



## Popular Attitudes toward Democracy in Cape Verde: A Summary of Afrobarometer Indicators, 2002-2008

20 October 2009

This document provides a summary of popular attitudes regarding the demand for and supply of democracy in Cape Verde as revealed over the course of three Afrobarometer surveys conducted between 2002 and 2008 (June 2002, N=1268; Mar.-April 2005, N=1256; May 2008, N=1266). Samples of this size yield a margin of error of +/- 3 percent at a confidence level of 95 percent. The charts that follow capture perceptions of:

- The meaning of democracy;
- The demand for democracy (including individual support for democracy, patience with democracy and rejection of military rule, one-party rule, and one-man rule);
- Support for democratic institutions (including attitudes towards elections, term limits, multi-party rule, and checks on presidential powers); and
- The supply of democracy (including satisfaction with democracy and the perceived extent of democracy, quality of elections and the protection of key freedoms).

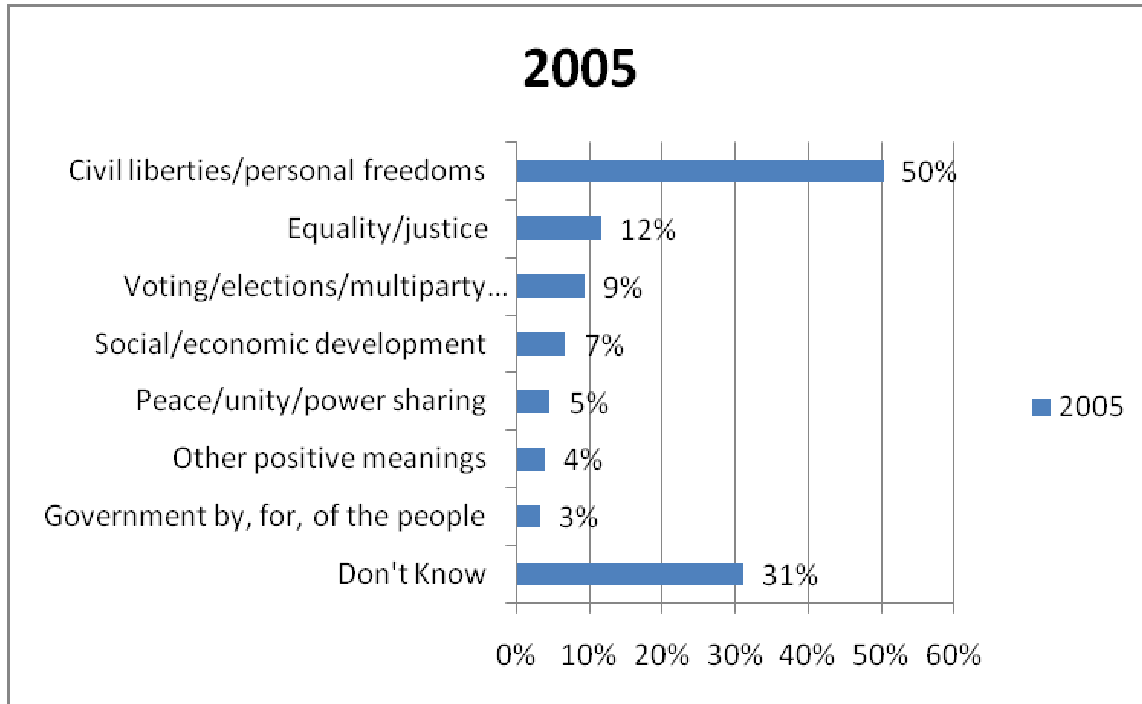
### Points of Interest

- Popular support for democracy has been increasing steadily in Cape Verde (2.1), while rejection of authoritarian alternatives has held relatively steady (2.2-2.4). Patience with democracy, though much lower, also appears to be on the rise (2.5).
- Support for term limits is down somewhat (3.2), but encouragingly, both elections and multiparty competition are gaining in popularity (3.1 and 3.3).
- Sizeable majorities believe both that the parliament should check the president's power, and that the media should be an active watchdog over the government (3.6 and 3.8), but most people expect opposition parties to cooperate with rather than challenge the government once elections are over (3.7).
- Cape Verde has witnessed enormous gains in the perceived extent of democracy (4.1), but much more modest gains in satisfaction with how democracy works (4.2).
- Ratings of election quality have also improved markedly (4.3).

## MEANING OF DEMOCRACY

### 1.1 Variable: Meaning of democracy

**Question:** What if anything does democracy mean to you?



*\* In 2005 respondents could offer up to three meanings. Figures shown are the percentage of all substantive responses offered.*

## DEMAND FOR DEMOCRACY

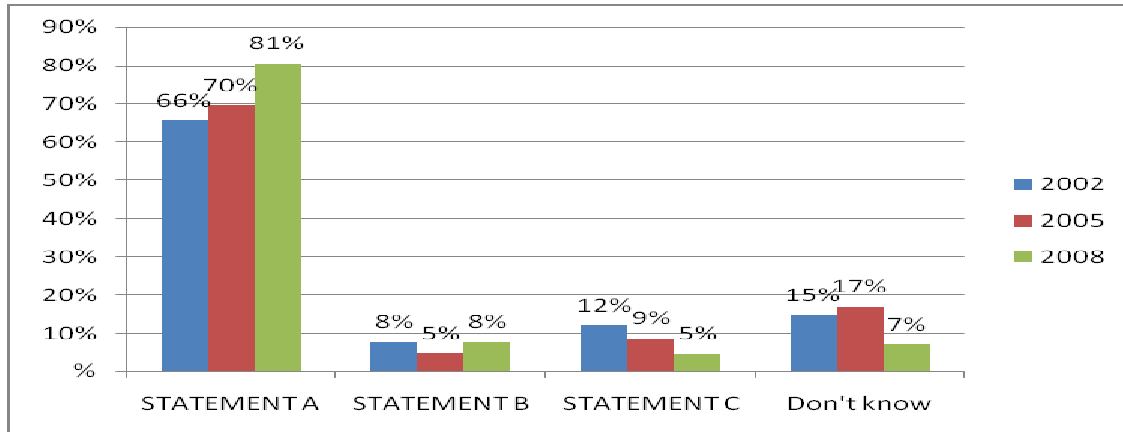
### 2.1 Variable: Support for democracy

**Question:** Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion?

A: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.

