



# SAFEGUARDING THE DIGITAL SPACE

Ahead of Kenya's 2022 Elections



**8 - 9 NOVEMBER 2021**

Nairobi, Kenya and online



Kofi Annan  
FOUNDATION

Center for  
Multiparty



Democracy Kenya

UNDEF



The United Nations  
Democracy Fund

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME - DAY 1



All sessions on Day 1 are open to the public.

**MONDAY 8 November 2021** - All times are East Africa Time.

0930-0955 **ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION, MORNING SNACKS**

0955-1000 **CALL TO ORDER AND HOUSEKEEPING**

1000-1015 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

1015-1115 **Panel discussion followed by Q&A: Elections in the Digital Age: Emerging opportunities and new threats for Kenya's 2022 elections**

This session will provide an overview of the impact of social media on previous elections in Kenya, and the manner in which stakeholders are finding new ways to weaponize communications technologies to undermine the integrity of electoral processes. The session will aim to identify emerging threats and assess efforts to address existing threats to electoral integrity. Issues to be discussed include algorithm transparency, the increasing prevalence of hate speech and electoral disinformation, and the use of social media as a weapon against women.

1115-1130 **BREAK AND GROUP PHOTO**

1130-1230 **Panel discussion followed by Q&A: How should social media be regulated to strengthen rather than undermine electoral integrity?**

This session will examine existing laws, policies, and guidelines to regulate social media, including the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act of 2018, the Data Protection Act of 2019, and the Kenya Information and Communication Act, and identify potential regulatory gaps. The session will also present different models of social media regulation and enforcement and discuss the roles and responsibilities of both regulatory bodies and tech companies; the possible benefits of digital codes of conduct for political players and/or for technology companies will also be explored.

1230-1400 **NETWORKING LUNCH**

1400-1500 **Panel discussion followed by Q&A: Securing the digital space to promote transparent and fair political competition**

This session focuses on what tools and strategies are needed to secure the digital space during the 2022 elections. The session also aims to revisit existing codes of conduct with a particular focus on adding the digital dimension to existing efforts. Codes of conduct for political parties, candidates and their supporters are an effective and popular mechanism to curtail inappropriate behaviour, reduce tensions in the lead-up to an election, and ensure peaceful contestation.

1500-1515 **BREAK**

### SPEAKERS

Master of Ceremonies

- Corinne Momal-Vanien, Kofi Annan Foundation
- Frankline Mukwanja, Centre for Multiparty Democracy

- Alice Munyua, Mozilla
- Asha Mwiliu, Debunk Media
- Representative, Data Privacy Commission
- Irungu Houghton, Amnesty International Kenya

Moderator:  
James Smart,  
Nation Media Group

- Joseph Nzano, Communications Authority of Kenya

- Ken Ogutu, Researcher on Criminal Justice, Governance & Rule of Law

- Noordin Haji, Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)

- Wycliffe Mwatu, National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC)

Moderator:  
Janet Mbugua,  
Inua Dada Foundation

- Martha Karua, NARC-Kenya

- Representative, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC)

- Bob Waithaka, Office of the Registrar of Political Parties

- Mule Musau, Election Observation Group (ELOG)

Moderator:  
Caroline Gaita,  
Mzalendo Watch

1515-1615

Panel discussion followed by Q&A: *Best practices and lessons learned on countering dis- and misinformation*

Fake news, hate speech, and misinformation have ignited widespread fears for the integrity of electoral processes and public debate. There is extensive documentation of the use of online disinformation campaigns during the 2013 and 2017 elections in Kenya. This session focuses on approaches to dis- and misinformation, which either worked or did not work in other countries, with the objective to identify lessons learned and current best practices that can be applied to Kenya.

• Lisa Reppell, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

• Dennis Omondi, National Democratic Institute (NDI)

• Alphonse Shiundu, Africa Check

• Roberto Heycher Cardiel, Instituto Nacional Electoral (INE) Mexico

Moderator:  
Catherine Gicheru,  
International Centre for Journalists (ICJI)

1615

**CLOSING OF DAY 1 - MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME - DAY 2



All sessions on Day 2 are closed door.

