



SAFEGUARDING THE DIGITAL SPACE

Ahead of Kenya's 2022 Elections 

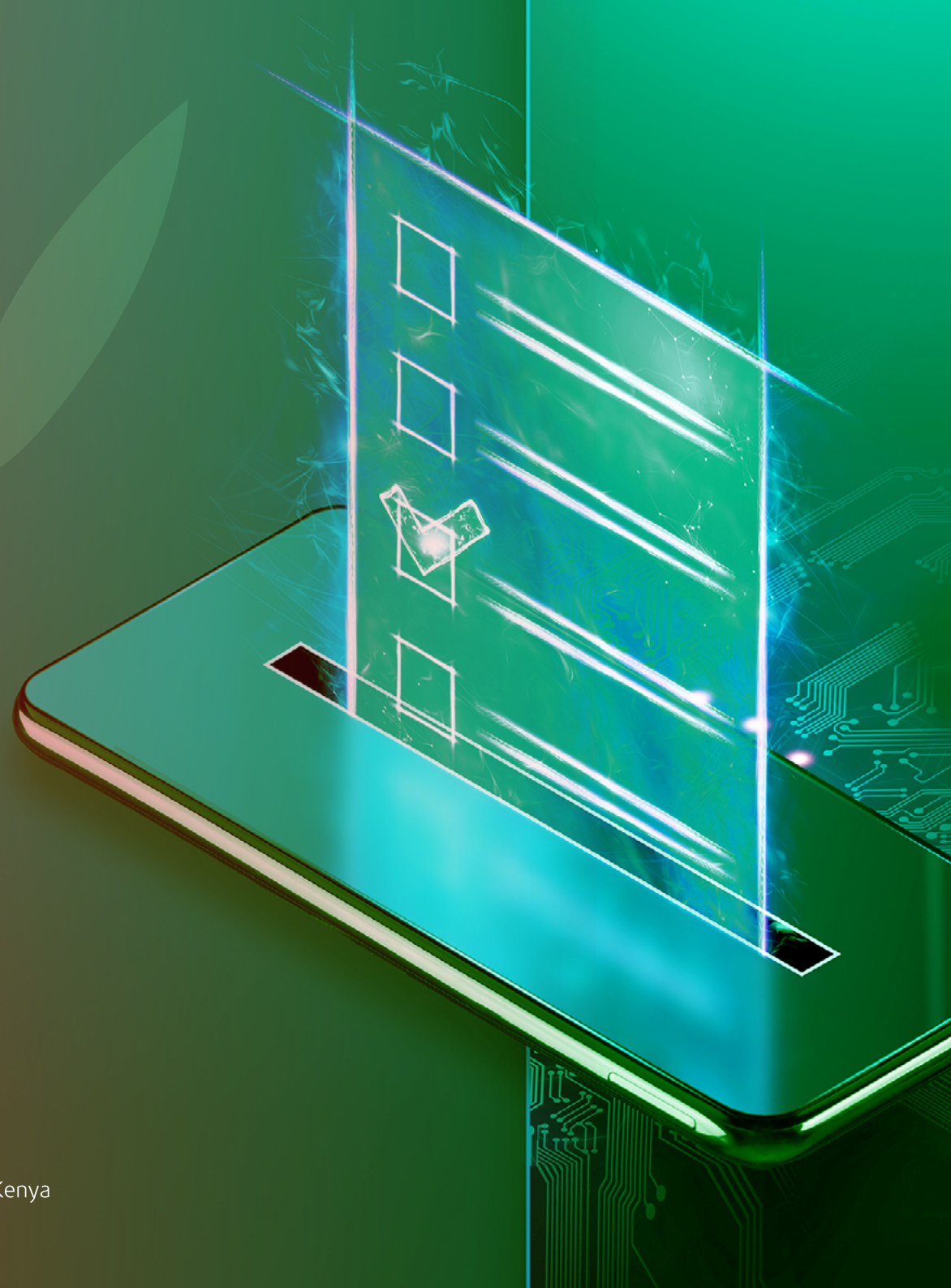
CONFERENCE REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2021



Kofi Annan
FOUNDATION



Center for
Multiparty Democracy Kenya



Foreword

Digital technologies and social media are profoundly impacting politics and electoral processes in Africa and across the world. The rapid increase of access to the internet and mobile phones, and the emergence of powerful social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter have radically changed the way people are accessing information, engaging with each other, and participating in political processes.