B: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable.

C: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind of government we have.



### 2.2 Variable: Reject military rule

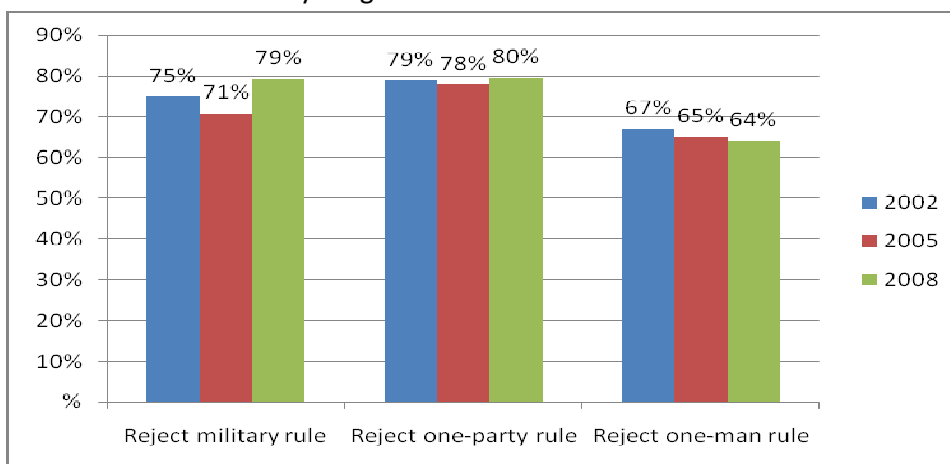
**Question:** There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternatives: The army comes in to govern the country?

### 2.3 Variable: Reject one-party rule

**Question:** There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternatives: Only one political party is allowed to stand for election and hold office?

### 2.4 Variable: Reject one-man rule

**Question:** There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternatives: Elections and Parliament/National Assembly are abolished so that the President/Prime Minister can decide everything?



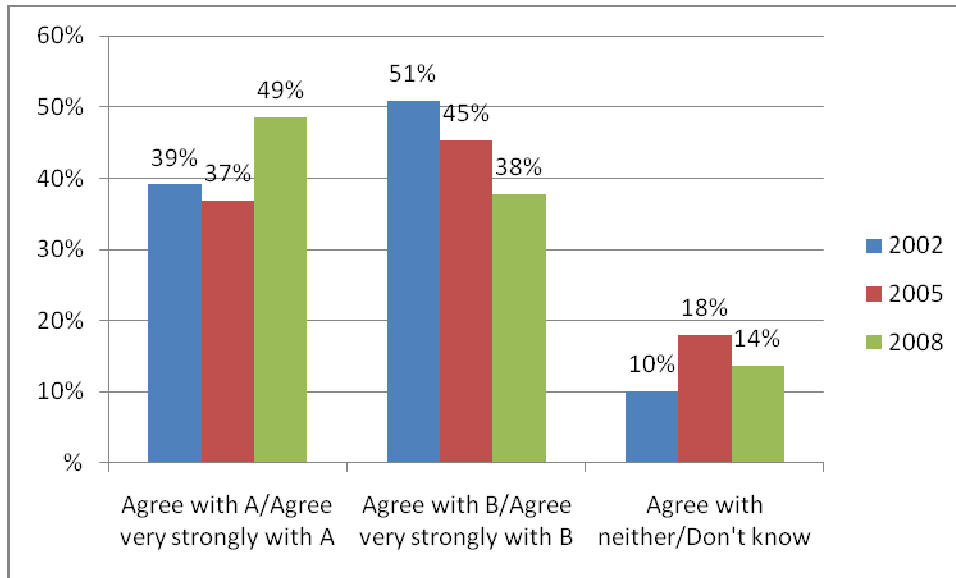
*(Percent who disapprove/strongly disapprove of military rule, one-party rule and one-man rule)*

**2.5 Variable: Patience with democracy**

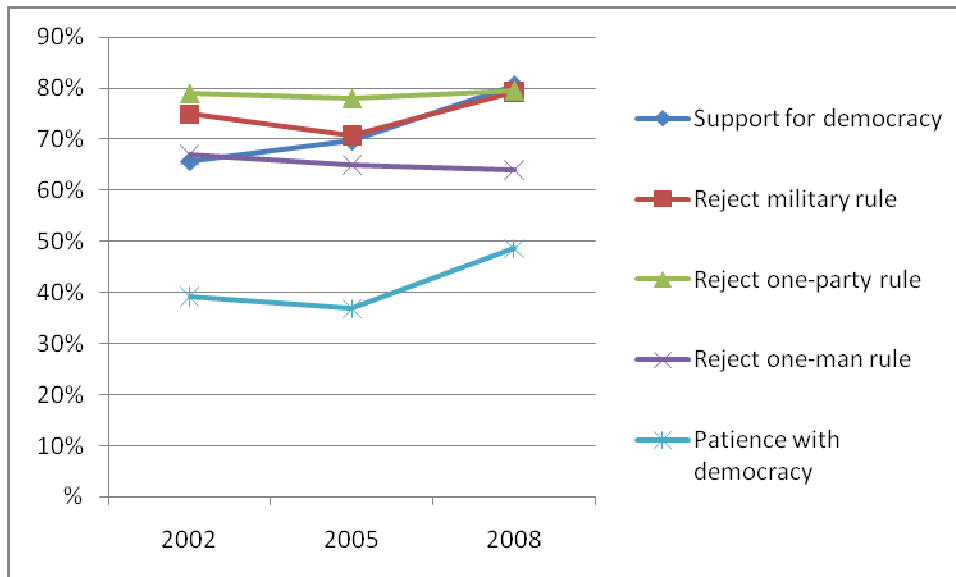
**Question:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Statement A or Statement B.

A: Our present system of elected government should be given more time to deal with inherited problems.

B: If our present system cannot produce results soon, we should try another form of government.



