

The background of the slide is a photograph of several people, likely of African descent, looking towards the right. The scene is set outdoors at sunset or sunrise, with warm, golden light filtering through trees in the background. The people are in the foreground, slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth and community.

Observer Groups

- The key observer groups included AU, COMESA, Commonwealth, EU, SADC, SADC-ECF, SADC-PF, ZESN and ZIEOM
- All mission produced preliminary statements on August 01, 2108
- Final reports are available for Commonwealth, EU, ZESN and ZIEOM and these have been used for analysis
- These Observer Groups use different methodologies to observe and are based on their own charters and instruments

**Qualifying
Elections**

**Conceptual
Framework**



Observer Groups

"By and large, the process was peaceful and well-administered".
African Union

"Pre-election phase and the voting proceeded in a peaceful and orderly manner and were largely in line with key provisions of the Legal and Constitutional Framework and in conformity with the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections." **SADC**

"As such, many aspects of the 2018 elections in Zimbabwe failed to meet international standards." **European Union**

"For these reasons, we are unable to endorse all aspects of the process as credible, inclusive and peaceful." **Commonwealth**

"ZIEOM notes several improvements to the electoral process compared to Zimbabwe's past elections, though equally important shortcomings give rise to deep concerns that the process did not make the mark." **ZIEOM**

"However, the integrity of the 2018 harmonised elections was undermined by an uneven pre-election playing field." **ZESN**

Legal Framework

Legal Framework

Election Administration

Legal Framework

**Election
Administration**

**Election
Environment**

Legal Framework

**Election
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**Election
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**Public Outreach
& Engagement**

