



The Commonwealth

Saint Lucia General Elections 2021

Arrival statement by the

Chair of the Commonwealth Observer Group

Mr Alvin Smith

Saturday, 24 July 2021

It is a great honour to have been asked by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, to lead the Commonwealth Observer Group for Saint Lucia's General Elections, scheduled for the 24th July 2021.

The Commonwealth has a long history of observing elections in member countries, in support of efforts to strengthen democracy and the rule of law in accordance with the values and principles of the Commonwealth Charter.

Our Group was constituted following an invitation from the Government of Saint Lucia, drawing together five eminent persons from the Commonwealth. We bring a wide range of expertise in the areas of election administration and political development amongst others.

The Group will consider the pre-election environment and election preparations. It will observe the organisation and conduct of the election process as a whole, including deploying to various regions of the country on Election Day. It will observe the voting, vote-counting and results procedures. The Group's mandate is to assess whether the elections have been conducted according to the national, regional, Commonwealth and international standards to which Saint Lucia has committed itself. Where appropriate, the Group can also make recommendations for the future strengthening of the electoral framework.

These elections are taking place in a challenging environment when the world is confronted with a global pandemic.

We hope that the Group's presence will affirm the Commonwealth's solidarity with the People of Saint Lucia as they exercise their democratic right.

We encourage all citizens to play their part in ensuring a peaceful and credible process.

We arrived on 22 - 23 July and we will issue an interim statement on our preliminary findings on 28 July. A final report will be submitted to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, and thereafter shared with the Government of Saint Lucia, Electoral Commission, political parties, Commonwealth governments and then made public. The Group will depart on 30 July 2021.