



# Electoral Risk Management Tools in West Africa

Strategic Meeting  
7–9 December 2015  
Dakar, Senegal

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Dakar, Senegal

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# Abbreviations

APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CENI	Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante
DPA	Department of Political Affairs
DGE	Délégation Générale des Elections
ECONEC	ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EMB	Electoral management body
ERM	Electoral risk management
ERM Tool	Electoral Risk Management Tool
ESR	Election Situation Room
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICCES	Inter Consultative Committee on Electoral Security
ICG	International Crisis Group
INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission
OIF	Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
OSIWA	Open Society Institute for West Africa
RECEF	Network of Francophone EMBs
RSCA	Regional Service Centre for Africa
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
SSRC/APN	Social Science Research Council/African Peace Network

# 1. Executive Summary

On 7–9 December 2015 the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Africa and West Asia programme in partnership with the Open Society Institute for West Africa (OSIWA), the United Nations Development Programme Regional Service Centre for Africa (UNDP/RSCA) and the Social Science Research Council/African Peace Network (SSRC/APN) in collaboration with the Government of Senegal organized a Strategic Meeting on Electoral Risk Management Tools for West African countries at the OSIWA headquarters in Dakar, Senegal.

The event was formally opened by Abdoulaye Daouda Diallo, the Senegalese Minister of the Interior and Public Security. It brought together representatives from the 14 Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo. The meeting also brought together representatives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF), the Network of Francophone EMBs (RECEF), the International Criminal Court (ICC), International Crisis Group (ICG), Transparency International and the Centre for Democracy and Development, as well as representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) in Senegal, Nigeria and Burkina Faso.

The overall objectives of the meeting were to raise awareness of the various tools provided for EMBs free of charge by International IDEA, OSIWA, UNDP and APN to address electoral risk, and to explore avenues for improved synergy and coordination in their implementation, with the overall goal of systematizing good electoral risk management practices in West Africa and Francophone Africa.

The meeting afforded participants with experience of using the various tools an opportunity to share their experiences with their peers. Lengthy discussion was devoted to International IDEA's Electoral Risk Management Tool (ERM Tool) and OSIWA's Civil Society Election Situation Room (ESR). A number of EMBs expressed an interest in deploying these tools in their own electoral contexts. The meeting also provided an opportunity for participants to identify types of risk that are not covered by existing tools. With a view to supporting the organization of credible and peaceful elections in the subregion, the participants made a number of policy recommendations.

The full recommendations are outlined in Section 5. However, the key recommendations to emerge from the meeting are that:

- Electoral management bodies in the subregion should adopt formal systems and strategies to improve their understanding of electoral risk factors as well as their capacity to identify, evaluate and analyse risks in a systematic way, with a view to enhancing situational awareness before, during and after elections.
- National and international actors should support the establishment or strengthening

of multi-stakeholder platforms that promote collaboration and coordination in identifying electoral risks and developing prevention and mitigation strategies to address them.

- EMBs in the subregion should conduct a comprehensive mapping exercise of existing risk management tools to determine their strengths, weaknesses, gaps and complementarities with a view to developing a package of suitable tools that can be used by national and international actors to enhance the credibility of the electoral process.
- EMBs in the subregion should undertake electoral reforms to strengthen the regulation and enforcement of campaign finance provisions and reduce the risks of money influencing political processes, and to enhance the integrity of electoral competition.

## 2. Background

### The democratization context in West Africa

In recent years the African continent, and the West African subregion, have made significant progress in the area of democratization. The most recent example of this progress is Nigeria, the continent's most populous nation and largest economy, which recently underwent a peaceful democratic transition of power following the March 2015 general elections (African Economic Outlook 2015; World Bank 2015). Transitions such as the one witnessed in Nigeria are becoming increasingly common in the subregion, and are an indicator of the progress made with the democratization process in a subregion that before the 1990s had experienced three decades of postcolonial instability characterized by the recurrence of military coups and single party regimes.