Legal Framework

**Election
Administration**

**Election
Environment**

**Public Outreach
& Engagement**

**Gender &
Inclusivity**

Legal Framework

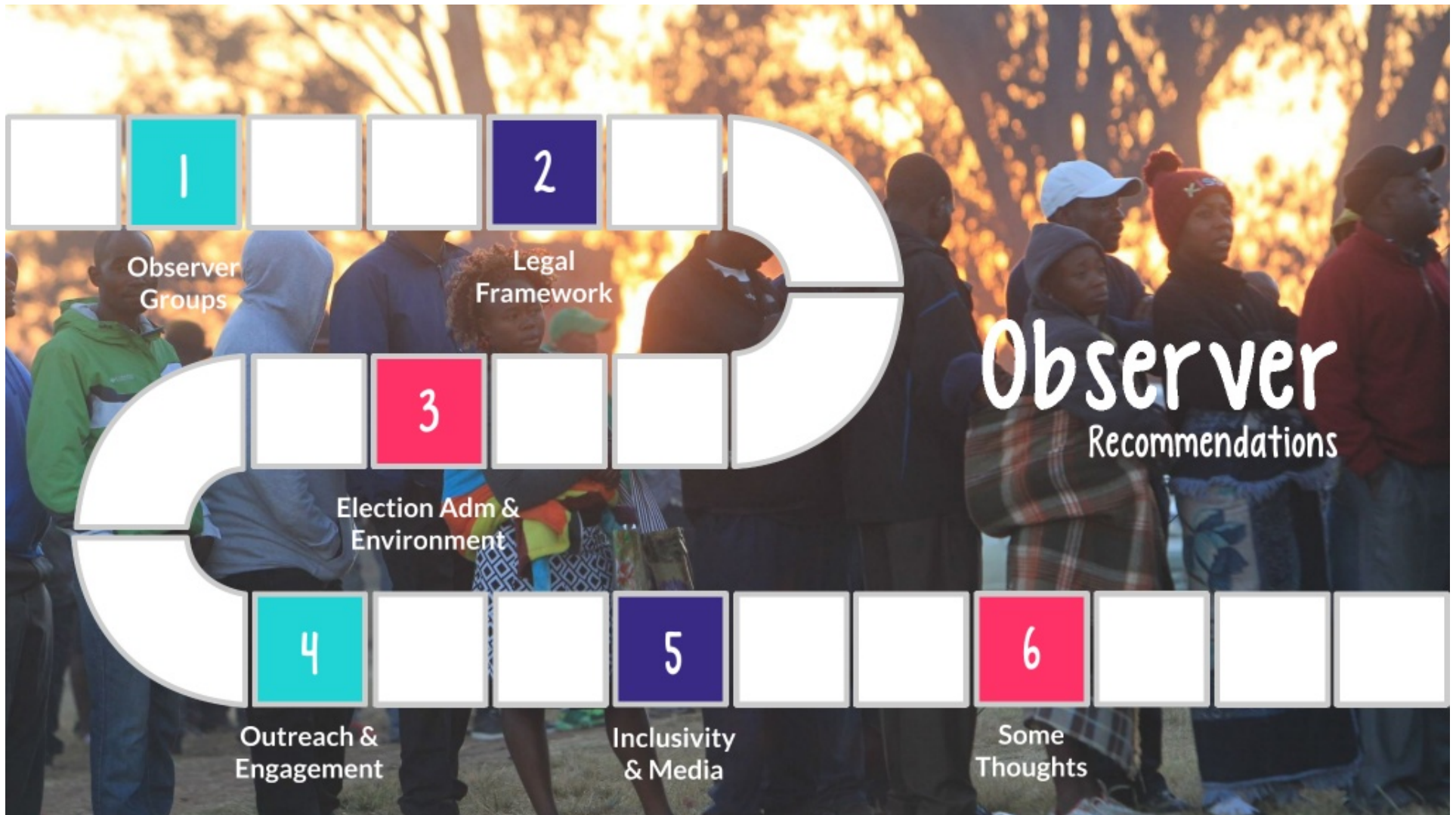
**Election
Administration**

**Election
Environment**

**Public Outreach
& Engagement**

**Gender &
Inclusivity**

**Media
Coverage**



The background of the slide is a photograph of a group of people, including a man in a blue shirt on the left and a person in a cap on the right, looking towards the right. The background is a warm, golden sunset or sunrise with bright light rays filtering through trees.

Legal Framework

