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ELECTORAL VULNERABILITY INDEX 2025-2026

COUNTRY ANALYSIS

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS: OCTOBER 2025



BACKGROUND

Côte d'Ivoire is a presidential republic with a constitutional framework that supports multiparty democracy and the separation of powers. In practice, however, democratic institutions face challenges, and the executive branch, led by President Alassane Ouattara since 2011, retains significant influence over political affairs.

The political environment is characterized by longstanding rivalries among key political figures, which often shape national dynamics. While elections are regularly held and opposition parties are active, concerns remain regarding the inclusiveness and transparency of the electoral process.

The judiciary and legislature are established as independent bodies but have occasionally been perceived as subject to political pressures. The 2020 presidential election, marked by President Ouattara's third-term candidacy, raised questions about constitutional interpretation and democratic norms. International assessments generally describe Côte d'Ivoire as a country with both democratic and authoritarian features.

The government is prioritizing political stability as a means to attract investment and support the objectives outlined in the 2021–2025 National Development Plan, which aspires to sustain high levels of economic growth.

While these efforts reflect a forward-looking economic agenda, progress toward comprehensive national reconciliation has been limited. In particular, there has been minimal advancement in addressing accountability for human rights violations committed during the civil conflicts of 2002–2007 and 2010–2011, which continues to pose challenges for long-term social cohesion and justice.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

The Ivorian presidential election is scheduled to take place on October 25, 2025. The President is elected by a two-round majority voting system for a five-year term, renewable only once. A candidate is elected in the first round if they obtain an absolute majority of the votes cast. If no candidate meets this threshold, a second round is held between the two candidates who received the highest number of votes in the first round, and the one who secures the most votes in the runoff is declared elected.

The constitution sets the date of the first round for the last Saturday in October of the fifth year of the current presidential term, and, if necessary, the second round is held on the last Saturday of the following November.



UPCOMING ELECTIONS CONT.

The Independent Electoral Commission launched the revision of the electoral roll on October 19, 2024, which currently includes nearly 8 million registered voters. It opened 12,000 enrollment centers across the country. The registration process aims to add 4.5 million new voters over a three-week period ending on November 10, 2024. To facilitate administrative procedures related to voter registration, nationality certificates are being issued free of charge, and individuals who have not yet received their national identity card may register using a receipt of application. Despite these measures, the opposition has called for an extension of the registration period.

POTENTIAL DRIVERS OF CONFLICT

According to the Electoral Vulnerability Index (EVI), these are the factors that contribute most to the increased potential for violence:

- Number of consecutive previous elections with severe violence
- Exclusion from political participation of rural communities
- Government Intimidation during the last election
- Boycotts during the last election
- Vote buying during the last election
- Other irregularities during the last election
- Restrictions on opposition parties during the last election.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Civil society organizations and national media should strengthen public digital literacy to help citizens detect and resist disinformation.** They can produce accessible educational content and work with local media and influencers to share verified information. Partnering with tech platforms and advocating for transparent moderation policies is also key. These efforts can foster informed civic engagement and reduce the risk of electoral unrest.
- **National institutions should take early measures to identify and address potential drivers of conflict, particularly around perceptions of exclusion in the electoral process.** Ensuring fair participation of all political actors, transparent communication of procedures, and access to impartial dispute resolution mechanisms are key. Engaging with civil society and underrepresented groups can help build trust. Independent reviews or external observation can further strengthen legitimacy and reduce tensions.
- **International partners should promote inclusive political dialogue and consensus-building:** The EU, in coordination with ECOWAS and the UN, should encourage sustained dialogue among Côte d'Ivoire's political parties and support efforts to build broad consensus around any potential electoral delays.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [Freedom House Côte d'Ivoire](#)