These transformations are unprecedented and have affected all countries in multiple ways. On the one hand, they have provided unique opportunities for politicians to engage with millions of potential voters and opened civic spaces for discussions. On the other hand, these transformations have facilitated foreign meddling in domestic affairs and elections and the spreading of dis- and misinformation and hate speech, spurring political polarization and violence and undermining democratic institutions and trust.

As Kenya heads towards a Presidential election in 2022, the Kofi Annan Foundation and the Centre for Multiparty Democracy in Kenya joined forces to convene a hybrid workshop on 8th and 9th November 2021 in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss the safeguarding of the digital space ahead. The workshop was supported by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) and brought together a wide range of stakeholders including political

parties, regulatory bodies, civil society, tech platforms, and fact-checking organisations.

The discussions were timely; a recent investigation by Odanga Madung and Brian Obilo, entitled “Inside the Shadowy World of Disinformation for Hire in Kenya”, revealed an increase in the use of coordinated disinformation campaigns on social media; aimed at swaying public opinion and undermining trust in democratic processes. The abuse of social media to incite hatred and violence was also the topic of discussion at a recent UN Security Council meeting, chaired by Kenya, where participants called for more action from both governments and technology firms in preventing and reducing the impact of this phenomenon.

The workshop participants agreed that the scope and scale of the problem - as well as the potential solutions - require a collaborative effort by all major stakeholders. This report summarizes the key outcomes of the two-days discussions and provides a set of actionable recommendations targeted at specific groups. When Kofi Annan set up the Kofi Annan Commission on Elections and

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STAND STILL; NEITHER CAN
DEMOCRACY”

Democracy in the Digital Age, he cautioned us that “technology does not stand still; neither can democracy”. For him, managing and containing the threats posed by social media and digital technologies must be a key priority for all democratic actors.

We would like to thank all participants in the workshop, the Baraza Media Lab for hosting the event, as well as our partners at UNDEF for their support. We sincerely hope that the discussions have helped develop actions that safeguard the digital environment and deliver electoral integrity, serving all of Kenya’s people, including women and youth.

Signatories:

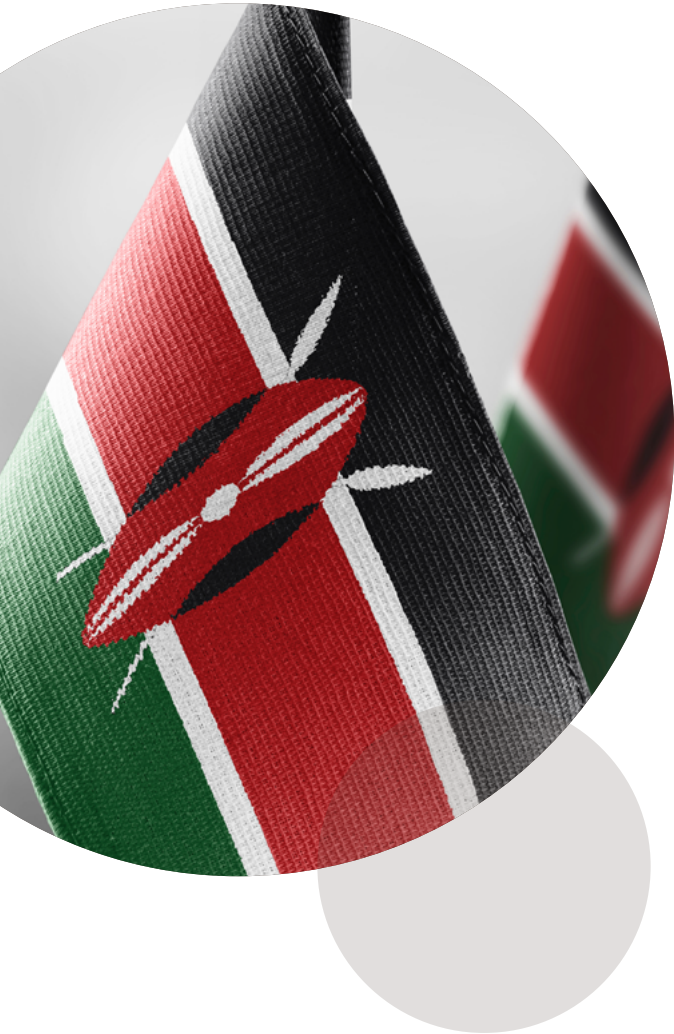


CORINNE MOMAL-VANIAN
Executive Director,
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FRANKLINE MUKWANJA
Executive Director,
Centre for Multiparty
Democracy Kenya

