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REPORT OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS ON

GOVERNANCE, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA

September and October 2022

MEETINGS HELD IN ACCRA, GHANA | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA AND NAIROBI, KENYA

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About the Data for Governance Alliance (D4GA)

D4GA is a consortium led by 5 organizations: Afrobarometer (AB), The Ghana Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), the Institute for Development Studies (IDS – University of Nairobi), the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR), and Laws Africa. Afrobarometer coordinates the activities of the consortium. The D4GA consortium currently works with 15 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) across East, West and Southern Africa and its initiatives will result in strengthened collaboration between Pan-African CSO networks and AGP members on the AGP agenda and the AU Agenda 2063.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACDEG	African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance
ACERWC	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and the Welfare of Children
ACHPR	African Court on Human and People's Rights
AGA	African Governance Architecture
AGP	African Governance Platform
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
APSA	African Peace and Security Architecture
AU	African Union
CDD-Ghana	Ghana Centre for Democracy and Development
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
D4GA	Data for Governance Africa
ECOSOCC	Economic, Social and Cultural Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EUC	European Union Commission
IDS	Institute for Development Studies (University of Nairobi)
MP	Member of Parliament
NEPAD	New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
OYE	Office of the Youth Envoy
PAP	Pan-African Parliament
REC	Regional Economic Community
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UCG	Unconstitutional Change of Government
UN	United Nations
WADEMOS	West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network



Executive Summary

The Data for Governance Alliance (D4GA) consortium convened three meetings in West Africa (Accra, Ghana), Southern Africa (Cape Town, South Africa) and East Africa (Nairobi, Kenya) between September and October 2022 under the theme “Enhancing Pan-African civil society participation and engagement with the African Governance Platform (AGP) in protection and promotion of democracy, governance and human and people’s rights in Africa”. The three meetings marked the beginning of a three-and-half-years’ project that seeks to create platforms for nine AGA organs and Pan-African civil society to interact and work to improve governance, democracy and human rights in Africa through data-based advocacy and engagement leading to strengthened collaboration on AGP agenda and African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 implementation. The project, led by the Afrobarometer and funded by the European Union Commission (EUC), will adopt various advocacy strategies to achieve its objectives of increasing African citizens’ awareness of the work of the AGA organs, facilitate access to AGA Protocols and decisions to improve governance, democracy and human rights in Africa.

The project is premised on the fact that, over the decades, progress in democracy, good governance and respect for human rights across Africa has been halting at best, and as reported by the Afrobarometer, Mo Ibrahim Foundation, Freedom House and others, there are concerns about regression in many countries. These concerns have been heightened as governments claim extraordinary powers in the guise of responding to challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, the World Justice Project 2020 Rule of Law Index shows that 65% of Sub-Saharan Africa countries scored below the median, and there is shrinking space for legal recourse to protect human rights, for example the dissolution of the Southern African Development Community Tribunal, and the apparent weakening of the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights.

Amidst these challenges is the lack of citizens’ access to information and data in Africa. While both the AU’s Agenda 2063 and the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals share citizens-centered approaches to governance, there is evidence of declining coverage, quality and frequency of publicly available data for key categories in Africa. Coupled with this, there is a lack of awareness and visibility of the AGP agenda and efforts to promote it. CSOs often face challenges in accessing information about the African Union platforms and processes. Compliance to AGP Protocols is also inhibited by a lack of transparency and access to information. This project, and its planned activities seek to tackle these impediments to CSO actions and the AGP success in common pursuit of Agenda 2063.

There are several indicators which prove that the engagements overwhelmingly achieved their intended objectives as shown by the enthusiasm among participants to engage, share information and experiences, network and co-create programmes that will be accomplished collaboratively in the short to mid-term. Out of the 9 AGP that the D4GA initially targeted, 7 participated, and the deliberations with D4GA all leaned towards leveraging Afrobarometer data for Africa’s development.

Africa has made progress in advancing governance, democracy and human rights, yet a continual approach is required as there are new developments including unconstitutional change of government, third termism, terrorism and climate change that threaten the gains made. These were worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic which not only widened the existing fault-lines in many countries, but worsened the human rights situation as well as rampant corruption. This

situation makes imperative the issues of governance, democracy and human rights, and Afrobarometer has made remarkable progress in availing cumulative data from African voices that is available for data-based advocacy. The three regional meetings created engagement platforms for collaboration between CSOs and the AGA organs to dialogue and reflect on the importance of data-based decisions towards achieving the aspirations in Agenda 2063. During the dialogue sessions it emerged that already there are many areas where CSOs and AGP are partnering to achieve the aspirations of Agenda 2063 as well as the SDGs. However, the use of Afrobarometer data to promote data-based decisions is a new frontier of cooperation that should be pursued by both parties in an effort to promote policy making that is based on grounded research. The Afrobarometer data drawn from over two-thirds of the AU members provides ample evidence of the pulse of the continent regarding the citizens' perceptions on key issues that affect them.

