



## **Regional Workshop**

### **Covering Elections in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities**

**3-4 July, Nairobi, Kenya**

**Venue: Desmond Tutu Convention Centre**

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#### **Day 1**

**3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017**

**8.00 – 9.00**

**Registration of delegates**

**9.00 – 9.20**

**Opening and Welcome Remarks**

Adebayo Olukushi – Director International IDEA (Africa & West Asia)

Tidiane Diop – Head of Media Programmes OIF

Eric Chinje - CEO AMI

**9.20 – 9.30**

**Presentation of Delegates**

**9.30 – 10.15**

**Opening Session**

**Assessing the State of Elections in Francophone and Anglophone Africa: A Historical Perspective and an Overview of Key Trends**

*Since the 1990s, Africa has undergone an important wave of democratisation which has in the process ushered a culture of holding elections. However, this process was not always a homogenous process as evidenced by specific regions or countries. This panel will offer the opportunity to reflect on some of the key challenges and opportunities of holding elections in a vast continent like Africa.*

**Moderator:** Roukaya Kasenally (AMI)

**Panellists:** Saidou Kane (Programme Specialist, Political Affairs and Democratic Governance, OIF) and Adebayo Olukushi (Director International IDEA, Africa and West Asia)

**10.15 – 10.30**      **Pause café**

**10.30 – 12.15**      **Panel Expert –Running and Managing Elections – Giving Voice to Electoral Commissioners**

*Credible and independent elections are important to the process of democratisation. How is this process made to happen? What is the role of national stakeholders (the army / police, civil society, the citizens, the political parties, candidates, public institutions and the media? What influencing factor (if any) do international actors such funding agencies, electoral observation missions have on the outcomes of elections? These will be some of the points of reflection that this panel will explore.*

**Moderator: Tidiane Dioh (OIF)**

**Panellists:** Samuel Fonkam Azu'u (Past Electoral Commissioner, Cameroon), Ahmed Newton Barry (Electoral Commissioner, Burkina Faso), Olufunto Akinduro (Head Elections and Political Processes, EISA) and Ibrahima Sangho (President, Elections and Good Governance Observatory, Mali)

**12.15 – 13.15**      **Lunch Break**

**13.15 – 13.30**      **Presentation of Research commissioned by AMI on 'Coverage of Election Related News in Kenya' – Wangethi Mwangi (AMI)**

**13.30 – 15.30**      **Open Session - What Journalists have to say? Experiences and Encounters of Elections**

*How are elections covered? How free is the media to cover elections? How enabling are the existing legislation and institutional framework? Is the media aware of electoral procedures? Does the media develop a specific editorial policy when it comes to electoral coverage? What about internal codes of conduct? How is the abuse of state media countered balanced?*

**Facilitator: Eric Chinje (AMI)**

**15.30 – 15.45**

**Tea Break**

**15.45 – 17.30**

**Building Partnerships: Electoral Management Bodies and the Media**

*This session will draw from the two previous sessions to allow for a more effective partnership. What are the key barriers that need to be addressed? How does one ensure that credible and reliable information is circulated? How does one foster a relationship based on trust and reciprocity? What are the challenges of communicating election information in an age of social media?*

**Facilitators: Roukaya Kasenally (AMI) and Tidiane Diouh (OIF)**

**End of Day 1**

**Day 2**

**4<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

**9.00 – 11.00**

**Getting the Message Across During an Election: The Dynamics at Play**

*During elections, the media plays an important role in relaying information to citizens about the electoral process. This includes information from Electoral Management Bodies as well as from other key stakeholders including political parties contesting the election. The panel will examine both sides of this relationship by examining how the media*

*portrays electoral stakeholders and how stakeholders interact with the media to communicate their messages. The panel will examine different mechanisms that exist to foster relationships between electoral stakeholders and the media. This will be followed by an open session where participants will be encouraged to share their own country experiences.*

**Moderator:** Nicholas Matatu (International IDEA)

**Panellists:** Okey Onyejekwe (Special Advisor to the Minister (Policy and Strategy), Federal Ministry of Mines and Steel Development, Nigeria), Daisy Bathusi, Botswana Congress Party Women's League President, Botswana and EMB Representative (TBC)

**11.00 – 11.30**      **Tea Break**

**11.30 – 12.30**      **Panel on 'Kenya's Election Readiness'**

*Kenya prepares to go for elections on the 8<sup>th</sup> August. This offers an opportune moment to hear from the key stakeholders as to the preparedness to face these elections. In fact, Kenya made the headlines following 2007 elections which saw one of the most stable countries in East Africa erupt into violence. What were the lessons learnt? What is the role and responsibility of the different institutions and stakeholders in ensuring that elections are peaceful, fair and free?*

**Moderator:** Wangethi Mwangi (AMI)

**Panellists:** Seema Kiran Shah (International IDEA), Victor Bwire (Deputy, CEO Media Council of Kenya), Tom Mshindi (Editorial Director, Nation Media Group) and Andrew Limo (Communications Manager, IBEC, Kenya)

**12.30 – 13.30**      **Lunch Break**

**13.30 – 14.30**      **Outputs of the Workshop**

1. Core ideas generated per panel
2. Overarching proposals / recommendations
3. Best practices

**Facilitators:** Roukaya Kasenally (AMI) and Tidiane Dioh (OIF)

**14.30 – 15.00**

**Closing Remarks – Eric Chinje (CEO AMI)**