



**ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION OF THE FORUM OF
PARLIAMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES
REGION
(FP-ICGLR)**

**2026 GENERAL ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF
UGANDA**

**Pre-Election Arrival Press Statement by the Head of Mission and
Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia**

HON. MOSES FRANK MOYO, MP

**Friday, 9th January, 2026
Munyonyo Spike Resort
Kampala, Uganda**

- **The President of the Permanent Committee on Democracy and Good Governance of FP-ICGLR, HON. MUGAMBI MURWITHANIA**
- **Committee Members of the Permanent Committee on Democracy and Governance of FP-ICGLR ;**
- **Honourable Members of Parliaments Present ;**
- **The Secretary General of the Forum of Parliaments of Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, HIS EXCELLENCY AMB. DR. DEO OSMUND MWAPINGA ;**
- **Senior Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation from the United Republic of Uganda present ;**
- **Technical Staff of the General Secretariat of the Forum**
- **Distinguished Delegates;**
- **Members of the Press; and**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Following an invitation by the Government of the Republic of Uganda through the **Electoral Commission (EC)**, the Forum of Parliaments of the Member-States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region has deployed the Electoral Observation Mission to observe the **January 15, 2026 General Elections** in this country.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

The mandate to observe the January 15 elections is pursuant to **Article Six** of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region in which the Heads of State and Government of the Great Lakes Region committed themselves to promoting democracy, good governance and human rights. In

addition, the ICGLR Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance compels Member-States to commit to the promotion of the universal values and principles of democracy, good governance, human rights and the right to development. The provisions in the Protocol will guide our observation during the 2026 Uganda's General Elections in accordance with relevant international provisions.

This mandate is also in line with the provisions of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, which entered into force on February 15, 2012, aimed at enhancing electoral processes in Africa, strengthening electoral institutions and conducting of free, fair, credible and transparent elections.

I am, therefore, deeply and profoundly honoured to be here today in Kampala, to lead the Mission.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

As you are aware, Uganda's electoral history has been shaped by periods of democratic experimentation, military rule, one-party dominance and the gradual return to multi-party system. Uganda has held multiparty elections in **2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021**, characterized not only by increased competition and steady progress towards regular elections, but also significant challenges to achieve complete democratic processes.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

The 2026 general elections cycle is an important step towards maintaining the political stability the Republic of Uganda has consistently upheld. The January 15 elections are held against the backdrop of the re-introduction of multiparty politics in 2005 following a national referendum that ended nearly two decades of the Movement System. The said referendum has witnessed general elections being held every after five (5) years in the Republic of Uganda. It should be pointed out that multiparty politics have marked a major milestone in Uganda's democratic credentials visible in economic prospects and national stability.

Within the African Great Lakes Region, the outcome of the 2026 general elections will be **closely monitored** by local, regional and international actors due to Uganda's central role in the region. This is because over the years, the Republic of Uganda has actively participated in regional peace initiatives, including peacekeeping missions. Accordingly, the Forum of Parliaments also notes and commends the Republic of Uganda for hosting **tens of thousands of refugees** from conflict-affected nations of not only the Great Lakes Region but also beyond, who seek and find safe haven in the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Forum of Parliaments is committed in supporting the efforts made by all stakeholders involved in the ongoing electoral process in the Republic of Uganda to ensure that they are able to

independently and impartiality participate. Looking beyond technical requirements, the focus of the Electoral Observation Mission to Uganda is to ensure that a conducive environment is created for legitimate elections, making it possible to govern peacefully in a climate of trust, transparency and credibility.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Needless to state that, the Forum of Parliaments is organizing this Electoral Observation Mission to Uganda, as part of the implementation of the Inter-Parliamentary Accord of the organization. The Mission is aimed at assessing how the electoral process meets the 2006 Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance and other instruments, the African Union Charter on Democracy, Elections and Good Governance, the international standards regarding the organization of elections, the Constitution and the electoral laws of Uganda, and also how it reflects the true will and aspirations of its people. The highlighted benchmarks are a continuation of the implementation of the Forum's 2025 to 2026 Action Plan and, therefore, it's 2022 to 2026 Strategic Plan. This Mission is also one of the Forum's activities conducted with a view to implement the decision of the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly held from 20th to 25th April 2025 in Luanda, the Republic of Angola.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

The 2026 Electoral Observation Mission to Uganda comprises **26** high profile personalities and experts drawn from Member-States of the Forum of Parliaments. In our quest to achieve an objective assessment of the electoral process, the Forum of Parliaments conducted a **Pre-Election Analysis Report** which assessed the state of preparations and preparedness of the country to hold the 2026 general elections.

The **Report** examines the political, legal, and socio-economic environment shaping Uganda's 2026 General Elections. The **Analysis** also situates the elections within Uganda's historical electoral trajectory and highlights persistent challenges related to democratic governance, electoral credibility, and public trust.

In view of the above, the Mission will undertake a number of activities starting with a Briefing and Orientation of all its observers. The Mission will further consult and hold engagement meetings with key electoral stakeholders such as the Electoral Commission, Political Parties, Churches, Faith-Based Organisations and Civil Society groups to ascertain their perspectives of preparations and preparedness of the country to hold the January 15 General Elections.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a Mission, we **fully commit** and **pledge** to ensure that the assessment of and recommendations on the credibility, transparency, fairness and the effective organization of the

elections shall be based on the benchmarks provided in the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region.

Further, the Mission will officially release and publish its **Preliminary Findings** on the January 15 General Elections at a Press Conference to be held in **Kampala** on **January 17, 2026**. Thereafter, the Mission will issue a more detailed report of its assessment, including recommendations for future elections, which will be shared with the Conference Secretariat of the African Great Lakes Region, Member-Parliaments of the Forum, other Organs of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, key Uganda's electoral stakeholders and other appropriate authorities.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a longstanding partner of the Government, Parliament and People of the Republic of Uganda, the Forum of Parliaments appeals to all political parties and Government institutions to avoid confrontations, hate speech and violence at all costs. In this respect, the Forum encourages all electoral stakeholders to engage in dialogue and work together to ensure that the Ugandan people can freely choose their future leaders in accordance with the Republican Constitution.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It remains our **unshakable belief** and **self-conviction** that free and fair elections conducted in a climate of peace and trust will benefit all the citizens of Uganda.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the people of the Republic of Uganda for their usual warm hospitality and demonstration of a peace-loving community.

We therefore wish the Republic of Uganda, an inclusive, peaceful, free, fair, credible and transparent 2026 General Elections.

Thank you for your kind attention

9th January, 2026
Kampala, Republic of Uganda