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News release

Togolese voice strong support for two-term limit

By a 6-to-1 margin, Togolese citizens favour a two-term limit for their president, according to a new Afrobarometer survey.

Based on the October 2014 survey, 85% of respondents agree – including 60% who “strongly agree” – with the statement that “The Constitution should limit the president of the Republic to serving a maximum of two terms in office” (see Figure 1 below). Only 13% favour no limit on presidential mandates.

Public opinion on the issue has remained steady since Afrobarometer’s 2012 survey, in which 84% of Togolese respondents favoured term limits, placing Togo in the top one-third among 34 African countries in support for such limits (Figure 2).

Almost half (49%) of Togolese respondents said in 2012 that term limits should apply retroactively to the two terms that President Faure Gnassingbé has already served, while 11% said they should not; a full 40% supported neither side or did not know.

In the wake of the public uprising in Burkina Faso that forced long-ruling President Blaise Compaoré from office, thousands of Togolese have taken to the streets in recent weeks to demand presidential term limits that would bar Gnassingbé from running for a third term in March 2015.

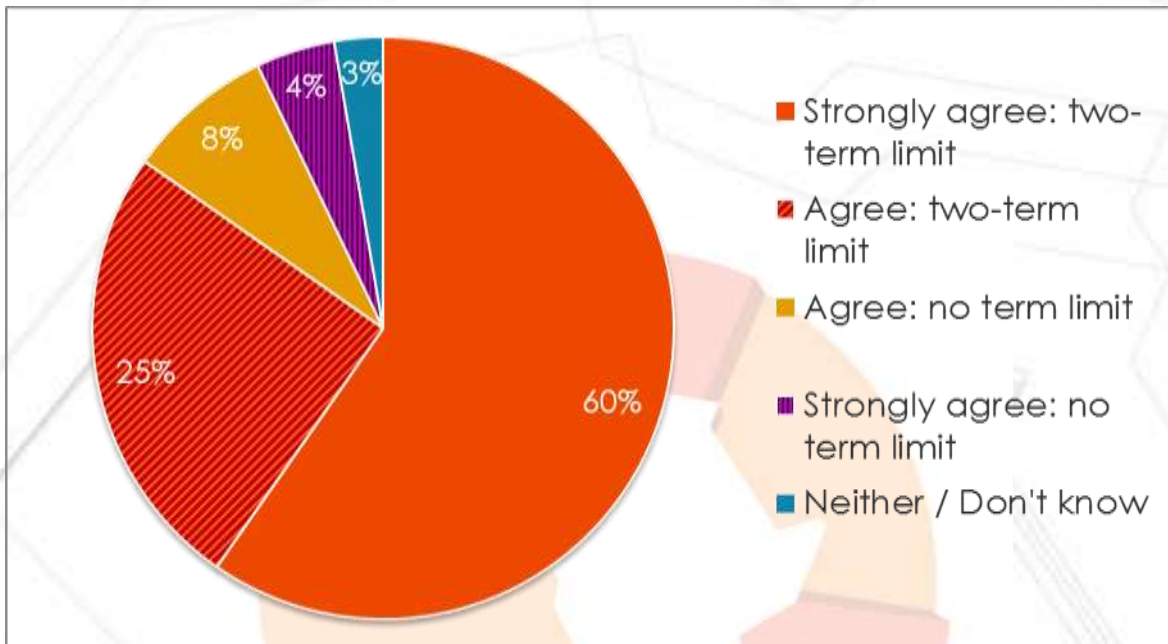
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is an African-led, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and Round 6 surveys are currently under way (2014-2015). Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent’s choice with nationally representative samples of between 1,200 and 2,400 respondents.

The Afrobarometer team in Togo, led by the Center for Research and Opinion Polls (CROP), interviewed 1,200 adults in October 2014. A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. A previous survey was conducted in Togo in 2012.

