

SOUTHERN AFRICA NATIONAL LEVEL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

INFORMATION PACK

29 JUNE 2023
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

PUTTING THE ACDEG AT THE CENTRE OF THE CONSOLIDATION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA THROUGH THE USE OF CIVIC TECH AND PROMOTING CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN AGA

INTRODUCTION

Democracy Works Foundation (DWF) is a southern African non-profit company focused on democracy development in the region. With headquarters in South Africa, DWF works through its country offices to provide tools to develop resilient democracies.

As an independent foundation, we build and promote inclusive, equitable and sustainable consensus democracies. We do so by providing tools, platforms and content to strengthen democrats, democratic culture and democracy institutions.

Through the Charter Project Africa which is aimed at promoting the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) DWF is continuing to deliver on this vision of strengthening democracy across the African continent.

The Charter Project Africa is a multi-stakeholder initiative involving a Consortium of six organisations: the European Partnership for Democracy (lead), Africivistes, Code for Africa, DWF, Goree Institute and ECDPM.

This will include empowering civic initiatives, as primary stakeholders, in eleven target countries to use civic technologies and data-driven solutions to amplify citizen voices at the continental level, promote democratic governance, support civic engagement with the AGA and the African Union (AU), and analyse and monitor implementation of the ACDEG.

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The focal countries are: Botswana, Benin, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia.

THE PROJECT AIMS TO USE DIGITAL DEMOCRACY TECHNOLOGIES TO STRENGTHEN PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS IN AFRICAN UNION MEMBER STATES THROUGH THE AFRICAN GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE (AGA), AND THE PROMOTION OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND GOVERNANCE (ACDEG).

The project will also facilitate collaboration between African Union policymakers, national policymakers, and civic initiatives to address the challenges of democratic governance jointly.

The Charter Project Africa, since 2021, has been supporting national and continental civil society-led efforts to promote the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) through the development and use of civic tech tools and a focus on youth and women participation in initiatives.

The Charter Project Africa has also been focusing on facilitating greater engagement between local civil society and the African Governance Architecture (AGA).

The organisations that have been awarded grants under the Charter Project Africa have been working to promote, popularise and call for the ratification (in the case of countries that have not ratified) and domestication (in the case of countries that have ratified) the ACDEG and to encourage the entrenchment of African Union shared values, broadly.

As part of supporting these civil society efforts, DWF will host a series of national multi-stakeholder dialogues that aim to bring together stakeholders from civil society, government, private sector, regional institutions and the AGA to reflect on the imperative of acceding to AU's shared values instruments, particularly the ACDEG, and to facilitate dialogue, collaboration and synergies among stakeholders.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN WORKING ACROSS THE 11 PROJECT COUNTRIES, AND DEMOCRACY WORKS FOUNDATION (DWF) HAS BEEN SUPPORTING FOUR NATIONAL-LEVEL INITIATIVES RUNNING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, SPECIFICALLY: BOTSWANA, SOUTH AFRICA, TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA.

The national multi-stakeholder dialogues and DGI workshops will take place over two days, combining a keynote address, panel discussions and workshops. The public dialogues will provide an opportunity to present the Charter Project Africa's contribution to facilitating engagement between local civil society and the AGA through the use of civic technologies and how promoting and fostering cooperation between regional and continental institutions and civil society increases the prospects of entrenching AU's shared values.

The capacity-building workshops for our DGI partners will focus on the ACDEG (its provisions, implementation mechanisms, ratification/implementation processes), the AGA fundamentals (institutional framework, political context, regional/continental interlinkages), civic technologies (software solutions, applications), digital campaigning (content production/marketing), democracy support interventions (research, deliberative methods, policy advocacy).

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increased capacity for advocacy on good governance and democracy using the ACDEG and other AU shared values instruments
- Relationship building and networking between stakeholders
- Increased capacity to access and use civic technologies
- Producing country overviews

MAIN THEME

Putting the ACDEG at the centre of the consolidation of good governance and democracy in Africa through the use of civic tech and promoting civil society participation in AGA



How ratifying and implementing the ACDEG can contribute to entrenching good governance and democracy

SUB THEMES



An introduction to the AGA and opportunities for AGA-civil society collaboration



The role of civic technology in the promotion of AU shared values and enabling civil society participation, advocacy and activism

TARGET GROUPS

Charter Project Africa grantees, AGA Platform members, EU country missions, Local CSOs, Government officials, and Project consortium members.

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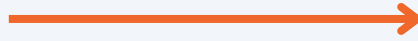
PROGRAMME

PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Thursday, 29 June 2023

Time (Hrs)	Activity	Facilitator
08:00	Registration of Participants	<i>DWF</i>
08:50	Opening	<i>Ms Nompumelelo Sibalukhulu, Project Manager – Charter Project Africa, Democracy Works Foundation</i>
09:00	Opening remarks from Democracy Works Foundation	<i>Dr Augustine Magolowondo, Regional Director, Democracy Works Foundation</i>
09:20	Welcoming remarks from AU-ECOSOCC	<i>Mr Williams Carew Head of the AU-ECOSOCC Secretariat</i>
09:30	The Charter Project Africa: Leveraging Civic Technology and Digital Engagement to Enhance Citizen Engagement and Accountable Governance	<i>Mr Andrew Songa, Charter Project Africa Secretariat</i>
10:15	Q&A	
10:30	Refreshments Break	
	Session 1: Popularising the ACDEG through civic tech and civic engagement – DGIs in Zambia	
11:00	Civic tech in action: Introducing Loop digital feedback mechanism	<i>Zambia Governance Foundation</i>
11:30	Using the Charter for advocacy: Popularization of the ACDEG among the youth of Lundazi, Lumezi and Chasefu rural Districts of Zambia	<i>Lobby and Advocacy Youth Programme 2050</i>
12:00	Q&A	
12:30	Lunch/Refreshments	
	Session 2: Promoting civil society participation at the national and continental level	
14:00	Added value of citizens participation at the local level, responding to the key questions	<i>Antonella Valmorbidia, Secretary General, ALDA - The European Association for Local Democracy</i>
14:30	The role of AU-ECOSOCC in promoting and supporting African civil society advocacy efforts on democratic governance	<i>AU-ECOSOCC representative</i>
15:00	Q&A and discussion	
15:45-16:00	Closing	<i>DWF</i>

FOLLOW



THE CHARTER
PROJECT
AFRICA



The Charter Project Africa



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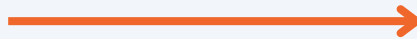


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