Recommendations by all Observers

- Harmonization of the Electoral Act with the Constitution
- Adoption of Political Party Law to regulate political parties
- Consideration to be given for Diaspora Vote
- Complaints regarding partisan role played by traditional leaders and introduce effective mechanisms to enforce the Constitutional provisions prohibiting traditional leaders from partisan activities

**Recommendations
by Fewer Groups**

Recommendations by fewer groups

Independence of ZEC

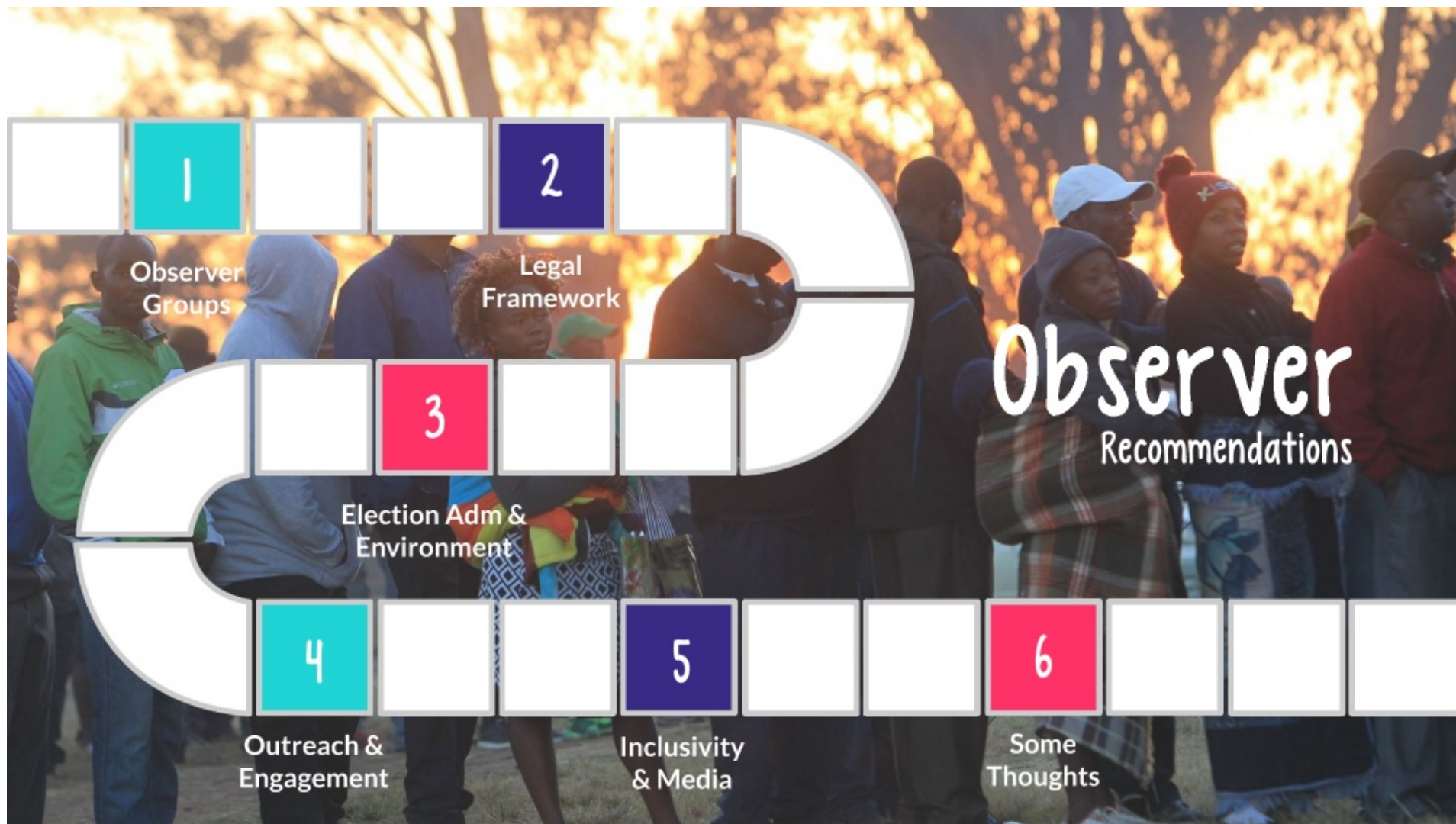
Introducing punitive
punitive measures,
administrative complaint
mechanism

