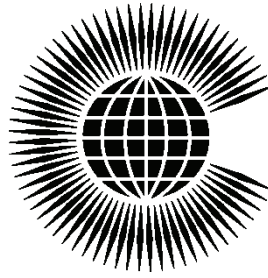


ANNEX V: Public Statement by the Chair on 3 April 2011



THE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP NIGERIA ELECTIONS

Statement by Chair of Commonwealth Observer Group, Festus Mogae, on further postponement of elections in Nigeria

We have noted the further postponement by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) of the National Assembly elections, and that the Presidential elections have also now been postponed. We note that the announcement follows consultation with the principal stakeholders. We recognise fully that it is the prerogative of Nigeria's electoral authorities to make changes to the electoral timetable. We believe, nevertheless, that such repeated and last minute changes are regrettable and do not reflect positively on the state of preparedness of INEC.

What is important, however, is that the elections take place as now rescheduled, that they are free, fair and credible, that peace and tranquillity are maintained, that all stakeholders conduct themselves responsibly and that the people of Nigeria retain faith in the democratic process.

Abuja, 3 April 2011

For media enquiries, please contact Mr Julius Mucunguzi at +234 (0)706 359 7240 or j.mucunguzi@commonwealth.int