



Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC/OECD)
Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security Unit

Elections 2007 in West Africa
Summary Table

Country	Election Type	Date	Results	Election Observations	Number of candidates and parties represented	2007 Participation Rate ¹ /Number of registered voters	Rate of Participation in previous elections
Benin	LEG ²	31 March (Elections postponed from 25 to 31 March)	<p>83 seats up for (re-) election</p> <p>Presidential majority forsworn with 25% of the votes, but obtaining greatest number of seats.</p> <p>Winner without majority: <i>Force cauris pour un Bénin émergent</i> (FCBE), presidential majority with 35 seats.</p> <p>Opposition: <i>Alliance pour une dynamique démocratique</i> (ADD) includes the <i>Renaissance du Bénin</i> (RB) of former President Nicéphore Soglo obtained 20 seats; <i>Parti du renouveau démocratique</i> (PRD) of Adrien Houngbédji 10, seats.</p> <p>Parity: 7 women elected or 8%</p>	<p>There was an imbroglio within the Independent National Election Commission (CENA³) with repercussions on the organisation of elections.</p> <p>30 appeals filed with the Constitutional Court for irregularities but not calling the vote into question</p>	26 parties or coalitions of political parties presented 2158 candidates.	59% 4 million registered voters	56% (2003 LEG elections) 75% (2006 PRES ⁴ elections)

¹ All figures are rounded for better readability.

² LEG: Legislative election

³ La Commission Electorale Nationale Autonome

⁴ PRES: Presidential election. The results of the presidential elections refer only to the 1st round.

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Burkina Faso	LEG (Proportional to only one round)	6 May	<p>111 seats up for (re-) election</p> <p>Majority: <i>Congrès pour la démocratie et le Progrès</i> (CDP), President Blaise Compaoré's party received absolute majority with 73 deputies.</p> <p>Opposition: <i>Alliance pour la Démocratie et la Fédération</i> (ADF/RDA), 14 seats; <i>Union pour la République</i> (UPR), 5 seats; UNIR-MS, 4 seats. Seats remaining distributed among 9 small political parties.</p> <p>Parity 13 women elected or 12%</p>	<p>Independent National Election Commission (CENI⁵) set up.</p> <p>4000 foreign observers present.</p>	3748 candidates from 50 political parties.	<p>57 %</p> <p>4.5 million registered voters</p>	<p>64% (2002 LEG elections)</p> <p>58% (2005 PRES elections)</p>

⁵ Commission électorale nationale indépendante

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Cameroon	LEG (Majority on one round)	22 July	<p>180 seats up for (re-) election</p> <p>Majority: <i>Rassemblement Démocratique du Peuple Camerounais</i> (RDPC), President Paul Biya's party received 153 seats.</p> <p>Opposition: <i>Social Democratic Front</i> (SDF) of John Fru Ndi, remains the second parliamentary power with 16 seats; <i>National Union for Democracy and Progress</i> (UNDP) with 6 seats and <i>l'Union Démocratique Camerounaise</i>, 4 seats.</p> <p>Parity: 25 women elected or 14%</p>	<p>Refusal to set up an independent election commission as requested by civil society.</p> <p>103 appeals were filed.</p>	1274 candidates from 41 political parties	62% 5 million registered voters	82% (2004 PRES elections)

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The Gambia	LEG	25 January	<p>53 seats up for (re-) election</p> <p>Majority: <i>Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction</i> (APRC) of President Yahya Jammeh obtained 42 seats. The President nominated candidates to 5 additional seats.</p> <p>Opposition: 5 representatives of which 4 seats for <i>United Democratic Party</i> (UDP) and 1 seat for <i>National Alliance for Democracy and Development</i> (NADD).</p> <p>Parity: 5 women elected or 10%</p> <p>Two women were elected and three were nominated by the President.</p> <p>Parliament is chaired by the only woman in West Africa to hold such a position, Mrs. Fatoumata Jahumpa Ceesay.</p>	<p>Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)</p> <p>20 different foreign observer entities</p>	103 candidates represented 48 constituencies.	<p>42%</p> <p>628 000 registered voters</p>	<p>56% (2002 LEG elections)</p> <p>59% approx. (2006 PRES elections)</p>

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Mali	PRES (Renewal of term)	29 April	<p>Elected: Amadou Toumani Touré (71% of the votes in the first round)</p> <p>Opponent: 8 candidates running</p>	<p>The INEC set up 753 election commissions in 703 communes, 49 circles and the district of Bamako as well as 39 foreign diplomatic and consular representations.</p>	<p>Each candidate must provide a deposit of 10 million CFA Francs. These new provisions reduced the number of candidates from 24 in 2002 to 8 in 2007.</p>	<p>36%</p> <p>6.8 million registered voters</p>	38% (2002 PRES elections)
	LEG (Majority list in the second round)	1st and 22 July	<p>One Chamber of 147 seats</p> <p>Majority: <i>Alliance pour la Démocratie et le Progrès</i> (ADP) (Presidential majority): 114 seats</p> <p>Opposition: <i>Front pour la Démocratie et la République</i> (FDR): 15 seats; <i>Rassemblement pour le Mali</i> (RPM): 11 seats. Other seats for Independents.</p> <p>Parity: 15 women elected or 10%</p>	<p>250 appeals for annulment: elections annulled in 3 constituencies.</p> <p>900 observers, of which 200 international</p>	<p>Election law required candidates or lists of candidates to deposit a non-reimbursable election participation fee to the Public Treasury. On 9 May 2007, the Council of Ministers decided to set this fee at 50 000 CFA Francs.</p> <p>105 parties counted</p> <p>1408 candidates registered of which 227 women 523 lists ran for election</p>	<p>32%</p>	