Recommendations

The specific focus on democracy, governance and human rights that the D4GA has prioritised deal with the most pertinent issues facing Africa today. The following recommendations are suggested based on the deliberations during the three regional meetings.

(i) General Recommendations

- On strengthening collaboration between Pan-African CSO networks and AGP: Based on the enthusiasm for collaboration shown by both the CSOs and AGP organs represented, it is recommended that calendars of planned activities are shared in advance so that work plans are aligned to enhance chances of participation, joint activities and complementarity.
- On joint capacity building efforts: It is recommended that AU organs and CSOs collaborate and complement each other to jointly build the capacity of citizens on the different research outputs, AU manuals, instruments and policies to enhance advocacy campaigns and capacity building.
- On media, the use of information technology and social media: Many Africans are now able to share and receive information via the internet. While coverage is not yet universal, it is recommended that D4GA create a dedicated website where research outputs, AGA protocols and decisions and other documents will be digitized and stored for easy access and use by African citizens in their advocacy campaigns.
- On formalising relations: While formal and informal relations already exist between D4GA consortium alliances and some AGP and RECs, it is recommended that wherever possible Memoranda of Understanding be and signed to formalise relations, improve access and align programming.

- On increased awareness and on AGP agenda and enhancing complementarity through advocacy: noting that the D4GA and AGP converge on the aspirations of Agenda 2063 generally, and on democracy, governance and human rights specifically, it is recommended that they hold annual meetings to jointly strategise and partner in all opportunities to use Afrobarometer data, raise awareness, popularise the AU shared values, the ACDEG and other instruments.

(ii) Recommendations to D4GA and Pan-African CSOs

- On research and use of Afrobarometer data to influence AGP agenda: it is important that the D4GA has targeted to work with 9 out of the 19 AGP organs. It is recommended that the D4GA target all the 19 AGP organs and as well as Regional Economic Communities (RECS) that are a critical arm of the African Governance Architecture, particularly in the key areas of democracy, governance and human rights where they also have sub-regional instruments that can be leveraged on.
- On strengthening CSO advocacy capacity: Many Pan-African CSOs do not have enough knowledge and capacity and therefore lack confidence to lead or engage in advocacy work on AGP agenda. It is recommended that D4GA organise workshops and seminars to build skills and capacity of Pan-African CSOs to strengthen their capacity and make them ready for advocacy campaigns.
- On monitoring and evaluation: many commitments to collaborate among CSOs and between CSOs and AGP Organs were pledged during the three meetings. Also, many outputs were committed to, including creating databases, research, publications, scorecards etc. It is recommended that D4GA strategically monitors these outcomes and evaluate them at the end of this project to get a sense of the overall impact of the three and half-year project.

(iii) Recommendations to AGP

- On accessibility and information dissemination: while ECOSOCC is the gateway for civil society to contribute to AU's principles, policies and programmes, it is recommended that all the AGP organs appoint a civil society liaison point person to improve accessibility and communication that will enhance collaborative efforts towards Agenda 2063.
- To further promote civil society participation: considering that the Agenda 2063 document is people centred and encourages civil society to participate in policy processes of the AU, it is recommended that the ECOSOCC annual citizens forum that brings together CSOs from the region to discuss relevant issues and share experiences be a culmination of the engagements and collaborations with other AGP organs where CSOs will have contributed directly to policy decisions using Afrobarometer data.

The extensive interest and input garnered during the stakeholder engagements revealed a genuine willingness among Pan-African CSOs to strengthen their participation in and support for the programming of AU Organs on the one hand, and a keen interest among the AGP Organs to benefit from the insights of CSOs' data on democracy, governance and human rights on the other hand. If the joint activities agreed are collaboratively pursued they will inject a renewed purposeful collective impetus towards Agenda 2063.



Section One

Background

In September 2020, the Data for Governance Alliance consortium¹ was awarded a grant by the European Union Commission (EUC) to commence a three-and-half-years project that seeks to create platforms for nine AGA organs and pan-African civil society to interact and work to improve governance, democracy and human rights in Africa.

The project “Enhancing Pan-African civil society participation and engagement with the African Governance Platform (AGP) in protection and promotion of democracy, governance and human and people’s rights in Africa” seeks support data-based advocacy and engagement activities of Pan-African CSO networks with members of the African Governance Platform (AGP) on human rights issues.

