



## Joint Statement: 17 Organisations and Movements of Civil Society in West Africa Urge ECOWAS to Immediately Publish the Election Results in Guinea-Bissau.

On the eve of the 68th ordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), scheduled for this Sunday, 14 December 2025, in Abuja, Nigeria, we, the organisations and movements of civil society in West Africa, are deeply concerned about the political situation in Guinea-Bissau following the military takeover on 26 November 2025.

What has occurred in this country cannot be termed a "coup d'état"; it is a state conspiracy allegedly orchestrated by Umaro Sissoco Embaló. We firmly denounce this cynical and unjust collusion between the outgoing president and the armed forces, which has severely undermined the official publication of the ballot results.

Guinea-Bissau held presidential and legislative elections on 23 November 2025, which were praised by the international community as calm, free, and transparent. To date, it is crucial for ECOWAS to do everything possible to ensure that the results of these elections are published without delay, so that the people of Guinea-Bissau can know the outcome of their choice and the country can experience its first peaceful democratic transition.

We remind that even though some copies of the minutes have been destroyed at the level of the CNE (National Electoral Commission), authentic copies still exist with other institutions, including the Regional Electoral Commissions and the Governance bodies. These structures hold the same documents as the CNE, and their copies can be legally used to proclaim the results, as clearly stipulated by the electoral law of Guinea-Bissau.

In this regard, we earnestly call on ECOWAS to:

- Maintain pressure on the military authorities to respect the will of the people of Guinea-Bissau and to publish the election results immediately;

- Create the necessary conditions for the elected president to be installed in office without delay, in accordance with the election results and the Constitution;
- Impose targeted sanctions against the perpetrators, accomplices, and co-conspirators of this despicable state conspiracy.

**To the military authorities of Guinea-Bissau:**

- Immediately release the opposition leader Domingos Simões Pereira, former Prime Minister, and all politically detained individuals held arbitrarily;
- Collaborate closely with ECOWAS and the international community to facilitate the inauguration of the democratically elected president.

We are convinced that the publication of the election results and respect for the will of the people of Guinea-Bissau are the only means to guarantee stability and peace in Guinea-Bissau.

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