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Summary of press conference by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire

Abidjan, 1 November 2010

THE WILL OF THE IVORIAN PEOPLE WILL BE RESPECTED, ASSURES UNOCI CHIEF

“The time to safeguard the results has come, I have no doubt that the will of the Ivorian people, as expressed yesterday, will be respected,» the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y. J. Choi, said in Abidjan today, a day after the presidential election.

Speaking during a press conference on the election, Mr. Choi reaffirmed the commitment and determination of the international community, led by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), to continue to provide support to ensure that the popular will prevails. He invited the world to have confidence in the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), so that it can announce without delay the provisional electoral results of yesterday's poll.

Earlier, the Special Representative had made an assessment of the election, stating that the level of participation was among the highest in the world. « The Ivorian people expressed themselves massively. They took up the challenge with great success..... with enthusiasm, discipline, in a peaceful and orderly manner, while respecting democratic principles. There was no major violent incident and no human rights violation,» Mr. Choi noted.

Questioned on the announcement of the provisional results, Mr. Choi recalled that this was the task of the IEC. “I can, however, tell you that according to the original plan, the last flight transporting the official reports and the local commissioners was due to arrive at 4 a.m. on Monday morning”. He said, however that there had been delays in transporting the official reports at each stage. «The delay is purely technical. There is no violence and no political motive,» he explained.

Responding to a question on possible problems due to people's impatience, the Special Representative said he had every confidence in Ivorians capacity to be patient for one or two days in order to allow the IEC to work quietly before announcing the provisional results. «We are more confident than ever that everything will be done calmly, he said, recalling that during several meetings with the presidential candidates before and after the election, they had given

him a guarantee that they would accept the results of the ballot. “I have not noticed any signs that they will act otherwise,” he concluded.

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