Charts

Figure 1: Support for two-term limit on president | Togo | 2014

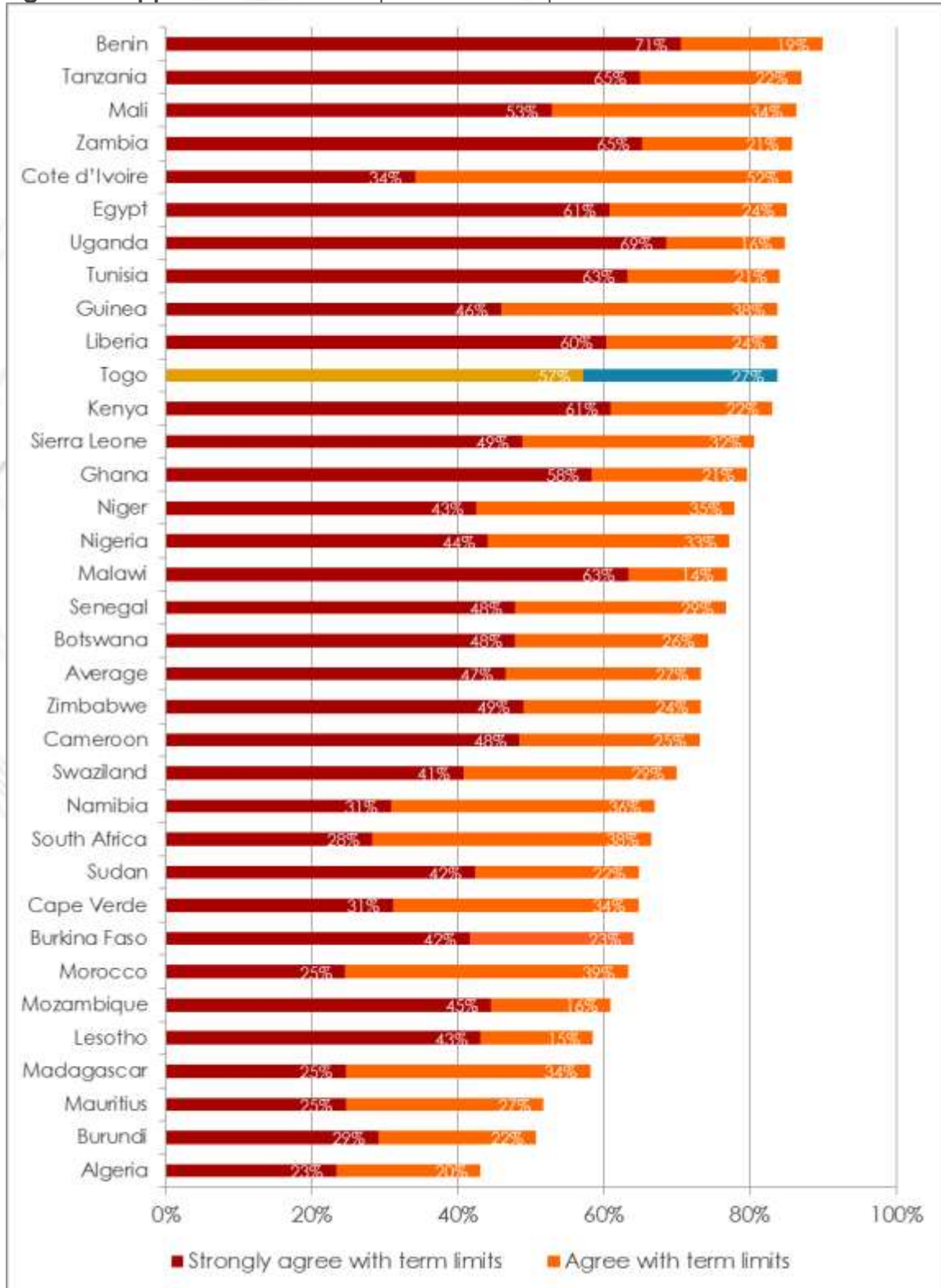


Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.

Statement 1: The Constitution should limit the president of the Republic to serving a maximum of two terms in office.

Statement 2: There should be no constitutional limit on how long the president of the Republic can serve.

Figure 2: Support for term limits | 34 countries | 2011-2013



For more information:

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