The project is premised on the fact that, over the decades, progress in democracy, good governance and respect for human rights across Africa has been halting at best, and as reported by the Afrobarometer, Mo Ibrahim Foundation, Freedom House and others, there are concerns about regression in many countries. These concerns have been heightened as governments claim extraordinary powers in the guise of responding to challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, the World Justice Project 2020 Rule of Law Index shows that 65% of Sub-Saharan Africa countries scored below the median, and there is shrinking space for legal recourse to protect human rights since the dissolution of the Southern African Development Community Tribunal, and the weakening of the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights.

Amidst these challenges, is also the lack of citizens’ access to information and data in Africa. Both the AU’s Agenda 2063 and the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals share citizen-centered approaches to governance. However, this is challenged by declining coverage, quality and frequency of publicly available data for key data categories in Africa. Coupled with this, there is a lack of awareness and visibility of the AGP agenda and efforts to promote it. CSOs often face challenges in accessing information about the African Union platforms and processes. Compliance to AGP Protocols is also inhibited by a lack of transparency and access to information. This project, and its planned activities seek to tackle these impediments to CSO actions and the AGP success in pursuit of Agenda 2063.

The project, led by the Afrobarometer, and working with four other consortium members and in collaboration with nine AGA organs and Pan-African civil society, will adopt various strategies to achieve its objectives of increasing African citizens’ awareness of the work of the AGA organs, facilitate access to AGA Protocols and decisions, with the aim of improving governance, democracy and human rights in Africa.

¹ *Data for Governance Alliance is a consortium of five organizations comprising the Afrobarometer, CDD-Ghana, Laws Africa, the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation and the Institute for Development Studies*

The Stakeholder Engagements

Among the various strategies, this project will produce data on African citizens' perception on a number of governance issues, including human rights, women and youth rights, corruption, security, among others. In addition, the project will develop a dedicated website where AGA protocols and decisions, and other AGA documents will be digitized and stored for easy access and use by African citizens. To increase capacity of African citizens to access and use the products that will be generated by this project, and to facilitate engagements with the Pan-African citizens and the AGA organs, the project has planned a number of online and physical meetings within the project period.

The first of such physical meetings - "First Stakeholders Engagements on Governance, Democracy and Human Rights in Africa" were organized in three Regional Economic Communities (RECs) – Eastern, Western and Southern Africa as scheduled below:

1. The first meeting was held in Accra, Ghana, from September 19th – 23rd September 2022, hosted by the Ghana Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD-Ghana).
2. The second was held in Cape Town in South Africa from October 3rd to October 7th, 2022, hosted by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR).
3. The third meeting was held in Kenya from 17th to 21st October 2022, hosted by the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi.

Participants

Participants to the three regional meetings were drawn from the following sectors:

1. AGA Platform members – groups of the AGA Platform members will attend per the zones. At least, three of the nine AGA Platform members will be invited to one of the three zones each.
2. The AGA Secretariat and the AU Youth Envoy.
3. The five CSO partners in each of the three zones – East, West and Southern Africa.
4. The project consortium members.
5. The academia.
6. Media from the host zone (for opening and closing of the convening).

Expected Outcome from the Engagements:

1. Reinvigorated relationship between Pan-African CSOs and the AGA Platform members by creating platform for interface engagements between Pan-African CSOs and the AGA Platform members.
2. Built capacity of Pan-African CSOs to access and efficiently use data for advocacy on governance, democracy and human rights issues in Africa.
3. Built capacity of Pan-African CSOs on various advocacy techniques to guide development and use of advocacy tool kit in their work.
4. Created platform for interactions between the AGA Platform members and Pan-Africa CSOs to get more insights into the work of the AGA organs.
5. Connected Pan-African CSOs with AGA Platform members to continue their engagements.

Methodology

The engagements employed a variation of interactive participatory and creative methods that allowed all participants to share and learn from each other, leading to the co-creation of platforms for AGA Platform and Pan-African civil society to interact and work together to jointly come up with innovative strategies that promote good governance, democracy and human rights in Africa. The methods included the following:

Method	Objective
Personal introductions and identity expressions	For participants to know each other and network
Keynote Addresses & SpeechesSessions	To frame discussions and thematic areas
Brainstorming exercises	To generate, capture, discuss and critique ideas
Debates, joint problem solving & reflective sessions	To allow free exchange of ideas and clarification of issues
Mini-lectures, Presentations & Demonstrations	To enable information sharing, learning and knowledge acquisition. These included practical online demonstrations that allowed participants to engage with specific online platforms.
Light & livelies (Ice breakers)	To warm up conversations and keep participants' attention levels high
Trust-building exercises	To build trust and enable maximum interaction among participants

Method	Objective
Group breakaway & report back sessions	For participants to cooperatively work together
Plenary discussions	To promote reflective and reflexive understanding of key issues
Simulation games & exercises	To understand issues through scenarios and practice
Short video messages, teasers & TED talks	To share knowledge and generate new ideas
Story telling & experience sharing	To enable creative comprehension of issues and learn from others' experiences
Case Studies	Enabled participants to understand issues based on reality experienced elsewhere for potential replication (with contextual variations)
Recap sessions	To situate and summarise salient information discussed earlier

The above methodologies provided safe spaces for dialogue between CSOs and AGP organs where participants shared knowledge and experiences that evolved into partnership building and co-creation of joint activities to be carried out in the near future.