Undertaking a new
Constitutency
Delimitation process

Revision and
Strengthening Election
Dispute Resolution

Elimination of provisions
of POSA and AIPPA that
are contrary to
Constitution and
International Covenants

Constitutional amendment
to ensure judicial
appointments and funding
is free from political
influence





Environment

Election

Voter Registration: Final version of voters roll to be availed within a reasonable timeframe to allow for audit. Clear timelines on provisional, preliminary and final voters roll. Resolving anomalies including issue of addresses to make VR more accurate and enhance registration is under registered district

Candidate Registration: Poor conduct of party primaries, candidate nomination fee were high and non-provision of voters roll affected the nomination process

Administration

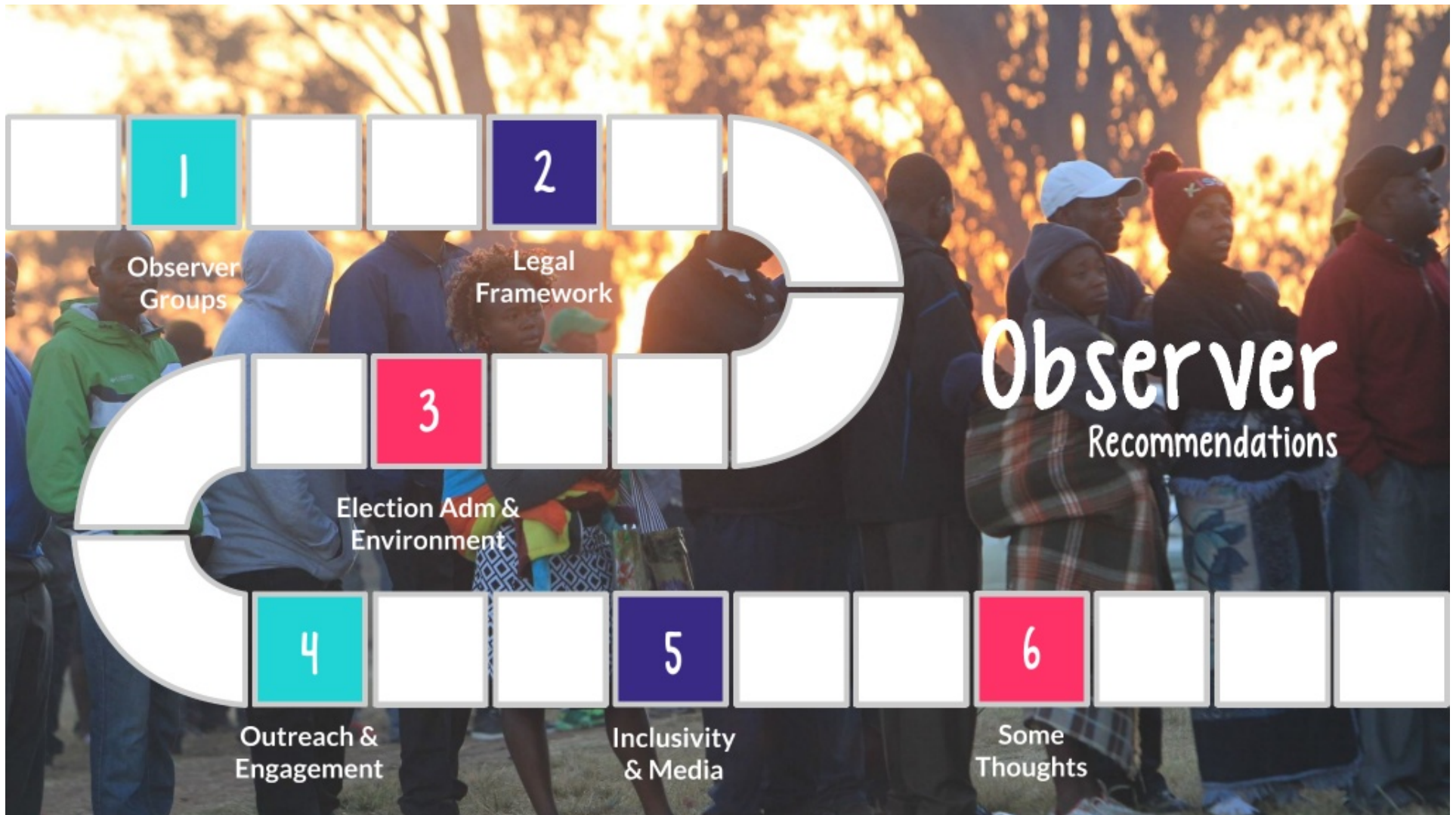
Polling Day: Voters being turned away in some polling stations because of wrong stations, no identity docs, failure to find name of VR. Poor lighting was observed. Standardization and increasing length of training, improving infrastructure facilities, addressing fatigue of staff, posting voters roll outside polling stations, addressing high degree of assisted voting

Results Management: Streamline counting, tallying, tabulation and transmission of result processes

Ballot paper & postal ballots: Procedure for security of ballot paper printing to be reviewed. Clarify and publicize postal voting

Election Environment

- **Level playing field:** Some observers pointed to the abuse of state resources and misuse of incumbency, whereas others qualified it as an allegation. Recommendations are to create enforcement mechanisms ensuring government resources don't serve partisan needs
- **Code of Conduct:** Some observers recommend enforcement measures for implementing the provisions of Code of Conduct and MPLC to be made more effective
- **Intimidation and Violence:** "Soft Intimidation" and "Smart Intimidation" was identified as the major challenge with limited physical violence in the campaign period. AU and SADC indicated in their statements the complaints made by opposition parties
- **Security Forces:** There was a positive role identified of the police in the lead towards election but post-election represented serious human rights violations