Introduction



Kenya's general elections are scheduled to take place in August 2022. The use of digital technologies and social media for campaigning, grassroots organising, and news dissemination has been increasing. Kenya is no exception. The peer-to-peer nature of these technologies, coupled with minimal barriers to entry means that they have expanded the space for civic engagement – a crucial component of electoral democracies. However, these technologies have also exposed Kenya's democracy to exacerbated risk factors such as misinformation, disinformation, and hateful content. Novel challenges such as deep fakes and microtargeting pose unique threats to Kenya's electoral democracy.

Academic and policy discourse has largely been inconclusive on the most effective way to address these challenges. However, from this discourse, it is possible to derive some desirable policy objectives countries can adopt and strive toward. In recognition of the importance of furthering this dialogue and exploring the ways in which stakeholders can work together to mitigate the harms caused by digital technologies, the Kofi Annan Foundation and the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD-Kenya) convened a two-day hybrid workshop on 8th and 9th November 2021. This workshop was supported by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF).

TECHNOLOGIES HAVE ALSO EXPOSED KENYA'S DEMOCRACY TO EXACERBATED RISK FACTORS SUCH AS MISINFORMATION, DISINFORMATION, AND HATEFUL CONTENT. NOVEL CHALLENGES SUCH AS DEEP FAKES AND MICROTARGETING POSE UNIQUE THREATS TO KENYA'S ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY.

The workshop brought together election stakeholders such as political parties, civil society, regulators, and representatives of social media platforms. These actors came together to explore practical solutions to some of the challenges posed by digital technologies in electoral contexts in a bid to safeguard Kenya's electoral democracy.

In the run up to the workshop, the Kofi Annan Foundation supported the publication of a series of opinion pieces in a Kenyan independent media publication: The Elephant. In this series of opinion pieces, Abdulmalik Sugow and Dr. Isaac Rutenberg outlined some of the major concerns raised by social

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Introduction continued...

media in Kenya's electoral democracy as well as some practical solutions that may be adopted to mitigate the harm of the information disorder. The Kofi Annan Foundation also took part in the People's Dialogue Festival convened by the Centre for Multiparty Democracy from 14th – 16th September where important multi-stakeholder discussions were held on the nature of the challenges posed to elections by digital technologies. The workshop sought to build on some of these deliberations as well as to explore novel contributions. This executive summary report provides a synopsis of the discussions which were had at the workshop and distils some of the key recommendations discernible from the various panels and the existing body of knowledge in this area.

The workshop was officially opened by Corinne Momal-Vanian, the Executive Director of the Kofi Annan Foundation, and Frankline Mukwanja, the Executive Director of the CMD-Kenya. In both their remarks, they recognised the dual faceted nature of digital technologies; while these technologies may expand the space of civic engagement, they also pose serious risks. For these reasons, they both noted the timeliness of convening this discussion. Ms. Momal-Vanian, in particular, expressed hope in the potential of this workshop to serve as an avenue to identify solutions to hate speech, disinformation and the industry of election manipulation – all challenges identified by the Kofi Annan Commission on Elections and Democracy in the Digital Age (KACEDDA) in their report Protecting Electoral Integrity in the Digital Age.



Frankline Mukwanja, Executive Director,
Centre for Multiparty Democracy Kenya

MS. MOMAL-VANIAN, IN PARTICULAR EXPRESSED HOPE IN THE POTENTIAL OF THIS WORKSHOP TO SERVE AS AN AVENUE TO IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS TO HATE SPEECH, DISINFORMATION AND THE INDUSTRY OF ELECTION MANIPULATION.

