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ACTSA position on the decision of MDC Tsvangirai to enter into a unity government in Zimbabwe

The Needs of Zimbabwean people must be urgently addressed

ACTSA recognises that it is the Zimbabwean people who should decide who governs them and it is the Zimbabwean people who should be able to hold their government to account.

Whether the decision of the MDC Tsvanigirai (MDC T) to enter into a unity government with Zanu PF and MDC Mutambara is a good one is for MDC T and the Zimbabwean people to decide.

What is important is that the pressing needs of the Zimbabwean people are urgently addressed. These needs include; an end to abductions, intimidation and violence, groups including trade unions to be able to speak and organise freely, for the police, military, civil service, judiciary and media in Zimbabwe to serve all the people and not one political party. Zimbabweans need to be able to go about their lives without fear. Humanitarian aid must be provided based on need not political affiliation.

ACTSA is not requesting that the EU targeted measures be dropped nor that EU governments resume government to government aid at this time. We note the African Union has called for this but so far our partners in Zimbabwe and the southern Africa region have not.

It will take time to assess whether the political settlement is working. Zimbabwe will need international support to help rebuild the shattered economy, the health and education systems. Such international support needs to be open and in line with the needs and priorities set by the Zimbabwean people. It should not be western donors imposing economic policies on Zimbabwe which has happened to many African countries. The Zimbabwean people need and deserve international solidarity and ACTSA urges that this be maintained and increased based on a commitment to democracy, rights and justice.