	1.52
5	Democratic Rally of the Comoros for Equality (DRCE)	0	1.53
6	Party SWAUTI	0	0.43
7	Independent Candidates	1	17.94
Total		33	100
Valid votes		164,163	68.72
Blank and Invalid votes		6,845	2.86
Spoilt votes		67,887	28.42
Total votes		238,895	100
Abstentions		100,045	29.52
Registered voters / Turnout		338,940	70.48

Source: Supreme Court (SC)



Source: AU PAPS / DGCP, DEU

B. GABONESE REPUBLIC (Central Africa)

17 At the invitation of the Government of the Gabonese Republic, the AUC deployed an AUEOM that comprised 50 STOs, including a core team from April 5 to 16, 2025, to observe and report on the presidential election held on April 12, 2025. HE Patrice Emery TROVOADA, former Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, led the AUEOM. The Mission included a preventive diplomacy dimension through the presence of HE Domitien NDAYIZEYE, former President of the Republic of Burundi and Member of the AU Panel of the Wise (PoW).

18 The AUEOM noted that a consensual transition process has been initiated following the 2023 coup d'état. The political agenda published by the Committee for the Transition and the Restoration of Institutions (CTRI) allowed for the holding of an inclusive national dialogue (April 2 - 30, 2024), the adoption of a new Constitution by referendum (November 16, 2024, with 91.80% of votes for "YES"), and the conduct of the presidential election on April 12, 2025.

19 Overall, the AUEOM noted that the election of the President of the Republic on April 12, 2025, took place in a peaceful atmosphere. This demonstrates the political maturity of the Gabonese people.

The President of the Transition, Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema, won the first round of the 2025 presidential election with 94.85% of the votes cast. He was sworn in on May 3, 2025, and took office for a 7-year term as the President of the Gabonese Republic.

20 The first and second rounds of the legislative and local elections are scheduled for September 27 and October 11, 2025, respectively, in Gabon. The AU Commission also plans to deploy an AUEOM for these elections in Gabon.

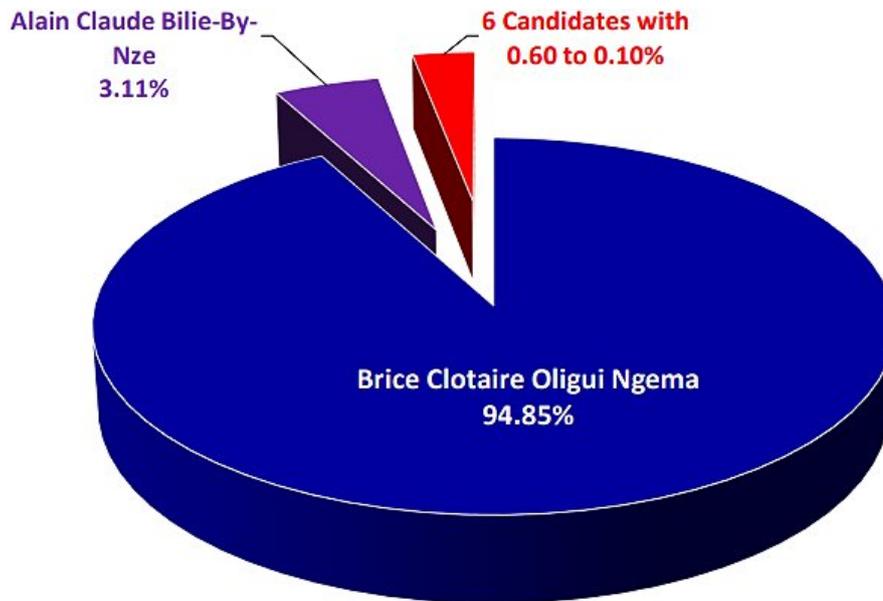
21 Following the elections, the PSC, through Communiqué 1277 decided in paragraph 4:

- i. to lift the suspension of the participation of Gabon in AU's activities, as contained in paragraph 3 of Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.1172 (2023) adopted on August 31, 2023 and in line with Article 26 of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG), and invited Gabon to resume its participation in the activities of the AU immediately; and
- ii. to keep the situation in Gabon under review, particularly to determine the modalities for the continuation of AU support with the support of Member States, ECCAS, and the United Nations.

