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**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE NONGOVERNMENTAL
INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY
OF DEMOCRACIES (ISC/CD) ON THE RESULTS OF THE 2011
GENERAL ELECTION IN THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
19 DECEMBER 2011**

Washington, 19 December 2011 – The nongovernmental International Steering Committee of the Community of Democracies (ISC/CD) calls on the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to respect the need for free and fair elections. According to official results from the DRC’s November 28 general election, incumbent President Joseph Kabila won a second term after receiving 48.95 percent of the vote in a poll that the international community has criticized for lacking credibility. The results were announced on December 9 by the DRC’s Independent National Electoral Commission.

According to the observer mission from the United States-based [Carter Center](#), the presidential poll suffered from many “serious irregularities,” including the loss of ballots from nearly 2,000 polling stations in the capital city of Kinshasa and suspiciously high rates of voter turnout, at 99 and 100 percent, in favor of Kabila. Although Kabila has publicly acknowledged that there were irregularities during polling, he claims that they did not influence the election outcome. Challenger and opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi received 32.33 percent and called the results “completely unacceptable.” Vital Kamerhe finished third with 7.7 percent.

Similarly, the observer mission from the [European Union](#) deplored the poll’s absence of transparency and consistency in ballot collection procedures. The mission also noted that several opposition run media outlets were closed, resulting in an environment where conditions for free press were temporarily absent.

The ISC/CD joins with The Carter Center, the European Union, the governments of [Belgium](#), [France](#) and the [United States](#), and democracy advocates from around the world in urging the DRC to abide by the democratic process. Furthermore, the ISC/CD asserts the need for the DRC to view all electoral complaints in an open and transparent manner, and calls for an international panel of experts to review all electoral inconsistencies.

The ISC/CD is a global network of civil society organizations committed to democracy and human rights, related to the Community of Democracies.