

**Union of African Parties for Democracy and Development (UAPDD)
Union des Partis Africains pour la Démocratie et le Développement (UPADD)**

**ADOPTED DECLARATION
ON THE RECENT ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE**

**10TH WINDHOEK DIALOGUE HELD IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA
FROM THE 1 TO 3 MAY 2008**

**SAFARI CONFERENCE CENTRE,
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

UAPDD delegates participated in the 10th Windhoek Dialogue from the 1st to the 3rd of May 2008.

The discussions centred on the impact of recent elections which have been held in the various regions of the continent of Africa, namely Southern (Zimbabwe), Eastern (Kenya), Central (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Western (Nigeria and Togo).

Delegates decided to issue the following statement on the recent elections in Zimbabwe:

1. UAPDD is deeply concerned at the erosion of democracy and justice in Zimbabwe, as exemplified in the recent elections held on the 29th March 2008.

2. UAPDD notes with sadness that the situation leading to these elections was not conducive to the holding of free and fair elections in view of the incontrovertible evidence of gross intimidation, torture and violence against opposition and civil society organisations clamouring for free and fair elections and for regime change through democratic and peaceful means. UAPDD commends the Zimbabwean people for their fortitude in the extremely challenging circumstances of the elections.

3. UAPDD notes that the Zimbabwean Electoral Commission has finally announced the results 32 days after the election, and therefore questions the credibility of these results. The delay had fuelled speculation that the Mugabe regime was attempting to manipulate the outcome.

4. UAPDD also expresses its disappointment at the failure of AU and SADC Heads of State to exert pressure on the Mugabe regime and the Zimbabwean Electoral Commission to promptly release the Presidential results; Deplores their inexcusable failure to take practical steps to pressure the Mugabe regime to desist from persecuting the opposition and pro-democracy groups in Zimbabwe.

5. UAPDD urges AU and SADC Heads of State to do their utmost to avoid a similar delay in releasing the results of the second round.

6. UAPDD emphasises that the composition of the newly elected parliament clearly demonstrates the will of the people of Zimbabwe for change and hopes that the new majority will be fully respected and democratically entitled to operate according to the Constitution.

7. UAPDD further expresses its concern at the MDC announcement that it might boycott the second round of the Presidential elections. Accordingly, UAPDD calls on the MDC to reconsider their approach as their failure to participate in the second round may hand over power to Mugabe by default for another five-year term.

8. UAPDD calls on the Zimbabwe government to accept international, regional and domestic observers including eminent persons in order to raise the confidence of voters for a transparent second round and to reduce risks of further manipulation of the electoral process.

9. Finally, UAPDD expects the Zimbabwe authorities to refrain from the abuse of state and para-statal resources for partisan purposes, to guarantee full press freedom and freedom of expression, and to grant equal access to State media, in accordance with the relevant SADC guidelines.