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REPORT OF NGALIM Eugene Nyuydine

**ELECTIONS MONITORING IN THE JULY 30, 2006,
PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC),
UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF ORGANISATION
INTERNATIONALE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE (OIF)**

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1. Introduction

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with a surface area of 2 345 000 km² and with a population of over 60 millions, for over 46 years, the democratisation process has been a limping one. It was on July 30th, 2006, that most Congolese, experienced real democratic elections for the first time. As such, the elections fever was visibly demonstrated with the amount of posters, banners, flyers, newspapers publications, and radio and television programmes that were oriented to elections propaganda.

Out of an estimated budget of U.S. \$ 422 Million for this twin Presidential and legislative election, the government of DRC could only contribute U.S. \$ 42 Million. The rest U.S. \$ 380 Million came from the European Union and other International Communities such as the UN.

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) that organised these elections was headed by Reverend Appolinaire Muholongu Malumalu. This Commission recruited a personnel of 1,900. A total of 25 million voters registered by this commission was expected to vote in 49,746 polling stations, of which 41228 were located out of Kinshasa, and 8,518 were located in Kinshasa. Each of these polling stations was entitled to a maximum of 600 voters and 650 ballot papers. The voters were expected to cast a vote for one of 33 Presidential Candidates of which 4 were women, and 9709 legislative Candidates.

The elections saw the participation of both national and International Observer teams especially the following:

- Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)
- Electoral Institute for Southern Africa (EISA)
- Foundation Konrad Adenauer (FKA)
- National Democratic Institute (NDI)
- International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
- European Union (EU)
- African Union (AU)
- Japanese Government
- Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS)

OIF in particular deployed 25 observers of which 5 were youths selected from Cameroon, Chad, Gabon and the Central Africa Republic.

Both the national and international media actively covered the elections. Some of the renowned international media that covered the elections included:

- Radio France International (RFI)
- British Broadcasting Cooperation (BBC)
- Africa Number I

- South Africa Broadcasting Cooperation (SABC)
- Cable News Network (CNN)
- TV5
- Washington Post.

Security was assured by 32, 000 Congolese Police, 17 000 United Nations Peace Keeping Mission in Congo (MONUC), and German and Spanish troops that were deployed under the auspices of EU.

The involvement of International Observers, the media and the financial support of the International Community, facilitated to an extent the level of transparency in these historic elections. Despite the fact that it is difficult to find an electoral process void of flaws, the electoral organisation in DRC, could have been classified among the best in Sub Saharan Africa.

2- Historical Context and Justification of Elections in DRC

The Democratic Republic of Congo with a population of over 60 millions and with diverse ethnic groups of over 220 got her independence on June 30, 1960. At independence Kasa–Vubu was the President while Patrice Lumumba was the Prime Minister. Immediately after independence, Congo plunges into a war of secession from 1960 to 1964. On November 24, 1965, Mobutu Sese Seko seized power through a military coup. He then established a single state party with the ‘Popular Movement of the Revolution’ (MPR) in 1967 that dictated the pace of things in DRC till 1997 when he was toppled in a military coup d’etat masterminded by Laurent Desiré Kabila. On January 16, 2001, Laurent Desiré was assassinated, and as such, Joseph Kabila succeeded him.

From April 16, 1990, DRC experienced a 16 years transition. In the course of this transition, from August 7, 1991 to December 6, 1992 there was the holding of the ‘National Sovereign Conference’, that saw the participation of 3000 Congolese. On December 17, 2002, there was the holding of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue that led to the signing of a global agreement in Pretoria, South Africa relating to the management of the transition. All the political and social forces of DRC participated in this transition.

I- Objectives of the Transition

The transition was aimed at:

- Reunification, reconstruction, restoration of the territorial integrity and re-establishment of the authority of the State throughout the country.
- National reconciliation

- Building of a restructured and integrated national army
- Organisation of free, democratic and transparent elections at all levels, hence the implementation of good governance programmes and constitutional reforms.
- Implementation of structures to lead to a new political order.

II- Distribution of Power

During the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, power was distributed between the various components involved in the conflict in Congo. The principles of management of this power were consensual, inclusive, non-conflicting, fair and balanced.

The executive power was made up of 7 Ministers and 4 vice ministers for each of the components. The National Assembly was composed of the 500 parliamentarians of 94 for each of the components. That is, government, MLC, RCD, Opposition the Civil Society, RCD-ML, MCD-N and Mai-Mai. The Senate was composed of 120 Senators, distributed as follows: 22 Senators per component. That is; Government, RCD, MLC, Opposition and Civil Society. The same distribution was done in the five Institutions of support to democracy in the Territorial Administration, Foreign Affairs and Public Companies.