Section Two

Understanding the context

Twenty-two years since the formation of the African Union (AU), succeeding its predecessor the Organisation of African Union, the continent has recorded several significant democratic milestones, yet it has also witnessed democratic recidivism. Recent advances include Kenya where presidential power was smoothly transferred from Uhuru Kenyatta to William Ruto on 5 September 2022, about one month after a highly competitive but peaceful presidential election that was followed by an unsuccessful challenge at the Supreme Court by the losing candidate and others. Angola held its second transitional elections also in August 2022. The incumbent President Joao Lorenzo of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola party retained power, but the opposition recorded significant electoral gains. Despite the democratic gains, there have been multiple signs of retrogression and backsliding across the continent, even in countries where democracy is expected to be consolidated, such as Benin, Ghana, Senegal and South Africa. Setbacks include increased restrictions on opposition parties in Benin, Senegal, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe; the use of violence and intimidation during elections in Ivory Coast and Uganda; and military coups in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Sudan and Guinea. These contradictory developments give an impression that democracy is losing ground on the continent.

Afrobarometer has been surveying people about their views on democracy, governance and quality of life for more than 20 years. After interviewing nearly 50,000 citizens across 34 countries during Afrobarometer Round 8 which spans 2019 – 2021, results show that despite efforts by some leaders to undermine democratic norms, Africans remain committed to democracy and democratic norms. They believe that the military should stay out of politics, that political parties should freely compete for power, that elections are imperfect but essential tool for choosing their leaders, and that it is time for old men who cling to power to step aside. But their political reality falls short of these expectations. Elections are regularly held but their overall quality is declining, thanks to voter intimidation and electoral violence that are increasingly likely to result in retention of power by incumbents due to vote-buying and other forms of manipulation. Governance is constantly compromised due to cost and monetization of politics in election campaigns. Across the African continent, the elite/political class (particularly incumbent leaders, parties and their allies in the state bureaucracy, private sector, civil society and media) have tended to capture the state and its democratic institutions and processes. This enables elites to appropriate to themselves the dividends of both democracy and socio-economic development. State capture has caused wide gaps in state services, unemployment, poverty irrespective of investment in public service and infrastructure and others. These resources and money end up in the pocket of these state elites. This has enabled leaders to get away with corruption, impunity and unresponsive governance causing pain and a lack of democratic order in many African countries.

² Afrobarometer Round 8 Survey, Available at <https://www.afrobarometer.org/>

There is also the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government through military coups in several African countries, specifically in West Africa. This adds to the monster of leaders remaining in office beyond their term limits. Quasi-constitutional “third-termism” that is the controversial practice of democratically elected heads of states changing or reinterpreting the constitution that brought them to power to allow them to stay past their original term limit, is becoming commonplace. There have been 22 African rulers who have tried to remove and modify term limits since 2015.

Highlights of Afrobarometer findings spanning over two decades covering close to 40 countries and 80% of the continent’s adult populations confirm:

1. Africans prefer to live in a democratic political order. Seven out of ten citizens said democracy is preferable to any other kind of government. 8 in 10 rejected one party or one-man rule. 75 percent rejected one party rule and military rule. This was even rejected in the countries where there is a military rule.
2. Africans are broadly committed to the core institutions and norms of democracy. Three-fourth of respondents favour limiting their President’s tenure to two terms. This confirms that the citizens support two term Presidential limits. Three-fourth of respondents support the ballot box as a method to choose leaders. They also want the President to comply with the decision of the court even if they do not like the decision. They have expressed preference for free media, multiparty competition and a Parliament to oversee the President.
3. Africans say they would rather have a government more accountable to the people even if it slows down decision making. More and more Africans are expressing strong commitment to having an accountable government rather than not.
4. Respondents have made it clear that the requirements for democracy are not being met and only a slim majority of countries report that their country is a full democracy or a democracy with minor problems. This has remained the same over the last 10 years, they are not seeing any change or improvement. There has been a significant drop of 50% respondents saying they were satisfied and now only 43% say they are satisfied with the democracy that they have in their country. In 34 countries, 6 in 10 respondents declared that corruption in their country has increased over the past year. 8 in 10 of respondents have said that some MPs and officials are corrupt. Trust levels in elected officials have declined over time.