**Summary of demand for democracy**



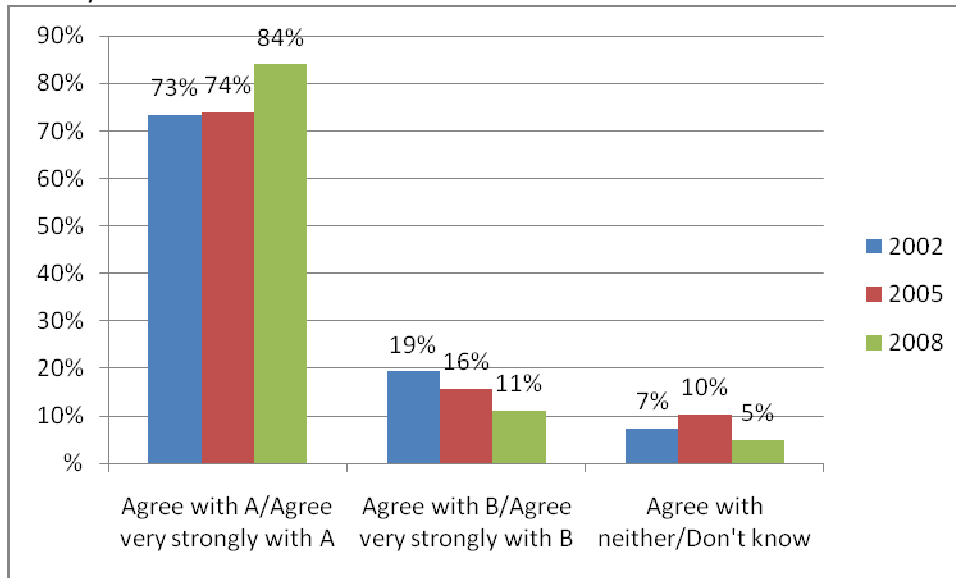
## DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

### 3.1 Variable: Choose leaders through elections vs. try another form

**Question:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Statement A or Statement B.

A: We should choose our leaders in this country through regular, open and honest elections.

B: Since elections sometimes produce bad results, we should adopt other methods for choosing this country's leaders.

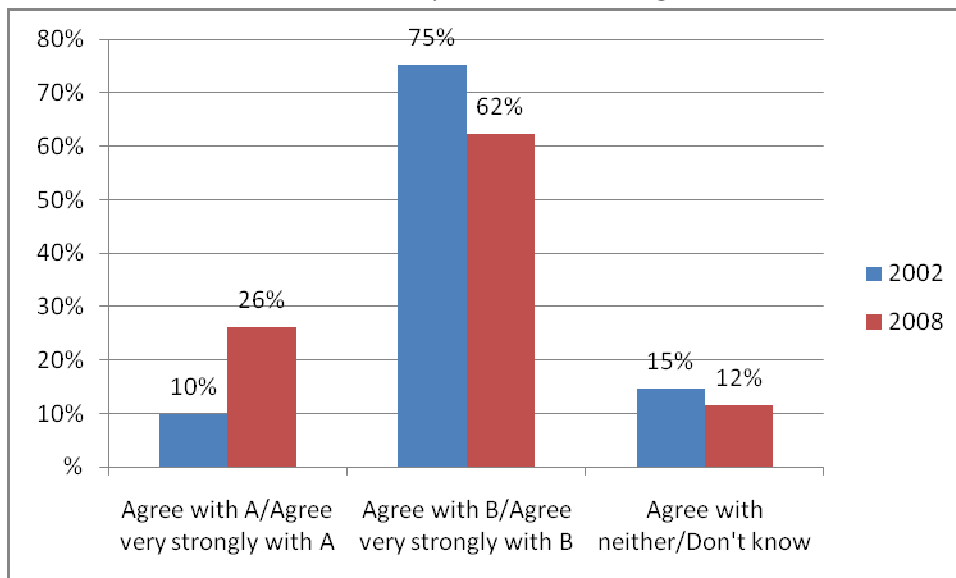


### 3.2 Variable: No term limits for the president vs. two terms only

**Question:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Statement A or Statement B.

A: There should be no constitutional limit on how long the president can serve.

B: The constitution should limit the president to serving a maximum of two terms in office.

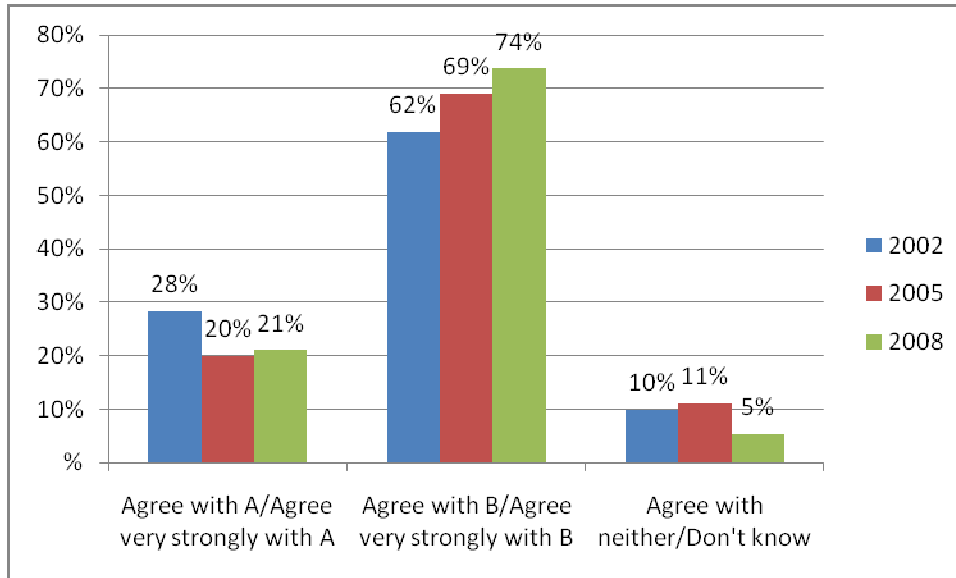


**3.3 Variable: Political parties divisive vs. many parties needed**

**Question:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Statement A or Statement B.

A: Political parties create division and confusion; it is therefore unnecessary to have many political parties in Cape Verde.

B: Many political parties are needed to make sure that Cape Verdeans have real choices in who governs them.

