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OUELLET ANNOUNCES ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION TO TANZANIA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Canada will be sending a three-member mission to Tanzania to observe that country's first multi-party presidential and parliamentary elections to be held on October 29.

"We welcome this important step in the development of democracy in Tanzania. Our presence is intended to inspire voter and opposition confidence in the integrity of the vote and to ensure that the new multi-party process is fully understood and respected," said Mr. Ouellet.

Canada is one of several countries which were invited by the Government of Tanzania to observe the elections. Others include major donors such as Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and the United States. The Commonwealth, the European Union and the Organization of African Unity are also expected to send observer missions.

This mission reflects the priority attached by Canada to democratic development and is part of a broader program of technical support for the electoral process. One of the Canadian observers also served as a technical advisor for the elections in Zanzibar, one of Tanzania's two provinces, on October 22. Other Canadians will be participating as election observers within the Commonwealth and non-governmental organization missions.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874



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