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## **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY SRSG Y.J. CHOI ON THE CONDUCT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

**Abidjan, 1 November 2010**

The two weeks of election campaigning aroused passion and emotions, but these were kept in check thanks to discipline and mutual respect. The historic day of 31 October has come and gone. It was marked as much by the enthusiasm of the population as by the respect of democratic principles. The Ivorian people expressed themselves massively.

The turnout is one of the highest in the world. Moreover, no major violation of human rights was recorded, which is impressive in such a context. The Ivorian people took up the challenge with great success, showing the world their political maturity and their determination to put an end to the crisis.

I would like to address my profound congratulations to the Ivorian people and to the actors. One can be proud of being an Ivorian.

The moment has come to safeguard the result. I have no doubt that the will of the Ivorian people, as expressed yesterday, will be respected. I also have no doubt that no candidate will use undemocratic means to express his or her position with regard to the result of the election.

I would like to assure the Ivorian people that they have a reliable partner in the international community. We shall continue to assist you, with, at our head, UNOCI, symbol of the commitment of the international community in Côte d'Ivoire, which is determined to pursue its support so that the people's will is upheld.

I invite everyone to have trust in the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) so that it can announce without delay, the provisional results of yesterday's poll. We have entered a crucial phase through which we shall go with serenity, trust, firmness and hope.