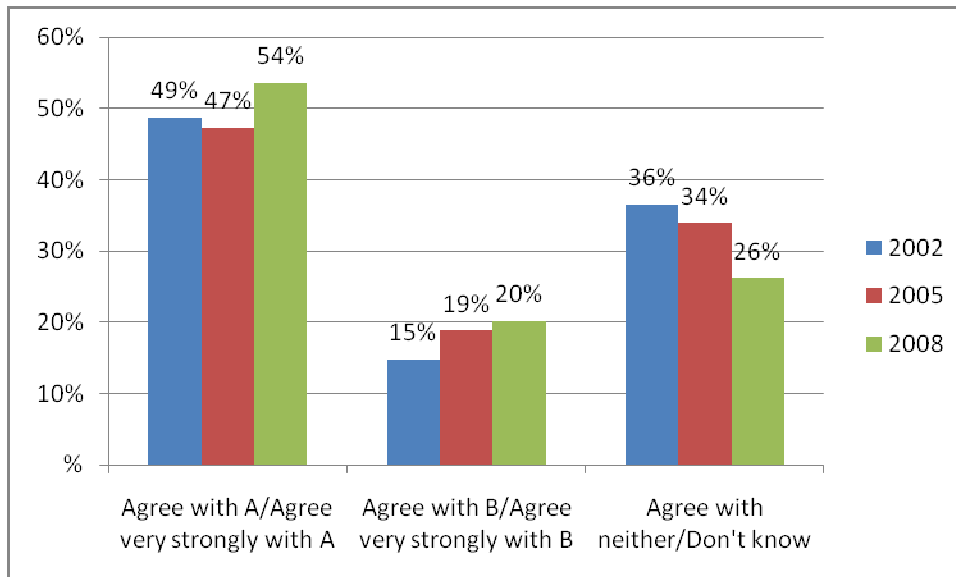


**3.4 Variable: Parliament makes laws vs. President does**

**Question:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Statement A or Statement B.

A: The members of Parliament/National Assembly represent the people; therefore they should make laws for this country, even if the President/Prime Minister does not agree.

B: Since the President/Prime Minister represents all of us, he should pass laws without worrying about what the Parliament/National Assembly thinks.

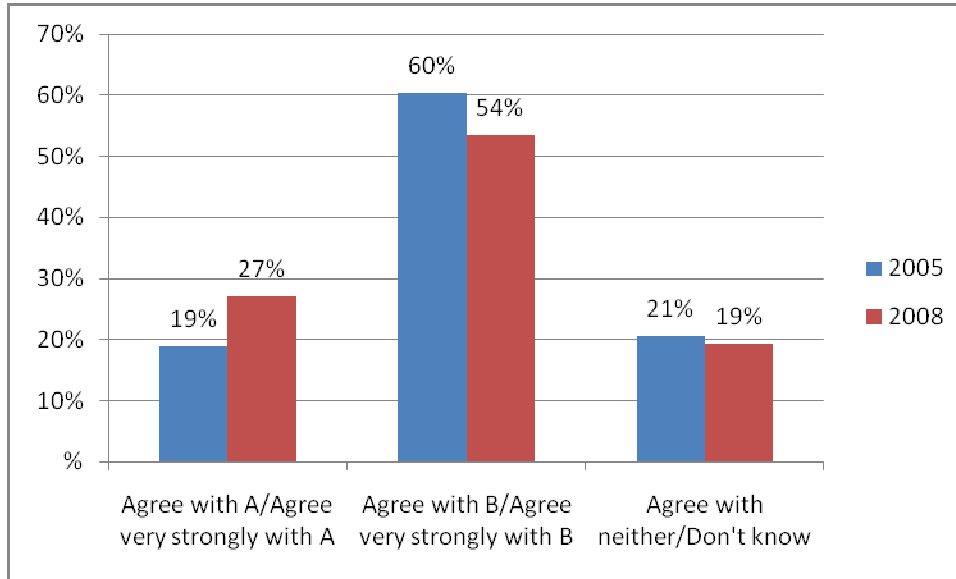


### 3.5 Variable: President free to act vs. obey the laws and courts

**Question:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Statement A or Statement B.

A: Since the President/Prime Minister was elected to lead the country, he should not be bound by laws or court decisions that he thinks are wrong.

B: The President/Prime Minister must always obey the laws and the courts, even if he thinks they are wrong.

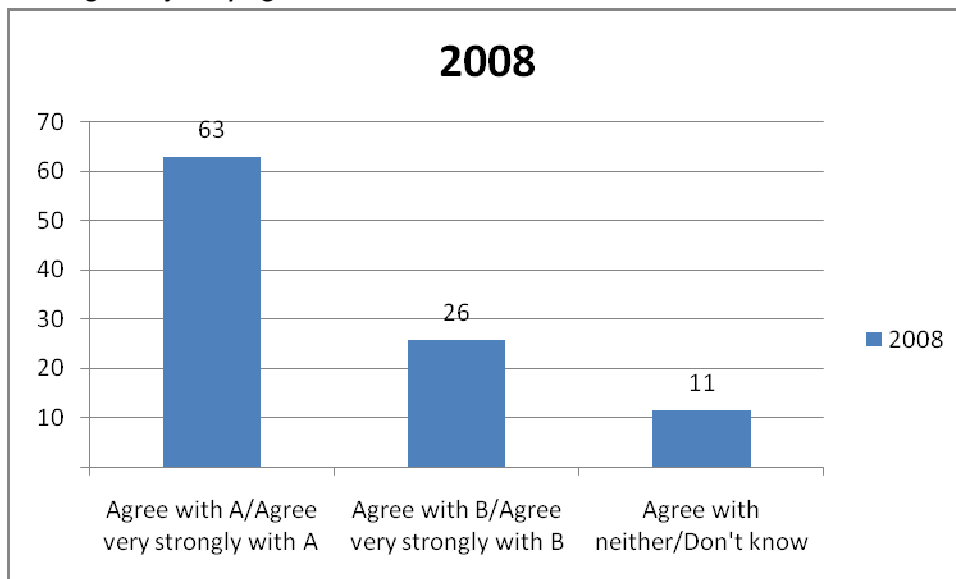


### 3.6 Variable: Parliament monitors President vs. cooperate

**Question:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Statement A or Statement B.

A: Parliament should ensure that the president explains to it on a regular basis how his government spends the taxpayers' money.

B: The President should be able to devote his full attention to developing the country rather than wasting time justifying his actions.