Based on Afrobarometer Round 8 survey, the following conclusions can be made:

- The average adult African prefers a government that is democratic and accountable.
- And that the African Union, its substructures, the UN, the EU and others’ commitment to working to strengthen democratic accountable and responsive governance in Africa aligns perfectly with the preferences and aspirations of citizens across the African continent.
- When it comes to the deployment of empirical evidence in the service of Agenda-2063 policymaking and implementation, there is a great deal of value to be gained from forging closer partnership between AU organs, its allied bodies and non-state actor/civil society research think tanks, academia, advocacy groups.

On the democracy dividend, the supply gap over the last 30-year period shows that prospects have dropped. In the early 2000s democracy in Africa was more positive, but since the mid-2010s, the continent has hit a rough patch. Instead of seeing an upward trajectory we have seen a dip. Is Africa heading back to how it was before? It is left with the civil society to fight back and prevent democratic backsliding because the leaders, without check will be indulgent and maintain the status quo.

Still on elections, the Afrobarometer surveys show that citizens are not happy with the quality of elections. The support and trust for ballot boxes has dropped in the past decade as citizens are unhappy with the tendency for elections to be violent and rigged, but on the whole, they prefer to elect citizens through ballot boxes. It is again up to civil society and citizens within the region to push for upholding of democratic principles. They cannot and should not rely on the government and external actors, must operate on the assumption that they are alone and it is up to the leaders to make the change.

The Regional Economic Community ECOWAS has done the most in trying to counter undemocratic movements and impose democratic principles in the region. They are the most enthusiastic body of promoting democratic governance on the continent. They have checked a number of African leaders and intervened in Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, and Gambia. Their achievements over the years should not be taken away, rather the blame should be on the current leaders of ECOWAS. During the years of Kufuor and Obasanjo, ECOWAS was a strong institution and with the current leaders the institution is not as strong. Voters and citizens have also been lax, there are ECOWAS leaders and representatives in the member states and these same questions must be posed to the ECOWAS MPs and pressure them. ECOWAS needs to become active in defending and protecting democracy from backsliding and retreat.

While the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is regarded as the most peaceful and stable region in Africa, recent developments have proved that it is equally vulnerable. Poor governance, lack of respect for human rights and civil wars have exacerbated poverty and conflict whose roots can be traced to colonialism, apartheid and the general failure by post-colonial leaders to create viable developmental states since independence. Economic inequality, lack of socio-economic justice, ethnic tensions, unequal access to political power and inadequate of basic services and migration are further component fuelling tensions in the region. According to the World Bank Gini Index, South Africa is the most unequal country in the world, and six of the top ten countries with the highest wealth inequality in the world are in SADC. The persistence of poverty, coupled by adverse effects of climate change, a youth bulge and rampant corruption in most countries can be exploited to precipitate tension and ignite violent conflict.

Be that as it may, the recent successful and largely peaceful elections in Zambia (2021), Angola and Lesotho (2022) give hope that citizens still believe in the importance of democracy, governance and human rights, and civil society can play a critical role to consolidate these.

The East African Community (EAC) has its fair share of success and failures in governance, democracy and human rights. The recent elections in Kenya showed that elections can be fiercely contested and power transferred peacefully, with institutions supporting democracy playing their role. This cannot be said in other countries in the EAC region still struggling to have good role models in governance (issues, norms, values protocols and coordination of actors) as the human rights situation in Uganda, South Sudan and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are on the spotlight. The DRC, EAC's newest member has brought with it security challenges that have called for military intervention by fellow member states including Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda and Burundi who have all deployed troops in the volatile eastern region.

The current security issues are compounding on the decade-long threats caused by violent extremism led by Somalia based Al Shabaab militants that also required military intervention by EAC member states as part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Added to this, the negative effects of climate change in East Africa where some countries are experiencing the worst drought in decades, much as the rest of the African continent that has become vulnerable to unpredictable weather patterns bring new security and development challenges that threaten the achievement of both the Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

In the myriad of setbacks in democracy, governance and human rights, African citizens are raising their voices, calling on their governments to fulfil their democratic aspirations. Since April 2017, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has recorded more than 70 episodes of protest in 35 countries that were focused on issues ranging from demands for democracy in eSwatini, to resisting police brutality, presidential third-term attempts and Covid-19 restrictions.

Citizen participation and government responsiveness are the cornerstones of every democracy. This is in line with the principles of the African Union Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG). When governments are responsive, citizens are more likely to engage in addressing community needs and to be satisfied with their political system and optimistic about their future. Responsive and respectful governance has the potential to spur citizen action to solve critical development challenges – and maybe the cure of what ails democracy, good governance and human rights in Africa.