Public Outreach

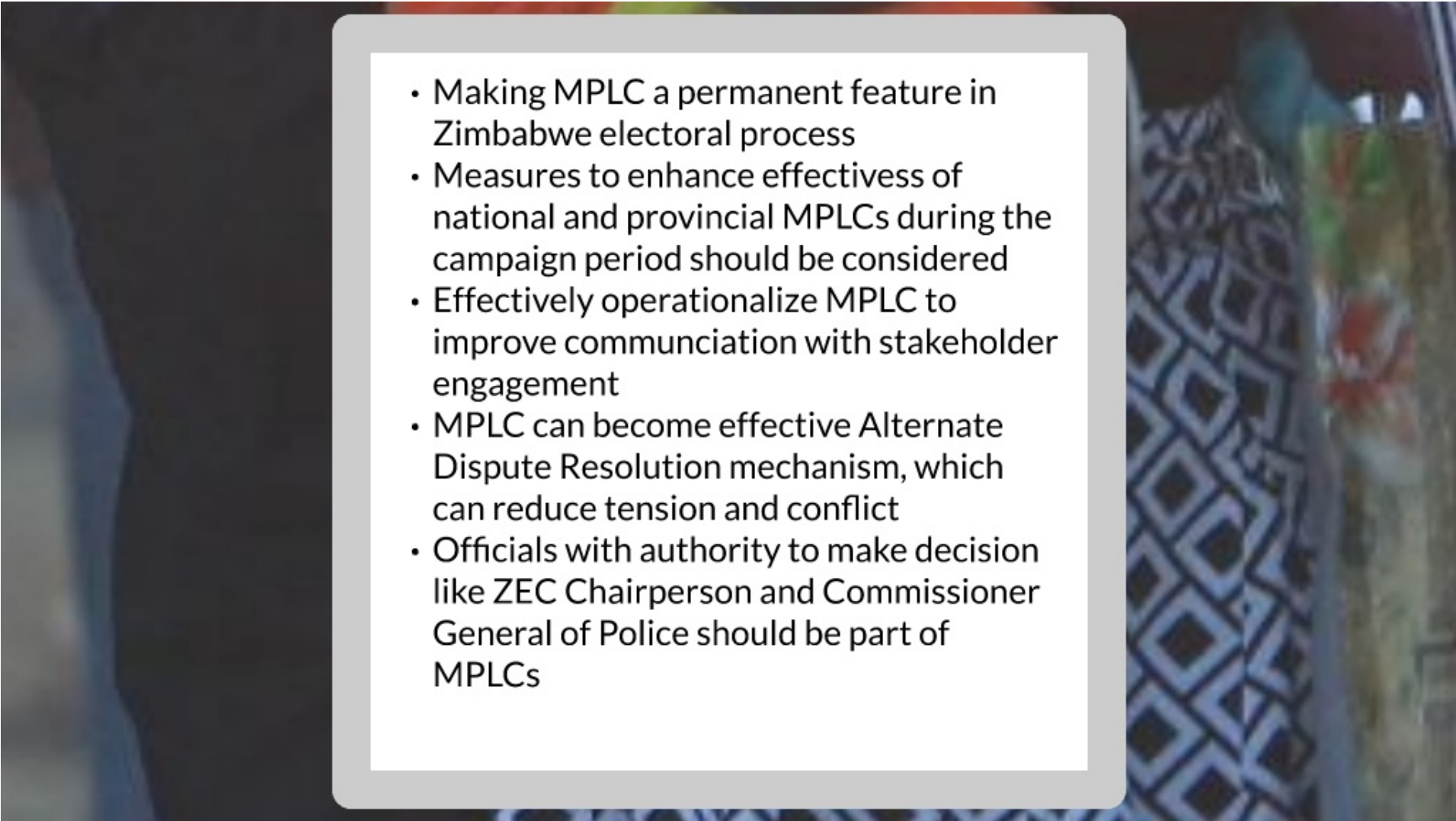
- Addressing issue of SECRECY of vote requires review of the procedure for assisted voters
- Develop a continuous comprehensive voter education strategy
- Liberalize laws and regulations to complement efforts of CSOs to educate citizen
- Partnership between ZEC and CSOs for effective voter education

