

## Declaration of Luanda

The IDC-CDI and its member-parties from all around the world, gathered in Luanda (Angola) on the occasion of its Executive Committee and General Assembly meetings, hereby have agreed to approve this document, titled “The Declaration of Luanda”.

The “Declaration of Luanda” urges the Angolan government to guarantee free and fair elections on August 24, 2022, as elections are the ultimate expression of democracy and the rule of law, pillars of our modern societies and a basic pre-requisite for the thriving and success of our nations. Despite this, millions of citizens throughout the world are deprived of this fundamental right. In Angola, this is the case!

As stated on Article 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Angola, *“Angola shall be a sovereign and independent Republic, based on the dignity of the individual and the will of the Angolan people, whose primary objective shall be to build a free, just, democratic, solidary society of peace, equality and social progress.”*

Article 2.1 states that *“the Republic of Angola shall be a democratic state based on the rule of law and on the sovereignty of the people, the primacy of the Constitution and the law, the separation of powers and the interdependence of functions, national unity, pluralism of political expression and organisation, and representative and participatory democracy.”*

Moreover, article 2.2 says that *“The Republic of Angola shall promote and defend the basic human rights and freedoms of individuals and members of organised social groups and shall ensure respect for them and guarantee their implementation through the legislative, executive and judicial powers, their organs and institutions, and on the part of all individuals and corporate bodies.”*

Finally, article 3.1 establishes that *“Single and indivisible sovereignty shall lie with the people, who shall exercise it through universal, free, equal, direct, secret and periodic suffrage in the various forms established in the Constitution, namely in order to choose their representatives.”*

None of these constitutional basic principles have been observed by President Joao Lourenço government; with him, the country's political situation is critical with an increasing hostile climate towards the opposition parties.

Freedom of association and assembly, enshrined in the Angolan constitution, are still being suppressed, resulting in a rapidly worsening situation in terms of fundamental freedoms and a democratic environment.



Other political rights and civil liberties have deteriorated to their lowest in recent months in a clear campaign to control voters' will ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections, which polls suggest would favour our party-member UNITA, the largest opposition party, united this time along with CASA-CE, PRS, FNLA and BD to put an end to decades of abuses of the Angolan corrupt elites.

Corrupt elites led by President Joao Lourenço who have 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 for the upcoming elections.

It is important to note that, despite Angola being one of Africa's wealthiest countries, poverty and misery persist across the country. Civil society representatives have repeatedly denounced the link between corruption and misappropriation of natural resources by the ruling elites, and human rights abuses committed against those who pose a threat to, and denounce, the status quo.

Furthermore, there is growing concern that the military and intelligence services in the country have become the driving forces behind the arrest and prosecution of human rights activists, and the excessive use of force and killings of opposition figures. Lack of judicial independence contributes to the impunity of those responsible for such crimes.

Numerous international organizations, such as UN, Amnesty International, the International Press Institute, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, Transparency International, and the World Organisation Against Torture, among others, have denounced these crimes and openly expressed their concern regarding the situation in the country.

For all the exposed, the IDC-CDI:

1. Wants to highlight the importance of Angola as one of the leading economic powers in the region.
2. States the importance of consolidating Angola's democracy as a pre-requisite to establish the country as a leading political and economic power, and a reliable partner, in the international arena.
3. Supports the "*Memorando sobre o processo eleitoral de 2022*" (Memorandum on the electoral process for 2022) signed by the opposition political parties in Angola on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, asking for the Angolan government to abide by the Constitution, the Electoral Law and all country regulations in force to guarantee transparency and credibility of the electoral process.
4. Calls on the Angolan government to ensure transparent, free and fair elections on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
5. Calls on the Angolan government to ensure the presence of international electoral observers, including a CDI observation mission, in order to confirm that elections are conducted according to international democratic standards which will guarantee that the election outcome accurately represents the will of the people of Angola.



6. 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 affairs.
7. Calls on the European Parliament, the Congress of the United States and the Pan-African Parliament to send observation missions to the elections in Angola to follow 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.
8. Expresses its condolences to the family of the former President, José Eduardo dos Santos, in particular and to the Angolan people in general, for his death, which took place in Spain, on July 8, 2022.

*General Assembly Luanda, Angola July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.*