³ See *World Population Review, World Inequality by Country 2022*. Available at: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/wealth-inequality-by-country>

Data for
Governance Alliance

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the AGP agenda

PROMOTING
PUBLIC
DATA-BASED
ADVOCACY &
ENGAGEMENT
BETWEEN
AFRICAN "CSOs"
& THE AFRICAN
UNION



Section Three

Introduction

The Data for Governance Africa (D4GA), a project of Afrobarometer, has commenced a three and half-year data-based advocacy and engagement of civil society and AU AGA Platform (2021-2024). The project is a partnership of 5 organizations led by Afrobarometer which includes the Ghana Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), the Institute for Development Studies (IDS – University of Nairobi), the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR), and Laws Africa. Afrobarometer coordinates the activities of the consortium which currently works with 15 Pan-African CSOs across East, West and Southern Africa. Their work uses Afrobarometer opinion data and analyses for training, communication and advocacy to influence the AU AGA Platforms, national governments, RECs and civil society formations to make data-based policies and decisions towards achieving the AU Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The consortium initially targeted to work with 9 out of the 19 institutions within the African Governance Platform, including the African Court on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR), African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), African Union Peace & Security Council (AUPSC), African Committee of Experts in the Rights of the Child

(ACERWC), Pan African Parliament (PAP), and AU Advisory Board Against Corruption (AUABC).

In their effort to work with and influence the AGA Platform, the consortium members' collective activities will include:

- Collect two additional rounds of Afrobarometer public attitude data, including questions on priority AGP topics such as governance corruption, rule of law, environmental governance, gender equality, and child welfare.
- Create an online information clearinghouse that sources and digitizes all documentation relevant to the AGP Agenda.
- Produce analysis on AGP platform implementation, public attitudes toward the agenda, and related issues.
- Produce annual scorecards on the implementation of the AGP Agenda.
- Offering workshops/training for policy actors and advocates through accessing, analysing, and using new data and information tools and building evidence-based advocacy strategies.
- Creating opportunities for CSO-AGP consultation and collaboration by facilitating the convening of CSO and AGP representatives in annual regional convening to build partnerships and develop strategies to promote the AGP agenda.

⁴ *The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) is the African Union's main normative instrument to set standards for better governance across the continent that was adopted in 2007 and came into force in 2012. Its objectives are to enhance the quality of elections in Africa, promote human rights, strengthen rule of law, improve political, economic and social governance, and address the recurrent issues relating to unconstitutional changes of government on the continent.*
Available at: <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-charter-democracy-elections-and-governance>

The expected benefits for AGA institutions and CSOs include the following:

- Generating evidence of citizens' perceptions and demand for the agenda's priorities.
- Gathering data on the implementation of issues relating to the aspirations spelt out in the Africa Agenda 2063.
- Enhancing stronger collaboration with CSOs that help coordinate citizen input and action to achieve Agenda 2063.
- Effectively addressing issues and engaging partners and collaborating across the wide scope of topics and issues covered under the AGP focused on developing tools that have wide and cross-cutting applicability.
- Have continental reach across varied contexts in terms of geography, language, policies, politics etc.

In September 2020, the Data for Governance Alliance consortium was awarded a grant by the European Union Commission (EUC) to commence a three and half years project that seeks to create platforms for nine AGA organs and pan-African civil society to interact and work to improve governance, democracy and human rights in Africa.

The project "Enhancing Pan-African civil society participation and engagement with the African Governance Platform (AGP) in protection and promotion of democracy, governance and human and people's rights in Africa" seeks support data-based advocacy and engagement activities of Pan-African CSO networks with members of the African Governance Platform (AGP) on human rights issues.

In September and October 2022 the D4GA organized the first round of regional meetings in East, West and Southern Africa. The first five-day Stakeholders Engagement on Governance, Democracy and Human Rights was convened in West Africa by Ghana Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD-Ghana) at the Royale Fiesta Hotel in Accra, Ghana from 19 – 23 September 2022. It brought together 40 participants from a cross-section of civil society representatives from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) including D4GA consortium partners, academics, journalists, researchers and activists from 8 countries who interacted with representatives of four AGP organs. The AGP organs represented were AGA, APRM, ECOSOCC and the AU Office of the Youth Envoy.

The second stakeholders' engagement took place in Southern Africa and was organized by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) at the Capital Inn Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa from 3 – 7 October 2022. It brought together 30 participants drawn from D4GA consortium partners, regional CSOs, academics and practitioners from at least 7 countries who interacted with representatives of four AGP organs namely PAP, ECOSOCC, APRM and ACERWC.

The third stakeholders' engagement took place in East Africa and was organized by the University of Nairobi's Institute for Development Studies (IDS) 17 – 21 October 2022. It brought together 25 participants including the D4GA consortium partners, academics, CSOs and practitioners from 6 countries who interacted with representatives of four AGP organs namely APRM, ECOSOCC, African Court on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) and the AU Office of the Youth Envoy.