Recommendations

Below are some of the recommendations derived from the workshop, the series of opinion pieces and broader discourse around this issue:

Recommendations for the State



- 01 The Government should refrain from restricting access to any form of media but especially social media and the internet.
- 02 Prosecutorial authorities are urged to avoid politically motivated law enforcement that may put the freedom of expression online at risk.
- 03 Regulators such as the Communications Authority, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission and the Office of the Data Protection Commission are encouraged to streamline their legislative and policy interventions and to work with technology companies to better understand how their products operate. This will avoid instances where legislative or policy actions are incompatible with the design of digital technologies.
- 04 Regulators are also encouraged to work closely with civil society to ensure legislative and policy interventions are proportionate and transparently implemented.
- 05 Regulators are urged to consider adopting proactive soft policy approaches as opposed to leaning on reactive legal measures which are often punitive.
- 06 Regulators are urged to hold social media platforms accountable by securing access to the data necessary to establish algorithmic transparency.
- 07 Regulators are encouraged to conduct civic education to ensure the citizenry understands the legal framework as it relates to the information disorder.

Recommendations for Civil society



- 08 Civil society organisations are encouraged to identify ways in which they can collaborate and leverage on each other's unique strengths to hold both governments and social media platforms accountable.
- 09 Civil society organisations are urged to work with all election stakeholders to carry out civic education with a particular focus on increasing digital and media literacy. Programs designed to improve detection of false information or coordinated activity are specifically encouraged.
- 10 Civil society organisations should work with election stakeholders to develop a digital code of conduct.
- 11 Civil society organisations should drive the formation of a coalition of election stakeholders to address mis- and disinformation.

Recommendations for Political parties



- 12 Political parties are urged to communicate to their members a zero-tolerance policy toward harmful online conduct, especially towards women.
- 13 Political parties should also publicly commit to healthy political engagement online. They should explore the development of a digital code of conduct with other election stakeholders.

Recommendations continued...

Recommendations for Technology companies



- 14 Technology companies should commit to not supporting the government in furthering any access restrictions or internet shutdowns.
- 15 Technology companies should dedicate a lot more resources to content moderation efforts and online safety in Kenya. This would include hiring additional moderators with broad local context as well as expanding collaborations with established fact checkers and civil society organisations.
- 16 Technology companies should also provide the government, civil society, and academics with access to non-proprietary data on how their algorithms work and how they make their content moderation decisions to better hold them accountable.
- 17 Technology companies should build regulators' capacity to develop suitable policy and legislative interventions by equipping them with sufficient knowledge on how their products are designed.
- 18 Technology companies should also take part in the development of digital codes of conduct to involve them in any potential enforcement efforts.

Recommendations for Media



- 19 Media houses are urged to leverage their credibility to amplify interventions such as fact checking and civic education by other civil society organisations.
- 20 Media houses are broadly encouraged to consider their civic responsibilities to voters during election periods to communicate consistent, accurate and authoritative content.
- 21 Media houses are encouraged to ensure that election related coverage is inclusive and gender-sensitive.
- 22 Media houses are encouraged to work with social media influencers and content creators and make available to them resources such as fact checking and access to content.

Recommendations for the Donor Community



- 23 The donor community is encouraged to support initiatives by civil society organisations considering they are often faced with budgetary constraints.
- 24 The donor community is also encouraged to collaborate with election stakeholders to organise trainings and capacity building.

Thematic panel discussions - Summary

Panel discussions, brainstorming sessions & learning events – a snapshot

1. Elections in the Digital Age: Emerging opportunities and new threats for Kenya's 2022 elections

Discussants:

- **Asha Mwilu** – Founder and Editor-at-Large, Debunk Media
- **Immaculate Kassait** – Commissioner, Office of the Data Protection Commission (ODPC) Kenya
- **Irungu Houghton** – Executive Director, Amnesty International Kenya
- **James Smart** – Podcast Editor, Nation Media Group (Moderator)

The cross-cutting theme of this discussion was the juxtaposition of the threats posed by digital technologies to the opportunities for collaboration to mitigate these threats. Considering the breadth of its discussion, the panel narrowed its focus on hate speech, the use of personal data, the ability of government to regulate information on social media, internet shutdowns, and the unique threats facing women.

