

FINAL DECLARATION Windhoek Dialogue 1-3 May 2008

We, the participants of the 10th Windhoek Dialogue Conference, Members of the Union of African Parties for Democracy and Development (UAPDD) and the European People's Party-European Democrats Group (EPP-ED) in the European Parliament, meeting in Windhoek, Namibia on 1-3 May 2008,

- having regard to the 1981 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,
- having regard to the OAU Declaration on the Principles governing democratic Elections in Africa, adopted in 2002,
- having regard to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2007),
- having regard to the Norms and Standards for Elections adopted by ECOWAS and by the SADC Parliamentary Forum in 2001,
- having regard to the Principles and Guidelines for Democratic Elections, adopted by the SADC Summit in Mauritius in 2004,
- having regard to the Windhoek Dialogue Berlin Declaration on Free and Fair Elections in Africa adopted in 2007,
- having analysed the impact of recent elections in Africa, in particular the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Togo, Kenya and Zimbabwe,
- having considered the pre-electoral situation in Angola, in particular problems concerning voter registration, attempts to change election-related provisions unilaterally so close to the elections, equal access to media, the use of state and para-statal resources for partisan purposes,
- having discussed the relevance of international, regional and domestic election observation for the credibility of the entire electoral process for the citizens concerned,
- having debated the issues surrounding amnesty for incumbent leaders as an instrument for overcoming political deadlocks in certain circumstances,
- having supported the idea to focus more strongly on good governance through capacity building and for political stakeholders in Africa within the democracy promotion policies of the EU,

Endorses the conclusions of the UAPDD declarations on Elections in Zimbabwe and in Angola adopted in Windhoek on 3 May 2008, especially

- the need for transparent and consensual preparations for the elections in Angola,
- the right of the new parliamentary majority in Zimbabwe to be fully respected by all institutions concerned and to operate in accordance with the Constitution,
- the necessity for a level playing field in the upcoming second round of the presidential elections in Zimbabwe,
- the imperative of granting full press freedom, freedom of expression and equal access to state media, the absence of misuse of state and para-statal resources, to be observed by a comprehensive international, regional and domestic election observation,

Welcomes therefore the invitation for EU observers to attend the elections in Angola and calls for more international observation of elections in Africa,

The 10th Windhoek Dialogue Conference was organised and held with the support of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament, the Robert Schuman Foundation and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. We therefore take this opportunity of thanking all parties involved in helping to make this event such a success.