Table and Graph 4: Final results of the 2025 Presidential Election in the Gabonese Republic

No.	Candidates	Votes	Percentage
1	Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema	588,074	94.85%
2	Alain Claude Bilie-By-Nze	19,265	3.11%
3	Joseph Lapensée Essingone	3,744	0.60 %
4	Chaning Zenaba Gninga	2,419	0.39 %
5	Alain Simplicie Bounoueres	2,299	0.37 %
6	Stéphane Germain Iloko Bousseguie	2,214	0.36 %
7	Axel Stophène Ibinga Ibinga	1,384	0.22 %
8	Thierry Yvon Michel N'Goma	601	0.10 %
Registered		916,665	
Voters		642,632	
Turnout		70.11%	
Blank and Invalid Votes		22,632	
Votes Cast		620,000	

Source: Constitutional Court of the Transition (CCT)



Source: AU PAPS / DGCP, DEU

C. REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI (Central Africa)

22. Following the invitation by the Burundian Government on the holding of the 5 June 2025 Legislative and Municipal elections, 30 AU STOs led by H.E. Vincent Meriton, former Vice-President of the Republic of Seychelles, were deployed from 30 May to 10 June 2025 to observe and report on the elections.

23. According to the CENI, the candidates competed for the votes of 6,015,122 registered voters, including 3,233,002 (53.75%) female voters and 2,782,120 (46.25%) male voters for the national electoral register of 14,103 polling stations.

24. The AUEOM noted that the elections took place in a generally stable socio-political environment, a peaceful security climate, and a strong mobilization of candidates, political parties, and coalitions running for Burundian votes, as well as voters. This allowed for orderly electoral and citizens participation, helping to strengthen the popular legitimacy of the electoral process, which is essential to any democratic consolidation in Burundi.

25. The Burundian Electoral Commission (CENI) announced on June 11, 2025, that the ruling party had won all the seats in the June 5 legislative elections. At the national level, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy – Forces for the Defense of Democracy (NCDD-FDD) came in first with 96.51% of the votes cast," declared CENI President, Prosper Ntahorwamiye. None of the other parties received 2% of the vote, the constitutionally mandated threshold for seats in the National Assembly. "100 seats went to the NCDD-FDD party," he added.

26. According to the CENI, after correcting the ethnic imbalance, the elected National Assembly comprises 108 Deputies, including 100 elected and eight co-opted. With three citizens of the Twa ethnic group co-opted by the CENI by article 169 of the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi and

article 108 of the Electoral Code (EC)³The National Assembly of the Republic of Burundi has a total of 111 Deputies, including 44 women Deputies for the 2025-2030 legislature.

27. The Decision of the Constitutional Court referenced: no. 453 of June 20, 2025, confirmed the provisional results announced by the CENI as shown in the table and histogram below.

Table and Graph 5: Provisional results of 2025 Legislative Elections in the Republic of Burundi

No.	Party	Seats	%
1	Defense of Democracy – Forces for the Defense of Democracy (NCDD-FDD)	100	96.51
Voters		6,015,122	100
Valid votes		5,945,869	98.87
Invalid votes		42,117	0.70
Total votes cast		5,987,986	99.57
Abstentions		44,514	0.74
Registered voters / Turnout		6,013,498	98.88

Source: CENI



Source: AU PAPS / DGCP, DEU

IV. AU ELECTORAL AND DEMOCRATIC ASSISTANCE

28. The African Union Commission conducted the following activities beyond the election observation activities outlined above.