The engagements had a two-pronged approach: training and capacity building of regional civil society (the first three days); and, dialogue between CSOs and the AGA Platform members (the last two days). As such, representatives of four AGA Platform members also used the platform created by the meeting to share the mandates of their organs and engage with civil society representatives to co-create pathways to deepen mutual collaboration through dialogue. Generally, there was convergence on the importance of data, and to use Afrobarometer data to influence the African Union's (AU) African Governance Architecture (AGA) organs and Pan-African civil society to collaboratively improve governance, democracy and human rights in Africa, towards achieving the 7 Aspirations contained in the continental blueprint Agenda 2063.

Overall Observations

There are several indicators which prove that the engagements overwhelmingly achieved their intended objectives as shown by the enthusiasm among participants to engage, share information and experiences, network and co-create programmes that will be accomplished collaboratively in the short to mid-term. Out of the 9 AGP that the D4GA initially targeted, 7 participated.

Firstly, the level of participation was of very high standard in all three meetings, necessitated by the caliber of representatives both among the CSOs and the AGP members who acknowledged the importance of data in decision making and advocacy. Very senior members of CSOs and AGP participated in all three meetings, and the Executive Directors of the 3 organizing consortium members graced and gave remarks during the regional meetings. Representatives of the European Union Commission also attended the opening sessions of each meeting online via Zoom.

Secondly, the programme of the meetings covered all the key areas of this project, and employed a variation of methodologies that allowed interaction and participation by all in very safe and friendly atmosphere. The keynote addresses by Professor Gyima-Boadi (West Africa), Professor Boni Dulani (Southern Africa) and Professor Winnie Mitullah (East Africa) who are all directly involved in Afrobarometer research helped to frame the proceedings of each week, and allocating a full day for advocacy provided ample time to grasp the concepts to strategise for the activities to be jointly done.

Thirdly, judging by the networking and collaborative wish-lists shared by CSOs and AGP representatives, these engagements have provided the once missing platform for data generating CSOs to work directly with the AU through the AGP to achieve the 7 aspirations of the Agenda 2063 as well as the UN SDGs. For example, by the time the meetings ended, the APRM and ECOSOCC had invited Afrobarometer to present findings at their forthcoming events in South Africa and Ghana, respectively. The PAP promised to invite CSOs while ACERWC will share its calendar of events where CSOs can participate.

Fourthly, the media coverage of the engagements was very good. The opening sessions in Ghana and Kenya were covered by several print and electronic media houses, while the proceedings of the week were share through various media platforms including Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. One of the participants in South Africa, Monique Bennet, a researcher at Good Governance Africa wrote an opinion piece Bridging the divide – citizens, civil society and the African Union that was published by The Mail and Guardian on 21 October 2022 (<https://mg.co.za/opinion/2022-10-21-bridging-the-divide-citizens-civil-society-and-the-african-union/>).

Also, the youths and the gender balance both as participants and presenters in all the three meetings was a marvel. The presence of the youth allowed intergenerational engagements and debates on key issues, while the presence of many female participants to deliberate on issues of democracy, governance and rule of law meant that these are not left to men alone as is usually the case. However, the identity of the LGBTIQ among the participants was not as prominent.

⁵ Data for Governance Alliance (D4GA) is a consortium of five organizations comprising the Afrobarometer, Ghana Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD-Ghana), Laws Africa, the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) and the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) – University of Nairobi.



Overall, the engagements achieved the targeted five outcomes as follows:

Outcome	Assessment
1. Reinvigorated relationship between Pan-African CSOs and the AGA Platform members by Creating platform for interface engagements between Pan-African CSOs and the AGA Platform members.	In all 3 meetings the energy and enthusiasm between Pan-African CSOs and AGP was very good. There were calls that such meetings should take place more often as both parties mutually benefited. There was a call that the AGP should also attend the training done during the first 3 days of each meeting and included advocacy.
2. Built capacity of Pan-African CSOs to access and efficiently use data for advocacy on governance, democracy and human rights issues in Africa.	More than 100 participants from CSOs from more than 15 countries were trained in use of data. There is a strong potential for a multiplier effect as the participants influence their organisations and networks.
3. Built capacity of Pan-African CSOs on various advocacy techniques to guide development and use of advocacy tool kit in their work.	Advocacy expert Dr. Nansata Yakubu trained participants at all 3 meetings. The advocacy training manual has been developed that will be used by CSOs and AGP as a resource and a guide in championing democracy, governance and human rights.
4. Created platform for interactions between the AGA Platform members and Pan-African CSOs to get more insights into the work of the AGA organs.	The meetings provided a conducive safe space for 7 AGP members to engage with Pan-African CSOs from +15 organisations. During the dialogue facilitated they co-created up to 20 joint-activities that will be jointly done in the next 18 months.
5. Connected Pan-African CSOs with AGA Platform members to continue their engagements	Evidence of connecting was the invitations to upcoming events, specifically from ECOSOCC, APRM and PAP

Key Issues and Recommendations

CSO participants and AGP representatives were given the opportunity to discuss their expectations of the other. The group feedback sessions seamlessly led to inter-disciplinary dialogues on the expectations, roles, responsibilities and good practices that, if followed through, will improve partnerships, collaboration and solidarity. Below are the expectations that cumulatively emerged from the three meetings.

