



**Declaration by José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil,
Head of the European Parliament's election observation
delegation
(integrated in the EU EOM)**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am **José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil**, Member of the European Parliament, and it is my pleasure to have this opportunity to speak to you on behalf of our Delegation of 7 Members of the European Parliament, coming from 5 different Member States of the European Union and from 5 different political groups.

The European Union has observed all presidential and parliamentary elections since 1994. This demonstrates our commitment to this country and its people.

The European Parliament - the only directly-elected body of the EU, representing 530 million European citizens - also followed these elections.



During our stay in the country, we met with representatives of the political parties, the Constitutional Council, the National Electoral Commission, civil society, and with the Ambassadors of European Union Member States. And of course, we observed the conduct of the elections.

First of all, I would like to align the European Parliament Delegation with the conclusions of the European Union Election Observation Mission. We fully endorse the findings presented today by my colleague and friend, the Chief Observer, Mr Ignacio Sánchez Amor.

These elections took place after a new comprehensive peace and national reconciliation agreement between the ruling party and the main opposition party, which the European Union has actively supported in its different phases. We call on all parties to ensure the continuation and the full implementation of this agreement. But peace can only take place in a consensual environment, where mutual trust, the absence of fraud and the commitment of all parties prevails. Peace, democracy and development go hand in hand. An inclusive and transparent electoral process is essential. To this respect, we urge candidates and parties to use the legally provided channels of dispute resolution in case of any dissatisfaction with the process and to urge their supporters to remain calm and reject violence.



Moreover, we call on the electoral authorities to guarantee a transparent process until the proclamation of the final results, dealing with complaints in an efficient and fair manner.

Although on Election Day we did not experience major shortcomings, preparations for the elections have once again been challenging, conducted on an unlevelled playing field and a source of contention. The lead up to the elections witnessed violence, intimidation and even murders, including the one of a leading figure of the Mozambique's election observation community, Mr Anastacio Matavel. We strongly condemn such acts and those responsible should be brought to justice.

We also condemn the attacks perpetrated by insurgent groups in Cabo Delgado. Mozambicans deserve to be free from terrorist violence.

We would like to express our admiration of all the voters of Mozambique in the way they have acted with patience, determination and enthusiasm in peacefully exercising their democratic rights, very often queuing for hours. In this respect, we call on the Mozambican authorities for a simplification and consolidation of electoral procedures. We would also like to commend the transparency and commitment of the staff at the polling stations we visited.



Having said this, I would like to focus on the aftermath of the elections.

After the elections, it is time for politicians of Mozambique to bring the people together and work towards an inclusive and socially cohesive society for all its citizens, including in the benefit from the exploitation of natural resources, which should be used to maximize the wellbeing for ordinary people of Mozambique.

Inclusiveness should also be pursued at all levels of governance including Presidential and Parliamentary. Devolved powers are especially important for achieving this and for bringing benefits closest to the people. We hope that the newly elected Governors will deliver upon the expectations of all citizens, by properly carrying out their enhanced responsibilities as set out in the Constitution.

We would like to stress that the European Parliament will continue its work in Mozambique and will come back to accompany the process of implementation of the recommendations that the Election Observation mission will adopt in its final report.

My final words must be to express our solidarity with Mozambicans affected by the cyclones, Idai and Kenneth, which devastating effects are still visible in many part parts of the country.



The European Union had already provided 11 million Euros in Humanitarian Aid, which have been recently topped up with 10 million more. We hope that this aid can help the most vulnerable communities to recover.

Thank you for your attention.
