



**Commonwealth Observer Group**  
**Uganda Presidential and Parliamentary Elections**  
**18 February 2011**

24 February 2011

Dear Secretary-General,

We have now completed our Final Report on the 18 February 2011 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in Uganda and are pleased to forward it to you.

These were the country's second multi-party elections. There was a largely peaceful campaign and a reasonably calm Election Day in most areas but this was regrettably marred by localised incidents of violence and poor management by the Electoral Commission. Our main concerns were about the overwhelming lack of a level playing field, abuse of incumbency and the "commercialisation of politics". As a result, the 2011 elections in Uganda did not fully meet national, regional and international standards for democratic elections. It should be a concern to the Commonwealth that these were also highlighted by the team present for the 2006 elections.

However, it was encouraging that during the election campaign basic freedoms, including freedom of association and freedom of movement and assembly, were generally respected. Parties conducted active national campaigns which attracted large crowds.

The voter register remains a work-in-progress. While some improvements were evident many anomalies remained. The extent of these vary from area to area but the phenomena are consistent. The absence of voter cards or some other regulated form of identification together with the inaccuracies in the Voters' Register exposed the process to abuse and disenfranchisement. In addition, there is serious concern about the Election Commission's management of and preparation for the polls, with a poor level of organisation in the delivery of materials and many polling station officials seemingly ill-prepared for their duties.

This Group will now depart from Uganda. We would very much like to thank you for this opportunity. It has been a rewarding experience for us all. I would also like to thank the Secretariat Team for all its support to the Observer Group. We hope we have made a contribution to Uganda and the Commonwealth's continuing engagement here.

  
**Dame Billie Miller**  
Chairperson



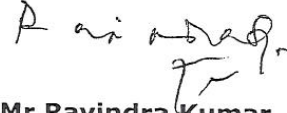
**Ms Sheila Roseau CM**



**Mr Tiro G.G.G. Seeletso**



**Mr Christopher Cobb**



**Mr Ravindra Kumar**



**Mr Aloisious A.C. Nthenda**



**Mr John Walters**



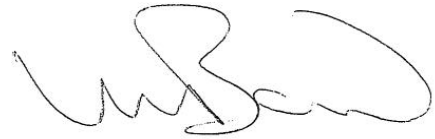
**Ambassador Pius Ayewoh**



**Ms Melanie Lee**



**Mr Collin Ruqebatu**



**Ms Vera Baird QC**



**Justice Florence N.M. Mumba**



**Mr Kevin Kitson**