- **AU Elections and Democracy Support**
 - a) **Pre-Election Assessment Missions to the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire:**

³ Article 169 of the Constitution and Article 108 of the EC require 60% Hutu and 40% Tutsi representation, and at least 30% women. According to Article 108 paragraph 3 of the EC, co-option is carried out by the CENI in accordance with the order established on the closed lists, ensuring the participation of all ethnic groups in as many constituencies as possible. According to Article 137 of the EC, seats are distributed using the largest remainder method.

29. To enable the African Union Commission to assess the state of preparedness for elections in Member States holding elections in 2025 to inform the nature and scope of the anticipated deployment of a short-term election observation mission, pre-election assessment missions were conducted in five Member States, namely: Cameroon, Malawi, Guinea Bissau, Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire. As part of innovating such missions, the African Union Commission introduced high-level leadership missions of Former Foreign Affairs Ministers in the case of Cameroon, Malawi, Guinea Bissau, and Côte d'Ivoire, and Former Deputy President, in the case of Tanzania. This innovation contributed to improved access to high-level leaders in the Member States and enhanced access to information to meet the objective of the missions. It also reinforced the solidarity nature of election initiatives of the African Union, whose intention is to assist Member States preparing for elections.

b) *Needs Assessment Missions to the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.*

30. Apart from assessing Member States' preparedness for impending elections, the African Union Commission also added a component of determining election technical needs in Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, and Côte d'Ivoire. The effort contributed to co-creating technical assistance plans with the Member States' election management bodies, of which interventions for Malawi were initiated in June 2025. The Commission's responsiveness to such election needs, reflects a commitment to improving the credibility of elections on the continent. It is anticipated that technical assistance will also be deployed to Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire during the second half of 2025.

V. GLOBAL ROLE OF AUEOMs

- ***AUC Participation in the Preparatory Meeting of Implementing Partners to the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation***

31. During the reporting period, the African Union Commission, through the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, participated in Convening Committee Meeting preparatory sessions of implementing partners to the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation. The African Union developed and submitted a paper on the "Role of Election Observers in Mediation and Conflict Prevention". The submission profiled the preventive diplomacy element of African Union Election Observation Missions, which has contributed to successful election transitions in the past. The platform to share such experiences reinforced the supremacy of African election intervention approaches beyond documentation of observations, especially with other international election observers whose scope is limited.

VI. ENHANCED CAPACITY BUILDING OF AUEOMs

(a) *Capacity building of Short-Term Observers*

32. In partnership with the Kingdom of Morocco, the African Union Commission brought together 120 men, women, and youth from 52 African countries to develop their election observation capabilities and to strengthen democratic governance in AU Member States.

33. The 4th Edition of the Specialised Training for Election Observers in Africa also reinforced a long-standing relationship with the Policy Center for the New South (PCNS) through a one-day session themed "*Inclusive Governance: Amplifying Women's Leadership in African Electoral Processes*". The session was a strategic platform to explore barriers to women's political participation and propose actionable reforms. Co-organized with the AU, the dialogue-seminar aligned with Morocco's South-South cooperation agenda, emphasizing peer learning among African nations to strengthen electoral

frameworks. Over 60 policymakers, civil society leaders, and observers engaged in three plenary discussions, framed by the AU's Gender Equality Strategy and the Maputo Protocol.

34. Outcomes included the *Rabat Call for Action*, a five-point plan urging AU member states to:

- i. Adopt gender quotas for election management bodies
- ii. Allocate 30% of observer mission budgets to women's safety measures,
- iii. Establish rapid-response units for election-related gender violence,
- iv. Integrate youth advocates into mission leadership, and
- v. Mandate gender-disaggregated data in all election reports.

35. The PCNS pledged to pilot these measures in 2026 missions, while the AU committed to reviewing its *Election Observation Guidelines* by 2026.

b) Promoting inclusion in electoral processes - Expert Workshop on Disability Inclusion in Democracy and Elections.

