

IVORY COAST

Date of Elections: November 16, 1975

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of the Ivory Coast, the National Assembly, is composed of 120 deputies elected for 5 years. This total was raised from 100 prior to the 1975 elections*.

Electoral System

All citizens of the Ivory Coast who are at least 21 years old are entitled to vote unless they have been declared insane or convicted of crime.

Electoral registers are revised at the national level before each general election. Proxy voting is permitted in exceptional circumstances. Voting is not compulsory.

Qualified electors no less than 23 years of age who are not under guardianship are eligible to run for the National Assembly. Holders of certain public offices, such as inspectors of administrative affairs, education, labour and social security, prefects, directors of government services, magistrates of courts and tribunals of appeal, and officers of the armed forces cannot be candidates until six months after they have resigned from their posts. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with, *inter alia*, membership in the Economic and Social Council and the Cabinet, non-elective public offices, work undertaken for and financed by a foreign State or international organization, and the post of executive in a national enterprise, public company, or business enjoying advantages afforded by the State, having an exclusively financial purpose and appealing for savings and credit, or whose principal activity consists in providing State or public community services.

Candidates for the National Assembly must be members of a political party. Their names appear on the national list of candidates of their party, which must contain as many names as there are Assembly seats and which must be

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 8.

submitted to the authorities at the latest 21 days before the date of the elections. A deposit equivalent to US\$125 must be made for each name on the list, which is reimbursed if the list polls at least 10% of the total votes cast by the electorate.

The Ivory Coast is divided into 24 constituencies. In each of these, the deputies are elected by simple majority party-list system; the elector cannot cast preferential votes or split his votes between different lists.

National Assembly seats falling vacant between general elections are only filled — by by-elections — if at least one-fifth of the seats become vacant. No by-election is however held within the last 12 months of the legislature.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

As is customary in the Ivory Coast, the 1975 legislative elections were combined with those for President of the Republic. The election date had been fixed on October 22, 1975.

The 120 National Assembly seats were exclusively contested by candidates of the ruling *Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire* (PDCI), the country's only political party.

The massive percentage of electors (over 99%) casting votes for the PDCI candidates was interpreted as signifying overwhelming approval of the policies of President Houphouët-Boigny, who himself was re-elected for another five-year term.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the National Assembly*

Number of registered voters.	2,410,042	
Voters.	2,393,019	(99.29%)
Blank or void ballot papers.	2,453	
Valid votes.	2,390,566	
<i>Votes in favour of the Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire.</i>	2,390,566	

Political Group	S s J X
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<i>Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire....</i>	120
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