1. Rule of law

- Be stricter on Members States who don't follow ratifications and implement protocols and instruments they have signed.
- Promote access to the letter of the law, as many national legislations is are even available. The AU should lead that aspect through establishing and enforcing adherence to guidelines and transparency.
- Provide more capacity building for CSOs on the relevant AU organs.
- Develop model laws for AU countries.
- Make available legal experts from African countries to support other countries in peer-reviewing and advising them on reforms.
- To make timely responses to emerging issues and avoid being silent.
- Monitor country situations on hold them to account when breaches on the rule of law happen.

2. Democracy

- Use its authority as custodians of legal instruments and to advocate for the implementation of those instruments and pronounce itself on the lack of implementation.
- Constantly sanction on the failure to respect the national constitutions; i.e. unconstitutional changes of government (theme of the year).
- Support RECs to enforce democratic processes in Member States.
- Enforce gender parity in the AU and Member States.
- Monitoring the implementation of instruments.
- Be more responsive to CSO engagements.
- Be more visible in Member States - the AU should belong to citizens.
- Clarify channels of access – how can citizens and CSOs access the AU?

3. Governance

- Stricter on member states who do not observe ratifications and protocols.
- Take measures that make members accountable to the implementation of protocols.
- Promote the visibility of CSOs.
- Make engagements easier by establishing points of contact.
- Have a more pro-active approach to communication for AU institutions.
- Formal capacity building through systematic trainings from the AU?

Specific expectations from various AU AGA Platforms

1. CSO expectations of OYE/AU and the Youth

- a. Want to see AU follow-through on their recommendations on policies relating to youth such as pressuring member states to lower age of contesting for national office.
- b. AU should involve youth in the full cycle of projects & policies, that is the planning and implementing stages.
- c. AU officials & members should make themselves more approachable to the youth.
- d. Increase visibility on all their youth related engagements & programs. Should not be limited to the youth in the CSO space. Possibly collaborate with states to increase visibility such as using national youth employment schemes, not limited to the elected few.
- e. AU should remove politics from the recruitment process.

2. CSO expectation from APRM

- a. Develop scorecard performance of governments and share with CSOs for advocacy.
- b. Promote compliance to regional norms and standards.
- c. Collaborate with regional CSOs Networks to implement APRM Recommendations.
- d. Provide technical support to countries to implement recommendation.

3. CSO expectations from ECOSOCC

- a. Facilitate access of CSOs to other AGA institutions and decision makers.
- b. Facilitate CSO engagement on various thematic areas at regional level.
- c. Help address the issue of shrinking civic space in the AU by engaging the it for openness to CSOs, and sensitizing CSOs of engagement opportunities with the AU.
- d. Advance a CSO accreditation system for the AU that is friendly to CSOs, taking into consideration the diversities in the African civil society - a system that does not help to further shrink the CSO space in the AU. This should also entail broad consultation with CSOs.

4. CSO expectations from AGA

- a. Continue to effectively coordinate the AGA platform members towards boosting citizen engagement within the AU.
- b. Make available relevant and timely information that can provide an entry point for CSO engagement in AU platforms.
- c. Help disseminate relevant information from AU - summits to enable access of CSOs to such information.
- d. Boost collaboration with CSOs in the work they (AGA) do in various countries to help raise the profile of CSOs in various countries. Also, ensure the website is up-to-date.

5. Civil society expectations from the African Court of Human and People's Rights

- a. Increase citizens access to the court
- b. Continue to provide information on judgements made and compliance with court decisions

6. Civil society expectations from the ACERWC

- a. Raise awareness on the role of the Committee
- b. Include CSOs in country assessment visits

7. Civil society expectations of the PAP

- a. Involve civil society in developing model laws
- b. Continue to invite and engage CSOs to PAP sessions

8. Expectations of the AU Organs from CSOs

- a. CSO to take advantage of the information on the various AU platforms.
- b. Popularization/sensitization and dissemination of knowledge of AU Organs, shared values: ACDEG, policies and programs.

- c. Capacity Building.
- d. Co-creation of programs based on AU Decisions, e.g. Unconstitutional Change of Government.
- e. Participation in dialogues during AU Consultations.
- f. Enhancing CSO and government relations through complementary actions and efforts.
- g. CSOs should provide data and information for policy formulation. