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Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the announcement of preliminary results of elections in the Republic of Haiti

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, made the following statement:

"I am deeply concerned about the developments that have followed the announcement of the preliminary results of the November 28th elections in Haiti released by the Conseil Electoral Provisoire (CEP). I urge the people of Haiti to remain calm while the electoral process moves into the next phase, the period of contestation. I deplore all incidents of violence related to the elections and urge the Government of Haiti and all the political forces to refrain from actions and declarations that may increase tensions in the country and place at risk the safety and security of the people of Haiti.

I am concerned by reports of multiple irregularities that are said to have taken place during these elections and the significant differences between the projected outcome of the elections reported by the National Election Observation Council (CNO) and the preliminary results released by the CEP.

The EU will continue to closely follow the electoral process in Haiti over the coming weeks, and stands ready to assist Haiti in the preparation for a possible second round of voting, including in any review of the reported irregularities of the first round. These elections are a critical element of Haiti's democratic governance, essential to ensuring the legitimacy of its national leadership and to advancing the country's reconstruction and development efforts.

The EU calls upon all political actors in Haiti to uphold the constitution of Haiti and abide by the rules and procedures of the electoral process and to play a constructive role during the period of electoral contestation, to ensure that the final results due to be announced on 20 December accurately reflect the will of the Haitian voters in full transparency and constitutional legality.

The EU is a steadfast partner in Haiti and will remain committed in the long run to advancing the country's reconstruction and to helping its people build a better tomorrow. The EU is also closely monitoring the epidemiological situation in Haiti and actively helping to fight the ongoing outbreak of cholera."

P R E S S

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