36. The African Union Commission convened a Technical Expert Workshop on Inclusive Practices for Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in March 2025. The event brought together AU Member States, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), civil society, academia, and regional and international stakeholders to strengthen disability inclusion within Africa's democratic governance frameworks, anchored in Agenda 2063, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance, the AU Disability Strategic Framework, the African Disability Protocol, and other relevant continental and international instruments.

37. The activity contributed to developing a framework for a curriculum for capacity building of persons with disabilities in democracy and elections, which will be launched in the second half of the year, following a validation process.

VII. COMMENDABLE PRACTICES IN AFRICA'S DEMOCRATIC TRAJECTORY

38. Elections in Africa continue to present progressive lessons for democracy globally, although it is acknowledged that some challenges remain. However, what is clear is the contagion effect of commendable practices explained below. It is anticipated that the more we profile such commendable practices, the higher the chances that Member States will adopt them to their context. The following are some of the praiseworthy democratic practices witnessed during the reporting period:

- i. Financing of elections from the State's funds;
- ii. Empowering women leaders to boost their motivation for greater participation in the electoral process;
- iii. Respect for the deadline set for the transition with a view to a rapid return to constitutional order, in the case of the Gabonese Republic
- iv. Prioritisation of national consensus through constructive dialogue with all stakeholders during all phases of the electoral process;
- v. Accessibility of polling stations for people with reduced mobility who have a person of their choice to assist, and special attention paid to the elderly, pregnant, and breastfeeding women;
- vi. Election night broadcast live on national television;
- vii. Equal access to airtime in public media by all candidates;
- viii. Timely announcement of election results within the electoral timeline.

39. Furthermore, debriefing sessions after pre-election assessment missions, particularly by election management bodies to implement reforms, improved the conduct of the remaining election processes in the election cycle. This was noted in the case of Malawi, where stakeholder consultations were encouraged after the pre-election assessment missions, and they were immediately implemented.

40. The willingness of EMBs with elections in 2025 and 2026 to participate in an anticipatory reflection session with the African Union and Regional Economic Communities contributed to the identification of election needs that may require addressing the gaps, resulting in a coordinated approach to election-related technical assistance that is responsive and relevant.

41. The convening of thematic experts to provide technical guidance on inclusion matters contributed to developing relevant approaches to accommodating marginalised groups.

VIII. OVERVIEW OF GOVERNANCE TRENDS

42. The political situation in Africa from the first semester of the 2025 elections proved relatively stable, with no instances of post-election violence. The Member States that held elections in this period exhibited democratic resilience through peaceful post-election processes. The phenomenon was reflective of the strength of the continent's democratic culture.

43. Where post-election disturbances were recorded, MS engaged in dialogue to de-escalate the situation—post-election proclamations, denouncing intolerance and encouraging unity aided in conflict prevention.

44. While it may be too early to determine, the example set by the Gabonese Republic to follow through on their commitment to returning to constitutional order is a possible pathway for Member States in transition to address challenges associated with post-conflict challenges.

IX. SNAPSHOT OF UPCOMING ELECTIONS: JULY – DECEMBER 2025

45. During the second half of 2025, 12 elections in 11 Member States are scheduled as indicated below.

Table 6: Upcoming elections from July to December 2025

1.	<p>REPUBLIC OF MALAWI</p> <p>General elections will be held in Malawi on September 16, 2025. The President of Malawi is expected to be elected using the two-round system, with a candidate requiring an absolute majority of the vote to win in the first round; if no candidate passes the 50% threshold, a second round will be held. The 193 members of the National Assembly are elected by first-past-the-post voting in single-member constituencies.</p>
2.	<p>REPUBLIC OF GUINEA</p> <p>A constitutional referendum will be held in Guinea on September 21, 2025, to allow the population to vote on adopting a new Constitution that will replace the existing one adopted 5 years earlier in March 2020. The new Constitutional text will be proposed 4 years after the September 5, 2021 coup that overthrew President Alpha Condé. The Constitution proposed by referendum should pave the way for a return to constitutional order and the organisation of elections to end the transition period initiated by the 2021 coup d'état. Guinea's military junta has created a new institution, the Directorate General of Elections, or DGE, responsible for managing elections, including a constitutional</p>