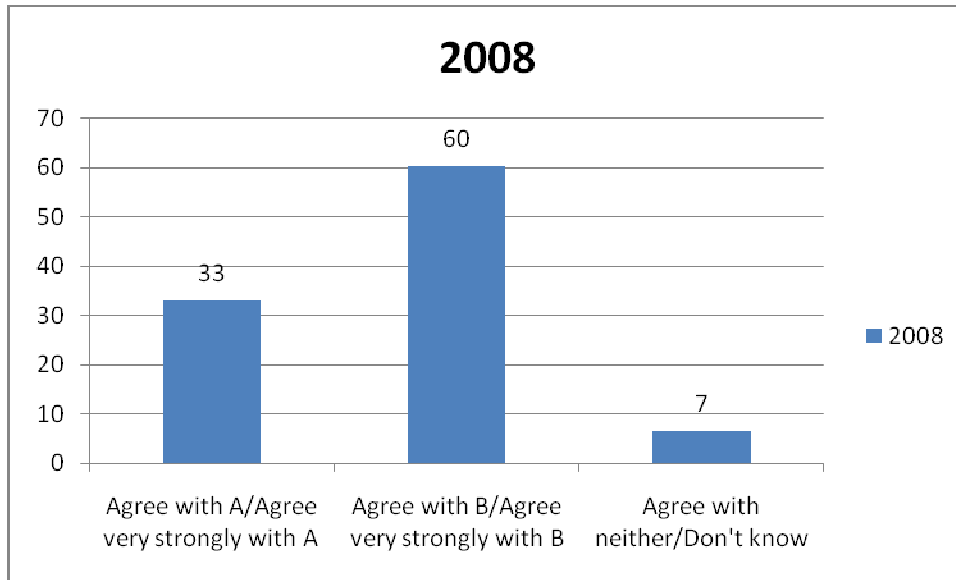


**3.7 Variable: Opposition parties examine government vs. cooperate**

**Question:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Statement A or Statement B.

A: Opposition parties should regularly examine and criticize government policies and actions.

B: Opposition parties should concentrate on cooperating with government and helping it develop the country.

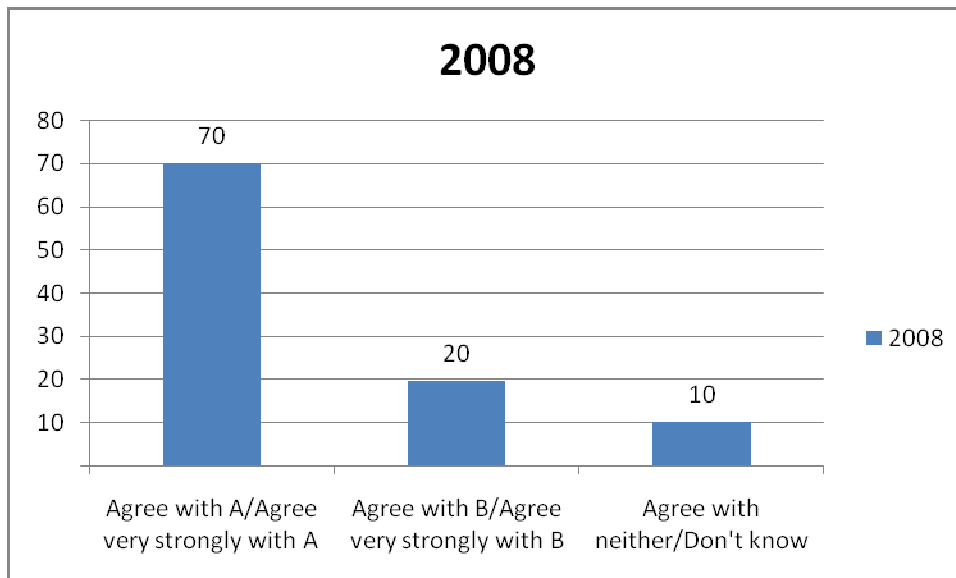


**3.8 Variable: Media examines government vs. cooperate**

**Question:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Statement A or Statement B.

A: The news media should constantly investigate and report on corruption and the mistakes made by the government.

B: Too much reporting on negative events, like corruption, only harms the country.

