

## **ABSTRACT**

### **ASSESSING THE DECEMBER 2007 ELECTIONS IN KENYA**

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The violence in the wake of the December 2007 elections in Kenya was such that international mediation was required to get the situation – both politically at the top and among the grassroots – under control. This happened to a considerable degree during February and March 2008, where one of the steps taken under the guardianship of Kofi Annan's Panel of Eminent African Personalities was to establish IREC, The Independent Commission of Inquiry. The Commission produced a very thorough analysis of the entire electoral process (published in September 2008), which then formed the basis for its recommendations, including the dismissal of the Electoral Commission in Kenya, which was seen as the main culprit for the evident lack of acceptance of the electoral outcome, leading to the many grave consequences. Other explanations have, however, been presented, and there is now a strong need to bring the various explanations and ideas together to have a full and comprehensive picture of what actually happened during the elections – and how it must be explained.

The author of the proposed paper is Professor (political science) Jørgen Elklit from Aarhus University in Denmark. Professor Elklit was Secretary to the Independent commission and is therefore extremely well suited to present and analyse the various attempts of understanding how one should interpret the sad development in Kenya before, during, and after December 2007, which is still very contentious.