	referendum.
3.	<p>REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES</p> <p>In Seychelles, General elections are provisionally scheduled for 27 September 2025. The president of Seychelles is elected using the two-round system; if no candidate receives a majority vote in the first round, a second round is held between the top two candidates.</p> <p>Two methods elect members of the National Assembly; 26 (with a new constituency established in 2020) are elected from single-member constituencies using first-past-the-post voting, and up to a further ten are elected based on the percentage of votes received by each party; for each 10% of the total national vote received, a party gets one additional seat.</p>
4.	<p>GABONESE REPUBLIC</p> <p>Following the April 12, 2025, presidential election, the President of the Republic, Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema, revealed crucial information regarding Gabon's political future during his May 3, 2025, inauguration speech. President Oligui Nguema announced that legislative and local elections will occur on September 27 (1st Round) and October 11, 2025 (2nd Round). This electoral calendar marks a significant step in restoring constitutional order, a commitment made by the new President. These elections, which will be held in a context of political transition, are seen as a decisive moment, as they aim to restore the legitimacy of democratic institutions and allow citizens to express their views on the future of governance in Gabon. President Oligui Nguema emphasized the importance of these elections to ensure adequate representation of the nation's diverse voices and to strengthen the people's trust in their leaders. By announcing these key dates, this inaugural speech marks the beginning of a new era for this Member State.</p>
5.	<p>ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT</p> <p>Parliamentary elections are due to be held in Egypt in 2025. The 596 seats in parliament consist of 448 seats elected by the two-round system in constituencies ranging from one to four seats, 120 elected by party block vote using a two-round system, and 28 appointed by the president. A party list wins all seats available in the party block vote seats if it receives more than 50% of the vote. However, if no list gets more than 50% of the vote, a second round is held between the top two parties, and the list with the most votes wins all seats. Party lists contain quotas for youth, women, Christians, and workers.</p>
6.	<p>REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON</p> <p>According to the probable calendar shared by the electoral commission – Elections Cameroon (ELECAM), the election of the President of the Republic takes place at the latest 20 days before the expiration of the mandate (article 245 of the EC), i.e., October 12, 2025. Given Article 86, paragraph 2 of the EC, the convocation of the electoral body should be at the latest on July 12, 2025. According to the same source, articles 87, 123, 126, 137, and 140 determine the modalities of the electoral campaign period, the submission of candidacies, the nomination, the proclamation of the results, and the beginning of the mandate (swearing-in). The President of Cameroon is elected by first-past-the-post voting. The candidate with the most votes is declared the winner with no requirement for a majority.</p>
7.	<p>REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE</p> <p>In Côte d'Ivoire, the presidential election will be held on October 25, 2025, to elect the President of the Republic. The Constitution sets the date of the first round as the last Saturday of October of the fifth year of the current presidential term, and that of any second round as the last Saturday of the</p>