The Presidency was partitioned into a President and four Vices. The distribution was as follow:

- President; Joseph Kabila (PPRD)
- 1st Vice President; Jean Pierre Bemba (MLC)
- 2nd Vice; Aziarias Ruberwa (RCD)
- 3rd Vice; Arthur Zahidi Ngoma (Opposition)
- 4th Vice; Yerodia Adboulaye Ndombasi (PPRD)

III- Structuring the Congolese Electoral institution

According to the Congolese electoral Code, the Minimum age to participate in voting is 18 years, while the organisation of elections are managed by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) made up of eight members. These are:

- President; Rev. Appolinaire Muholongu Malumba
- 1st Deputy Vice President; Madam Marie Rose Mika Ebenga
- 2nd Deputy Vice: Mr Norbert Bassengezi Katintima
- 3rd Deputy Vice; Mr Crispin Konkonde
- Rapporteur ; Mr Dieudonné Mirimo Muongo
- 1st Deputy; Madam Carole Kabanga Koy
- 2nd Deputy; Mr Charles Kabangu

- 3rd: Deputy: Madam Marie Rose Kambere kavira.

The organigram of the IEC is as follows:

- Office of Provincial Representation (BRP)
- Liaison Office (BL)
- Relay office (BR)
- Polling Centre (CV)
- Polling and Counting Station (BVD)

During elections the various personalities are expected to be found in the polling stations..

- One President
- Two Assessors
- One Secretary
- One substitute assessor
- Witnesses of political parties involve in elections.

According to this same electoral code, electoral campaigns are suppose to last for 30 days. They are expected to end 24 hours before voting. During the campaign period, the political parties involved are offered broadcasting time and access to the media. To participate in the Presidential election each candidate is expected to pay U.S. \$ 50,000.

IV- The Congolese Society and Elections

Before the holding of the July 30, 2006, elections, the level of readiness by the people of Congo was very limited. This was as a result of low understanding of the electoral procedures, and low educational level.

According to Professor Mabilia Mantuba-Ngoma, lecturer with the University of Kinshasa, the Meaning of elections to the Congolese people included:

- End of poverty, unemployment and end of foreign domination.
- To them, Joseph Kabila, one of the Presidential Candidates is the Choice of the International Community, hence the most favourite.
- According to Congolese, the deployment of the European Union Force (EUFOR), makes them to see, the elections as fake.
- Apart from the above, according to them, elections are an opportunity for the population to receive presents from contesting candidates.

V- Female Participation:

According to the statistics of the July 30, elections:

- Women are afraid of take part in politics.
- Women at the grass roots level have many difficulties to understand the voting procedures
- They mistrust politics, hence little support for women Candidates
- They have less financial means than men to go in for elections
- In the Presidential election, out of 33 candidates, there were only 4 women candidates giving a percentage of 12, 12. These four Women were:
 - Justine Mpoyo Kasavubu Marie Therese
 - Landu Mpolo Wivine
 - Landu Kavidi (Sister to Wivine).
 - Catherine Nzuzi WA Mbombo
- In the legislative election, out of 9,584 candidates there were only 1,296 women candidates, giving a percentage of 13,5

VI- Characteristics of Voters Intention

- All the candidates had a great influence in their strong holds (Provinces of origin and linguistic areas)
- The Vote in most cases was ethnic and regional.
- Religious membership also determine the intention of the vote
- The tendency was that, the results will be likely disputed and may involved secessions or wars.

3- Gymnastics and Alliances in the DRC Elections

The Congolese elections that saw the participation of 33 Presidential candidates and 9,584 Parliamentary candidates witnessed a lot of gymnastics by the candidates that canvassed on the field for the votes. Out of the 33 political parties for these elections, only about 11 could be traced in the entire territory of DRC. They included:

1. Peoples Party for Reconstruction and Democracy (PPRD)
2. Liberation Movement of Congo (LMC)
3. Congolese Movement for Democracy (CMD)
4. Specialist Movement for the New Deal (SPMND)
5. Forces of the New Deal (FND)
6. Christian Democrat (CD)
7. UREC and Allies

8. Lumumbist Unified Party (LUP)
9. Fatherland Camp (FC)
10. National Alliance Party for Unity (NAPU)
11. Popular Movement for Revolution (PMR)

