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IN THE 21ST-CENTURY ELECTIONS





Africa Regional Virtual Meeting on Electoral Integrity



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

Proposed date: Early September 2026 (TBC)

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 Cancún, Quintana Roo, México, 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.

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.

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 can EMBs strengthen transparency in voter registration, boundary delimitation, results management and electoral dispute management?
- 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?
- What institutional innovations and regional cooperation mechanisms should be promoted across Africa?

PROPOSED DISCUSSION STRUCTURE (2 HOURS)

Opening Remarks (10 mins)

- Context and objectives
- Link to the Global Electoral Integrity Forum

Keynote Presentation (20 mins)

- Overview EMB questionnaire responses
- Emerging continental trends

Moderated Panel Discussion (45 mins)– speakers selected from 4 country EMBs Building Trust and Institutional Resilience in African Elections

Suggested focus areas:

- Results management and electoral transparency
- Technology, misinformation and AI
- Institutional partnerships for trust-building
- Risk management and organizational resilience

Interactive Dialogue with EMB Representatives (35 mins)

Facilitated discussion focusing on practical experiences, innovations and lessons including recommendations rather than individual country presentations.

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.