

African Elections Factsheet Series: Ivory Coast Presidential Elections

In 2020, a significant number of elections are scheduled or have already taken place in Africa with a large number of them occurring in the last quarter of the year. The CIP Africa Program is tracking upcoming Q4 elections through a factsheet series for researchers, policymakers and the general public who are looking for the key facts surrounding these elections.

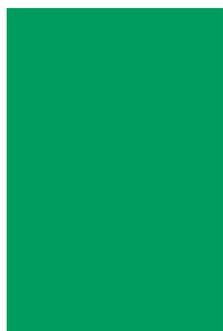
AP Factsheet: 30 October 2020 ([click here](#) or [interactive version](#))

Type of Elections



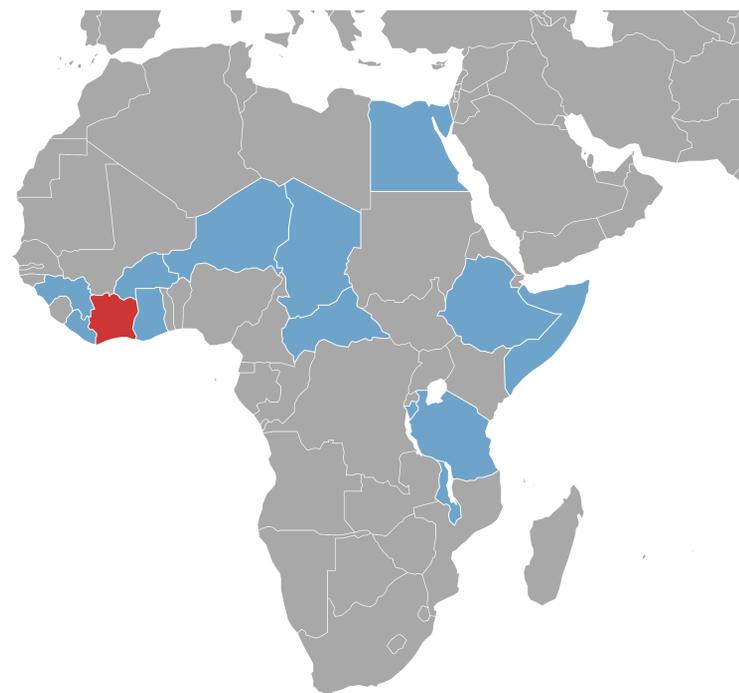
Constitution

- Ivory Coast replaced its 2000 constitution in 2016 creating the third republic.
- Under the new constitution, it relaxed the eligibility criteria for running for president e.g the age limit was set at 75 and was now brought down to 35. However, the new constitution did not change term limits or term lengths.
- The President of Ivory Coast is elected for 5 year terms, using a 2 round system. If no candidate gets a majority of the vote a second round of voting will be held.



2020 Elections Happening in Africa

Countries in **blue** all have elections in 2020 while **red** highlights Tanzania, the focus of this factsheet.



Country	Type of Election	Date	Head of State Term Limit	Head of State Term Length
Burundi	Presidential and Legislative	20 May	2	7 years
Malawi	Presidential	23 June	2	5 years
Seychelles	Presidential	22-24 October (subject to change due to COVID-19)	2	5 years
Tanzania	Presidential and Legislative	28 October	2	5 years
Ivory Coast	Presidential and Legislative	31 October	2	5 years
Guinea	Presidential	18 October	2	5 years
Burkina Faso	Presidential and Legislative	22 November	2	5 years
Ghana	Presidential and Legislative	7 December	2	4 years
Liberia	Parliamentary	8 December	2	6 years
Chad	Parliamentary	13 December	None	5 years
Central African Republic	Presidential and Legislative	27 December	2	5 years
Niger	Presidential and Legislative	27 December	2	5 years
Somalia	Parliamentary	31 December	2	4 years
Egypt	Parliamentary	TBD (originally meant to take place in May 2020)	2	6 years
Ethiopia	Parliamentary	2021 (formerly Aug 29, postponed due to COVID-19)	None	None

Who is Running?

- In 2017 following the change in the constitution, President Alassane Ouattara (popularly known by his initials ADO) of the RHDP announced he would not run again following his second term. He came into power in the 2010 election and was reelected in 2015.
- On March 5 2020, he stated he wasn't going to run again but instead pass on the torch to the new generation.
- ADO had initially backed former Prime Minister Amadou Gon Coulibaly as his successor, however Coulibaly died suddenly of a heart attack in July.
- ADO, announced on 6th August during the 60th anniversary celebrations of independence that he would run in the 2020 presidential elections.
- Despite the controversy surrounding his presidential run, ADO claims his candidacy is valid because the previous two elections took place under the old constitution and do not count towards the two term limit. His opponents disagree.



The Candidates

- The constitutional council approved 4 candidates out of 44 for the presidential election
- ADO, 78, of Rally of Houphouëtists for Democracy and Peace (RHDP). Prior to his political career, he was an IMF economist and also served as the governor of the Central Bank of West African States. Under his candidacy, the Ivorian economy has grown at an average rate of 8% annually. He has also undertaken various infrastructure projects.
- Henri Bedie (PDCI), who was president from 1993-1999 and is the confirmed candidate of one of the country's largest parties. He was ousted in a coup in 1999, after which he went into exile in France before returning to Cote D'Ivoire when the civil war broke out in 2002. His party backed ADO's candidacy in 2010 and 2015 but their alliance fell apart in 2018.
- Former Prime Minister Pascal Affi N'Guessan, 67, of the Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) - the left wing party founded by former President Laurent Gbagbo. Ahead of the election, his home in his party's stronghold of Bongouanou was burnt down.
- Kouadio Bertin, 51, is running as an independent candidate. He is a dissident from PDCI.

International Actors

- On a 4 September state visit to France, President Macron suggested that the Ivorian elections be postponed because he feared the dispute over a third term would create social and political unrest but ADO refused
- ADO replied that once re-elected, he would initiate a reconciliation with Henri Konan Bédié and Laurent Gbagbo and that he would promote the latter's return to the country.
- VOA reports that the U.N. human rights office is urging the government of Ivory Coast to restrain its security forces and curb violent inter-communal clashes and political protests in the run-up to Saturday's presidential elections.
- There are fears that the election violence will be reminiscent of the 2010 when then-president Laurent Gbagbo refused to concede defeat to Ouattara.



French President, Emmanuel Macron