Country: Angola

Years: 1975 – 1977

Head of government: Lopo Fortunato Ferreirado Nascimento

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Africa Research Bulletin (1993) identifies Nascimento’s affiliation as MPLA, writing "The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) Central Committee elected Lopo do Nascimento as the party's new secretary-general.” Perspective Monde (2020) identifies Nascimento as center. However, DPI identifies MPLA-PT as left. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, writing “Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola—MPLA)… During its first national congress December 4–11, 1977, the party was formally restructured along Marxist-Leninist lines and redesignated as the MPLA–Labor Party (MPLA–Partido Trabalhista—MPLA-PT)… Reflecting the dos Santos administration’s increasingly pragmatic approach to economic problems, the party’s second congress in 1985 adopted a resolution promoting several “Western-style” reforms, without, however, altering its alliance with Cuba and the Soviet Union… At its third congress, held December 4–10, 1990, the MPLA-PT abandoned Marxism-Leninism in favor of “democratic socialism””. World Statesmen (2020) identifies Nascimento’s party as MPLA, and MPLA as leftist, writing “formerly Marxist-Leninist Communist, Oct 1976-Dec 1990”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 10 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) as 3.5. The leftist Socialist International (2020) identifies the MPLA as one of its members. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Left” (-2.715) in 1975.

Year: 1978

Head of government: Antonio Agostinho Neto

Ideology: leftist

Description: World Statesmen (2020) and Rulers (2020) identify Antonio Agostinho Neto as head of government instead of Lopo Fortunato Ferreirado Nascimento on December 31, 1978. HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies head of government and identifies party as MPLA-PT. DPI identifies MPLA-PT as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, writing “Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola—MPLA)… During its first national congress December 4–11, 1977, the party was formally restructured along Marxist-Leninist lines and redesignated as the MPLA–Labor Party (MPLA–Partido Trabalhista—MPLA-PT)… Reflecting the dos Santos administration’s increasingly pragmatic approach to economic problems, the party’s second congress in 1985 adopted a resolution promoting several “Western-style” reforms, without, however, altering its alliance with Cuba and the Soviet Union… At its third congress, held December 4–10, 1990, the MPLA-PT abandoned Marxism-Leninism in favor of “democratic socialism””. Manzano identifies Neto as leftist. World Statesmen (2020) identifies MPLA-PT as leftist, writing “formerly Marxist-Leninist Communist, Oct 1976-Dec 1990”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 10 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) as 3.5. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Neto’s ideology as centrist, writing “António Agostinho Neto… centre [center]”. Lentz (1994) identifies Neto’s ideology as leftist, writing “Neto, a Marxist, had the support of the Soviet Union in the succeeding struggle”. Lentz (1994) identifies dos Santos’ ideology as leftist, writing “dos Santos… was subsequently sent to Moscow for military training, where he became a devout Marxist.” The leftist Socialist International (2020) identifies the MPLA as one of its members. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Left” (-2.715) in 1975.

Years: 1979 – 1990

Head of government: José Eduardo dos Santos

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies head of government and identifies party as MPLA-PT. DPI identifies MPLA-PT as left. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, writing “Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola—MPLA)… During its first national congress December 4–11, 1977, the party was formally restructured along Marxist-Leninist lines and redesignated as the MPLA–Labor Party (MPLA–Partido Trabalhista—MPLA-PT)… Reflecting the dos Santos administration’s increasingly pragmatic approach to economic problems, the party’s second congress in 1985 adopted a resolution promoting several “Western-style” reforms, without, however, altering its alliance with Cuba and the Soviet Union… At its third congress, held December 4–10, 1990, the MPLA-PT abandoned Marxism-Leninism in favor of “democratic socialism””. Manzano (2017) corroborates that Santos is Left. World Statesmen (2020) identifies dos Santos’s party as MPLA-PT, and MPLA-PT as leftist, writing “formerly Marxist-Leninist Communist, Oct 1976-Dec 1990”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 10 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) as 3.5. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies dos Santos’ ideology as centrist before December 2, 1992, and leftist from December 2, 1992, writing “José Eduardo dos Santos… 1979 (10 septembre) [10 September] 1992 (2 décembre) [2 December]… centre [center]… 1992 (2 décembre) [2 December]… 2017 (26 septembre) [26 September]… centre gauche [center left]”. The leftist Socialist International (2020) identifies the MPLA as one of its members. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Left” (-2.715) in 1975 and 1980, and as “Center-left” (-1.295) in 1986.