All the countries in the subregion are now formally democratic, and hold multiparty elections on a regular basis. Political regimes are generally presidential or semi-presidential. Several of these countries have experienced a peaceful transfer of power in the past five years, including Cape Verde, Ghana, Senegal and Nigeria. Some—Mali and Guinea Bissau—have done so in post-conflict environments. Citizens' rights are constitutionally and legally protected and women's political participation has increased greatly, as witnessed in Senegal with the institutionalization of gender parity in all elected and partially elected institutions.<sup>1</sup> The political offer by political parties is relatively structured, even if it is still generally more based on mechanical solidarities rather than ideological considerations or societal issues (Enguéguélé 2004).

According to a recent Afrobarometer study, 76 per cent of citizens in West African countries support democracy, against a continental average of 71 per cent, and 80 per cent oppose any form of authoritarian regime (one-party rule or a military regime), against a continental average of 77 per cent (Bratton and Houessou 2014). Furthermore, there is an increased demand from citizens for more transparency and accountability (Transparency International n.d.). Most citizens favour a limitation on presidential mandates of two terms (Dulani 2015).

Finally, it is worth noting that, at the continental and regional levels, 11 of the 23 countries that have ratified the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance are in West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Niger, Sierra Leone and Togo), even though, paradoxically, two of the best performers on democracy in the region (Cape Verde and Senegal) are yet to engage in this process.<sup>2</sup> Ten have signed a memorandum of

<sup>1</sup> Law no. 2010-11 of 28 May 2010, <<http://www.jo.gouv.sn/spip.php?article8213>>.

<sup>2</sup> For a list of the countries that have signed, ratified or acceded to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance see <<http://www.au.int/en/sites/default/files/Charter%20on%20Democracy%20and%20Governance.pdf>>.



understanding with the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which is the litmus test for democratic developmental governance in Africa (Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Benin, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire), even if some are yet to complete the peer review.<sup>3</sup> All states have signed and ratified the ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance.

## Key challenges to electoral processes

Despite this generally positive trend, West African countries currently face a number of key challenges in consolidating the quality of their electoral processes. Common symptoms of an electoral deficit include:

- Irregular and/or unfair elections, which differ in form, content and quality, and have not necessarily enhanced their value as instruments for resolving differences within society;
- Sectarian mobilization, intimidation and violence in elections, which have become conflict triggers in some countries, such as in Cote d'Ivoire or the Republic of Guinea;
- Weaknesses of constitutionalism and the rule of law, such as the persistence of unconstitutional changes of government, a refusal to respect the constitutional rules limiting presidential terms and a resistance to hand over political power;
- Poor transformative leadership;
- Difficulties in managing diversity and inclusion (UNECA 2013), particularly with regard to youth and the rural population, which is often unemployed or underemployed;
- Poor qualitative political participation by women and youth, as voters, candidates and in the decision-making process;
- Failure to respect the rule of law and de facto violations of civil liberties;
- Persistence of electoral corruption and electoral fraud;
- The shrinking of civic space, including in stable democracies such as Ghana and Senegal (Enguéléguélé et al. 2015);
- Poor socio-economic conditions;
- Weakness of electoral administration and under capacitated EMBs; and, most importantly,
- the persistence of electoral risks and related violence or socio-political instabilities in the countries of the region.

Some of these challenges have led to popular uprisings, such as during the recent

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3 On the African Peer Review Mechanism see <<http://aprm-au.org/>>.

transition in Burkina Faso, or to the elections-related violence witnessed recently in Guinea and in Cote d'Ivoire in 2010. They can also generate significant anxiety around upcoming elections in the subregion, such as occurred recently in Niger.

Faced with these challenges, various organizations have developed tools that seek to reduce risks and improve the integrity of elections. However, observation of their concrete implementation in West Africa and some recent analyses of electoral processes confirm the need for better coordination and harmonization between these tools in order to improve their impact and the quality of elections in the region (International Peace Institute 2012).

It is against this backdrop that International IDEA, OSIWA, UNDP/RSCA and SSRC/APN, in collaboration with the Government of Senegal and with the political support of ECOWAS and the African Union Commission (AUC) Department of Political Affairs (DPA), organized this Strategic Meeting on Electoral Risk Management Tools.

## 3. Objectives

The overall objectives of the meeting were to raise awareness and increase understanding of the various electoral risk management tools provided for EMBs and other stakeholders free of charge by International IDEA, OSIWA, UNDP and APN, and to explore avenues for improved synergies and coordination in their implementation, with the overall goal of systematizing good electoral risk management practices in West Africa and Francophone Africa. The meeting therefore constituted part of the preventive diplomacy strategy of ECOWAS and the AUC.