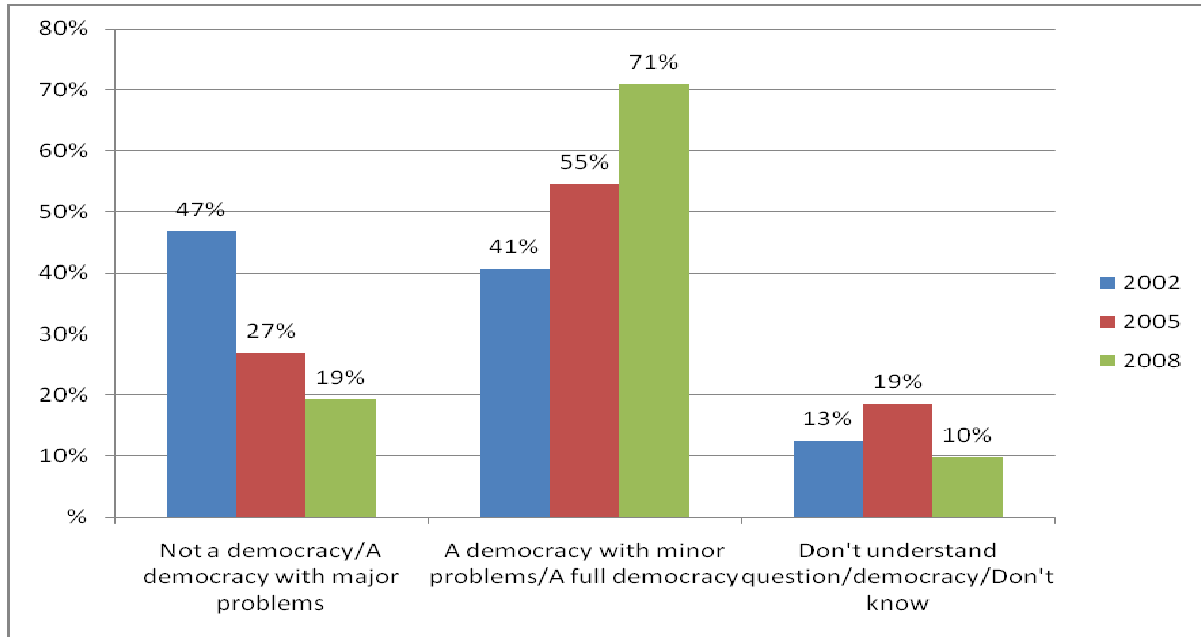




## SUPPLY OF DEMOCRACY

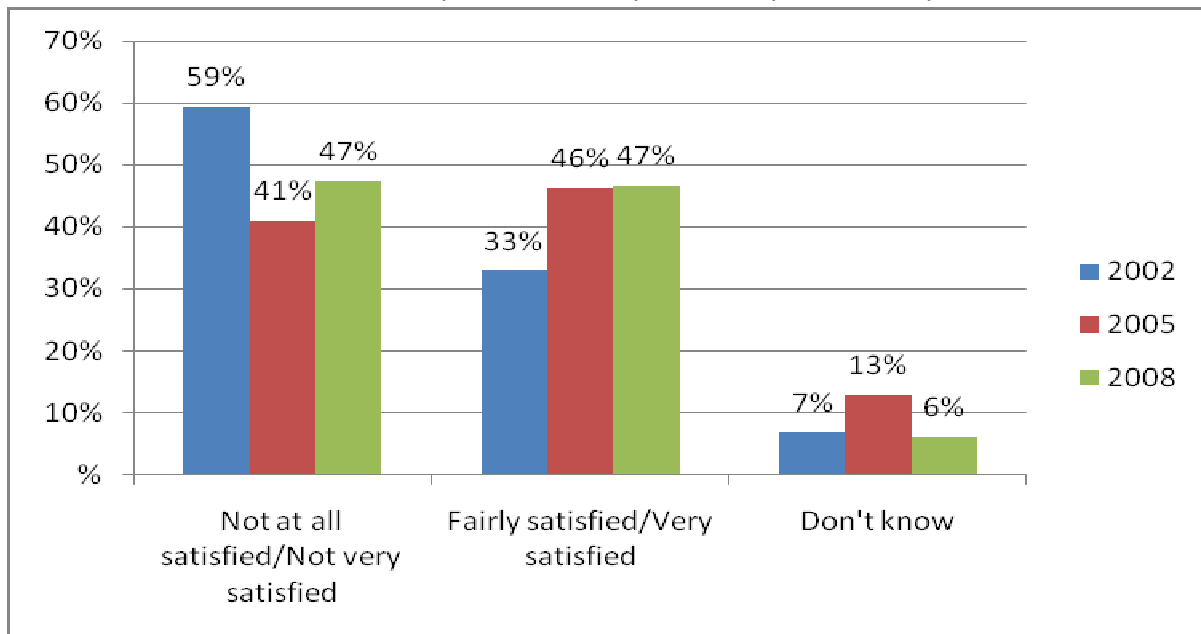
### 4.1 Variable: Extent of Democracy

**Questions:** In your opinion how much of a democracy is Cape Verde today?



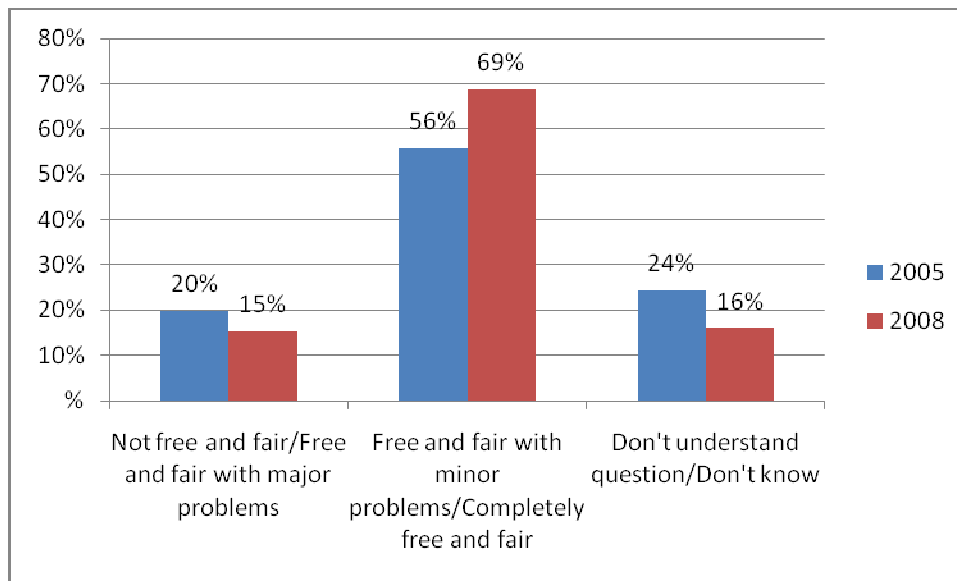
### 4.2 Variable: Satisfaction with democracy

**Question:** Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Cape Verde?



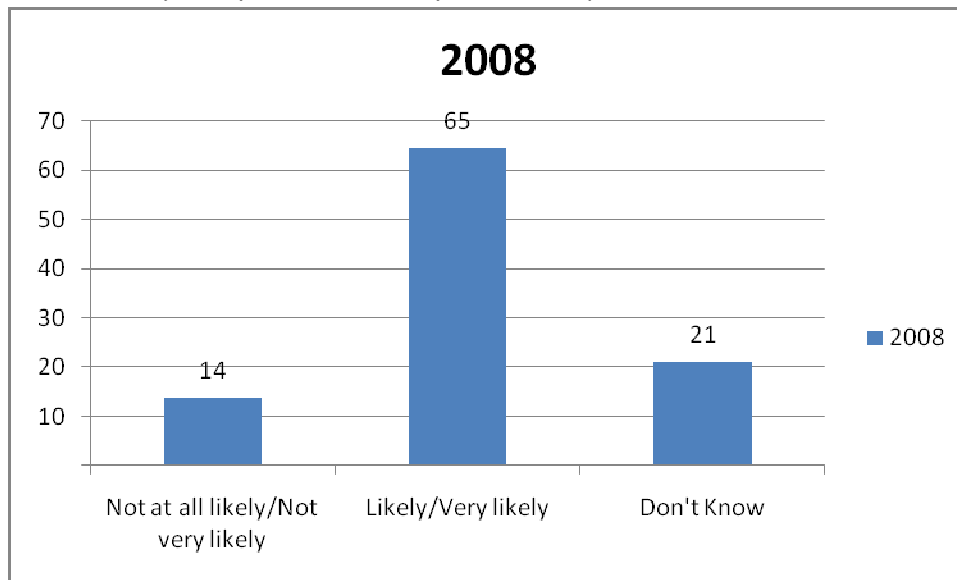
#### 4.3 Variable: Elections free and fair

