

## Annex I

### Biographies of COG Members

#### **General Yakubu Gowon, (Nigeria) - Chair**

General Yakubu Gowon, GCFR, was the Head of State of the Federal Military Government of Nigeria from 1966 to 1975. He initiated the establishment of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as a way of promoting regional economic integration. He later chaired the Committee of the Eminent Persons on the revision of the ECOWAS Treaty in 1992-1993 and was a member of the first ECOWAS Council of Elders in 2001 and 2002. He led the ECOWAS Election Observer Team to Ghana for the 2008 elections. More recently, he led the Carter Centre International Election Observation Delegation to Guinea Conakry's 2010 elections and the November 2010 re-run. General Gowon is President and Patron of the Yakubu Gowon Centre founded in 1991/2 and the Yakubu Gowon Foundation.

#### **Professor Dr. Nazmul Kalimullah (Bangladesh)**

Prof Kalimullah is the Founder and Chairman of the National Poll Monitoring Body, JANIPOB - the National Election Observation Council of Bangladesh. Prof Kalimullah is also the Co-Chair of Election Working Group (EWG), the National Network of poll monitoring organizations supported by the Asia Foundation. Prof Kalimullah teaches public administration in the University of Dhaka. He got his Ph.D from the University of Birmingham and carried out his Post Doctoral research at the University of Bath in the U.K. He also earned a Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism from the National University of Bangladesh. Apart from Zambia Prof Kalimullah observed elections in Mozambique, Nigeria, Egypt, Hong Kong, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the UK.

#### **Mr Alberto August JP (Belize)**

Alberto August has been a member of the Elections & Boundaries Commission of Belize for the past 12 years, the last three of which he has been serving as Chairman of the Commission. He is also a Director on the board of the Belize Water Services Limited and a Trustee on the board of Belize Natural Energy Trust.

#### **Justice Paul Evande Mwambo (Cameroon)**

Justice Evande Mwambo Paul Rellie, is a judge in the Republic of Cameroon. He was appointed President of the High Court of Meme Judicial Division, Kumba, in the South West Region, while serving as Advocate General (Deputy Attorney-General) North West Region. He also served as 'Procureur de la Republique'. Presently, he is serving a second consecutive three years mandate as Regional Vice-President for West Africa, in the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges Association (CMJA). He is schooled in constitutional and environmental law, child trafficking and refugee law. He is a member of the international Association of Refugee Law Judges.

#### **Ms Alexandra Devon (Canada)**

Ms Devon, an international governance consultant, has a Masters Degree in Sociology in the areas of social justice and social change, and has pursued those goals through a twenty-five year government career in Canada in the field of human and democratic rights. In

that capacity she has served as Human Rights Investigator, Policy Manager of the Provincial Status of Women Office, Chairperson of a Committee on Aboriginal Health Policy, and Deputy Commissioner of Vulnerable Persons. Over the last 14 years, Ms Devon has worked in the field of elections in South America, Canada, the Balkans, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Ms Devon was awarded the Government of Canada Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal, 2004, for service in Kosovo, FRY, from 1999 to 2002

**Ms Liesl Harewood (Guyana)**

Liesl Harewood is a Development Consultant. She is a member of the Commonwealth Youth Sub-Committee on Human Rights and Democracy. She has worked with government, non-governmental and international organizations including, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA). Previously she worked on issues related to trade agreements, gender and development, youth and entrepreneurship, human rights and democracy, social media, sexual and reproductive health rights and HIV/AIDS.

**Father Malcolm Rodrigues (Guyana)**

Father Rodrigues is a member of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He is currently Chairperson of the local observer group in Guyana, the Electoral Assistance Bureau. He was previously Senior lecturer in Physics at the University of Guyana and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana. He retired from the University in 2001.

**Mr Kennedy Nyaundi (Kenya)**

Mr Nyaundi is a Commissioner on the Interim Independent Election Commission of Kenya. During his time as a Commissioner his duties have included being Chairman of the Referendum Committee and Chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee. He is a qualified lawyer and is a partner in a law firm. He has also undertaken several consultancies involving research and documentation in the area of governance and the general sphere of administration of justice and has been involved in policy formulation and drafting of legislation for parliament. Mr Nyaundi is also a member of the Kenya Section of the International Commission of Jurists.

**Ms Sarah Fradgley (New Zealand)**

Sarah Fradgley is a media and communications consultant working with international organisations, including the UN and EU. She has extensive experience of media relations, public information campaigns and grassroots communications on a wide range of political, security and development issues. In 2009-2010, she worked on a UN-funded programme providing communications support to the African Union Mission in Somalia and the Transitional Federal Government in Mogadishu. Ms Fradgley has worked as an election observer in Indonesia, Bangladesh and Lebanon, as well as in the Balkans and former Soviet Union. She also worked as spokesperson for the Iraq Out-of-Country Voting Programme in the UK. She began her career as a journalist at the BBC, where she spent six years as a producer on TV and radio news programmes.

**Hon. John J. Mnyika (Tanzania)**

Hon. Mnyika is a politician and development activist with experience in elections and political party development in Tanzania and across Africa. He is a Member of Parliament for Ubungo

Constituency in Dar es Salaam and Director for Foreign Affairs and International Relations of CHADEMA, an opposition party in Tanzania. He is the Shadow Minister of Energy and Minerals and the Secretary of official opposition of the United Republic of Tanzania. Hon. Mnyika's has been a local elections monitor, campaign coordinator and a candidate. He was previously a member of the secretariat of the Democratic Union of Africa and was the national youth leader of CHADEMA between 2005 and 2009. He was the Founder Secretary General and later became the Chairperson of Tanzania Youth Vision Association (TYVA).

**Dr. Silvester Arinaitwe Rwomukubwe (Uganda)**

Dr Silvester is an Executive Secretary of the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), an ecumenical organization that was established in 1963. Its current membership comprises of the Church of Uganda, The Roman Catholic Church and the Uganda Orthodox Church, which together constitute about 78% of Uganda's population. Dr. Silvester is also the Chairperson of the Democracy Monitoring Group (DEMGROUP) a body that monitors Uganda's government institutions in order to promote the growth of democracy in Uganda. DEMGROUP is also a major national observer group, monitoring elections in Uganda.

**Tony Colman (UK)**

Tony Colman is a former Member of the UK Parliament. He is currently a researcher on water governance in SADC, particularly Botswana, at the Water Security Centre at the School of International Development, University of East Anglia. He is also Associate Fellow at the ESRC UK Centre. Tony is a Councillor of the World Future Council. Tony is also a member of the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management Smart Partnership movement and a researcher for the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. Previously he was a member of the Commonwealth Observer Group for the 2006 General Elections in Guyana.

**Commonwealth Secretariat Staff Support Team**

Ambassador Ayodele Oke, Adviser and Head, Africa Section – Team Leader

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