During the discussion, it was noted that the nature of networked technologies such as social media platforms and end-to-end encrypted messaging platforms is such that controlling the quality of content is difficult. Unlike traditional or mainstream media, there aren't measures to sense check



content to ensure it is not incendiary before it is disseminated. This absence of gatekeeping means that these platforms may, in some cases, be used to peddle hate or divisive rhetoric. In some instances, it was noted that the very design of these platforms may be manipulated by third-party actors to achieve certain outcomes such as algorithmic downranking or suppression of certain content in favour of other content. Often, these

activities have the most harmful impact on women who bear the brunt of online harassment that in many instances translates to physical harm. Bearing in mind that these platforms are predominantly self-regulating, regulators and civil society may not always have visibility of these tactics and therefore may not know how to mitigate the resultant harms. The panel noted with concern that in some instances, due to the

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Thematic panel discussions continued...

perceived threat posed by conduct on social media, some governments have resorted to internet shutdowns or access restrictions of one form or another.

With respect to these challenges that the panel canvassed, the discussants broadly put forth that a collaborative approach ought to be taken to mitigate the threats posed by digital technologies and to leverage on the available opportunities.

Noting the nexus between access to personal data and coordinated disinformation/propaganda campaigns, the Data Protection Act and the various guidance notes developed by the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner would be instrumental in disrupting the potency of bad actors' use of personal data.

The panel also noted that digital technologies provide election stakeholders with an opportunity to counter the information disorder through organised civic engagement which ought to take place on the very same platforms through which harmful content is spread. It is imperative for election stakeholders to work together to prevent voters being walled off into echo chambers of false and incendiary information.

These collaborations ought to also work toward securing algorithmic transparency from social media platforms to better inform the direction of the government's regulatory efforts.

In summary, the panel noted that journalists and other stakeholders need training on how to handle information during elections and need to collaborate widely. All stakeholders should work together towards holding social media platforms accountable.

2. How should social media be regulated to strengthen rather than undermine electoral integrity?

Discussants:

- **Joseph Nzano** – Head of Cyber Security Department, Communications Authority of Kenya
- **Ken Ogutu** – Academic, Researcher and Consultant on Criminal Justice Governance and Rule of Law
- **Lilian Obuo** – Senior Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP)
- **Wycliffe Mwatu** – Senior Social Media Investigator, National Cohesion and Integration Commission
- **Janet Mbugua** – Founder, Inua Dada Foundation (Moderator)

This discussion revolved around assessing the existing legal framework relating to social media.



The panel sought to determine the adequacy of laws and regulations currently in place such as the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act, 2018 and the National Cohesion and Integration Act, 2008. Building on one of the overarching themes of the workshop, the panel noted the necessity for collaboration in popularising these laws and furthering the citizenry's understanding of some of the technical legal provisions as well as the roles of different actors in enforcing them.

It was noted that enforcement agencies such as the National Cohesion and Integration Commission, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Communications Authority may benefit

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Thematic panel discussions continued...



DISCUSSANTS NOTED THAT SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS COULD DO MORE TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT WITH CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TARGETED AWARENESS IN THE RUN-UP TO ELECTIONS

from capacity building to enable them to coordinate some of these popularisation efforts with civil society. With a short period to the election, it was highlighted that the success of such efforts may be limited but should proceed in any case.

Upon conducting voter education, the discussion noted that the multi-stakeholder collaboration should persist and inform prosecutorial decisions under these laws.

Aside from prosecutions, regulators are empowered to counter harmful messaging by

disseminating fact checks or spreading peaceful messages in real time through social media and can secure the take down of online content by making requests to platforms. These actions are not always reactive; in some instances, regulators are able to convene sensitisation meetings with the political class and directly with voters. This intervention would serve to obviate the necessity of invoking any laws to punish conduct.

Finally, keeping in mind that social media platforms host potentially harmful content and are self-regulating, the discussants noted that they could do more to assist the government with capacity-building and targeted awareness on their platforms in the run-up to the elections.

3. Securing the digital space to promote transparent and fair political competition

Discussants:

- **Martha Karua** – Leader, NARC Kenya
- **Bob Waithaka** – Head of ICT, Office of the Registrar of Political Parties
- **Mule Musau** – National and Regional Coordinator, Election Observation Group (ELOG)
- **Caroline Gaita** – Executive Director, Mzalendo Watch (Moderator)

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Thematic panel discussions continued...

