

April 17, 2008

G8 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Zimbabwe

G8 Foreign Ministers are following closely the developments in Zimbabwe that cause concern. They welcome the fact that so many Zimbabweans voted in Presidential and Parliamentary elections on 29 March. But they express their deep concern about the non-release of the Presidential election result, which has risen tensions in Zimbabwe.

G8 Foreign Ministers strongly welcome regional efforts to resolve the situation, including the Extraordinary Summit on Zimbabwe hosted by President Mwanawasa of Zambia as chair of the SADC. They fully support SADC's call for the result of the Presidential election to be released expeditiously and in accordance with the due process of law; and endorse SADC's call that any verification of the vote must be done in the presence of all the candidates and/or their agents, if they so wish, who must all sign the authenticity of such verification. They underline that violence and intimidation must have no place in this process.

G8 Foreign Ministers urge a speedy, credible and genuinely democratic resolution to this situation in accordance with the wishes of the Zimbabwean people.