

Annex 1

Composition of the Group

Dr Salim Ahmed Salim (United Republic of Tanzania – Chair)

African statesman Dr Salim Ahmed Salim served for 12 years as Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) before demitting office in 2001. Prior to that he served in various cabinet and ambassadorial positions in the Tanzanian government, rising to Prime Minister (1984-85). As Prime Minister, he led Tanzania's delegation to The Bahamas Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 1985.

A massive figure on the international arena and one of Africa's best known voices, Dr Salim was the President of the UN General Assembly (1979-1980) and Chairman of the UN Committee on Decentralisation (1972-1980).

Dr Salim is currently a member of the Panel of the Wise of the Africa, which groups a select group of high profile individuals that offer advice on political and economic governance; and chairman of the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation. He also chairs various NGOs, boards and commissions in Africa.

Mr Sabihuddin Ahmed (Bangladesh)

Mr Sabihuddin Ahmed is a former Permanent Secretary and a former Ambassador. As Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Bangladesh he was instrumental in the banning of polythene shopping bags. In that role and as his country's top diplomat to Sweden and the UK, he strongly pursued the climate change agenda as Bangladesh would be one of its worst victims.

Mr Ahmed was involved in negotiations at bilateral and multilateral levels for his country and participated in various international conferences including the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg in 2002. During his tenure in the UK, Mr Ahmed interacted closely with the Commonwealth Secretariat to deepen ties between the organisation and his country.

Art Wright (Canada)

Mr Wright has served as Canada's top diplomat in Bangladesh and Burma (Mynmar); Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean; Zimbabwe, Botswana, Angola and Mozambique.

He has also been Vice President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for Asia and Multilateral Institutions. He retired from the Canadian Foreign Service in 1997. He is currently an academic at the University of Victoria at Quest University, Canada where he has taught on interdisciplinary course on Sustainable Development and Human Security to undergraduate students in Canada and East Africa.

Brig Gen (Rtd) Francis Asiedu Agyemfra (Ghana)

Brigadier-General (Rtd) Francis A. Agyemfra served in the Ghana Armed Forces from 1961 to 2001. A graduate of the Malaysian Armed Forces Staff College, he served in various senior capacities in the Ghana Armed Forces, including General Officer Commanding Southern Command (Ghana) and Chief of Staff. As a key player in the peace processes in Liberia and Sierra Leone, General Agyemfra served as Ghana's Ambassador to Liberia from

1997 to 2001. General Agyemfra is now a Security Consultant and a Senior Fellow at The Institute of Economic Affairs, Ghana.

Dr Leith L Dunn (Jamaica)

Dr Dunn is a Jamaican Sociologist. She is Head of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies Mona Unit at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. She is a graduate of the UWI and has a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Dr Dunn has worked with several local, regional and international development agencies including the United Nations. Her research and publications on a wide range of development issues include gender and governance. She has served as a member of Commonwealth Observer Groups for elections in Zimbabwe (2002) and Zambia (2006).

Mr Caesar Handa (Kenya)

Mr Handa has wide ranging experience in the development and implementation of communications programs and has been involved in research and communication initiatives in Kenya, the East African region and other parts of Africa. He has been at the forefront of developing research and communications programs that have significantly contributed towards improved governance and citizen participation in Kenya. Key among this is pioneering the process of political opinion polling in East Africa.

Mr Handa holds degrees in Political Science and Anthropology from the University of Nairobi, Postgraduate training in communications from the University of Nairobi and University of Missouri, Columbia USA. He has, in addition, attended several training programs including a course on research development at the University of Cologne. Mr. Handa has won several awards, including the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship awarded by the United States Government.

Mr Samuel Tembenu (Malawi)

Mr Tembenu is a lawyer in Malawi and immediate past President of the Malawi Law Society (2008–2009); former Human Rights Commissioner of the Malawi Human Rights Commission between 2002 and 2008. He currently practices law in Malawi in the fields of commercial law and human rights.

He has previously participated as a local observer in general elections in Malawi both in capacity of Human Rights Commissioner as well as a member of the Malawi Law Society.

Mokshanand Sunil Dowarkasing (Mauritius)

Mr Dowarkasing has served as a Member of Parliament in Mauritius for 10 years during the period 2000–2010. He has also been a Member of the Pan-African Parliament (2005–2010) and was the President of the Eastern Caucus of the Parliament. He has led several fact finding missions in Africa including Darfur and Birao.

Mr Dowarkasing has participated in many election observer missions including that of the European Parliament. He has also been an active member of the Joint E-P-PAP Committee overlooking the African–EU strategy action Plan (Lisbon action Plan).

Mrs Simea Avei Meafou (Samoa)

Mrs Simea Avei Meafou has served in several government ministries including Justice Department, Lands and Titles Court, Ministry of Agriculture Forests, Fisheries and Meteorology for 29 years. She has been in her current post as Assistant Electoral Commissioner for five years.

Mrs Avei Meafou has represented the Samoa Electoral Office in various Election Management Bodies' conferences and workshop and has a solid grounding in good electoral practices globally.

Dr Christiana Thorpe (Sierra Leone)

Dr Christiana A M Thorpe is currently serving a second five year tenure as Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone. A professional Educationist, Dr Thorpe has served in various sectors in the field of education including the position of Minister.

She is Founding Chair and Executive Member of the Charity – Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) Sierra Leone Chapter – A Pan African Organisation catering for the education of disadvantaged girls and women throughout the continent. (She started the Sierra Leone Chapter in March, 1995).

She is Steering Committee member of the West African Sub-regional Electoral Management Borders (ECONEC) and serves in several International Board, on Democracy, Education and Peace and Conflict Resolution.

J C Weliamuna, (Sri Lanka)

Mr Weliamuna is a constitutional and human rights lawyer, with over 20 years of active legal practice, mainly in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. He has appeared in a large number of sensitive cases involving human rights and corruption. He is a regular contributor national and international media on human rights and governance situation of the country. He also served as a lecturer and trainer on governance and human rights at national, regional and international level.

He is an Eisenhower Fellow and a Senior Ashoka Fellow. He is an elected Bureau Member of the regional human rights organisation, South Asians for Human Rights.

At present he is the Executive Director of the Transparency International Sri Lanka, the leading anti corruption institution, which is part of global movement against corruption.

He has extensive experience in monitoring of elections at local level and was involved in monitoring of elections in Pakistan and Indonesia. He also innovatively developed a civil society mechanism to effectively monitor abuses of state resources during elections.

Adelle Zaira Roopchand (Trinidad and Tobago)

Adelle Zaira Roopchand is a communications consultant specialising in the environment, security and logistics. She is responsible for logistics and security at the regional Association for Caribbean Media Workers. She was facilitator at the International Media Centre during the Fifth Summit of the Americas (VSOA) and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2009, where she managed more than 2,000 journalists covering VSOA and some 800 journalists covering CHOGM.

A graduate of communication and media, Adelle is the Al Gore representative presenter for The Climate Project in the Caribbean.

Kaye Oliver, CMG, OBE (United Kingdom)

Miss Oliver was a diplomat until 2002. She spent 16 years in Africa including as Ambassador to Rwanda and Burundi and as High Commissioner to Lesotho. Miss Oliver was part of the

Commonwealth Observer Groups to Kenya, Nigeria, Swaziland, Rwanda, Burundi and Zambia. She is a Director of Electoral Reform International Services (ERIS) in the UK.

Commonwealth Secretariat Support Staff

- Mark Stevens, Democracy, Staff Team Leader
- Manoah Esipisu, Media
- Martin Kasirye, Political
- Christina Hajdu, Human Rights
- Zippy Ojago, Democracy