



**INTERNATIONAL IDEA**  
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# The State of Democracy in Africa 2021

**Resilient Democratic Aspirations and  
Opportunities for Reconsolidation,  
Nairobi and Online**

**10 December 2021**

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## Welcome

**Africa and West Asia Programme of The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA AWA)** has the pleasure to invite you to the regional launch of The State of Democracy in Africa 2021 Report under the theme "Resilient Democratic Aspirations and Opportunities for Reconsolidation", on Friday, 10 December 2021, at 11:30-13:30 (EAT), with a keynote speech by Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security- African Union Commission.

# AGENDA

10 DECEMBER 2021	
11:30-11:35	<b>Welcome and opening remarks</b>
11:35-11:45	<b>Dr Roba Sharamo</b> , Regional Director, Africa and West Africa, International IDEA <b>Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora</b> , Secretary-General, International IDEA
11:45-12:00	<b>Keynote Speech</b>  <b>Ambassador Bankole Adeoye</b> , Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security-African Union Commission  “Continental perspective on the state of democracy and the role of the AU and regional economic bodies”
12:00-12:20	<b>Presentation of the Global State of Democracy Report</b>  Presentation of the global findings, <b>Dr Seema Shah</b> , Head of Democracy Assessments International IDEA  Presentation of Africa finding, <b>Dr Roba Sharamo</b> , Regional Director, International IDEA Africa and West Asia
12:20-13:15	<b>Panel Discussion</b>  Moderator: <b>Ms Njeri Kabeberi</b> , Chair, International IDEA Board of Advisors International IDEA  Democratic Recession Amidst a Global Health Pandemic – Re-Emergence of Coups, Extended Presidential Tenures and Infringements of Fundamental Rights - <b>Dr Andrews Atta Samoah</b> , Programme Head, African Peace and Security Governance, Institute for Security Studies  Africa’s youth- Channelling the Opportunities to Address the Challenge of Exclusion - <b>Ms Animu Athiei Risasi</b> , Founder of Animu Athiei Foundation  Key Considerations for Addressing Democratic Regression in Africa - <b>Dr Khabele Matlosa</b> , Former Director of Department of Political Affairs, African Union Commission
13:15-13:25	<b>Vote of thanks</b>  <b>Mr Gram Matenga</b> , Programme Manager, Kenya Country Programme, International IDEA



**Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora**, Secretary-General, International IDEA

Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora is the Secretary-General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and a Senior Fellow at the Inter-American Dialogue. Previously, he was Costa Rica's Second Vice President and Minister of National Planning; Secretary for Political Affairs at the Organization of American States; Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution; and National Coordinator of the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Report. He holds a Law degree from the University of Costa Rica, a Masters in Government from the University of Essex, and a PhD in Political Science from the University of Oxford.



**Njeri Kababeri**, Executive Director of Greenpeace Africa and Chair, International IDEA Board of Advisors

Njeri Kabeberi is the Executive Director of Greenpeace Africa, CEO of the Civil Society Reference Group (CSO-RG) and chair of the board of the International Centre for Policy and Conflict (ICPC).

Her previous positions include: Executive Director of the Centre for Multi-Party Democracy (2004–2015), Development coordinator for East & Southern Africa for Amnesty international (1997–2004); Board member of the Kenya Human Rights Commission (1993–2006); and founder of the Citizens Coalition for Constitutional Change (1994–1996).

Kabeberi was awarded several prizes, including the 2010 ILO Wedge Award in recognition of her work to Increase women's rights in Kenya, the the Frankfurt Chamber of Lawyers' Humanity Award, and a Democracy Ribbon in the Netherlands in 2009.

Her publications include various papers presented in the area of human rights, good governance, political party development, women in politics, constitutional discourse, leadership and integrity.



**Ms Animu Athiei Risasi**, Communications Consultant, Youth Peace and Security Expert

Ms Animu A Risasi AMITAI is a communications consultant and a Youth Peace and Security expert and has been directly involved in establishing policies at the national level as a speech writer for the (former) First Vice President and formerly as a consultant for the former Ministry of Culture Youth, and Sports(2018-2021). In that role, she led the consultative process of the South Sudan National Action Plan on Security Council resolution 2250 on Youth Peace and Security (YPS), has provided input to YPS strategy at the East African Community where she served as an Honorary Youth Ambassador East African Community Youth Ambassador Platform in South Sudan. She has experience with programming the schedules of both the African Union Youth Envoy's(July 2019, November 2020 and UN Youth Envoy's (January 2020) visit to South Sudan and has help in co convening intergenerational dialogues on the Silencing the Guns in Africa theme.



