

## New Constitution towards democracy

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The outline of the new Constitution presented on January 9 in Maputo by president **Joachim Chissano**, concretises the democratic turn taken by Mozambique and at the same time, confirms the abandoning of any reference to Marxism-Leninism. When the Parliament adopts the new Constitution, the President will be elected by direct universal suffrage whereas at present, whoever is president of the *FRELIMO* automatically becomes Head of State. The President will be elected for a maximum of three five-year terms and any citizen aged between 40 and 65 years may propose to stand as candidate in the presidential elections. Members of Parliament will also be elected by universal suffrage, instead of having recourse to a series of electoral colleges like at present. During a public meeting lasting five hours in Maputo, Joachim Chissano said that he was nevertheless against foregoing the one-party system although he recommended the opening of a national debate on the advantages of multipartism.

For the first time, the right to strike is part of the proposed Constitution as is the restoration of a form of private property. Land, which for the time being, belongs to the State may be sold to individuals who will then be able to pass it on to those who inherit it from them. Judicial power will be entirely beyond State control and the death sentence is to be abolished.