| AFRICA CENTER Constitutional Term Limits for African Leaders |   |  |                                  |   |
|--|---|--|----------------------------------|---|
|  | Countries with Two-Term Limit in Constitution                       |  |                                  |   |
| No Constitutional<br>Two-Term Limit                          | Limit Not Yet Met by<br>Any President (Year<br>Limit to Be Reached) | Two-Term Limit Reached                                 |                                  |   |
|  |   | Attempted Modification or                              |                                  | Left Office   |
|  |   | Elimination of Limit                                   |                                  | (First Leader to  |
|  |   | Limit Modified or Eliminated                           | Limit Retained                   | Adhere to Limit)  |
| Eritrea  | Sudan (2022) <sup>4</sup>   | Guinea   | Zambia                           | Tanzania  |
| 4  | (2020)  | (Conté, 2001)(Condé, 2020) <sup>6</sup>                | (Chiluba, 2001)                  | (Mwinyi, 1995)  |
| Ethiopia <sup>1</sup>  | Madagascar (2023)   | Togo<br>(Eyadéma, 2002, 2019) <sup>7</sup>             | Malawi<br>(Muluzi, 2003)         | Ghana<br>(Rawlings, 2001)                               |
| The Gambia   | Central African Republic (2025)                                     | Gabon<br>(Bongo, 2003)                                 | Nigeria<br>(Obasanjo, 2006)      | São Tomé and Príncipe <sup>19</sup><br>(Trovoada, 2001) |
| Lesotho <sup>1</sup>   | Angola (2027)   | Uganda<br>(Museveni, 2005, 2017) <sup>8</sup>          | Senegal<br>(Wade, 2012)          | Cabo Verde <sup>19</sup><br>(Monteiro, 2001)            |
| Libya <sup>2</sup>   | Zimbabwe (2028) <sup>5</sup>  | Chad (Deby, 2005, 2018) <sup>9</sup>                   | Burkina Faso<br>(Compaoré, 2014) | Mali<br>(Konaré, 2002)                                  |
| Morocco <sup>3</sup>   | Guinea-Bissau (2029)  | Cameroon<br>(Biya, 2008)                               | Benin<br>(Talon, 2017)           | Mauritius <sup>19</sup><br>(Uteem, 2002)                |
| Somalia  | Tunisia (2029)  | Algeria<br>(Bouteflika, 2008, 2016) <sup>10</sup>      |                                  | Kenya<br>(Moi, 2002)                                    |
| Eswatini <sup>3</sup>  | Equatorial Guinea (2030)  | Djibouti<br>(Guelleh, 2010)                            |                                  | Mozambique<br>(Chissano, 2005)                          |
|  | Seychelles (2030)   | Burundi<br>(Nkurunziza, 2015, 2018) <sup>11</sup>      |                                  | Sierra Leone<br>(Kabbah, 2007)                          |
|  |   | Rwanda<br>(Kagame, 2015) <sup>12</sup>                 |                                  | Botswana<br>(Mogae, 2008)                               |
|  |   | Republic of the Congo<br>(Nguesso, 2015) <sup>13</sup> |                                  | South Africa<br>(Mbeki, 2008)                           |
|  |   | South Sudan<br>(Kiir, 2015, 2018) <sup>14</sup>        |                                  | Namibia<br>(Pohamba, 2015)                              |
|  |   | DRC (Kabila, 2016) <sup>15</sup>                       |                                  | Liberia<br>(Sirleaf, 2018)                              |
|  |   | Comoros<br>(Azali, 2018) <sup>16</sup>                 |                                  | Mauritania<br>(Abdel Aziz, 2019)                        |
|  |   | Egypt (Sisi, 2019) <sup>17</sup>                       |                                  | Niger<br>(Issoufou, 2021)                               |
|  |   | Côte d'Ivoire<br>(Ouattara, 2020) <sup>18</sup>        |                                  |   |

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## **Notes**

- 1. Ethiopia and Lesotho: Executive authority largely rests with the office of the prime minister, which does not face restrictions on tenure.
- 2. Libya: A two-term limit has been included in the draft constitution.
- 3. Morocco and Eswatini: Executive authority rests with a monarch.
- 4. Sudan: The civilian-military transitional government's mandate expires in January 2024. Civilian leadership of the Sovereign Council is set to begin in February 2022.
- 5. Zimbabwe: The military ouster of Robert Mugabe in 2017 has allowed for the continuation of nearly four decades of ZANU-PF-led government.
- 6. Guinea: A new constitution passed in a controversial 2020 referendum allowed Condé to run for a third term in 2020 and theoretically a fourth term in 2026.
- 7. Togo: A two-term limit was reinstated in 2019, allowing Faure Gnassingbé to run for a fourth term in 2020 and theoretically a fifth term in 2025.
- 8. Uganda: Presidential term limits were lifted in 2005, and the age limit was removed in 2017.
- 9. Chad: A new constitution reinstated a two-term limit and changed terms from 5 to 6 years in 2018, theoretically allowing Idriss Déby to run for a sixth term in 2021 and a seventh term in 2027.
- 10. Algeria: A limit of two 5-year terms was reinstated in 2016, theoretically allowing Abdelaziz Bouteflika to run for a fifth term in 2019 (though he was subsequently forced to resign).
- 11. Burundi: Following a controversial third term ruling in 2015, a new constitution extended presidential terms from 5 to 7 years in 2018.
- 12. Rwanda: A controversial 2015 referendum allowed Paul Kagame a third 7-year term after which he may run for two 5-year terms, potentially remaining in power to 2034.
- 13. Republic of the Congo: A new constitution in 2015 removed the age limit, reduced term length from 7 years to 5, and extended term limit to three terms.
- 14. South Sudan: Salva Kiir's term as elected president ended in 2015, but constitutional amendments in 2018 and a new unity government formed in 2020 extends his mandate until 2023.
- 15. DRC: Joseph Kabila's term as elected president ended in 2016, though he remained in office until the disputed elections in 2018, by which he retains considerable power.
- 16. Comoros: A new constitution, approved in a controversial 2018 referendum allows the president to run for two consecutive 5-year terms, abolishing the one-term rotational system of power sharing among the islands.
- 17. Egypt: A controversial constitutional amendment in 2019 extended Sisi's second 4-year term by 2 years, and allows him to run for an additional 6-year (third) term that would end in 2030.
- 18. Côte d'Ivoire: The adoption of a new constitution in 2016 enabled Alassane Ouattara to run for a third term in 2020 and theoretically a fourth term in 2025.
- 19. São Tomé and Príncipe, Cabo Verde, and Mauritius: The elected president is term limited, though power is shared with a prime minister, who is not.