

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
AND
THE COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
ON THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION PROCESS OF THE
2015 GENERAL AND REGIONAL ELECTIONS IN
THE COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA**

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The Parties, the Cooperative Republic of Guyana Elections Commission (hereinafter referred to as the “Elections Commission”) and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as the “General Secretariat”);

CONSIDERING:

THAT on the 4th day of December 2014, the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”), through the Office of the President, invited the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretary General”) to send an Electoral Observation Mission (hereinafter referred to as “the Mission”) to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana for the purpose of witnessing the General and Regional Elections to be held May 11th 2015 (hereinafter referred to as the “General Elections”);

THAT in Resolution AG/RES. 991 (XIX-O/89), the General Assembly of the OAS recommended to the Secretary General that “when a member state so requests in the exercise of its sovereignty, missions should be organized and sent to said state to monitor the development, if possible at all stages, of each of its electoral processes;”

THAT Article 24 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states in pertinent part as follows:

The electoral observation missions shall be carried out at the request of the member state concerned. To that end, the government of that state and the Secretary General shall enter into an agreement establishing the scope and coverage of the electoral observation mission in question. The member state shall guarantee conditions of security, free access to information, and full cooperation with the electoral observation mission.

Electoral observation missions shall be carried out in accordance with the principles and norms of the OAS. The Organization shall ensure that these missions are effective and independent and shall provide them with the necessary resources for that purpose. They shall be conducted in an objective, impartial, and transparent manner and with the appropriate technical expertise; and

— THAT the Secretary General responded affirmatively to the Government's request to send the Mission with the objective of observing the General Elections of 2015;

WHEREFORE, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

First: Guarantees

— a) The Elections Commission guarantees the Mission access to all facilities for the adequate fulfillment of the observation of the elections in 2015 until conclusion of the General Elections process in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, in conformity with the laws and standards of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the terms of this Agreement.

b) The Elections Commission shall guarantee the Mission access to all polling stations and other locations and facilities related to the election until the official count is tabulated nationally and the General Elections process is concluded.

c) The Elections Commission shall guarantee the Mission complete access to the locations in which the process of counting and tabulating votes will take place both before and during this process.

d) The Elections Commission shall guarantee the Mission access to all electoral bodies responsible for vote counting and tabulation. Similarly, the Elections Commission shall permit the Mission to conduct any evaluations deemed necessary by the Mission of the voting system and of the communications utilized to transmit electoral

results. At the same time, the Elections Commission shall guarantee the Mission complete access to the complaints process and quality controls that occur before and after the electoral process that are of interest to the Mission.

e) The Elections Commission further guarantees the Mission access to all polling stations and other bodies throughout territory of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. Upon request of the Mission, the Elections Commission guarantees to make available by the end of the voting process and, before the closing of the polling stations, copies of all documents printed electronically.

Second: Information

a) The Elections Commission will furnish the Mission with all information referring to the organization, direction and supervision of the electoral process. The Mission may request of the Elections Commission such additional information as is necessary for the exercise of the Mission's functions, and the Elections Commission shall promptly furnish all such information.

b) The Mission may inform the Elections Commission about any irregularities and/or interference, which the Mission might observe or of which the Mission might learn. Similarly, the Mission may request that the Elections Commission provide any information regarding the measures which the Elections Commission will take in relation to such irregularities, and the Elections Commission shall promptly furnish all such information.

c) The Elections Commission shall provide the Mission with information related to the electoral rolls and/or list of eligible voters and other electoral data referring to the same. Similarly, the Elections Commission shall provide all other information relative to the computer systems used on Election Day, and shall offer demonstrations of the systems' operation to the Mission.

d) The Elections Commission shall guarantee the Mission access to all electoral bodies responsible for vote counting. Similarly, the Elections Commission shall permit the Mission to conduct any evaluations the Mission deems necessary of the voting system and of the communications utilized to transmit electoral results. At the same time, the

Elections Commission must guarantee the Mission complete access to the complaints process and quality controls that occur before and after the electoral process.

e) The Elections Commission shall guarantee the Mission access to all polling stations throughout the national territory of Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

f) The Elections Commission shall guarantee the Mission access to information on the provisional tabulation and the final tabulation of results, and shall guarantee access by members of the Mission to the respective vote counting centers, as well as copies of documents printed electronically.

Third: General Provisions

a) The Secretary General will designate a Chief of Mission, to represent the Mission and its members before the Elections Commission and before the Government.

b) The General Secretariat will communicate to the Chair of the Elections Commission the names of the persons who will comprise the Mission, who will be duly identified.

c) The Mission will act impartially, objectively and independently in the fulfillment of its mandate.

d) The General Secretariat will send to the leadership of the Elections Commission a copy of the final report of the Electoral Observation Mission following the General and Regional Elections.

e) The Elections Commission will make known and disseminate the contents of this Agreement among all electoral bodies and among all personnel involved in the electoral process.

Fourth: Privileges and Immunities

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as an express or implied waiver of the privileges and immunities of the OAS, its Organs, its personnel and its assets under the Charter of the Organization; under the Agreement Between the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the General Secretariat of the Organization of

American States on the Functioning of the Office of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and Recognition of Its Privileges and Immunities, which was signed by the Parties on April 18, 1994; and under the Agreement between the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States Regarding the Privileges and Immunities of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission for the 2015 General and Regional Elections in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, signed by the Parties on the 8th day of April, 2015; or under international law.

Fifth: **Resolution of controversies**

The Parties shall attempt to resolve through direct negotiations any disputes arising in relation to the interpretation and/or implementation of this Agreement. If the negotiations do not result in the resolution of the dispute, the matter shall be submitted to a dispute resolution procedure mutually agreed to by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties.

Sixth: **Amendments**

Amendments to this Agreement shall be made in writing and signed by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties and attached hereto.

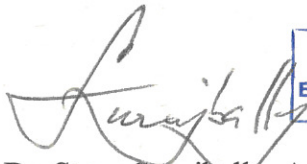
Seventh: **Entry into Force and Termination**

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date and upon the signature of then duly authorized representatives of the Parties. This Agreement shall remain in force until the Mission has concluded its observation mission of the 2015 General and Regional Elections.

This Agreement may be terminated by either Party with or without cause. Termination must be effected by means of no less than five days' written notice to the other Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Agreement in duplicate on the date and locations indicated below.

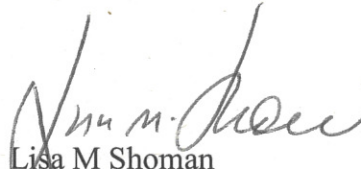
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA
ELECTIONS COMMISSION



Dr. Steve Surujbally, A.A.
Chairman
Georgetown, Guyana
Date



FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICAN STATES:



Lisa M Shoman
Chief of Mission
Georgetown, Guyana
Date