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President Commends Nigeria on Call for 2007 Elections

The United States congratulates the Government of Nigeria, President Obasanjo, and the Nigerian people on their continued support to promote democracy in Nigeria by calling for national elections in 2007. The decision to resolve the third term debate through constitutional means is a victory for democracy and the rule of law and provides a strong foundation for a peaceful and transparent election. President Obasanjo wisely resisted the invitation to challenge this constitutional outcome on the issue of a third term. The American people place in high regard the deeply held commitment of the Nigerian people to bring about change that is based on democratic values and practices.

Next year's constitutional presidential transition will mark the first time in Nigerian history that a civilian president hands over power through democratic elections. President Obasanjo was also Africa's first modern military leader to successfully guide a country's transition from military to civilian rule. We look forward to continue working with President Obasanjo to promote freedom and democracy for the people of Nigeria and peace and stability in the region.

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