Bearing in mind the centrality of political parties and candidates to online discourse related to the elections, the discussion in this panel focused on what these stakeholders can do to create a healthy online environment for political debate.

Firstly, it was noted that harmful content online preponderantly targets women, and any proposed measure to address such content should take this reality into account. The harm directed at women often means that they avoid exercising their civic rights to engage in political debate out of fear. The panel also highlighted that the problem of this harmful content is exacerbated by the fact that Kenya has been in 'campaign mode' since its last election in 2017 due to the various political manoeuvres by the different political actors.

While the youth come under scrutiny for the spread of harmful content in some instances, it was suggested that their conduct simply reflects the reality of discourse among political actors. Since the online communication ecosystem is peer-to-peer and instantaneous the negative effects of this harmful conduct are amplified.

To secure a healthy online ecosystem, the discussion briefly explored the use of digital codes of conduct. The discussants proposed that these codes of conduct may be effective where the political parties, candidates and supporters all

THE DISCUSSION NOTED THE POTENTIAL FOR POLITICAL ABUSE OF EXISTING LAWS AND CAUTIONED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD OPERATE TRANSPARENTLY AND SHOULD COLLABORATE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY TO ENSURE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS ARE NOT STIFLED UNNECESSARILY.

have a role in their development. Kenya's Constitution enshrines public participation as a value and this ought to be extended to attempts to develop online rules of engagement. The idea that these codes of conduct should go beyond being mere voluntary commitments to becoming binding obligations enforceable by political parties and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission was also floated. Broadly, the panel noted that any digital code of conduct should be the product of robust public participation up until the county and ward levels.

The goal of securing a healthy online ecosystem was identified as paramount since social media is meant to serve as an equaliser, expanding room for civic engagement for all people. Therefore, enforcement of existing laws to deter bad actors such as those coordinating disinformation was encouraged. However, the discussion noted the

potential for political abuse of existing laws and cautioned that the government should operate transparently and should collaborate with civil society to ensure democratic rights are not stifled unnecessarily. Softer approaches such as engaging in civic education as well as naming and shaming bad actors among the political parties/candidates were encouraged.

4. Best practices and lessons learned on countering dis- and misinformation

Discussants:

- **Lisa Reppell** – Senior Global Social Media and Disinformation Specialist, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
- **Dennis Omondi** – Country Director, National Democratic Institute (NDI)
- **Alphonse Shiundu** – Kenya Editor, Africa Check
- **Roberto Heycher Cardiel** – Executive Director of Electoral Training and Civic Education, Instituto Nacional Electoral (INE) Mexico
- **Catherine Gicheru** – Director, Africa Woman Journalism Project, International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ) (Moderator)

The problem of mis- and disinformation is perhaps a global one.

This discussion sought to take stock of the >>

Thematic panel discussions continued...



Alphonse Shiundu, Catherine Gicheru and Dennis Omondi

interventions adopted around the world with a view to discerning best practices which Kenya can adopt to mitigate the harm of mis- and disinformation. The panel commenced with the acknowledgement of recent revelations that some political actors employ users of social media to spread disinformation. This in turn pollutes the

As a basis for the discussion, the panel highlighted the 'Countering Disinfo' guidebook which was developed by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and contains a record of interventions adopted to counter disinformation around the world.

CONSIDERING DISINFORMATION SPREADS A LOT FASTER DUE TO ITS SCANDALOUS NATURE, ELECTION STAKEHOLDERS NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE VOTERS HAVE ACCESS TO ACCURATE INFORMATION OR RELIABLE MECHANISMS THROUGH WHICH THEY CAN GET SUCH INFORMATION.

online ecosystem, encouraging a culture where misinformation takes root. The discussion noted that in political competition, resorting to the use of propaganda that may contain some false or misleading content is expected. The availability of social media for this purpose presents some unique challenges as the nature of these networked platforms is such that harmful content is a lot more potent and harder to detect.

From the guidebook, it was clear that the nature of the information disorder currently persisting calls for an 'all hands on deck' approach. This view was also adopted during the discussion where the collaborative fact-checking project from Mexico, Verificado, was highlighted. Such levels of collaboration is yet to be achieved in Kenya among election stakeholders.

