

## COTE D'IVOIRE

**Date of Elections:** 10 November 1985

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Cote d'Ivoire, the National Assembly, is composed of 175 Deputies elected for 5 years. This total was raised from 147 prior to the 1985 elections\*.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens of Cote d'Ivoire who are at least 21 years old and in full possession of their civil and political rights 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 may be members of a political party or run as independents. All nominations must be submitted to the Ministry of the Interior at the latest 21 days before the date of the elections. A deposit of Fr. CFA 100,000 must be made for each candidature, which is reimbursed if the candidate or list concerned polls at least 10% of the votes cast.

For election purposes, Cote d'Ivoire is divided into constituencies which each return one or more Deputies. In each of these, the Deputies are elected by simple majority vote.

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

National Assembly seats falling vacant between general elections are filled by by-elections held within three months of the vacancy. No by-election is however held within the last 12 months of the legislature.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

A fortnight after the re-election, on 27 October 1985, of President of the Republic Felix Houphouet-Boigny, for a sixth five-year term, the citizens went to the polls for the parliamentary elections, in which 546 candidates (including 22 women) were in the running for the enlarged National Assembly's 175 seats.

The elections were preceded by the eighth congress of the sole and ruling *Parti democratique de la Cote d'Ivoire* (PDCI), held from 9 to 12 October. At this congress, President Houphouet-Boigny announced that his Government's policy of economic liberation would continue and underlined the need to achieve national self-sufficiency in food supply. The two-week legislative campaign was based on an appeal by PDCI candidates to endorse "peace and continuity" under the guidance of the "father of the nation".

Polling day was marked by a low voter turnout. Altogether 114 successful candidates were newcomers to the Assembly. On 24 November, municipal elections followed those for Parliament. On 9 July 1986, Cabinet changes were announced.

Statistics

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

Number of registered electors	3,600,000 (approx.)
Voters . . . . .	33% (approx.)

Political Group	Number of Seats
<i>Parti democratique de la Cote d'Ivoire</i> (PDCI)	175

2. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men	165
Women	<u>10</u>
	175