**Dr Khabele Matlosa**, Visiting Professor, universities of Johannesburg and Witwatersrand, South Africa.

Dr Matlosa is a specialist on governance, peace and development. He is the former Senior Advisor on Governance at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) coordinating UNDP's governance initiatives in Africa and based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Also, he is the former Director, Department of Political Affairs, African Union Commission (AUC), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

In addition, he is the author of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance which evolved between 2004 and 2006 and ultimately adopted by the African Union Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 30 January 2007. Working with two other experts, he researched and co-authored the AU Panel of the Wise Report on "Election-Related Disputes and Political Violence: Strengthening the Role of the African Union in Preventing, Managing and Resolving Conflict". This report was adopted by the African Union in 2009. He has researched and written widely on various governance, peace and development issues in Africa. His latest publications are (a) "Pondering the culture of violence in Lesotho: a case for demilitarization", *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* (2020); (b) "Pouring salt into the wound: the crisis of international election observation and COVID-19 in Africa", *Journal of Asian and African Studies* (2021); and (c) "Elections in Africa During Covid-19: the tenuous balance between democracy and human security", *Politikon* (2021).



**Dr Roba Sharamo**, Director for Africa and West Asia, International IDEA

Dr. Sharamo has over 23 years of experience in international peace and security, conflict resolution, mediation, negotiation and diplomacy where he worked in senior management positions with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kenya, Government of Kenya, non-governmental organizations and a leading think-tank, Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Addis Ababa and Nairobi, among other international institutions

In August 2018, he joined ISS as the Office Director and Regional Representative to African Union, Horn and East Africa. Most recently, he worked as a Commissioner of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission of the Republic of Kenya. He has also worked as Team Leader, Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Unit of UNDP-Kenya and as acting Office Director and the Programme Head of the Conflict Analysis and Prevention Programmes in ISS Addis Ababa and Nairobi Offices respectively. He also served as a Political Office in Kenya Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Roba received his Doctorate in Conflict Analysis and Resolution and his doctoral dissertation is entitled, 'Predatory Politics and Struggles of Peacemaking in Somalia', at George Mason University, Arlington, Virginia, USA.



**Dr Andrews Atta-Asamoah**, Head of the Africa, Peace and Security Governance Programme, Institute for Security Studies

Prior to Dr Atta-Asamoah's current role, he served on the United Nations Panel of Experts on South Sudan and was responsible for monitoring the conflict and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2206 in that country. He holds a PhD in Political Studies from the University of Cape Town in South Africa and a Master of Arts degree in International Affairs from the University of Ghana. His research interests cut across issues of Africa's peace, security and governance, peace support operations, violent extremism and the African Union.



## **The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance** (International IDEA)

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy worldwide. It was founded in 1995 and currently has 33 Member States. International IDEA's headquarters are in Stockholm, and the Institute has 17 regional and country offices across the globe.

International IDEA advances democracy worldwide, as a universal human aspiration and an enabler of sustainable development, through support to the building, strengthening, and safeguarding of democratic political institutions and processes at all levels. International IDEA believes that democracy is a universal human aspiration and an experience that is pursued and lived in different ways around the world. To support this mission, International IDEA works in a number of areas, including elections, constitution building, money in politics, parliaments, and democracy assessment.

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## **About this Global State of Democracy Report**

The Africa Regional Launch of the State of Democracy in Africa and the Middle East Report 2021 is part of a series of similar launching events by International IDEA around the world to commemorate the launch of this flagship report.

The Global State of Democracy 2021 Report, in its third edition, provides up-to-date, incisive, relevant data, analysis and policy guidance on the challenges and opportunities to democratization around the world. The Report is designed to inform, influence, and help shape the agenda for the future of democracy. The report provides lessons and recommendations that governments, political and civic actors, and international democracy assistance providers should consider in countering the concerning trend of democracy's erosion seen across Africa, and in fostering its resilience and deepening

# CONTACT DETAILS

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