Thus far, the primary measure in Kenya, other than the legal response of criminalising disinformation, has been fact-checking. While fact checking organisations are active, they often are faced with challenges penetrating end-to-end encrypted platforms though they have tried through collaborating with the platforms to set up chat bots. However, even where they can communicate fact checks, this information is often unappealing when compared to the scandal of misleading information.

On platforms such as social media, they are also unable to fact check politicians, which presents a problem in the numerous instances where politicians are the source of misleading information. >>

Thematic panel discussions continued...

To enhance the effectiveness of fact-checking, it was noted that election stakeholders need to work together to build transparency and trust. Considering disinformation spreads a lot faster due to its scandalous nature, election stakeholders need to work together to make sure voters have access to accurate information or reliable mechanisms through which they can get such information.

Noting that the measures which the panel reviewed were broadly reactive, the discussion concluded by highlighting the need to investigate proactive measures such as 'pre-bunking' where the electorate is exposed to disinformation tactics to better equip them in their identification of disinformation. Even in this endeavour, it was noted that the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration cannot be understated.

5. Presentations from tech companies and fact-checking organisations on countering disinformation and strengthening fact-checking

Discussants:

- **Ginny Badanes** – Director of Strategic Projects, Cybersecurity & Democracy, Microsoft
- **Tom Nvumba-O'Bryan** – Product Policy Manager, Misinformation, Meta
- **Alphonse Shiundu** – Kenya Editor, Africa Check
- **Victor Bwire** – Director, Media Training and Development, Media Council of Kenya
- **Declan Magero** – Strategy Advisor, Lawyers Hub (Moderator)

Technology companies such as Meta, Twitter, Microsoft, and Google provide services in Kenya. While their physical presence may be minimal, their impact is sometimes profound. Globally, there has been a push to hold these platforms accountable for the impact their products have on societies around the world.

During this discussion, Meta and Microsoft highlighted their current efforts to mitigate the impact of the information disorder around the world.



Left to right: Alphonse Shiundu, Declan Magero, Victor Bwire

Thematic panel discussions continued...

Meta for example has a three-pronged strategy of removing problematic content, reducing its virality and informing users of problematic content and the culture around it. Through collaborations with accredited third-party fact checkers conversant in over 60 languages, Meta is able to identify instances of false information and take necessary action. However, there are certain limits to this such as insufficient context. In a bid to address these limitations, Meta works with trusted non-governmental organisations to obtain assessments of content and the risk they pose.

Microsoft on the other hand, has focused its efforts on strengthening institutions by improving their cybersecurity and contributing to a healthy information ecosystem by increasing media literacy. Appreciating that technology is not the entire solution to the information disorder, it is focused on better equipping election stakeholders with media literacy and technical skills.

On its part, Africa Check confirmed that Meta's fact-checking framework permits accredited fact-checkers to load their fact checks onto the platform through application programming interfaces. However, there are some challenges which may need to be overcome such as Meta's restriction of fact-checking on politicians' content. The Media Council of Kenya also noted that it operates a fact checking desk and a weekly newspaper. Most media houses in Kenya also have fact checking desks.

Despite the prevalence of fact-checking, the discussion highlighted that fact checks may not be effective on its own as there is proof of false information circulating despite being debunked – it goes to a question of trust. It is therefore necessary to increase media literacy efforts and appeal to voters using channels familiar to them such as influencers and content creators.

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6. Imagining a digital code of conduct for Kenya

Discussants:

- **Abshiro Halake** – CMD Chair and Vice-chair of the Senate Committee on ICTs, Centre for Multiparty Democracy/ Nominated Senator
- **Olaf Böhnke** – Senior Advisor, Alliance of Democracies
- **Gram Matenga** – Senior Programme Officer, Africa and West Africa region, International IDEA
- **Joshua Changwony** – Executive Secretary, Constitution and Reform Education Consortium (CRECO)
- **Frankline Mukwanja** – Executive Director, Centre for Multiparty Democracy (Moderator)

Throughout the workshop, various discussions highlighted the necessity of all election stakeholders to come together and work towards a healthy online ecosystem. In some of these discussions, the concept and potential of a digital code of conduct was broached.

