



***CCMG Welcomes the Establishment of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Implementation and Reporting on Recommendations Made by Election Observer Missions***

**For Immediate Release**

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CCMG welcomes the establishment of the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on implementation and reporting on recommendations made by election observer missions for the 2021 general elections, and as a member of the IAWG, pledges to work in good faith towards the group's purpose. The IAWG was officially launched by the Minister of Justice on 10 August 2023. The establishment of the IAWG is paramount for creation of national ownership for reporting and implementation on the Election Observer Mission reports recommendations and provides an important platform for regular interaction within and between State Institutions.

*"We are pleased with the establishment of a structure that will be responsible for a mechanism to monitor and report progress in the implementation of recommendations made by EOMs as well as support legal reform processes that have a bearing on elections and democracy",* said Peter Mwanangombe.

We are cognizant of the fact that in itself, the IAWG has no legal authority to implement legal reform and that its reports may only recommend to responsible government institutions and Ministries to implement reforms. It is therefore important for the government to take the reports of the IAWG very seriously and implement reforms necessary for the promotion of electoral integrity and democracy in Zambia. The IAWG must move quickly to produce its reports and given the relatively short time before the next election, the government must act on the reports without delay.

*"We call upon the Executive to act reasonably and make considerations for any proposed reforms as a result of the work of the IAWG and support such with approval to develop bills to repeal and replace or to amend legislation in view of supporting democracy strengthening through promoting electoral integrity in a timely manner",* said Peter Mwanangombe.

Finally, we call on all stakeholders and members of the IAWG to put aside all their political inclinations and differences and contribute to a reform process in a diligent and patriotic manner. We also call upon cooperating partners to support the IAWG both technically and financially in order to fully achieve the IAWG's objectives. Furthermore, the Legislature is reminded that it has delegated authority from the people to enact laws that strengthen democracy in Zambia and as such are called upon to support legal reforms.

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