Year: 1991

Head of government: Fernando José de França Dias Van-Dúnem

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Lansford (2017) identifies Van-Dunem’s affiliation as MPLA, referring to him as “José Viera Dias Van-Dúnem (MPLA).” DPI identifies MPLA-PT as left. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, writing “Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola—MPLA)… During its first national congress December 4–11, 1977, the party was formally restructured along Marxist-Leninist lines and redesignated as the MPLA–Labor Party (MPLA–Partido Trabalhista—MPLA-PT)… Reflecting the dos Santos administration’s increasingly pragmatic approach to economic problems, the party’s second congress in 1985 adopted a resolution promoting several “Western-style” reforms, without, however, altering its alliance with Cuba and the Soviet Union… At its third congress, held December 4–10, 1990, the MPLA-PT abandoned Marxism-Leninism in favor of “democratic socialism””. Perspective Monde (2020) identifies Van-Dunem as left. World Statesmen (2020) identifies Dunem’s party as MPLA-PT, and MPLA-PT as leftist, writing “social democratic, formerly Marxist-Leninist Communist, Oct 1976-Dec 1990”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 10 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) as 3.5. The leftist Socialist International (2020) identifies the MPLA as one of its members. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.295) in 1986.

Years: 1992 – 2016

Head of government: José Eduardo dos Santos

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies head of government and identifies party as MPLA-PT. DPI identifies MPLA-PT as left. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, writing “Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola—MPLA)… During its first national congress December 4–11, 1977, the party was formally restructured along Marxist-Leninist lines and redesignated as the MPLA–Labor Party (MPLA–Partido Trabalhista—MPLA-PT)… Reflecting the dos Santos administration’s increasingly pragmatic approach to economic problems, the party’s second congress in 1985 adopted a resolution promoting several “Western-style” reforms, without, however, altering its alliance with Cuba and the Soviet Union… At its third congress, held December 4–10, 1990, the MPLA-PT abandoned Marxism-Leninism in favor of “democratic socialism””. Manzano (2017) corroborates that Santos is Left. World Statesmen identifies dos Santos’s party as MPLA-PT, and MPLA-PT as leftist, writing “social democratic, formerly Marxist-Leninist Communist, Oct 1976-Dec 1990”. Perspective Monde (2020) identifies dos Santos’ ideology as centrist before December 2, 1992, and leftist from December 2, 1992, writing “José Eduardo dos Santos… 1979 (10 septembre) [10 September] 1992 (2 décembre) [2 December]… centre [center]… 1992 (2 décembre) [2 December]… 2017 (26 septembre) [26 September]… centre gauche [center left]”. Lentz (1994) identifies dos Santos’ ideology as leftist, writing “dos Santos… was subsequently sent to Moscow for military training, where he became a devout Marxist.” The leftist Socialist International (2020) identifies the MPLA as one of its members. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-0.61) in 1992 and 2008. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center” (0.017) in 2012. But in the Global Party Survey 2019, 10 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) as 3.5.

Years: 2017-2019

Head of government: João Lourenço

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. *Political Handbook of the World* (2018: 42) identifies affiliation as MPLA-PT. DPI identifies ideology of MPLA-PT as left. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, writing “Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola—MPLA)… During its first national congress December 4–11, 1977, the party was formally restructured along Marxist-Leninist lines and redesignated as the MPLA–Labor Party (MPLA–Partido Trabalhista—MPLA-PT)… Reflecting the dos Santos administration’s increasingly pragmatic approach to economic problems, the party’s second congress in 1985 adopted a resolution promoting several “Western-style” reforms, without, however, altering its alliance with Cuba and the Soviet Union… At its third congress, held December 4–10, 1990, the MPLA-PT abandoned Marxism-Leninism in favor of “democratic socialism””. World Statesmen (2020) identifies Lourenço’s party as MPLA-PT, and MPLA-PT as leftist, writing “social democratic, formerly Marxist-Leninist Communist, Oct 1976-Dec 1990”. Perspective Monde (2020) identifies Lourenço’s ideology as leftist, writing “João Lourenço… centre gauche [center left]”. The leftist Socialist International (2020) identifies the MPLA as one of its members. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center” (0.017) in 2012. But in the Global Party Survey 2019, 10 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) as 3.5.

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