The specific objectives of the meeting were to:

1. Determine a roadmap on building a comprehensive package of available tools to be put at the disposal of electoral stakeholders;
2. Identify key aspects of elections that are not covered by existing tools and that need further consideration; and
3. Agree on the way forward for the development and dissemination of a package on election risk management in West and Francophone African countries within the framework of a comprehensive project.

## 4. Meeting report

The Strategic Meeting took the form of two separate meetings held back-to-back. The first, an Expert Meeting on Why and How to Build a Package of Electoral Risk Management Tools, took place on 7–8 December 2015; the second, Awareness Meeting on Risk Management Tools for West African and Francophone Electoral Management Bodies, on 9 December 2015.

The synthesis below provides an overview of the presentations made and the discussions that flowed from them. The presentations and discussions typically focused on the electoral risk management tools currently in use in West Africa. They did so in the wider context of the political economy of electoral governance in West Africa: the unfolding electoral trajectories set in motion by current constitutional and political reform in the region, and the challenges and contradictions in state and society that arise from these, as reflected in the dynamics of the various social forces (cultural, economic and political) at play. It was around these that electoral competition and its successful management for peace and development were explored.

It was in the context of this political economy and its socio-cultural superstructure of institutions and values that the challenges and opportunities provided by the electoral risk management (ERM) tools for deepening the credibility of elections in the region were explored. Running through this synthesis is a consensus over the need to address such challenges urgently. The recommendations emanating from the SMERMT are intended to enhance and strengthen the use and application of the ERM tool, alongside other policy instruments, to meet these challenges, and to enhance the prospects for electoral integrity in West Africa.

### **Expert meeting on why and how to build a package of electoral risk management tools**

The expert meeting brought together representatives from the organizers, the Government of Senegal, subregional EMBs, CSOs and other experts in electoral processes to reflect on existing ERM tools, share experiences and determine the way forward in building a package of tools to make available to West African electoral stakeholders.

The expert meeting enabled participants to examine a number of issues in depth. During the course of the two-day meeting, the following themes were addressed in detail:

- Presentations were made on existing ERM tools, with case studies;
- Gaps in existing ERM tools;
- The added value of creating a package of risk management tools;

### **Box 1. The Election Situation Room**

The Election Situation Room (ESR) is a methodology first developed by OSIWA during the 2012 presidential elections in Senegal. It has since been refined and replicated in a number of other countries in the subregion.

The ESR is primarily intended for civil society organizations to use when monitoring elections.

It is composed of a data-entry room, a technical room and a decision room. During elections, civil society monitors on the ground send regular updates to the ESR by SMS. The data is then consolidated in the data-entry room and mapped using an online platform. In the technical room, analysts review the data to identify electoral trends. Reports are then compiled and shared with the decision room. In case of any risk alerts, the ESR can contact electoral authorities or security sector agencies to take prevention and mitigation action to reduce the impact of the risk on the credibility of the electoral process.

The ESR can be implemented in a number of ways: either short-term, limited to election day activities; or long-term, enabling users to cover both the pre- and the post-electoral period. The objective of the ESR is essentially to reduce the risks of contestation over election results and in so doing to anticipate and address threats to the electoral process.

There are also a number of alternative uses of the ESR: monitoring the implementation of campaign promises by elected officials; provision of a civil society (CSO) platform for engaging in the electoral process; development of the technical capacity of CSOs to monitor and compare governments' or ruling parties' promises with their performance; and reporting to the general public, as a way of making governments accountable to their citizens—as illustrated by the Nigerian ESR experience. OSIWA is currently developing a standard ESR website that users will be able to draw on in implementing their own ESR.

A case study of the ESR was provided by Halidou Ouédraogo, the representative of the Convention des Organisations de la Société Civile pour l'Observation Domestique des Elections (CODEL, Convention of civil society organizations for domestic election observation). CODEL partnered OSIWA in the implementation of an ESR during the November 2015 elections in Burkina Faso. Ouédraogo shared his experiences with the ESR and noted that it had helped to build trust between civil society and electoral administrators, to the extent that they collaborated closely on election day to resolve a number of problems. According to CODEL, the ESR played a key role in the successful conduct of credible and peaceful elections in Burkina Faso.