In order to survive the heat of these elections and to solicit for many votes, many parties finally formed alliances. These alliances included:

- The Alliance for Presidential Majority made up of 31 parties, led by the incumbent President, Joseph Kabila.
- Regroupment of Congolese Nationalists made up of 24 parties, led by Jean Pierre Bemba.
- Alliance of Congolese Nationalists
- Convention of Congolese Democrats
- Coalition of Congolese Democrats
- Coalition of Christian Parties
- Defence front for Congo
- Defence Union for the Republic
- Reconstruction Union for Congo

Despite the so many political parties and coalitions, six candidates were able to distinguish themselves as fore runners for the elections. They included.

1. Joseph Kabila Kabange
2. Jean Pierre Bemba Gombo
3. Oscar Kashala
4. Antoine Gizenga
5. Ruberwa Azarias
6. Pierre Pay Pay Wa Siaggassighe

According to Professor Mabilia Mantuba-Ngoma, the criteria for selecting these six candidates was through the newspapers review, and the frequency of these names on radio and television.

4- Context and Justification of the OIF Mission in Monitoring Elections in DRC

I. Context and Justification

The Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), that regroups French speaking countries has as one of her mission, the promotion of democracy within its member states. OIF participation in monitoring elections in the DRC stems from the November, 3, 2006. Bamako Declaration of an International Symposium on the 'The practice of democracy, human rights and liberties

within the Francophonie.’ The symposium that held under the patronage of Alpha Oumar Konaré, President of the Republic of Mali, brought together 400 participants from Francophonie countries. The constitutive principles and parameters of this symposium were: the state of rights; elections; political life; and culture of democracy and human rights.

The outcome of this declaration was the establishment the ‘Fonds Francophone d’Initiatives pour la Démocratie, les Droits de l’Homme et la Paix –FFIDDHOP (Francophone Initiative Fund for Democracy, human Rights and Peace). The root map to the establishment of this programme started on October 18 – 20, 2002 in Beyrouth, during the IX Francophone heads of state and government summit. During this Summit, it was reaffirmed that the in dissociable and universal character of all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights is a necessity to human development. In the same light, the summit expressed the voluntary need to favour the emergency of new partnerships between public and private initiatives; and mobilising all the actors involved in the promotion, protection and the respect of human rights.

On November 26 – 27, 2004, during the heads of state and government meetings in Ouagadougou, with the determination to promote the principles and engagement of November 3, 2000, Bamako declaration on the practice of democracy, human rights and liberties stood as a major item in the agenda. The intention was to reinforce the spirit of progress in order to consolidate peace, democracy and human rights as one of the priority axis for the Francophonie.

The priority areas for the putting in place of this programme included:

- Consolidation of the state of human rights in member countries.
- Holding of free and transparent elections
- An appeased political life
- Promotion of a democratic culture and full respect of human rights.

II. Basic Principles for Sending OIF Observation Team to DRC

During the VI Francophonie heads of state and government summit that was held in Cotonou, they recalled their constant and effective engagement in favour of democracy, human rights, economic development and social progress. They affirmed this engagement in order to:

- Make the Francophonie a force for solidarity and the promotion of fundamental human rights and liberties.
- Consolidate by a common adhesion, the construction of a state of law
- Help in the establishment of an ideal democracy and aspiration for development.

In addition to the above, they also under lined the fact that the state of law, democracy, development, security and peace are link. Never the less, they considered the fact that democracy, state of law and the respect for human rights are never definitely acquired. In this light, the heads of state and government reiterated their support to institutions and appropriate mechanisms for the promotion of democracy, and protection of the state of law with regard to the international standards.

Conscious of their capacity to contribute to initiatives that have been considered at the international, regional and national levels for the prevention management and resolution of conflicts, they estimated that the Francophonie is suppose to play a big role in the world on sustainable peace. As such, they decided to continue to support democratisation process and to consolidate the state of law among the member states of the Francophonie. The perusing of this course is adapted to the situation of each country.

It is therefore as a result of the above reasons that, with the request of the government of DRC, OIF supported the electoral process by deploying observers to monitor the July 30 elections. Before the polling proper, on February 15 –21, 2006, OIF sent a high level expert mission to DRC.