In this discussion, the panel sought to envision how such a digital code of conduct would be developed and operationalised in Kenya. The concept of voluntary rules of engagement is not novel in Kenya – the CMD for example proposed protocols for political rallies during the pandemic to safeguard public health.

Thematic panel discussions continued...

As a starting point, the discussion noted the use of the Election Pledge developed by the Transatlantic Commission on Election Integrity in Germany, the United States, Georgia, Canada, and the European Union Parliament. Such codes of conduct raise awareness around the issues, rebuild trust between voters and the electorate, keep candidates accountable and help stakeholders defend democracy.

While digital codes of conduct and election pledges may be promising, the discussion shed light on the fact that foreign models may not entirely be suitable to Kenya's reality, particularly the voluntary nature of these codes. Further, the lack of sufficient focus on the electorate's conduct may render it ineffective. The panel noted that it may be worth exploring how a code of conduct could be binding and enforceable with the threat of penalty.

To secure buy-in from the electorate, such codes need to be developed through robust stakeholder participation at a grassroots level. The development of these codes should also not take place in isolation from social media platforms.



Left to Right: Frankline Mukwanja, Joshua Changwony, Abshiro Halake, Gram Matenga, Fabian Lange

Conclusion

Social media platforms and digital technologies in general have expanded room for civic engagement in previously undiscovered ways. However, with these benefits come immensely complicated challenges.

OVER RECENT YEARS, IT HAS INCREASINGLY BECOME CLEAR THAT THERE ARE NO CLEAR SOLUTIONS TO THESE CHALLENGES, ONLY COLLABORATIVE INTERVENTIONS TO MITIGATE THEIR IMPACT.

Stakeholders with different strengths and resources need to work together to coordinate their responses to the information disorder. During the workshop, it was clear that there are numerous interventions underway by regulators, civil society, technology platforms, and the media. However, these efforts were often found to be taking place in isolation.

The discussions at the workshop therefore served as an avenue through which these election stakeholders could meet and explore potential collaborations.

Through joint effort, it is hoped that Kenya can secure its electoral democracy in an increasingly digital world during the forthcoming elections.



Christine Moraa and
Damian Evans

DAY 1

Sessions
1 and 2

DAY 1

Sessions
3 and 4

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Resources

There are currently numerous interventions by scholars, civil society organisations and technology companies to contribute to mitigating the impact of the information disorder. Below are a select few which informed the development of this workshop and the report:

1. Abdulmalik Sugow and Dr. Isaac Rutenberg's Op-Ed Series on [The Elephant](#)
2. Abdulmalik Sugow and Dr. Isaac Rutenberg, SOAS Law Journal, [Regulation of Social Media in Electoral Democracies: A Case of Kenya](#)
3. Alliance for Democracies, [Election Pledge](#)
4. Hestia Labs' [Data Collective](#)
5. International Foundation of Electoral Systems' [Countering Disinfo](#) Guidebook
6. Jon Roozenbeek and Sander van der Linden's policy manual on [Inoculation Theory](#)
7. Mexico's [Verificado](#) Initiative
8. Odanga Madung and Brian Obilo, Mozilla Foundation, [Fellow Research: Inside the Shadowy World of Disinformation-for-hire in Kenya](#)
9. Portland Communications, [The Reality of Fake News in Kenya](#), 2018
10. Report of the Kofi Annan Commission on Elections and Democracy in the Digital Age, [Protecting Electoral Integrity in the Digital Age](#)
11. Renée DiResta's [amplified propaganda theory](#)
12. Security Council Report, What's In Blue, [Arria-Formula Meeting on Hate Speech and Social Media](#)

The Kofi Annan Foundation published this report in collaboration with the Center for Multiparty Democracy (CMD) Kenya. The contents and recommendations within are based on the event Safeguarding the Digital Space ahead of Kenya's 2022 Elections, held in person and online the 8th and 9th of November 2021. The event was organised by the Kofi Annan Foundation in collaboration with CMD-Kenya and supported by the United Nations Democracy Fund.



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About the organisers



The Kofi Annan Foundation was established in 2007 by the former Secretary-General Kofi Annan 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 postconflict 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.

www.kofiannanfoundation.org

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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.

www.cmd-kenya.org