- methodologies for addressing electoral risks; and
- ways forward for developing and disseminating a package of risk management tools.

The workshop provided a platform for OSIWA and International IDEA to showcase two tools (see the case studies in Box 1 and Box 2) that have been developed specifically to reduce electoral risks and support the conduct of credible and peaceful elections. It also provided an opportunity to discuss electoral risks in the subregion and identify risks that are not covered by existing ERM tools.

One of the risks identified was the persistent risk posed by autocratic rule, and the manipulated desecration of the expected competitiveness and fairness of multiparty and electoral politics through the abuse of the power of incumbency by ruling parties. The presentation by Charles Nguini (Transparency International, Cameroon) touched on this while also focusing on the influence of money in politics and competitive elections.

He cited a number of risks, including: weak horizontal and regulatory institutions of accountability and transparency, such as election management bodies and anti-corruption agencies; a lack of transparency; and endemic corruption in public life, which has cumulatively eroded public confidence in electoral politics and more generally in the governmental process and state institutions across Africa. Buttressing his view with the low ratings of African countries in the Transparency International Corruption Index, Nguini argued that corruption is a systemic and structurally induced virus that poses great risks for electoral integrity in Africa.

The discussion during the workshop looked at ways to integrate concerns about campaign finance into existing ERM frameworks. In addition, participants recommended a comprehensive mapping of existing ERM tools with a view to developing a comprehensive package for EMBs, CSOs and other electoral stakeholders.

## **Awareness meeting on risk management tools for West African and francophone EMBs**

The second part of the Strategic Meeting was an awareness-raising meeting on risk management tools for West African and francophone EMBs. In addition to the experts who were present for the opening two days, it brought together heads and representatives of 14 West African EMBs to raise awareness about risk management tools among electoral administrators and policymakers.

The opening ceremony was presided by Abdoulaye Daouda Diallo, Minister of the Interior and Public Security, Republic of Senegal, as well as representatives from OSIWA, UNDP, International IDEA and ECOWAS.

During his opening remarks, Minister Diallo noted that he had agreed to chair the opening ceremony with special enthusiasm, as the minister responsible for organizing elections in Senegal and given the importance of the theme. All the more so because elections conducted under conditions of transparency and participation provide a constitutional and political basis for citizens to express their voice and choose constitutionally mandated holders of elected public political office. Conducted under very difficult conditions and in trying times, the timing of elections was, therefore, of supreme importance; if not well organized and characterized by manipulation, elections could trigger and precipitate political and social crises, necessitating the mobilization of CSOs and security agencies to prevent such crises from becoming unmanageable and incendiary.

In view of the different risks that elections pose, he observed that it was imperative to design and use tools that can mitigate or attenuate such risks, and thereby enhance the credibility and integrity of elections. He noted that precisely because they have been utilized to enhance the credibility of recent elections in a number of West African countries, ERM tools needed to be further refined, drawing on lessons learned and experiences shared. For him, the meeting was testimony to the resolve of the partner organizers to pool their resources. He noted that, in spite of the progress made, vigilance should be the watchword in moving forward, in view of the risks to elections and democracy in West Africa, posed particularly by the unresolved social question that characterizes the region's political economy and its sociocultural environment.

## **Box 2. The Electoral Risk Management Tool**

International IDEA launched its ERM Tool in October 2013 following successful pilot projects in Kenya and Bosnia Herzegovina. The ERM Tool is designed to assist the user organization to improve its understanding of electoral risks, develop situational awareness and make well informed and conflict-sensitive decisions, with the overall goal of ensuring the credibility of electoral processes. Intended users are electoral management bodies, security sector agencies, civil society and other state or non-state actors. In addition, the ERM Tool can be used to understand, analyse, prevent and mitigate outbreaks of elections-related violence, including gender-based violence.

The ERM Tool software is composed of three modules: the knowledge resource module; the analytical module; and the prevention and mitigation module. It allows users to learn about electoral risk factors, monitor and analyse risk factors and understand successful prevention and mitigation measures that have been deployed in other electoral contexts.

The analytical module provides users with a powerful mapping engine that allows them to map electoral risks by colour coded geographical zone, map incidents, use static markers and chart trends over time. The software is available to download free of charge from the International IDEA website, along with a number of support documents and training resources.