**Question:** On the whole, how would you rate the freeness and fairness of the last national election, held in [20xx]? Was it:



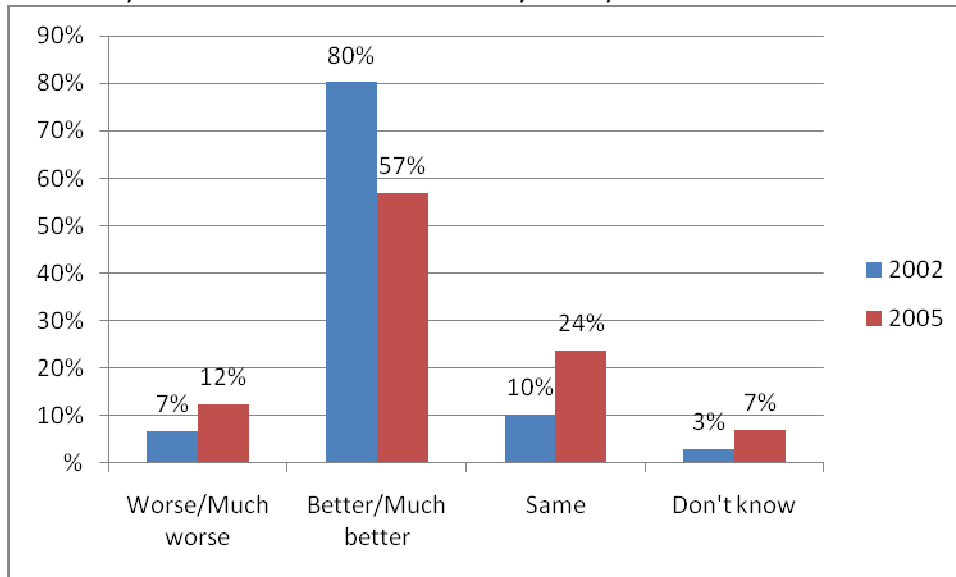
#### 4.4 Variable: Future of democracy

**Question:** In your opinion, how likely is it that Cape Verde will remain a democratic country?



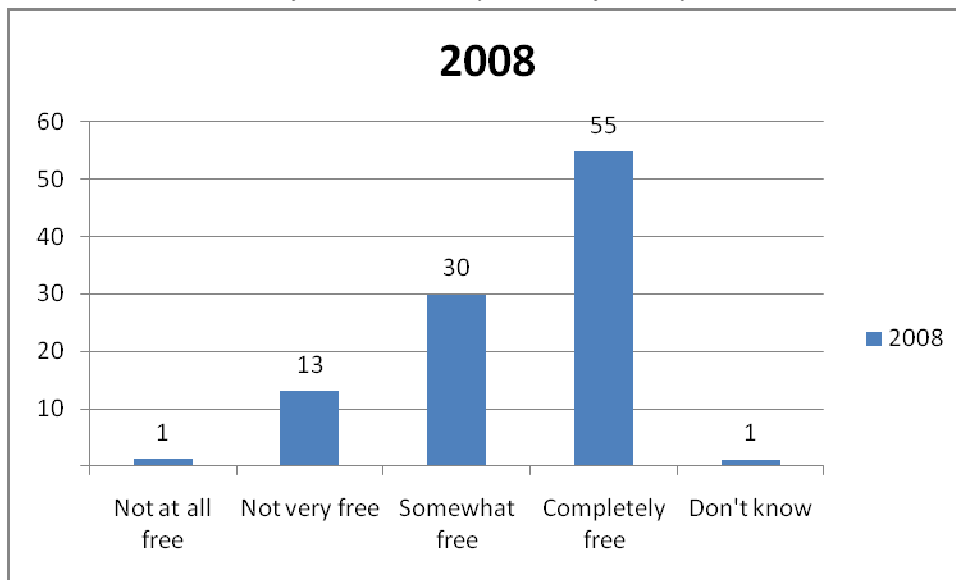
#### 4.5 Variable: Freedom of speech (2002-2005)

**Question:** Please tell me if the following things are worse or better now than they were a few years ago, or are they about the same: Freedom to say what you think?



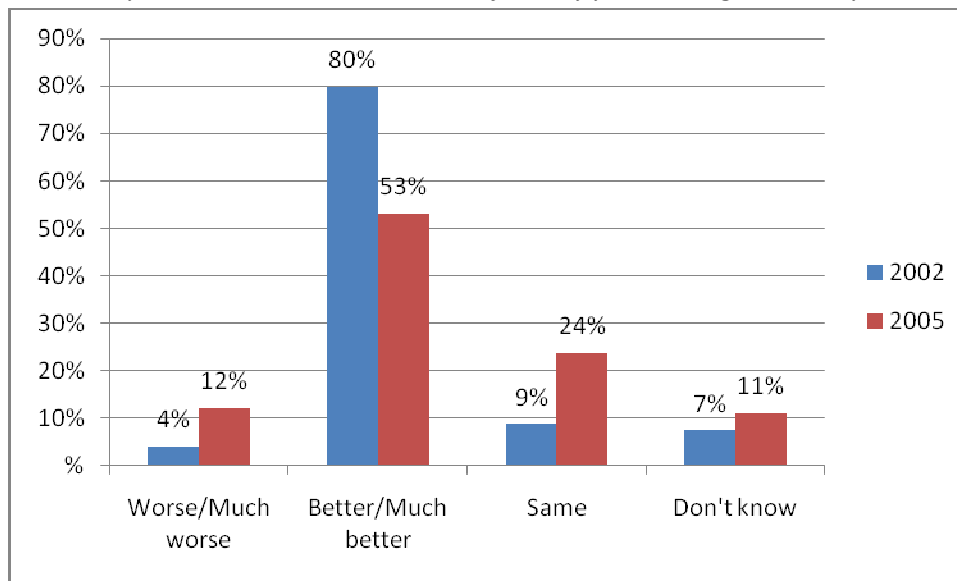
#### 4.6 Variable: Freedom of speech (2008)