This team was made up of Professor Jean Claude MASCLET, Professor with the Faculty of Law and Vice President of the University of Paris I; Mr Dieu-Donné RAKOTONDRABAO, Adviser to the Constitutional High Court of Madagascar; Mr Guy PRUNIER Chargé de Mission at the Constitutional Council of France; Mr Noureddine DRISS, specially mandated by the Secretary General of OIF, Mr Ntole KAZADI; Adviser to DDHDP.

This mission participated in the capacity building workshop on ‘Mechanisms and settlement of electoral disputes’, on February 16, 2006. From February 17 to 18, they participated in a seminar on the ‘Appropriation of the texts and exchange of experiences.’ On February 20, they met with political parties. At the time of their departure on February 21, the Congolese electoral code was adopted by the Transitional National Assembly and Senate. At the end of their mission, this team recommended in its report the need for the capitalisation of the workshop and seminar they participated in DRC, so as to reinforce the democratisation process in DRC. It was on this basis that OIF deployed an observer team to monitor the elections.

In view of the July 30 elections, Mr Noureddine DRISS Consultant with OIF, came up with a project on the involvement of youths in the observation team. These youths were to be called ‘OIF Young Volunteers.’ The project that

was highly welcome by OIF considered youths as a valorised component of the team to monitor the July 30, elections.

5. Selection Criteria for OIF Young Volunteers

The criteria put in place for the selection of these young volunteers, was basically:

- A Curriculum Vitae
- A Maximum age of 30
- Most be verse with human rights and electoral procedures.

Following these criteria on June 26, 2006, the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP) was contacted to nominate 15 Cameroonian youths that were ready to voluntarily participate in the Mission. This was done, and the list sent to OIF in Paris. It was therefore in Paris that the final selection was done. Out of the 5 selected youths in the Central African Sub Region, two came from the CAMYOSFOP list. These were:

- Ngalim Eugene Nyuydine, CAMYOSFOP Executive Director and the UNDP Youth Spokesperson for Africa 2015 (MDGs), Cameroon;
- Ndi Mercy Nshie, CAMYOSFOP Public Relations Officer and the Commonwealth Deputy Youth Representative at the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Cameroon.

The other three volunteers included:

- **Republic of Central Africa**
Guemala Gualbert Gabin Kpeou, Civil Administrator and rapporteur of the national observer 2005 Presidential election in the Republic of Central Africa.
- **Gabon**
Virgil Abessolo, Member of African Youth and observer of the 1996 legislative election in Gabon.
- **Chad**
Moustapha Adoum Abakar President of the coalition of youth Associations and Movements and member of the National Elections observatory, Chad.

Out of these five volunteers, only the delegates from Cameroon and Chad effectively participated in the monitoring process. Due to flight difficulties the youth delegate from the Republic of Central Africa arrived on July 31, a day after the polls, while the delegate of Gabon did not arrive at all.

6- Training of Observers

Once in Kinshasa, we, alongside other international and national observers under went a training in elections Monitoring. This training was sponsored by the Support Project for the Coordinator of Observers (PACO) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPs). The Modules of the training included:

- The frame work of elections in DRC, presented by Rev. Appolinaire Muholungu Malumalu, President of the Independent Electoral Commission. In his presentation, he talk about the various institutions that has been put in place to ensure a free and fair elections. He also talk on what has been done as regards massive participation in the elections.
- The next trainer Mr Jean François Morin, technical Adviser of the Directorate General of Elections in Quebec, talk on the electoral procedures and methodology of observation. He stressed on the composition of a polling station and the work polling officers are suppose to do. ‘The polling stations are suppose to open at 6 am and close at 5 pm’
- Madam Adèle, in charge of international cooperation at the Directorate General of Elections in Quebec and Madam France Lavergan in charge of support for Training at the Directorate General of Elections in Quebec, both trained the observers on the electoral procedures and methodology of observation. This training was basically on what to be considered for an effective monitoring.
- Professor Mabiala Mantuba-Ngoma, historian/sociologist with the University of Kinshasa, handled the institutional, historical, socio-cultural and political framework of Congo. His presentation enlightened observers on the historical background and gymnastics of elections in DRC.

7. Deployment and Monitoring Proper of the Elections by OIF

OIF observer team, even though very small in number (25) was deployed in most of the key areas in DRC. This observer team under the leadership of Mr Tiebile Drane, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, was deployed in the following places: Kinshasa, Kisangani, Lubumbashi, Buta, Kalemie, Bukavu, Goma and Matadi: The OIF team while in the field worked in collaboration with other observer teams. These observer teams were guaranteed security by MONUC

I- Elections Monitoring in Matadi (Bas-Congo Province)

Matadi is the capital of Bas-Congo Province and one of the Port Cities of DRC. This therefore means that Matadi is very strategic and so this probably explain why OIF chose it as one of the main cities for elections monitoring. The total number of people that registered in Bas-Congo was 1, 232, 416.

