

Statement on the elections in Saint Tome and Principe

The Centrist Democrat International (IDC-CDI) and the IDC-CDI Africa, congratulate the holding of the elections in S. Tome and Principe on the 25th of September. Free and democratic elections. Elections that gave an absolute majority to the ADI – *Acção Democrática Independente* led by Patrice Trovoada, according to data based on the minutes of polling stations.

Democracy presupposes respect for the rules, with transparency and inspection and control mechanisms, especially in electoral moments. When disrespected by the State, the country's reputation and credibility is negatively affected; citizens' trust in institutions and the trust of development partners are shaken.

In this sense, IDC expects that the election results and the mandates conferred by the National Electoral Commission will be determined in accordance with the electoral law of S. Tomé and Príncipe. Also, with full transparency and subject to control and inspection mechanisms for the certification of electoral truth, which must always be the truth resulting from the free choice of voters.