	<p>following November. The Ivorian President is elected by a two-round majority vote for a five-year term, renewable once consecutively. The candidate who receives the majority of votes in the first round is elected. Failing this, a second round is held between the two leading candidates in the first round, and the one receiving the most votes is declared elected. On June 4, 2025, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) permanently excluded four prominent personalities in Ivorian politics from the electoral list: Tidjane Thiam, Laurent Gbagbo, Charles Blé Goudé, and Guillaume Soro. None of them can run in the presidential election or even vote. This opens the debate within Ivorian society on the "multiple unknowns' equation" to describe a complex situation where many factors, variables, or actors interact, making it difficult, if not impossible, to predict the outcome of an action or decision with certainty.</p>
8.	<p>UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA</p> <p>In Tanzania, General elections are due to be held in October 2025. In January 2025, the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi party nominated incumbent president Samia Suluhu Hassan as its presidential candidate for the election and Emmanuel Nchimbi as her running mate. In April 2025, the opposition Chadema party was disqualified from competing in the election after the National Electoral Commission (NEC) said it failed to sign a code of conduct document due on 12 April 2025.</p>
9.	<p>REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA</p> <p>According to the Somali National Consultative Council Meeting held in October 2024, federal parliament representatives, members of state legislatures, and presidents would be elected in September 2025 in Somalia.</p>
10.	<p>REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU</p> <p>Elections in Guinea-Bissau, including parliamentary and presidential, were initially scheduled for 2024 but have been postponed and are now slated for 23 November 2025. The country is grappling with a dispute over President Umaro Sissoco Embaló's term, leading to legal challenges and some opposition political actors calling for his resignation. The question of the beginning and end of the President's term of office is controversial. The opposition considered that it began on February 27, 2020, and ended on February 27, 2025. However, the President of the Republic, Embaló, maintained that his term started at the end of the electoral dispute and will therefore end on September 4, 2025. To resolve this legal and political controversy, the Supreme Court of Justice (SCJ) ruled in its Decision No. 1/2025 of February 3, 2025, that the President's term began in September 2020, with the end of the electoral dispute, and will end in September 2025. The pre-election period remains marked by a lack of consensus between the Government and the Opposition on the political and operational modalities of the 2025 presidential and legislative elections. The President dissolved Parliament on December 4, 2023, after an attempted coup, exacerbating political tensions.</p>
11.	<p>CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)</p> <p>In CAR, the General elections will be held in December 2025. The President of the Republic is elected by a two-round system for a seven-year term, renewable. The candidate with the most votes cast in the first ballot is elected. If no majority is secured, a runoff is held between the top two candidates to decide the winner.</p>
12.	<p>REPUBLIC OF GUINEA</p> <p>In May 2025, Guinea's Prime Minister announced a new date of December 2025 for legislative and presidential elections. The junta set and missed a December 31, 2024, deadline for a return to a civilian administration. Guinea is ruled by military leader Mamady Doumbouya, who seized power in a coup in September 2021, and in 2022 proposed a two-year transition plan to elections to be held but did not take steps to organise the vote.</p>

Note: For all the elections expected to be held in the second half of 2025, the African Union Commission will deploy election observers pending invitations by the Member States. Where the Commission's financial resources permit, some technical assistance will be provided to some Member States, who may require it.

X. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

46. The following recommendations are made:

- i. Increased support from Member States for pre-election and needs assessment missions, election observation missions, and technical assistance. These areas have contributed to improved quality of elections in our Member States. Increased investment in technical assistance will enhance the continent's electoral democracies. Where pre-election assessments, election observation missions, and technical assistance have been deployed, there has been an increase in commendable practices and implementation of recommendations for electoral reforms.
- ii. Encourage Member States to invite election observer missions early to accommodate the timely deployment of pre-election assessment missions and adequate planning for short-term election observation and technical assistance.
- iii. Expand inclusion of persons with disability in democracy and elections through investing in their participation in election observation and election administration, to complement their ongoing participation as voters and election candidates.

XI. CONCLUSION

47. The Chairperson of the AU Commission warmly thanks the PSC for its diligence and sense of responsibility and commends the PSC for its constant support and guidance that enables the success of AUEOMs

