

Terms of Reference for Observers of the EU EOM to Malawi 2025

General elections, 16 September 2025

Possible presidential runoff no later than 23 November 2025

Long-Term Observers (LTO)

Under the supervision of the Observer Coordinator and in coordination with the Implementing Partner's team of experts, the Long-Term Observers (LTOs) shall carry out the following specific tasks:

1. Familiarise themselves with the methodology of EU EOMs, respective roles, and duties of EU EOM members, as outlined in the EU Handbook for European Union Election Observation¹;
2. Sign and abide by the Code of Conduct and Ethical aspects for Election observers and by the instructions of the DCO, Core Team and Implementing Partner's experts. Failure to follow those code of conduct and instructions may result in an anticipated termination of the Observer's assignment, immediate repatriation to the place of residence and non-recommendation for future EU EOMs;
3. Ensure that any personal data received during an EU EOM is handled in line with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons regarding the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices, and agencies and on the free movement of such data as well as with the Privacy Statement on the Implementation of the European Union Election Observation Missions.
4. Attend training sessions, briefing and debriefing sessions, as required by the European Commission, the Core Team and the Implementing Partner's Experts;
5. Familiarise themselves with the applicable international and regional standards for elections², and the relevant country specific election rules, regulations and procedures;
6. Establish the presence of the EU EOM in their assigned Area of Operation (AoO);
7. Report to the Observer Coordinator, the Security Expert and the Logistics Expert, as requested by the Core Team and as instructed by the Implementing Partner;
8. Under the guidance of the Implementing Partner's Logistics Expert and Security Expert, gather security and logistics information on their AoO including road conditions, food and water availability, and accommodation facilities;

¹ https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/handbook_for_eu_eom_2016.pdf

² http://www.eueom.eu/files/dmfile/compendium-of-int-standards-for-elections_en.pdf

9. Establish good working relations with the electoral and civil administration, political parties, NGOs, international organisations and other election stakeholders in the AoO; Liaise with local domestic and international observers deployed in the AoO;
10. Follow on electoral disputes, complaints and appeals;
11. Monitor local media in accordance with the methodology and requirements specified by the Media Analyst and Social Media Analyst;
12. Monitor pre-electoral environment, the election campaign and administrative preparations in the AoO; observe election day, counting and tabulation operations; monitor post-electoral developments;
13. Coordinate and manage the deployment of Short-Term Observers in the AoO (if applicable);
14. Brief and debrief Short-Term Observers and Members of the European Parliament Delegation deployed in the AoO, as requested by the Core Team and Implementing Partner (if applicable);
15. Evaluate the performance of Short-Term Observers in conjunction with the Observer Coordinator (if applicable);
16. Ensure that reports are submitted to Core Team within the set reporting deadlines; ensure that Short-Term Observers in the AoO submit reports as soon as feasible and within the deadline (if applicable);
17. Submit an End of Mission report based on the template provided by the Core Team;
18. Participate in an evaluation meeting with the Observer Coordinator at the end of the mission;
19. Perform any additional duties and comply with any additional requests deemed necessary to the good functioning of the EU EOM.

Short Term Observers (STO)

Under the supervision of the Observer Coordinator and the relevant Long Term Observers (LTOs) of the Area of Responsibility (AoR) and in coordination with the Implementing Partner's experts, the Short Term Observers (STOs) shall carry out the following specific tasks:

1. Familiarise themselves with the methodology of EU EOMs, respective roles and duties of EU EOM members, as outlined in the EU Handbook for European Union Election Observation³;
2. Sign and abide by the Code of conduct and its Ethical aspects for Election observers and by the instructions of the DCO, Core Team and Implementing Partner's experts. Failure to follow those code of conduct and instructions may result in an anticipated termination of the observer's assignment, immediate repatriation to the place of residence and non- recommendation for future EU EOMs;

³ https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/handbook_for_eu_eom_2016.pdf

3. Ensure that any personal data received during an EU EOM is handled in line with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data as well as with the Privacy Statement on the Implementation of the European Union Election Observation Missions.
4. Attend training sessions, briefing and debriefing sessions, as required by the European Commission, the Core team and the Implementing Partner's experts;
5. Familiarise themselves with the applicable international and regional standards for elections⁴, and the relevant country specific election rules, regulations and procedures;
6. Report to the Long Term Observers, the Observer coordinator, the Security expert and the Logistics expert, as requested by Core team and Implementing Partner's instructions;
7. Monitor immediate pre-electoral environment, the election campaign and administrative preparations in the AoR; Observe election day procedures, counting and tabulation operations; Monitor immediate post-electoral developments;
8. Ensure that reports are submitted to Core team as soon as feasible and within the deadline;
9. Participate in an evaluation meeting with the Long Term Observers and the Observer coordinator at the end of the mission;
10. Submit an End of Mission report, based on the template provided by the Core Team;
11. Perform any additional duties and comply with any additional requests deemed necessary to the good functioning of the EU EOM.

⁴ http://www.eueom.eu/files/dmfile/compendium-of-int-standards-for-elections_en.pdf