**Question:** In this country, how free are you: to say what you think?



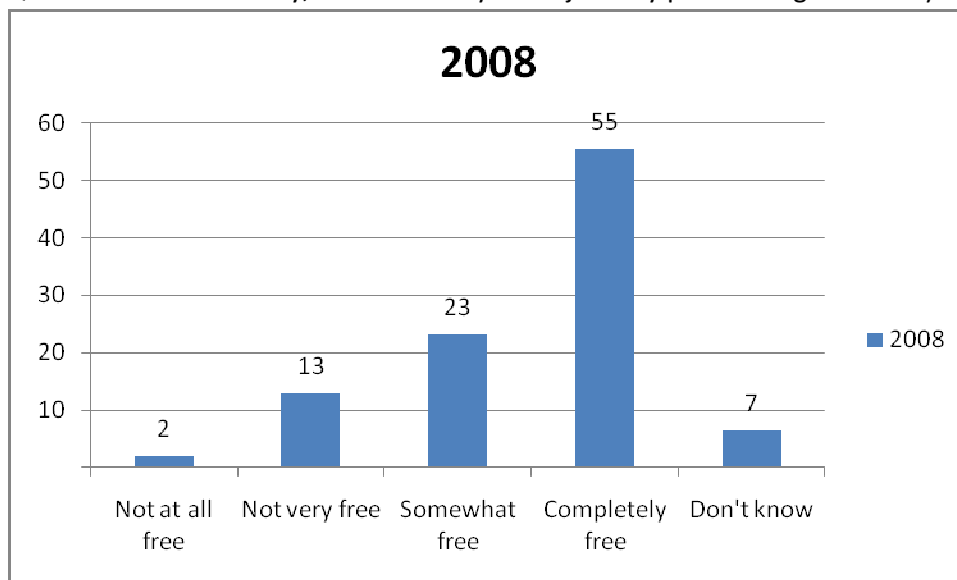
#### 4.7 Variable: Freedom of association (2002-2005)

**Question:** Please tell me if the following things are worse or better now than they were a few years ago, or are they about the same: Freedom to join any political organization you want?



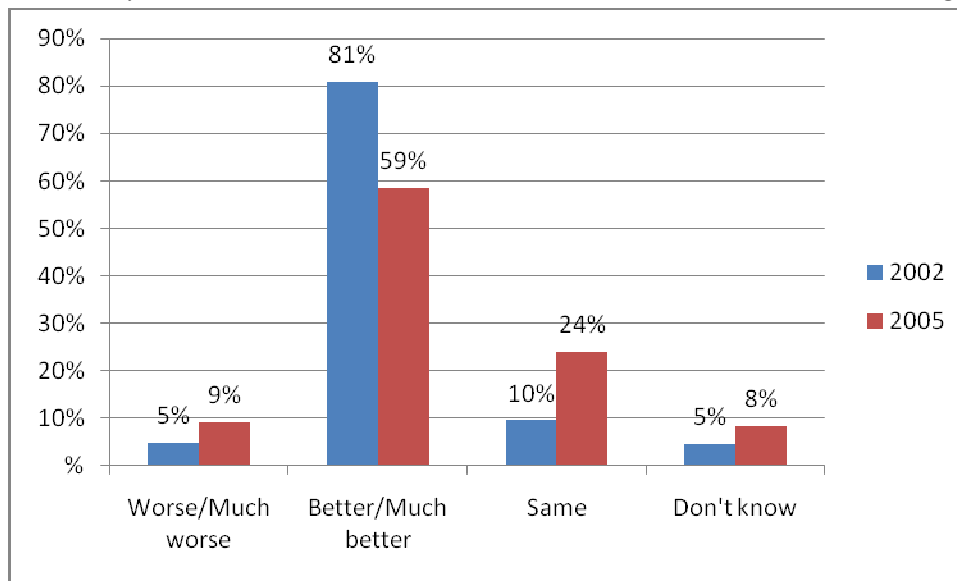
#### 4.8 Variable: Freedom of association (2008)

**Question:** In this country, how free are you: to join any political organization you want?



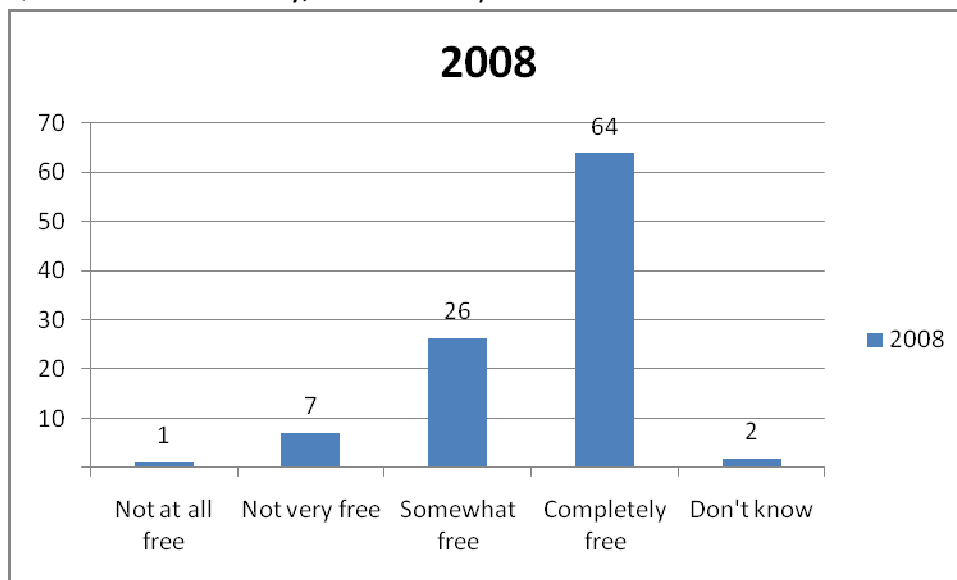
#### 4.9 Variable: Voting freedom (2002-2005)

**Question:** Please tell me if the following things are worse or better now than they were a few years ago, or are they about the same: Freedom to choose who to vote for without feeling pressured?



#### 4.10 Variable: Voting freedom (2008)

**Question:** In this country, how free are you: to choose who to vote for without feeling pressured?



The Afrobarometer, a cross-national survey research project, is conducted collaboratively by social scientists from 20 African countries. Coordination is provided by three Core Partners: the Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA), and the Institute for Research in Empirical Political Economy (IREEP, Benin). Michigan State University and the University of Cape Town serve as Support Units to the project. In addition, National Partners in each country directly manage survey fieldwork and data management.

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For more information, see: [www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)