



## Regional Workshop

### STRENGTHENING THE INDEPENDENCE OF ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS IN THE SADC-REGION

12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Safari Court Hotel  
Windhoek, Namibia

#### *Programme*

##### 12<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Arrival of Delegates, Transfer to Safari Court Hotel (by EC Namibia)

19:00 Welcome Dinner at Safari Court Hotel

##### 13<sup>th</sup> March 2006

08:00 - 08:30 Registration

##### Official Opening

*Master of Ceremonies: Hilda Nakakuwa, EC Namibia*

08:30 - 08:45 Cultural Performance, *Namutoni Senior Primary School*

08:45 - 08:50 Welcome Remarks: *Hubert R Schillinger, FES Namibia*

08:50 - 09:10 Official Opening: *Victor L Tonchi, Chairperson ECF*

09:15 - 09:25 Vote of Thanks: *Justice Irene Mambilima, Chair IEC Zambia*

09:15 - 09:25 Introduction into the Programme & Facilitation  
*Takawira Musavengana, SADC-PF*

## **Session 1 Independence of Electoral Commissions**

*This session will take participants through the international perspective on the autonomy of Electoral Management bodies. The presentation will also look at the independence of EMB's as a challenge to all Electoral Commissions in the SADC region. Participants will deliberate on this matter by engaging into general discussions.*

09:25 - 09:45            **Autonomy of Electoral Commissions - An International Perspective**  
*Joram Rukambe, International IDEA*

09:45 - 10:30            General discussions on the presentation

10:30 - 11:00            **Tea Break**

## **Session 2 Country Presentations: Legal frameworks governing functions of Electoral Commissions in SADC Countries**

*This session will afford each Electoral Commission an opportunity to present its case and reflect on the bottlenecks and factors that contribute to such weaknesses as well as strategies employed to address such.*

11:00 -12:00            **Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, Mauritius**

12:00 - 13:00            General discussions on the presentations

13:00 - 14:00            **Lunch**

14:00 - 15:15            **Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania/Zanzibar**

15:15 - 16:30            General discussions on the presentations

16:30 - 16:45            **Tea Break**

16:45 - 17:30            **Special Input: Guidelines and Principles for Broadcast Coverage of Elections in the SADC Region**  
*Takawira Musavengana(SADC-PF)*

**14<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

## **Session 2 cont. Country Presentations**

08:30 - 09:30            **Mozambique, Angola, DR Congo, Madagascar**

09:30 - 10:30            General discussions on the presentations

10:30 - 11:00            **Tea Break**

**Session 3 Towards a framework of regional standards for Electoral Management Bodies**

*This session shall develop some first elements of a framework that can define common legal standards that should guarantee and enhance the independence of Electoral Management Bodies in SADC region.*

11:00 - 11:30	<b>Ideal structure of an Independent Electoral Commission</b> <i>Tachilisa B. Balule, Law Department, University of Botswana</i>
11:30 - 12:30	General discussions on the presentation
12:30 - 13:00	Definition of topics, formation of Working Groups
13:00 - 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00 - 16:00	Working Group Session
16:00 - 16:15	<b>Tea Break</b>
16:15 - 17:00	Groups report back
18:30	<b>Reception &amp; Cultural Programme (Bana Ba Bothlaba Cultural Group)</b>

**15<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

**Session 3 cont. Towards a framework ...**

08:30 - 10:00	Recap of Working Groups, discussions/plenary, definition of next topics
10:00 - 10:30	<b>Tea Break</b>
10:30 - 12:00	Working Group Session
12:00 - 13:00	Discussions/Plenary
13:00 - 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00 - 14:30	Summary presentation of findings - <i>“Elements of a Framework”</i> <i>Facilitator</i>
14:30 - 15:00	Way forward
15:00 - 15:15	<b>Closing Remarks: Dr Marc Meinardus, FES Botswana</b>
15:15 - 15:30	<b>Tea Break</b>

**Tour of the City**

**16<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

**Departure**