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# Angola Elections Update

## Issue 1 – August 1, 2012

On August 31, 2012, Angola will hold its second election since the end of the civil war and the first presidential election in peacetime. With funding from United States Agency for International Development, NDI is providing financial and technical assistance to civil society organizations (CSOs) to conduct voter education and domestic election observation activities in the provinces of Luanda, Huambo, Huila and Benguela. Although the limited number of observers prevents a national assessment of the elections, nonpartisan domestic election observation is still an important component in building citizen confidence and strengthening transparency and fairness in the electoral process.

### I. Political Context – June and July 2012

Five political parties and four party coalitions will participate in the Angolan national elections. The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (*União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola*, UNITA) and other opposition parties that had threatened to boycott the polls due to allegations of fraud confirmed their participation. The Broad Convergence of Angolan Salvation (*Convergência Ampla de Salvação de Angola*, CASA-CE), a coalition of four parties led by former UNITA leader Abel Chivukuvuku, was accepted as a contender by the Constitutional Court, dispelling fears that it would not participate in these elections. Finally, the ruling party Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (*Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola*, MPLA) confirmed President Dos Santos as presidential candidate, joined by Manuel Vicente as vice-president. The former Chief Executive Officer of the Angolan state oil company, Vicente is seen as a possible successor to Dos Santos.

In the streets of the capital Luanda, there has been growing tension in the lead-up to the elections. Unidentified gangs have targeted youth activists involved in a series of protests against wealth disparity and alleged corruption in the national government that began in March 2011. The largest demonstration in the pre-electoral period took place on June 20, 2012, when a group of approximately 600 demobilized civil-war soldiers marched to the presidential palace to demand payment of their demobilization subsidies and social security. In July, there were reports by independent journalists of political tension and campaign-related violence in villages in the provinces of Benguela and Huambo, including confrontation between party activists over campaign posters and arrests of opposition supporters.

### II. Election Updates

#### Campaigning period kicks off

On July 31, the official campaigning period began. Each political party has allotted time to campaign daily on state media during the month of August—five minutes on television and 10 minutes on radio. In addition, on July 16 the government paid a total of 8.1 million dollars to the contending parties as part of the campaign public financing. With technical support from NDI, local CSOs will monitor the adherence to the electoral calendar and incidents of election-related violence during the campaigning

period. On August 1, the National Electoral Commission (CNE), opened applications for accreditation of domestic and international election monitors. The CNE instituted a quota of 3,000 domestic election monitors and 92 international observers.

### Women well represented in the Angolan Elections

The contending political parties have demonstrated a commitment to gender equality with five of the nine parties/coalitions choosing 30 percent women in the candidate list. Nevertheless, there are no women among the presidential candidates.

Party (as ordered in the ballot)	Presidential Candidate	% of women in party candidate list
União Nacional para a Independência de Angola (UNITA)	Isaias Samakuva	31%
Movimento Popular para a Libertação de Angola (MPLA)	José Eduardo dos Santos	46%
Frente nacional para a Libertação de Angola (FNLA)	Lucas Bengue Ngonda	20%
Partido de Renovação Social (PRS)	Eduardo Kwangana	31%
Nova Democracia (ND)	Quintino António Moreira	27%
Frente Unida para a Mudança de Angola (FUMA)	António Muachicungo	29%
Conselho Político da Oposição (CPO)	Anastácio João Finda	30%
PAPOD	Artur Quichona Finda	20%
Coligação Eleitoral CASA-CE	Abel Chivukuvuku	42%

### III. Program Activities

#### a. Conference on Regional and International Elections Principles

To support preparations for the elections, NDI organized a conference with support from the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Luanda that brought together political parties, civil society organizations, journalists and election administration officials to discuss the role of international guidelines, principles and standards in promoting free, fair and transparent elections. Approximately 60 representatives from political parties, civil society, academia and government met for two days in the Angolan capital of Luanda on June 5 and 6, 2012 discuss how international instruments, such as guidelines issued by the Southern Africa Development Community, and election monitoring promote public confidence in the electoral process.