The team that monitored elections in this City and its enviroane were Ngalim Eugene, professor Zeus Ajavon, former President of Togolese Independent Electoral Commission and Moustapha Adoum Abaker from Chad. The team was headed by Professor Ajavon. Even though, we were based in Matadi, we monitored in most of the polling stations on the way to Matadi from Kinshasa.

These centres included: Kasungulu, Bansugum, Lukala, Nouizi, Kimpese and Kikonga. In Matadi, we monitored in: Kinkanda General Hospital, Mavinga institute, Soyo Buima and in the Port quarter of Matadi

Immediately we got to Matadi on the evening of July 29, the first thing we did was that we visited the Office of the Provincial Independent Electoral Commission. On arrival at this office at about 9 pm, we met with hundreds of young people waiting to be recruited as polling officers. When we investigated, why such a late recruitment? The OIF team was informed by Mr Jean Mark Nsakala, officer in charge of sensibilization, that when those who were recruited were called up to sign their contracts on Friday, July 28, most of them refused on grounds that the U.S. \$35 stipend for the job to done was too small. As such, they at the electoral commission sent out a press release calling for new recruitment. In the course of the recruitment, those in the original list that showed up were readmitted.

We also seek to know from Nsakala, how the elections have been organised in Matadi and Bas-Congo in general. He told us that religious and traditional leaders were used for sensitization, reason being that the public could be easily reached through this medium. He also informed OIF observers that resources used for sensibilization included: posters, banners, flyers, media, conferences and door-to-door sensibilization. We were also told that the necessary material and logistics were provided to the civil society for awareness raising. Equally, we were informed that the United Nations Development Programme facilitated the process by putting in place funds for micro and macro projects for Associations and NGOs to permit them to effectively carry out sensibilization. In the words of Nsakala, ‘...inspite of these efforts by the government; the political parties did not do their work by, providing political education to their militants.’ Also, traditional leaders were not expecting and

believing that elections were going to be organised too soon, and so they were not inspired in carrying out sensibilization.

II. Elections Monitoring On July 30, 2006 (voting day)

Almost all the polling Stations in Matadi and Bas-Congo, opened at exactly 6 AM and closed at 5 PM. The necessary logistics were put in place. These logistics included: lamps, ballot papers, transparent ballot boxes, indelible ink, registers, padlocks, report sheets and legal documents such as the constitution and the electoral code. In the Kindanda General Hospital, Mavinga Institute, and Soyo Buima where we witnessed the opening of the polls, there was a lot of euphoria and enthusiasm among the polling agents and the voters. When we got to the other polling stations along the way to Kinshasa, we equally realised the same elections euphoria. By about 3 PM, almost every body that had to vote had finished voting and was looking forward to the counting process. By 5PM, when the counting started, results tendency at the various polling stations, especially in Kasungulu where we monitored, the bulk of the population was behind four Candidates, namely, Jean Pierre Benba, Joseph Kabila, Oscar Kashala and Antoine Gizenga'. None of the candidates were able to distinguished himself with an absolute majority.

III- Short Comings of the Elections

a- Rioting at the Matadi Provincial Independent Electoral Commission Office

On July 30, when we got to the Matadi Provincial Independent Electoral Commission's Office at about 10 am, we meet with hundreds of rioting population. When we investigated from Mr Jean Mark Nsakala, the officer we met the previous night, he told us that those rioting were the very polling officers that refused to sign their contracts. Most of them had return during the elections day to managed the elections in the polling stations. Unfortunately, they had been replaced and so they resulted to rioting. Good enough the Police and MONUC was around to stop this rioting. Never-the-less this rioting spread to some areas of Matadi. But, this state of anarchy did not disrupt the polls.

b- Ignorance of Voting Procedures

One of the shortcomings noted during these elections was the ignorance of voting procedures by the bulk of the population. As such, the polling agent had a serious task of explaining what to be done to those who came in to vote. Yet, some of the voters still did not do the right thing. Since, most of the voters were illiterates, most of them did not even know the right polling stations to go to. Some, instead of coming along with the voting cards meant for the elections,

they came along with cards that were meant for the just ended constitutional referendum.

