

SUMMIT

2026

RESILIENCE, COOPERATION & INTEGRITY

IN THE 21ST-CENTURY ELECTIONS



Regional Forum Africa



REGIONAL FORUMS

Thursday, September 14th, from 14:00 to 16:00 hrs (Nigeria Time) (GMT+1) / from 07:00 to 9:00 hrs Mexico Time / 8:00 to 10:00 Panama Time.

THEME: Building Trust and Resilience in Electoral Management: African Perspectives on Safeguarding Electoral Integrity

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To identify the principal challenges affecting public trust in African Electoral Management Bodies and develop practical recommendations that strengthen institutional resilience, electoral integrity, and stakeholder confidence.

BACKGROUND

The Africa Regional Virtual Meeting forms part of the preparatory process for the Global Forum which aims to identify key elements that make up today's electoral ecosystems in order to devise solutions to the various challenges through international cooperation. The forum will be hosted by the National Electoral Institute of Mexico in Mexico City, from 23 to 25 September, 2026. While the global process identifies broad themes, including artificial intelligence, digital technologies, climate-related risks, public health emergencies and institutional partnerships, the regional consultations have been given flexibility to identify issues that are most relevant to their respective contexts.

For Africa, recent electoral processes have highlighted a growing need to strengthen public confidence in electoral institutions and processes. Electoral Management Bodies continue to operate in increasingly complex environments characterized by technological change, political polarization and exclusion, misinformation, declining institutional trust, and heightened public expectations. While many of these challenges originate outside EMBs, they directly affect their ability to deliver credible elections.

The regional virtual dialogue therefore seeks to move beyond identifying challenges and instead generate practical approaches that enhance institutional resilience, strengthen stakeholder confidence, and improve electoral integrity across the continent.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

The discussion will explore:

- What are the most significant emerging threats to public trust in African EMBs?
- Which stages of the electoral cycle present the greatest risks to institutional credibility?
- How have natural hazards and climate risks impacted electoral processes on the continent?
- What partnerships and society approaches have proven effective in building electoral trust?

Forum Structure and Format

The forum will be conducted in a single virtual session with a total duration of 120 minutes, designed to promote dynamic, agile, and participatory exchanges among attendees. The proposed structure is as follows:

STAGE	DURATION	FORMAT
Welcome and Introduction	10 minutes	Opening remarks, appreciation to the partner institution for its collaboration and co-organization, as well as to participating institutions; explanation of the purpose of the forums and the summit.
Keynote Presentation	15 minutes	- Explanation of the format and objectives of the session, as well as the roles of the moderator and rapporteur. - Presentation of Emerging Continental Trends
Country Presentations Panel Discussion	45 minutes	Speakers selected from 4 country EMBs begin this segment with a reflection on how the challenges of the 21st century represent both opportunities and risks for electoral processes, specifically about the theme: <i>Building Trust and Institutional Resilience in African Elections</i> Guiding questions: • What are the most significant emerging threats to public trust in African EMBs? • Which stages of the electoral cycle present the greatest risks to institutional credibility? • How have natural hazards and climate risks impacted electoral processes on the continent? • What partnerships and society approaches have proven effective in building electoral trust?
Opening Dialogue	40 minutes	Open exchange to discuss the cases presented, share reactions and lessons learned, and explore potential avenues for joint action. If another country wishes to present its experience on the topic, up to 5 minutes may be allocated for that presentation Expected Outputs • Identification of priority challenges affecting public trust from the perspective of African EMBs. • Good practices and innovative approaches for strengthening institutional trust. • Practical recommendations on enhancing resilience and trust throughout the electoral cycle. • African regional priorities to inform discussions and outcomes of the Global Forum.
Closing and Conclusions	10 minutes	Summary of the most relevant points discussed, preliminary agreements for follow-up during the in-person forum, and the official closing of the session.

MINUTE BY MINUTE

Time	Session	Duration	Lead	Format
14:00-14:10	Welcome and Introduction	10 minutes	INE	Opening remarks, appreciation to the partner institution for its collaboration and co-organization, as well as to participating institutions; explanation of the purpose of the forums and the summit.
14:10-14:25	Welcome and Introduction	15 minutes	IDEA	- Explanation of the format and objectives of the session, as well as the roles of the moderator and rapporteur. - Presentation of Emerging Continental Trends
14:25-15:10	Country Presentations	45 minutes	Moderated by IDEA	Speakers selected from 4 country EMBs begin this segment with a reflection on how the challenges of the 21st century represent both opportunities and risks for electoral processes, specifically about the theme: <i>Building Trust and Institutional Resilience in African Elections</i>
15:10-15:45	Open Dialogue Session	35 minutes	Moderated by IDEA	Open exchange to discuss the cases presented, share reactions and lessons learned, and explore potential avenues for joint action. If another country wishes to present its experience on the topic, up to 3-5 minutes may be allocated for that presentation
15:45-15:55	Closing and Conclusions	10 minutes	IDEA	Conclusions.
15:55-16:00			INE	General announcements (in-person meeting, venue, and funding) and closing remarks. Summary of the most relevant points discussed, preliminary agreements for follow-up during the in-person forum, and the official closing of the session.