

**Fact Sheet on the Agreement between the DRC Government
And the Remaining Part of the Opposition
Reached in Kinshasa on December 31, 2016**

At the very end of 2016, a framework deal was reached between representatives of the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and those among the opposition who had walked out of National Dialogue talks earlier in the year. These most recent negotiations, facilitated by the La Conference de Episcopal National du Congo (CENCO), brought both sides to agreement on four critical points:

1. **The Future of the Presidency:** Joseph Kabila will remain in office until a new president is elected, which will occur by December 2017. This affirms Article 70 of the DRC's constitution as well as the May 2016 determination of the country's high court that the president is obliged to remain in office until a successor is democratically elected. Kabila himself stated to the nation in November of last year that he is both the defender of the constitution, and subject to it. Unlike all of its neighbors, the DRC has not amended its constitution to prolong the president's terms in office.
2. **Other Institutions of State Continue to Serve Their Respective Functions:** All elected officials, such as members of the National Assembly, the Senate, the provincial assemblies and the governors, will also remain in office until new elections are held. The president will name a new prime minister on the recommendation of the Rassemblement party of Etienne Tshisekedi, with whom the New Years Eve deal was reached. Tshisekedi will also head a National Council for Overseeing the Electoral Agreement and Process (CNSA) which will oversee the electoral and ensuing transition process.
3. **Elections Will Be Held Next Year:** Presidential, parliamentary and provincial elections will all be held simultaneously in December 2017. Long-delayed local elections will be held the following year.
4. **Concerted Efforts Are Underway to Ease Political Tensions:** A council of judges has been convened to review the cases of all who are called political prisoners. Opposition-owned media outlets that have been closed will re-open within 15 days, and the presidential majority, the opposition and civil society each have 14 days to change their own representatives on the national election commission, the CENI.

A number of issues remain to be resolved between the parties, and not all opposition parties that supported the preceded National Dialogue process that took place throughout 2016 have endorsed this agreement, but negotiations on remaining details continue. Meanwhile, the African Union, the United Nations Security Council and various Western governments, including the United States, have applauded this breakthrough in peaceful dispute resolution for the DRC.

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