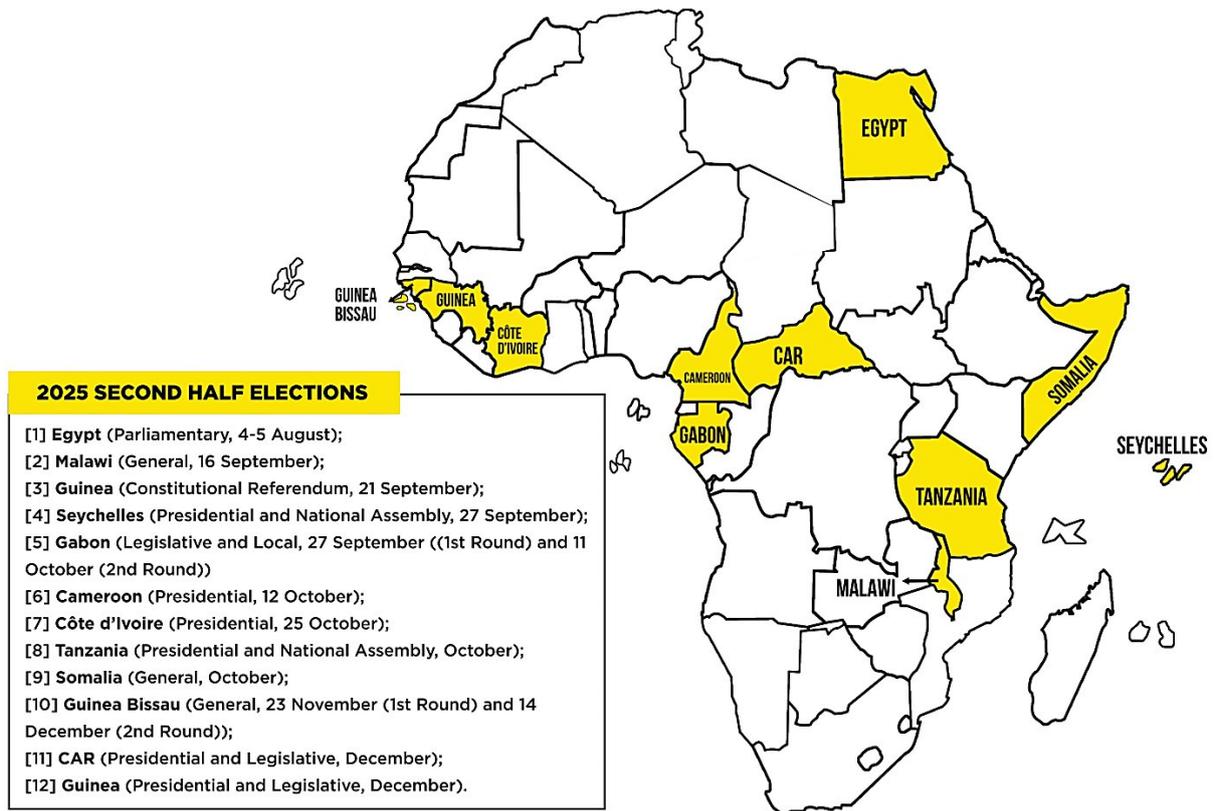
48. However, increasing the financial allocations granted to elections would be essential for more effective and well-capacitated missions, given the complex dynamics underway in the Member States, thus strengthening their technical credibility.

49. The Chairperson of the AU Commission commends the CPAPS and all DPAPS staff, the Heads of Missions, and the electoral experts who spared no effort to enable the successful fulfillment of the AU mandate, demonstrating resilience, professionalism, and objectivity. He also commends the Governments, African Diplomatic Corps, Electoral Management Bodies, Political Actors, Technical and Financial Partners, and the CSOs involved for the quality of the constructive discussions.

50. Furthermore, the Chairperson of the AU Commission urges Member States who scheduled to hold their electoral processes during the second half of 2025 to spare no effort to embrace this constructive dynamic of "democratic peace," fruitful consensus, and transparency to achieve inclusive, credible, peaceful, fair, and incontestable elections. To this end, it would be wise to continue inviting the AU to deploy electoral observation missions to its Member States, as per the relevant continental guidelines.

51. Finally, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission calls on Member States in transition to spare no effort to return to constitutional order and reiterates the AU’s commitment to finding pragmatic, appropriate, and diplomatic solutions along with them.

XII. ANNEX: AU PROVISIONAL MAP CALENDAR OF ELECTIONS IN 2025



Source: AU PAPS / DGCP, DEU