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IMMEDIATE SUPPORT NEEDED TO ENSURE INTEGRITY OF DRC ELECTIONS

We urgently bring to your attention the unfolding situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) concerning the upcoming general elections scheduled for December 20. Ensuring the credibility and legitimacy of these elections is paramount, not only for the democratic values we champion but for the peace and stability of the DRC.

The National Episcopal Conference of Congo (CENCO) and the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC), having recognized discrepancies and major concerns with the country's electoral process, have proposed a ["citizen audit"](#) of the electoral file. This move is meant to ensure transparent, honest, and peaceful elections – conditions that so far remain lacking.

However, the National Electoral Commission (CENI) continues to reject calls for an audit, despite growing pressure from a broad spectrum of Congolese society, including opposition parties and leaders, civil society groups, and youth movements.

Key Points:

Proposed Citizen Audit: CENCO and ECC aim to perform a thorough citizen audit of the electoral file. This will involve a two-phase sample verification system, both from the CENI database and field verification.

Stakeholder Involvement: The proposal stresses collaborative work involving political parties' electoral computer experts and pledges to communicate results transparently to CENI.

Concerns Over Previous Audits: CENI, in previous audits, removed more than 3.3 million voters from a pool of over 47 million. However, they [rejected calls](#) from opposition parties to involve an independent international body in the process. It's crucial to note, as emphasized by CENCO-ECC, that not involving reputable, independent international bodies harms the integrity of the process and dampens public perception of the legitimacy of the upcoming election.

Potential for Crisis: The volatile state of the DRC – with ongoing wars in the east, communal conflicts in the west, and widespread unrest due to a lack of political legitimacy stemming from the last election – presents a scenario with potentially catastrophic consequences for DRC and the wider region.

In echoing consistent [calls from Hon. Martin Fayulu](#) and the warnings from CENCO, we implore Members of Congress, relevant policymakers in Washington, and the international community to stand firmly with the Congolese people and their democratic demands. The plea is simple: an independent, comprehensive audit of the electoral file before the December elections. Without this requisite action, it is impossible to declare the election as free and fair.

The DRC stands at a pivotal moment in its history. Let's help ensure the will of the Congolese people is respected and upheld in line with long-established international standards.

This material is distributed by Future Pact on behalf of Hon. Martin Fayulu. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

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