**TUESDAY 9 November 2021** - All times are East Africa Time.

0900-0925 **ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION, MORNING SNACKS**

0925-0930 **CALL TO ORDER AND HOUSEKEEPING**

0930-1100

**Learning event: Presentations from tech companies and fact-checking organisations on countering disinformation and strengthening fact-checking (followed by Q&A)**

During this closed-door session tech companies and fact-checking organisations are invited to present their tools and strategies to counter dis- and misinformation and strengthen fact-checking. The objective of this session is to better understand on-going efforts in this space, learn from each other's tools, initiatives and actions, and enhance coordination.

Master of Ceremonies

Presenters:

• Ginny Badanes, Microsoft

• Tom Nvumba-O'Bryan, Meta

• Alphonse Shiundu, Africa Check

• Victor Bwire, Media Council of Kenya

• Kui Kinyanjui, Safaricom PLC

Moderator:  
Linda Bonyo, Lawyers Hub

1000-1115

**BREAK AND GROUP PHOTO**

1115-1230

**Brainstorming session: Imagining a digital code of conduct for Kenya.**

Building on on-going locally-driven efforts around codes of conduct for the electoral process, the goal of this session is to brainstorm amongst key stakeholders if and how such efforts could be combined with a digital pledge to address digital threats and secure the online space ahead of the 2022 elections. This session also provides an opportunity to learn from other experiences and share best practices.

• Abshiro Halake, CMD

• Olaf Böhnke, Alliances of Democracies

• Representative, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC)

• Gram Matenga, International IDEA

• Joshua Changwony, Executive Secretary, The Constitution and Reform Education Consortium (CRECO)

Moderator:  
Frankline Mukwanja, Centre for Multiparty Democracy

1230-1400

**LUNCH**

1400

**CLOSING OF DAY 2 - MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

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## ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Digital communication technologies and social media are profoundly impacting elections across Africa and the world. While the internet's broad reach and the ubiquity of social media provide unparalleled opportunities to engage with and empower voters, they also facilitate the spread of dis- and misinformation and/or hate speech, undermine trust in democratic institutions, sow societal distrust, and can reduce electoral integrity, thereby raising the potential for instability and/or violence.

Recognising the impact of social media on elections and democracy, the Kofi Annan Commission on Elections and Democracy in the Digital Age, established by the former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, assessed risks and identified remedial measures in five focus areas: polarisation, dis- and misinformation, hate speech, political advertising, and foreign interference.

Kenya is today one of the most digitally advanced societies in Africa. Digital technologies and social media are widely used by Kenyan citizens and political leaders alike. In electoral contexts, social media has increased civic empowerment and engagement; but it has also increased a

number of challenges related to the risk factors identified by the Kofi Annan Commission. These risk factors, combined with a history of election-related violence, make Kenyan elections particularly vulnerable to the weaponisation of social media and the internet.

The scope and scale of these challenges and potential solutions necessitate a coordinated response by diverse electoral stakeholders from different sectors. With the presidential elections less than one year away, concerted action is needed to build the partnerships, strategies, and mechanisms necessary to safeguard Kenya's electoral integrity in the digital space ahead of the 2022 elections.

The Kofi Annan Foundation and the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD-Kenya), with the support of the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), are co-hosting this workshop with election stakeholders to address the issues outlined above, learn from the 2013 and 2017 general elections to identify what can be done differently in 2022 and increase electoral integrity, trust, and confidence in Kenya's upcoming elections.

## ABOUT THE ORGANISERS



The Kofi Annan Foundation was established in 2008 by the former Secretary-General to apply his expertise and experience to help build peaceful societies. From its earliest days brokering peace in Kenya to supporting democracy and elections with integrity in Nigeria, to changing drug policies in West Africa, combatting hunger, and helping post-conflict societies back onto the road to peace and empowering young leaders, this small Geneva-based Foundation has undertaken -and continues to run- a range of targeted programmes to help build peaceful, democratic, and resilient societies.

[kofiannanfoundation.org](http://kofiannanfoundation.org)



The Centre for Multiparty Democracy, CMD-Kenya, is a political parties-based membership organisation established in March 2004. The mandate is to enhance multiparty democracy and strengthen the institutional capacity of political parties in Kenya through policy influence and capacity building. The organisation provides a platform for political parties, political actors and policymakers to engage in dialogue and cooperate in strengthening multiparty democracy. CMD-Kenya works closely with political parties, political actors, strategic partners and key stakeholders in promoting social justice, political governance best practices, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

[cmd-kenya.org](http://cmd-kenya.org)

#TechforDemocracyKE

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