

Elections were held for the first time in **Ethiopia's** history in May. While efforts to bring the opposition into the process failed and most of the opposition parties boycotted the vote, the elections marked some measure of progress on the path of democratic development in the Horn. As a result of the boycott, however, the new parliament represents a less politically diverse range of interests than did the previous legislative assembly, which was appointed under the transitional process. Canada supported the electoral effort with \$1.3 million program to assist the electoral commission, but no observers were sent as a result of restrictions placed on the composition of the Canadian mission by the Ethiopian government.

Elections in **Guinea and Niger** marked a step forward on the path to democracy in West Africa, though in neither case were the results exemplary (and in the case of Niger they proved short-lived following a coup in early 1996). Elections in **Côte d'Ivoire** produced mixed results as the presidential vote in October was subject to a "boycott actif", including violent demonstrations, by the opposition as a result of concerns over government control of the process. The legislative elections in November were preceded by successful negotiations with the opposition, resulting in their participation.

In **Zimbabwe**, elections in April were boycotted by most opposition parties over the refusal of the government to convene a multi-party conference on the constitution aimed at amending what were viewed as undemocratic provisions. As a result, the ruling party was effectively challenged in only 66 of 120 ridings and the election produced only two opposition members of parliament. However, in a subsequent by-election, another opposition victory signalled voter discontent with the political process in Zimbabwe.

National and Zanzibari elections in **Tanzania** also provided mixed results. Presidential elections in **Zanzibar** in October were the source of considerable concern by the donor community over electoral discrepancies and the likely possibility of fraud. The government did not accept observer charges of irregularities and political fallout from the vote continues. National elections a week later, the first multi-party vote since 1962, were plagued by a number of technical difficulties and a required rerun in the capital. However, most observers, including Canadians, concluded that, despite the very real problems, the results accurately reflected the will of the electorate.

The situation in **Nigeria** continued to deteriorate throughout 1995. International and domestic pressure for an early return to democratic rule met with little success. There were various reported coup plots and mass arrests of "conspirators" in March. The results of a national constitutional conference, itself less than democratically elected, were rejected by the government. In April, a draft constitution was adopted, leaving open-ended the timetable for the return to democracy. In October, a three-year time frame was set out by the military