Statement on Concern over the Constitutional Crisis in São Tomé and Príncipe

Recalling the dismissal on January 6, 2025, initiated through unconstitutional means by the President of the Republic, Carlos Manuel Vila Nova, of the XVIII Constitutional Government of the Independent Democratic Action (ADI), led by Patrice Emery Trovoada, a government supported by the absolute majority achieved in the last general elections of 2022;

Recognizing that the President of the Republic subsequently appointed a Prime Minister and formed a new government without respecting the constitutional designation of the ADI party, the winner of the legislative elections held on September 25, 2022, as stipulated by the country's Constitution;

Expressing deep concern over the reversal and subversion of the constitutional order, which undermines the democratic principles and practices for which São Tomé and Príncipe was previously recognized;

Regretting that this deviation represents a significant setback for democratic governance and respect for the rule of law in the country;

The IDC-CDI resolves:

1. **To express its deep indignation** at the unconstitutional dismissal of the legitimate government and the subsequent actions of the President of the Republic that disregard the results of the 2022 legislative elections.
2. **To urge the President of the Republic and the political leaders of São Tomé and Príncipe** to immediately restore constitutional and republican order, respecting democratic principles and the will of the people expressed in the 2022 elections.
3. **To appeal to the international community and democratic institutions** to monitor the situation in São Tomé and Príncipe closely and to encourage all relevant actors to respect the rule of law and constitutional governance.
4. **To reaffirm its commitment** to supporting democratic values and constitutional order in all nations and to express solidarity with the people of São Tomé and Príncipe during this critical time.

Brussels, January 20, 2025