AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

Constitutional Term Limits for African Leaders

No Constitutional Two-Term Limit	Countries with Two-Term Limit in Constitution				
	Limit Not Yet Met by Any President (Year Limit to Be Reached)	Limit Not Retroactively Applied to Current Executive	Two-Term Limit Reached		
			Attempted Modification or Elimination of Limit		Left Office (First Leader to Adhere to Limit)
			Successful	Unsuccessful	
Cape Verde[1] (three-term limit)	Liberia (2017)	Algeria[4]	Togo (Eyadéma, 2002)	Zambia (Chiluba, 2001)	Ghana (Rawlings, 2001)
Equatorial Guinea	Côte d'Ivoire (2018)	Angola	Gabon (Bongo, 2003)	Malawi (Muluzi, 2003)	São Tomé and Príncipe (Trovoada, 2001)
Eritrea	Mauritania (2019)	Zimbabwe[5]	Uganda (Museveni, 2005)	Nigeria (Obasanjo, 2006)	Kenya (Moi, 2002)
Ethiopia[1]	Guinea (2020)		Chad (Deby, 2005)	Niger (Tandja, 2009)	Mozambique (Chissano, 2005)
Gambia	Egypt (2022)		Cameroon (Biya, 2008)	Senegal (Wade, 2012)	Tanzania (Mkapa, 2005)
Guinea-Bissau	Madagascar (2024)		Djibouti (Guellah, 2010)	Burkina Faso (Compaoré, 2014)	Benin (Kérékou, 2006)
Lesotho[1]	Tunisia (2024)		Rwanda (Kagame, 2015)		Comoros (Assoumani, 2006)
Mauritius[1]	Central African Republic (2026)		Burundi (Nkurunziza, 2015)[6]		Sierra Leone (Kabbah, 2007)
Morocco[2]	Libya[3]		Republic of Congo (Nguesso, 2016)		Botswana (Mogae, 2008)
Seychelles (three-term limit)			DRC (Kabila, 2016)[7]		Mali (Konaré, 2008)
Somalia					South Africa (Mbeki, 2008)
South Sudan					Namibia (Pohamba, 2015)
Sudan					
Swaziland[2]					

[1] Executive authority largely rests with the office of the prime minister, which does not face any restrictions on tenure.
[2] Executive authority rests with a monarch.
[3] Libya: The draft 2016 Constitution imposes two-term limits.
[4] Algeria: The term-limit clause was removed in 2008 for Abdelaziz Bouteflika to run again and reinstated in 2016 as he serves out his last term.
[5] Zimbabwe: The Constitution adopted in 2013 introduced a two-term limit. Robert Mugabe is due to run for his second term in 2018.
[6] Burundi: While legitimacy remains contested, Pierre Nkurunziza has held onto power past term limit expiration in 2015.
[7] DRC: Joseph Kabila served out his second term in 2016 but negotiated to stay on until December 2017.

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