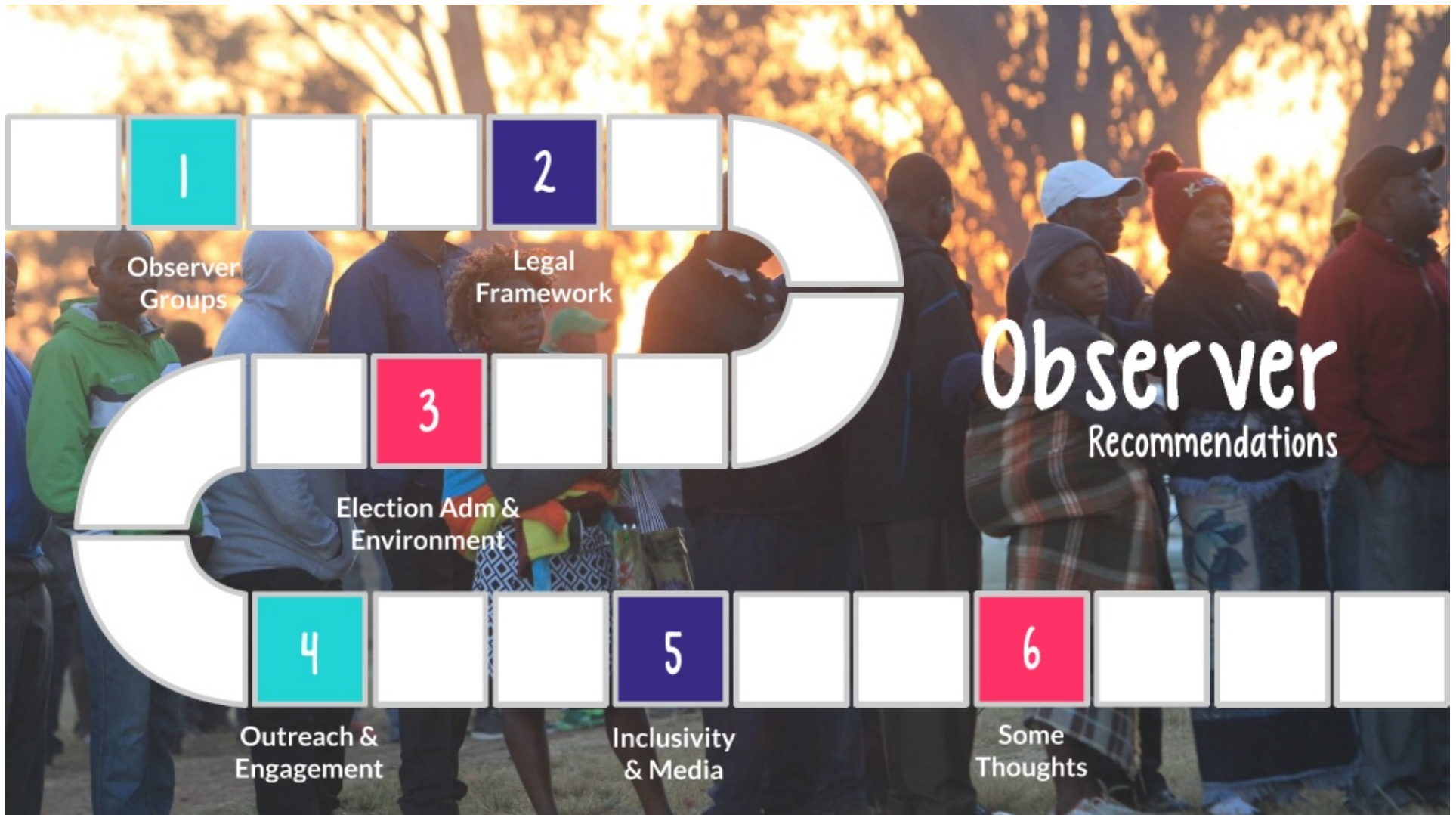
**Stakeholder
Engagement**

**Public
Relations**

Public Relations

- ZEC need to establish an effective communication strategy
- ZEC should adopt open data policy
- Proactive communication strategy that engages stakeholders at every stage of the electoral process
- ZEC to foster dialogue and consultation with stakeholders to enhance confidence in the electoral process
- ZEC should go beyond the legalistic approach to share information with political parties
- Effectively operationalize the MPLCs to improve communication with stakeholders

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- Making MPLC a permanent feature in Zimbabwe electoral process
 - Measures to enhance effectiveness of national and provincial MPLCs during the campaign period should be considered
 - Effectively operationalize MPLC to improve communication with stakeholder engagement
 - MPLC can become effective Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism, which can reduce tension and conflict
 - Officials with authority to make decision like ZEC Chairperson and Commissioner General of Police should be part of MPLCs