IV- Personal Assessment

In my opinion (NGALIM Eugene):

- The Congolese population needs more political education on voting and elections in general.
- In spite of low political education, the massive turn out by the population of about 70 percent made the elections a success.
- The nature of the polling papers, where all the contesting candidates featured in the ballot papers, made the elections very transparent; because voters had to chose from among the so many candidates, tick their choice, drop the ballot paper in the ballot box and then come out with empty hands.
- The transparent ballot boxes gave more confidence to the voters, hence enhanced the level of transparency.
- Apart from the above, the fact that the final results had to be computerised by experts hired from South Africa and the European Union also made the computerisation to be independent and transparent.

8. The Way Forward in the Democratic Process in DRC

The violence orchestrated before, during and after the elections is a prove of the fact that the democratic process in DRC still has a long way to go. Never the less, from the look of things, there is hope in the horizon. The way forward in the DRC is an assessment of opinion sampling that I personally conducted with militants of some political parties, international observers and media practioners.

Talking with Dr. Brigallia Bam of the South African Independent Electoral Commission she said ‘The democratisation process in DRC is still young and so there is no doubt, if there is violence and contestation before, during and after the elections. In 1994, South Africa was just like DRC, even though in a different context, but today the population understands what elections are.’

Dominique Ngoie, of the Alliance of Presidential Majority of President Joseph Kabila, said: ‘If we are beaten I will understand, but those at the helm may not accept. Never-the-less, results coming from the various polling stations show that we are leading. I wish all the parties that contested for the elections accept the results, because refusing the results will not help the country.’

Tsepiso Makwetla, presenter of 60 minutes live with South Africa Broadcasting Cooperation, said; ‘The elections were very transparent even though some polling officers and voters were ignorant of the procedures. Yet, I must congratulate the government and the people of DRC, for the elections is a motor of peace and stability.’

According to Craig Timberg, Johannesburg Bureau Chief of the Washington Post, ‘The practice of Democracy is a school. Elections in a war torn and divergent country like DRC is a good school for the democratisation process in the country.’

Finally, according to France Lavergne, Adèle Dugal, Jean-François Morin and Professor Mabiala Mantuba, trainers of national and international observers; ‘The enthusiasm demonstrated by the government and people of DRC and the readiness of the International Community to help in the process is a good symbol for positive elections.’

From the comments made by the above personalities involved in the elections in DRC, one could rightly conclude that the Democratisation process in DRC is almost on the right footing as compared to many other processes in Sub Saharan Africa. As such, the way forward is a bright future for the democratisation process in the DRC.

9. Suggestions for Improvement in Further Participation by Youths

- OIF should be able to come up with sub-regional training on youth participation in elections monitoring.
- Youths should be highly implicated in such exercises as elections monitoring by organisations involved with such projects. The involvement of the youths will horn in them the various principles of free and fair elections.
- Projects on training youths in democratisation processes should become a priority for organisations involve in the promotion of democratisation structures. The involvement of the youths will help to build their capacities as vectors and Ambassadors of nation building.
- Individual governments should be able to provide special funds for youth projects on elections participation. In this way, youths will be able to play big roles in the conduct of transparent elections and maintenance of peace during electoral consultations.
- Reports of youths who have been involved in democratic initiatives should be published and distributed to cross a section of the population. In so doing their participation would inspire other youths.

10. Conclusion

The elections in Congo, was a good experience for Congolese who for the past 46 years has not known what democratic elections are, and for close to 10 years had not known any thing other than war. Despite the lapses witness during the elections, this would only help in improving on further electoral consultations. Equally, the level of transparency must be commended, as it was better than that of elections organised in most Sub-Saharan African Countries. As such, CEI efforts in organising these elections must be highly appreciated..

All the same, credit should be given to the European Union, the UN and other partners of development that pumped in the necessary resources for the organisation of these elections. Equally, the Congolese Police, EUFOR and MONUC must be congratulated for their role in the maintenance of peace before, during and after the elections.

The media in particular played a very great role in raising awareness to the Congolese people on the importance of their participation in the democratisation of their country. This therefore account for the high turn out in the elections.

The role of national and international observers was very prominent in the transparency of voting. OIF, in particular was very prominent as one of the organisations that greatly involved youths in the monitoring process. The importance of the involvement of these youths is the fact that they are future leaders of their Countries and so there is need for their capacities to build in such exercises of national building.

OIF initiative is highly commendable and should be emulated by other organisations involved in such exercises.