To date, International IDEA has issued over 150 licences to users in over 50 countries. The tool has been implemented with International IDEA support in a number of countries, such as Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria and Tunisia. On the African continent, International IDEA is working in partnership with the African Union Commission to provide support to African EMBs with deploying the ERMTool.

A case study of the ERM Tool was provided by Ifeanyichukwu Agoha, ERM coordinator for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Nigeria. INEC decided to adopt the ERM Tool in December 2013, ahead of the general elections scheduled for 2015. INEC, in partnership with International IDEA and the AU, created a specialized ERM unit to identify, monitor and analyse electoral risks. The unit was composed of eight persons at headquarters responsible for collecting electoral risk data from directorates within INEC, INEC field staff, state security agencies and partner civil society organizations, and by monitoring the media and social media. The ERM unit was responsible for compiling risk alerts and risk reports to enhance INEC's situational awareness. The alerts and reports each contained recommendations on a series of measures designed to mitigate the risk, or prevent it from occurring altogether. The alerts and reports were then transmitted to the INEC Chair for action. In security-related cases, the INEC Chair would share the reports with the Inter Consultative Committee on Electoral Security (ICCES)—a body composed of INEC and 16 security sector agencies in Nigeria.

Following a post-election evaluation, INEC recognized the value of the ERM Tool and decided to institutionalize its use in future elections. The former INEC Chair, Professor Attahiru Jega, also recommended the introduction of the ERMTool for electoral administration in other countries on the continent (This Day Live 2015).

Following the opening ceremony, the meeting moved on to the thematic sessions and discussions. Details of the presentations are outlined in the Annex. The presentations and discussions provided a platform for participants to share experiences on managing electoral risks in their own country contexts. The debate elicited a number of policy recommendations, which are set out in the next section.

## 5. Policy recommendations

Over the course of the workshop, participants derived a number of policy recommendations to strengthen electoral risk management and electoral administration, and transform the environment of competitive party and electoral politics. The recommendations are aimed at a wide variety of electoral stakeholders in the West Africa subregion and beyond. The following is a synthesis of the recommendations that emerged from the meeting.

### Recommendations for national electoral management bodies

1. Adopt a systematic approach to formally managing electoral risks with a view to identifying, analysing and monitoring institutional, legal, political, technical, operational, technological and security risks that could undermine the credibility and integrity of electoral processes. Undertake a review of existing internal processes and bureaucracies to strengthen their capacity to undertake research and implement a risk management strategy.
2. Research and identify appropriate risk management frameworks, methodologies and platforms that could assist the EMB in managing electoral risks.
3. Undertake vigorous advocacy and dissemination activities to promote the application of ERM tools both within the EMB and among electoral stakeholders in order to develop networks that can enhance internal capacity to develop situational awareness.
4. Strengthen or establish platforms for collaboration and coordination with all national electoral stakeholders (security sector agencies, political parties, civil society, observer groups and media) to improve information gathering on electoral risks and to develop effective prevention and mitigation strategies.
5. In collaboration with the relevant actors, conduct regular training for security and quasi-security agency personnel and ad hoc staff deployed on election-related duties on their election-related role and on respect for human rights.
6. Contribute to the development and implementation of electoral reforms that will strengthen the regulatory frameworks governing the influence of money in electoral campaigns and enhance the transparency of electoral processes (in collaboration with national actors, particularly legislatures).

### Recommendations for civil society organizations

1. Establish or strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms that contribute to the



establishment of real-time information collection systems on and promote closer collaboration between electoral stakeholders in addressing electoral risks.

2. Broaden civic participation in the process by taking a holistic approach to monitoring and observing electoral processes, which include a significant emphasis on the pre- and post-electoral environment in addition to focusing on election day events.
3. Conduct advocacy campaigns to promote the adoption of risk management frameworks by EMBs as an effective early-warning system to strengthen the quality of electoral administration.

