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**AFRICAN CHARTER ON DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS  
AND GOVERNANCE**

AFRICAN UNION  UNION AFRICAINE  
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Signature  
LEGAL COUNSEL  
CONSEILLER JURIDIQUE

LOWER HALF FREE LOMM  
BYBGIWMENT LINBVA

## AFRICAN CHARTER ON DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND GOVERNANCE

### PREAMBLE

We, the Member States of the African Union (AU);

**Inspired** by the objectives and principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, particularly Articles 3 and 4, which emphasise the significance of good governance, popular participation, the rule of law and human rights;

**Recognising** the contributions of the African Union and Regional Economic Communities to the promotion, nurturing, strengthening and consolidation of democracy and governance;

**Reaffirming** our collective will to work relentlessly to deepen and consolidate the rule of law, peace, security and development in our countries;

**Guided** by our common mission to strengthen and consolidate institutions for good governance, continental unity and solidarity;

**Committed** to promote the universal values and principles of democracy, good governance, human rights and the right to development;

**Cognizant** of the historical and cultural conditions in Africa;

**Seeking** to entrench in the Continent a political culture of change of power based on the holding of regular, free, fair and transparent elections conducted by competent, independent and impartial national electoral bodies;

**Concerned** about the unconstitutional changes of governments that are one of the essential causes of insecurity, instability and violent conflict in Africa;

**Determined** to promote and strengthen good governance through the institutionalization of transparency, accountability and participatory democracy;

**Convinced** of the need to enhance the election observation missions in the role they play, particularly as they are an important contributory factor to ensuring the regularity, transparency and credibility of elections;

**Desirous** to enhance the relevant Declarations and Decisions of the OAU/AU (including the 1990 Declaration on the political and socio-economic situation in Africa and the fundamental changes taking place in the world, the 1995 Cairo Agenda for the Re-launch of Africa's Economic and Social Development, the 1999 Algiers Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government, the 2000,