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Mauritania	PRES (Change-over of power)	11 and 25 March	Elected: Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdallahi (53% of the votes) Opponent: Ahmed Ould Daddah	Created in 2006, the Independent National Election Commission is a relatively new institution supporting democracy. At the national level, the CENI is composed of 15 members and includes 97 local commissions.	19 candidates running	70% 1.1 million registered voters	62% (elections PRES en 2003)

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Nigeria	PRES (Presidential change-over)	21 April	<p>Elected: Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, candidate of the <i>People's Democratic Party</i> (PDP) Elected in the first round with 70% of the vote.</p> <p>Election validated by the Supreme Court on 28 February 2008.</p> <p>Opponent: Muhammadu Buhari of the <i>All Nigeria People's Party</i> (ANPP) and Atiku Abubakar of <i>Action Congress</i> (AC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) contested the EU Election Observation Mission's final report who claimed that the elections of 14 and 21 April were not credible. The Supreme Court validated the presidential election results in February 2008. Some opposition parties appealed.. 	22 Political parties	N/A	69%
	LEG (House of Representatives)	21 April	<p>25 candidates in the running</p> <hr/> <p>360 seats into power Majority: 260 seats for the People's Democratic Party (PDP) Opposition: 62 seats for the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP); 32 for Action Congress (AC); 4 for other parties.</p> <p>Parity: 25 women elected or 7% Mrs. Patricia Olubunmi Etteh (PDP), of the presidential majority party was elected the first woman to be elected Speaker of the House but was asked to step down due to corruption charges.</p>		25 parties	INEC did not publish the official participation rate in legislative elections. But indicated that more than 35 million of the 61 million registered voters participated or approximately 50%.	

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Senegal	PRES (Re-election)	25 February	Elected: Abdoulaye Wade (56% of the votes in the first round)	In 2004 Independent National Election Commission set up (CENA ⁶). Serious contestations by the opposition. The CENA concludes there was no wrongdoing during the elections.	14 candidates in the running	71% 5 million registered voters	74% en 2000
	LEG (Elections postponed twice in 2006)	3 June	150 seats into power Majority: 131 seats for the presidential coalition Parity: 27 women elected or 18% but after the formation of a new government, vacant seats were taken by substitutes which brought the total number of women to 33, or 22%, the greatest number in West Africa for the 2007 elections.	The main opposition parties boycotted the legislative elections because of problems with electoral lists.	3500 candidates	35%	67% en 2001

⁶ La Commission Electorale Nationale Autonome

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Sierra Leone	PRES (Majority change-over)	11 August /8 September	<p>Elected: Ernest Bai Koroma (55% of the votes) <i>All People's Congress</i> (APC)</p> <p>Principal opponent: Solomon Berewa, candidate of the <i>Sierra Leone People's Party</i> (SLPP, in power)</p>	National Electoral Commission (NEC)		68%	
	LEG (Majority in one round) (Scheduled for 28 July and postponed)	11 August	<p>112 representatives elected and 12 seats reserved for traditional chiefs</p> <p>Majority: <i>All People's Congress</i> (APC): 59 seats</p> <p>Opposition: <i>Sierra Leone People's Party</i> (SLPP): 43 seats; <i>People's Movement for Democratic Change</i> (PMDC): 10 seats</p> <p>Parity : 16 women elected or 13 %</p>	350 international observers	566 candidates of 7 political parties	76% 2.6 million registered voters or 91% of the voting age population.	

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Togo	LEG (proportionally the greatest majority)	14 October (Postponed twice: once in June and once in August)	81 seats into power Majority: <i>Rassemblement du peuple togolais</i> (RPT) 50 seats Opposition: 27 of the <i>Union des forces de changement</i> (UFC) and 4 of the <i>Comité d'action pour le renouveau</i> (CAR) Parity: 7 women elected or 9%	Creation of an Independent National Election Commission in 2006. Some irregularities observed leading to the resignation of some CENI members. 20 appeals for annulment to the Constitutional Court. A national observation mechanism was set up for the first time in Togo. 2140 national observers and 3500 international observers.	2 150 registered candidates on 395 political party and independent lists. 29 parties running for election and only 3 parties represented in the National Assembly.	85% 3 million registered voters	64% (2005 PRES elections)

Main sources:

- IPU <http://www.ipu.org/parline-f/reports>
- African Elections Database <http://africanelections.tripod.com>
- Country Election Commissions and /or Constitutional Courts of countries disseminating their figures.
- Wikipedia