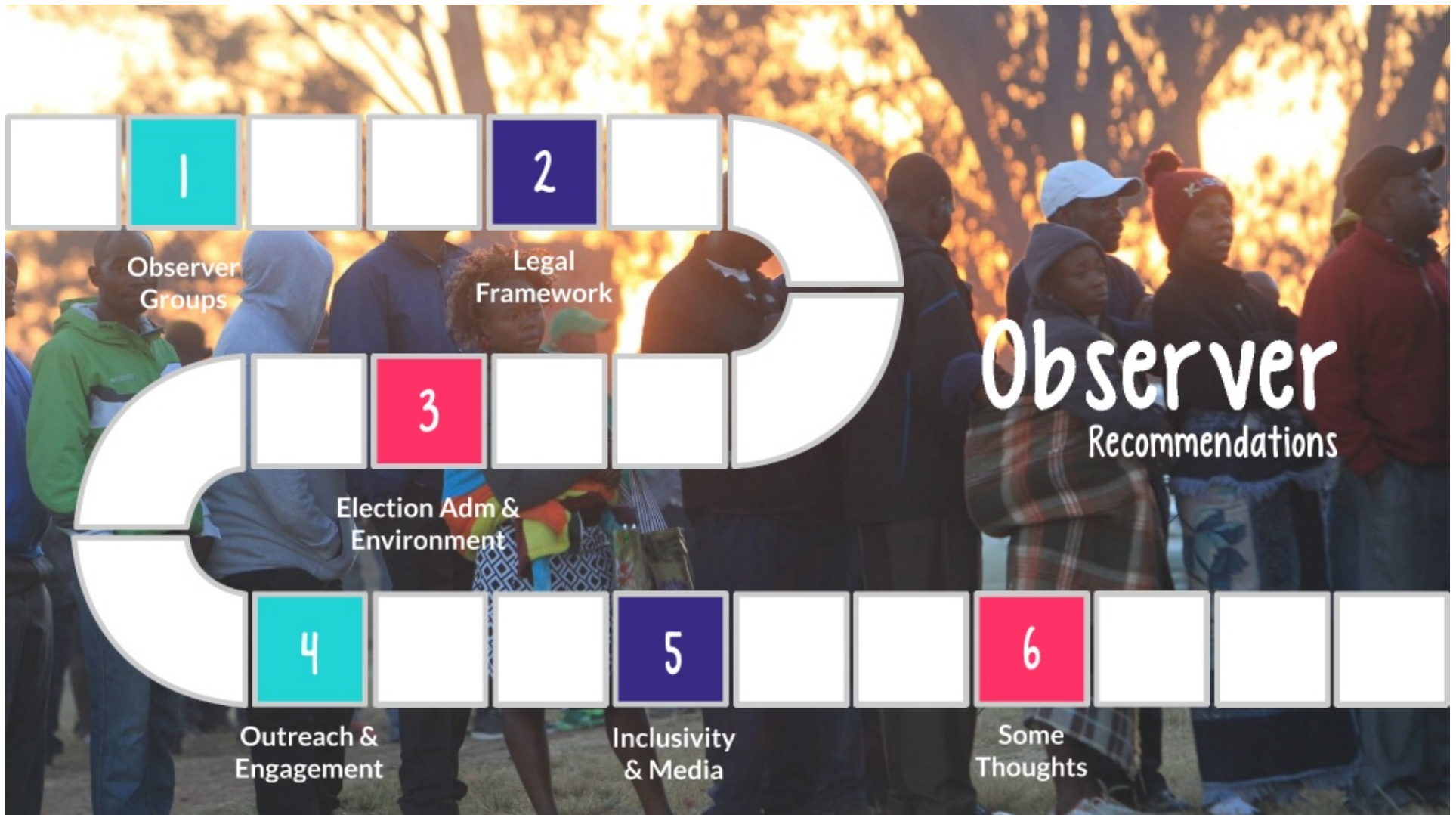
Gender & Inclusion

- Enact legislation to compel political parties to observe quota for women
- Political parties to adopt and implement measures such as voluntary quota
- Toxic and misogynistic political environment against women to be addressed
- Attacks on social media against women was pervasive and needs to be addressed
- Incorporation of ICRPD into domestic law
- Use tactile or braille ballot papers and establish user friendly polling stations
- Specific programs for youth participation and addressing violence

Media

Media Access

- Acute polarization of media characterized the coverage of both public and private media
- Continued trend of bias by the public broadcaster towards the ruling party in its coverage of elections as was observed in 2013
- ZBC failed to abide by its obligation to ensure equitable and fair treatment to all political parties and candidates
- ZBA to be transformed into a truly independent institution
- ZEC and ZMC to ensure that Constitution and Electoral Law are enforced
- ZEC was unable to regulate the media during elections and ZEC capacity to monitor the media to ensure balanced coverage should be strengthened
- Mechanisms to be put in place to monitor hate speech and fake news on social media
- Social media was used as effective tool by political parties, candidates and stakeholders as a tool of communication but there were concerns on abuse of social media and negative impact on women political participation



Thoughts !!!!

- How do you deal with different political interests among the observer groups?
- How do you interpret the statements being made by different observer groups?
- How delineate perceptions, opinions, allegations from reality, facts?
- What next? Government has established an Inter Ministerial Task Force Is it an inclusive process? What are other options?
 - A parliamentary committee
 - A Committee with representation of major political parties
 - A Multi Stakeholder Committee

