



Statement on the Angolan Government's Boycott of the Forum on the Future of Democracy in Africa in Benguela, Angola

The Centrist Democrat International (IDC-CDI) expresses its deep concern about the recent events that took place in Angola, especially regarding the unjustified detention of the President of IDC-CDI, Andrés Pastrana, at Luanda airport on March 13, when he was on his way to attend the "Future of Democracy in Africa" forum in Benguela. This event, organized by the Brenthurst Foundation, brought together prominent leaders and democracy experts to address the democratic challenges facing the African continent.

IDC-CDI strongly condemns any attempt to restrict the participation of voices committed to democracy in international forums. Actions like these go against the spirit of cooperation and openness that should guide the debate on the future of African societies. Free and unrestricted access to these discussion spaces is essential for strengthening democracy and the progress of nations.

It is alarming that, in a country like Angola—whose Head of State holds the rotating presidency of the African Union, an organization that promotes democracy and good governance—such severe restrictions on freedom of expression and the free exchange of ideas have occurred.

The detention of President Pastrana and other former presidents of various countries, including Botswana's Ian Khama, Lesotho's former Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro, the First Vice President of Zanzibar Othman Masoud, as well as political leaders and prominent figures, without any explanation, was not only a violation of their fundamental rights but also an attack on the democratic principles that should prevail in international relations with multilateral organizations.

IDC-CDI reaffirms its strong commitment to the promotion of democracy, freedom of expression, and respect for human rights. We will continue to work tirelessly to support those who strive for more open, participatory, and transparent societies, and to ensure that the voices of those defending democracy are always heard worldwide.

Brussels, March 17, 2025