

ANNEX I: Biographies of COG Members

His Excellency Mr Festus Gontebanye Mogae (Chair) (Botswana)

President Mogae trained as an Economist at the Universities of Oxford and Sussex in the United Kingdom. He served his country in a number of capacities including as Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning from 1975 to 1976. He became Alternate Governor for Botswana at the International Monetary Fund, African Development Bank, and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development from 1971 to 1976.

He was Governor of the Bank of Botswana from 1980 to 1981. From 1982 to 1989 he was Permanent Secretary to the President, Secretary to the Cabinet and Supervisor of Elections. He was appointed Minister of Finance and Development Planning in 1989 and became Vice President in 1992, until 31 March 1998 when he became the Third President of the Republic of Botswana.

President Mogae has served on the boards of various parastatals as well as corporate organisations. He has been involved in a number of community oriented initiatives and is Chairman of the National AIDS Council (launched 30 March 2000). Among a significant number of national and international honours and awards, President Mogae won the *Mo Ibrahim Prize for African Leadership* for ensuring 'stability and prosperity' in 2008.

Dr Zahurul Alam (Bangladesh)

Dr Alam is a governance expert with more than 27 years of professional experience. He is Founder and President of the Governance and Rights Centre (GRC) that aims at promoting good governance and protecting human rights. Zahurul Alam has worked with various international agencies, including UNDP, ILO, ADB and CIDA.

During 1999–2001, Dr Alam was Head of the Governance Portfolio of UNDP. From 2006–2009, he worked as the Director of the Election Working Group (EWG), a coalition of more than 30 civil society organisations that share a common commitment to free and fair elections, good governance, and the achievement of higher standards of democratic representation and accountability in Bangladesh. Zahurul Alam has previously been involved in election observation missions in the Philippines, Australia and Sri Lanka among others. He is the co-author of the recently published UNDP publication *Elections in Bangladesh 2006–2009: Transforming Failure into Success*.

Dr Mrs Elizabeth Tamajong (Cameroon)

Dr Tamajong is a specialist in Educational Policy and Administration. Professionally, she is a Senior Research Fellow in the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation. She is also the Chief of Centre of the National Centre for Educational and Social Studies in the same ministry. Her field of interests include but not limited to climate change, human rights education, inclusive education,

political empowerment of youths and women and leadership capacity-building. She is also the author of a number of scientific articles and books.

Dr Tamajong has been member of the main opposition political party in Cameroon, the Social Democratic Front (SDF) since its creation in 1990. She is presently the Secretary-General of the party. Dr Tamajong has been involved in domestic election observation in Cameroon, and has also organised training seminars on elections fraud for women and youth groups in Cameroon.

Ms Thandeka Percival (Guyana)

Ms Percival taught English Language and Literature for five years (2005–2010) at Queen's College (Guyana). She is a student of International Relations and Developmental Studies, a member of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Youth Subcommittee on Human Rights and Democracy as well as various other national youth organisations centred around the celebration and promotion of the contribution of youth to national and global development.

Ms Marjorie Walla (Kenya)

Ms Walla is a consultant with a specialisation in voter education. She has worked with both locally-based and international civil society organisations in areas such as election administration and management, election observation missions, institutionalisation of civic and voter education initiatives, and capacity development of electoral management bodies.

Ms Limakatso Mokhothu (Lesotho)

Ms Mokhothu has been the Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of Lesotho since 2008. She has been a Commissioner of the IEC since 2003.

Ms Mokhothu has observed elections in the DRC, Malawi, Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, Sudan and Sweden. Before working in IEC, she worked for the Irish Consulate in Lesotho as an advisor on governance, gender and human rights issues. She has had a long career in the NGO movement working for different NGOs as an Information and Communication Officer, a facilitator in development activities, peace, human rights including gender and voter education.

Mr Mukhtar Ahmad Ali (Pakistan)

Mr Ali is Executive Director of Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), which is a civil society organisation based in Islamabad, Pakistan. He is also the founding member as well as an Executive Council member of Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), a large domestic election observer network in Pakistan. He has over 15 years of work experience in the development sector. His areas of interest and expertise include elections, right to information, transparency, legislative governance, police reforms and democratic development. He has an M. Phil degree in Development Studies (with distinction) from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, UK.