## **Recommendations for the organizers of the Strategic Meeting**

1. Undertake an extensive mapping exercise of existing tools that could be used to identify, evaluate, monitor and analyse electoral risks. The objective of the exercise will be to establish a range of tools that could be combined into a package for different electoral stakeholders. The mapping exercise should cover existing tools that can serve to manage electoral risks, beyond those presented during the Strategic Meeting; the similarities and differences between the tools and whether there are any gaps; how these tools could be used in an electoral context to complement one another; whether these tools need to be adapted/modified to suit the West African context; and recommendations on the format of a package of electoral risk management tools to be promoted among EMBs and other national electoral stakeholders.
2. Adopt and formalize standard methodologies to monitor and evaluate the impact of existing ERM tools.
3. Undertake research and development to create new ERM tools, or enhance the effectiveness, performance and relevance of existing tools.
4. Support research and provide a regular platform for stakeholders and peers to review and debate current trends in the subregion, with a view to strengthening their capacity to manage emerging electoral risks.

## **Recommendations for national governments and legislatures**

1. Empower EMBs financially to strengthen their independence and enable them to more effectively perform their regulatory activities, especially regarding party political activities such as the regular/periodic audit of party financing, funding and electioneering activities.
2. Reform EMBs and other horizontal, democracy-promoting institutions, such as anti-corruption commissions and central banks, to strengthen their administrative and financial autonomy from the executive branch.
3. Insulate the public service from the influence of politics to prevent/ limit abuses of

power by incumbents or other actors with access to state resources.

4. Ratify, apply and enforce African and international standards and codes on elections and democratic governance generally, in particular the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Governance.
5. Develop, pass and enforce legislation on the declaration of assets and liabilities by elected public office holders and other public officials to enhance transparency and accountability in the political process.
6. Recommendations for the African Union and Regional Economic Communities
7. Encourage and support national actors in member states, most notably EMBs, to adopt formal and systematic strategies to manage electoral risks in order to strengthen electoral integrity in the subregion.
8. Promote peer-exchange between EMBs, civil society, political parties and other actors to improve stakeholders' understanding of the root causes of electoral risks and effective strategies for prevention and mitigation.
9. Promote the ratification, domestic transposition and enforcement of African and international standards and codes on elections and democratic governance, with a particular focus on the African Charter for Democracy, Elections and Governance and the ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance.

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# Annex. Programme

## Awareness meeting on risk management tools for West African and francophone EMBs

<p><b>Session 1: The diversity of electoral risks in the electoral cycle</b></p> <p>Moderated by General Siaka Sangaré, RECFECONEC, Mali</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judge Amady Ba, ICC</li> <li>• Mathias Hounkpe, OSIWA</li> <li>• Dieudonné Tshiyoyo, UNDP</li> <li>• Nicholas Matatu, International IDEA</li> <li>• General Siaka Sangaré, RECFECONEC-DGE/ Mali</li> <li>• Charles Nguini, Transparency International, Cameroon</li> </ul>
<p><b>Session 2: Presentation on existing Election Risk Management tools and strategies</b></p> <p>Moderated by Hawa Ba, OSIWA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mathias Hounkpe, OSIWA</li> <li>• Nicholas Matatu, International IDEA</li> </ul>
<p><b>Session 3: The added value of the use of these electoral risk management tools in the electoral cycle: cases studies and experience sharing</b></p> <p>Moderated by General Siaka Sangaré, RECFECONEC-Délégation Générale des Elections, Mali</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ifeanyichukwu Agoha, ERM Coordinator, INECNigeria</li> <li>• Oumar Top, Direction Générale des Elections, Senegal</li> <li>• Amadou Billy Cissokho, Direction Générale de l'Administration Territoriale, Mali</li> <li>• Barthélémy Kéré, President CENI, Burkina Faso Burkina Faso</li> </ul>

# About International IDEA

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy worldwide. International IDEA's mission is to support sustainable democratic change by providing comparative knowledge, assisting in democratic reform, and influencing policies and politics.

## What does International IDEA do?

In the fields of elections, constitution-building, political parties, gender in democracy and women's political empowerment, democracy self-assessments, and democracy and development, the Institute undertakes its work in three activity areas:

1. providing comparative knowledge derived from practical experience on democracy-building processes from diverse contexts around the world;
2. assisting political actors in reforming democratic institutions and processes, and engaging in political processes when invited to do so; and
3. influencing democracy-building policies through the provision of its comparative knowledge resources and assistance to political actors.

## Where does International IDEA work?

International IDEA works worldwide. Based in Stockholm, it has offices in Africa, the Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. International IDEA is a Permanent Observer to the United Nations.

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