



Joint Press Statement

ARRIVAL STATEMENT OF LEARNING MISSION FOR 16 SEPTEMBER 2025 MALAWI GENERAL ELECTIONS

**14 SEPTEMBER 2025
LILONGWE, MALAWI**

On behalf of the Electoral Support Network for Southern Africa (ESN-SA) and the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), we extend our sincere gratitude to the people of Malawi and the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) for the warm welcome to our team. As ESN-SA and ZESN, we are honoured to be part of this important democratic process and are truly experiencing the warmth and spirit that Malawi is known for.

On 14 September 2025, the Learning Mission team arrived in Malawi following an invitation from the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) to observe the 16 September General Elections. The Learning Mission comprises 13 accredited short-term observers from domestic observer groups in Angola, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The team will be primarily deployed in Lilongwe and its surrounding areas, remaining in the country until September 19, 2025.

As part of a joint Learning Mission to Malawi, ESN-SA and ZESN are collaborating to enhance their understanding of election management and the role of civil society in democratic governance. The mission facilitates knowledge exchange, peer learning, and engagement with key stakeholders. Insights gained will inform evidence-based recommendations for ESN-SA's regional advocacy and strengthen ZESN's domestic observation strategies. The mission also promotes best practices, technical support to domestic observers, and upholds principles of impartiality, neutrality, transparency, professionalism, and respect for Malawi's sovereignty.

Additionally, the Mission will seek to build meaningful relationships with regional and international institutions accredited to observe the elections. These engagements are vital for fostering collaboration, ensuring consistency in observation standards, and amplifying the collective voice of civil society in electoral processes.

Guided by regional and international norms for democratic elections, ESN-SA and ZESN remain committed to promoting credible, peaceful, and participatory elections in Malawi and across Southern Africa.

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