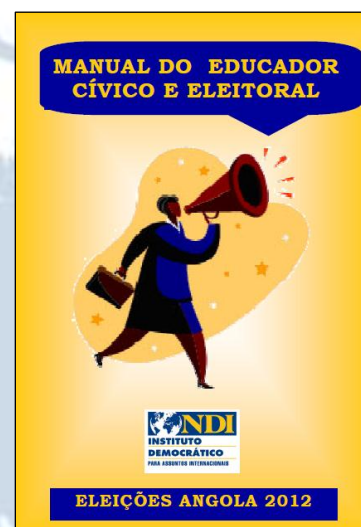
International experts discussed documents that promote election principles and human rights standards from the African Union (AU), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the United Nations (UN). The Honorable Nora Schimming-Chase, former member of the Namibian parliament and SADC's Parliamentary Forum, Brazão Mazula, former chair of the Mozambican Electoral Commission,

and NDI’s senior advisor for electoral processes, Richard Klein, compared examples of how these principles assisted in the development and realization of free and fair elections in other Southern African countries and highlighted lessons that could be applied to Angola.

In addition, Inglês Pinto, outgoing chairman of the Angolan Bar Association, led a discussion on the recent changes in Angolan electoral legislation since Parliament approved a wide reform of the elections law in December 2011. “A free and transparent electoral process in Angola is a vital instrument for the consolidation of peace, national reconciliation and the establishment of a democratic and law-abiding state,” said Pinto.

### b. Voter Education

NDI designed and published a manual on voter and civic education for voter educators. Its contents include recommendations for community-based activities, guidelines for non-partisan educators, key sections of the electoral laws, and international instruments pertaining to elections and citizen participation. The Institute printed 300 copies of the manual and distributed them to its partners as well as other CSOs implementing voter education activities. By the end of June 2012, NDI’s local partners had organized 165 voter education related activities, including community meetings, forums and other events, reaching a total 11,137 Angolan citizens.



### c. Election Observation

NDI’s four subgrant partners, Action for Solidarity and Development (*Acção de Solidariedade e Desenvolvimento*, ASD), Christian Association for Solidarity and Mutual Aid (*Associação Solidariedade Cristã e Ajuda Mútua*, ASCAM), Benguela Rastafari Circle (*Circulo Rastafári de Benguela*, CRB) and Development Workshop (DW) joined with the Council of Christian Churches of Angola (*Conselho das Igrejas Cristãs Angolanas*, CICA) and have agreed to cooperate to conduct election monitoring activities in the provinces of Benguela, Huambo, Huila, Kwanza Sul, Luanda and Uige during the campaigning period and on election day. The groups have received a series of national- and provincial-level trainings organized by NDI. Together, these CSOs are recruiting more than 500 domestic, nonpartisan short-term observers that will be deployed in 26 of Angola’s 163 municipalities.

## IV. Elections Calendar

Activity	Date	Time to Election Day
Elections called by President José Eduardo dos Santos	24-May	-99
Submission of candidatures to Constitutional Court	13-Jun	-79
Constitutional Court posts list of candidates	21-Jun	-71



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Constitutional Court posts final candidates list	1-Jul	-61
Final list sent to CNE	8-Jul	-54
CNE randomly draws order of candidates in ballots	10-Jul	-52
Release of funds to political parties	16-Jul	-46
CNE approves mapping of voting sites	27-Jul	-35
CNE discloses voters lists through local representatives	1-Aug	-30
Campaign starts	1-Aug	-30
Maximum time limit for presidential and vice president to withdraw	26-Aug	-5
Campaign ends	30-Aug	-1
<b>Election day</b>	<b>31-Aug</b>	<b>0</b>
CPE announce provisional results +7 days after e-day	7-Sep	+ 7
CNE announces official results up to +15 days after e-day	15-Sep	+ 15
Elected Candidates take office	15-Oct	+ 45

For more information and official updates on the Angolan Elections, visit the National Election Commission's website: [www.cne.ao](http://www.cne.ao).

NDI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide through citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. NDI has worked in Angola since 1996. For more information on our programs in the country, please contact NDI Senior Resident Director Isabel Emerson ([iemerson@ndi.org](mailto:iemerson@ndi.org)) or Program Manager Oge Onubogu ([oonubogu@ndi.org](mailto:oonubogu@ndi.org)).