

Resolution on the Political Situation in Angola ahead of the Parliamentary elections scheduled for August 2022

The CDI,

- having regard to the CDI’s resolutions on Angola, specially the one unanimously adopted on July 21st, 2021;
 - having regard to the European Parliament’s resolutions on Angola, notably the one adopted on September 10th, 2015;
 - having regard to the statement of May 12th, 2015, by the spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on Angola;
 - having regard to the joint statement of October 7th, 2015, adopted by 15 recognised NGOs (including Amnesty International, International Press Institute, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, Transparency International, World Organisation Against Torture, etc.);
 - having regard to the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
 - having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights.
- A. Whereas José Eduardo dos Santos, who stepped down as President of Angola in 2017 after 38 years in power, secured a smooth transition of power to his former Defence Minister, current President Joao Lourenço, in a clear movement to perpetuate his regime.
- B. Whereas under Lourenço’s mandate, the political situation in the country remains critical for his tight grip on power; political rights and civil liberties deteriorated to their lowest in recent months in a clear campaign to curb the voters’ will ahead of the Parliamentary elections scheduled for August 2022, which polls suggest favour UNITA.
- C. Whereas freedom of association and assembly, recognised in the Angolan constitution, continue to be suppressed and there is growing concern that the military and intelligence services have become the driving forces behind the arrest and prosecution of human rights activists, along with their implication in killings and excessive use of force.
- D. Whereas President Lourenço has consolidated his own control over the levers of power and public wealth, thus extending the elite’s endemic corruption structures and, consequently, poverty across the country.
- E. Whereas civil society has repeatedly denounced the link between corruption and misappropriation of natural resources by the ruling elite, and human rights abuses committed against those who pose a threat to, and denounce, the status quo.
- F. Whereas the Angolan government has tried by all means, including the use of the Constitutional Court, to prevent the two-times elected President of UNITA, Adalberto Costa Junior, to take his position as leader of the party, and leader of the opposition, in a clear intent to impede his candidacy to the upcoming elections.
- G. Whereas Angola is heading to Parliamentary elections in August 2022 amid a hostile political climate towards the opposition parties.

1. Is deeply concerned about the fast-deteriorating situation in terms of fundamental freedoms and democratic space in Angola, as well as the serious abuses by the security forces and the lack of independence of the judiciary.
2. Is gravely concerned by the continuous attempts to limit freedom of expression and media freedom, peaceful assembly and association, and calls on the Angolan authorities to ensure the immediate and unconditional upholding of these freedoms; further calls on them to fully implement the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other international and regional human rights instruments ratified by Angola.
3. Urges the Angolan judicial authorities to assert their independence from any political instrumentalization and to ensure the protection of rights.
4. Reminds the Angolan authorities of the importance and necessity of an effective fight against corruption, avoiding the current selective trend where some of the most corrupted people are protected by the government;
5. Recalls the commitment made by Angola under the Cotonou Agreement to respect democracy, the rule of law and human rights principles which include freedom of expression and freedom of the media, good governance and transparency in political offices.
6. Calls on the Angolan government to ensure a transparent electoral process toward the 2022 general elections and guaranteeing the non- involvement of the Security House of the President of the Republic in the Electoral Administration is essential.
7. Calls on the Angolan authorities to ensure the presence of international electoral observers in order to confirm the elections are conducted according to international democratic standards.
8. Calls on the European Parliament to send an observation mission to the elections in Angola to watch the process and help avoid any wrongdoing during the campaign, the election day and the counting process to guarantee that the outcome of the election expresses the will of the people of Angola.