Andrew S Trawen, CMG, MBE (Papua New Guinea)

Andrew Trawen is Papua New Guinea's Electoral Commissioner; he is currently serving his second term of six years in this post. He was first appointed Electoral Commissioner in January 2004 for a six-year term, and subsequently re-appointed in January 2010 for his second term to expire in 2016. He has served the Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission for over 38 years.

He has attended three Commonwealth Chief Election Officers Conferences in Cambridge, UK, New Delhi, India and Accra, Ghana. He also participated as member of the Pacific Islands, Australia, New Zealand Electoral Administrators Network (PIANZEA) meetings in Korolevu, Fiji, Brisbane, Australia, Honiara, Solomon Islands and Nukualofa, Tonga. He participated as member of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) meetings in Manila, Philippines and Tapei, Taiwan. He has previously observed elections in Cambodia, Guyana and the Marshall Islands.

Ms Rene Mercedes Baptiste, CMG (St Vincent and the Grenadines)

Ms Baptiste is a former elected member of Parliament of St Vincent and the Grenadines who has served two successful terms as a senior cabinet member and minister of government from 2001–2005 and 2005–2010, having responsibility for electoral matters in the last term in which she initiated a number of changes and oversaw the first-ever Constitutional Referendum in the OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States).

Prior to 2001, she had an expansive legal career of 25 years dominated by pioneering the establishment of the international financial services industry in the country, and her private law practice in corporate and business law, as well elections and constitutional matters. She gave extensive service in leadership positions in several NGO's including the Co-operative Movement, and was at the forefront of the broadcast media and culture.

During her parliamentary career, she served on the Public Accounts Committee, the Parliamentary Rules Committee, and several other Parliamentary Committees including those relating to Constitutional and Legislative matters. Following her retirement from competitive politics, she returned to private practice in 2011 and has since facilitated consultations on behalf of international organisations on issues relating to politics, democracy and governance.

Dr Mrs Nemata Majeks-Walker (Sierra Leone)

Dr Majeks-Walker is the founder of the *50/50 Group* of Sierra Leone, a non-partisan campaign for equal representation for women in politics and public life in Sierra Leone through training and advocacy. This group is the first African group to win the coveted Madeleine Albright Award.

She was recently Senior Gender and Elections Adviser for UNIFEM (now integrated into UN Women) in Tanzania after holding the same post in Juba, The Sudan. She is a consultant and facilitator/trainer who has worked in gender, leadership, advocacy and politics since 1999. She has worked in Sierra Leone, the UK, the USA, Pakistan, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, The Gambia and Liberia with women politicians, civil society activists, youth groups and media representatives. She is an experienced campaigner and lobbyist on women's issues, and has a keen interest in mainstreaming gender in elections. She trained women candidates in the October 2005 General Election in Liberia, which produced the first female president in West Africa.

Dr Majeks-Walker has previously served with Commonwealth Election Observation Groups in Pakistan and Belize. She was awarded the Grand Order of the Rokel of Sierra Leone in the 2007 New Year's Honours. She fundraised for and is currently co-ordinating the construction of the *50/50 Groups* first Gender and Women's Leadership Training Institute in Sierra Leone.

Mr Hanif Vally (South Africa)

Mr Hanif Vally is the Deputy Director, Foundation for Human Rights in South Africa. Previously, he was the Head of the Human Rights Unit at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. He was also a National Legal Officer, South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and has been a human rights lawyer and activist for many years.

Professor Goretti Linda Nassanga (Uganda)

Professor Nassanga was the first Head of the Mass Communication Department at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, and is now the Coordinator for the Masters programme at the Department. She is the Chairperson for the Uganda Media Council. She has undertaken research and published in local and international journals. Her academic and research interests revolve around development communication, including media and the democratisation process.

Stuart Mole, CVO, OBE (United Kingdom)

Stuart Mole is a Senior Research Fellow at London University's Institute of Commonwealth Studies. He is also Chairman of the Editorial Board of *The Round Table: the Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*. He was previously Director-General of the Royal Commonwealth Society and, for sixteen years, held senior positions in the Commonwealth Secretariat. There, he worked in the private offices of three Commonwealth Secretaries-General, latterly as Director. Stuart Mole has extensive electoral experience and has served with Commonwealth election observer groups in South Africa, The Gambia, Antigua and Barbuda, and Nigeria (2003).

Commonwealth Secretariat Staff Team

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