



**STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SADC ORGAN ON
POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION, HIS
EXCELLENCY H.E JOÃO MANUEL GONÇALVES LOURENÇO ON
ZIMBABWE'S HARMONISED ELECTIONS, 30 JULY, 2018**

His Excellency H.E João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, and the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation wishes to express his solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe for conducting themselves in an exemplary manner during voting day on 30 July, 2018.

The Chairperson calls on all stakeholders and political leaders and their supporters to rise above the unfortunate challenges of the immediate post-election period to ensure the country aspires to a new and promising era.

The Chairperson therefore urges all stakeholders and political leaders to embrace this transition and work collectively toward consolidating the democratic gains and ensuring that the political and economic future of the Republic of Zimbabwe is secured.

The Chairperson further calls upon political leaders and their supporters to exercise maximum tolerance and calm following the release of the full results of the 30 July 2018 Harmonised Elections by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC).

To this end, the Chairperson wishes to reiterate the need for political leaders who contested the elections to pursue their grievances through established dispute resolution mechanisms and Electoral Courts as provided by the Laws of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) will continue to support the electoral process in Zimbabwe by continuing to observe the post-election phase as part of its Long Term Election Observation mandate in line with the *revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2015)*.

Done in Luanda, August 04, 2018.

João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço

**President of the Republic of Angola, and the Chairperson of the SADC
Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation**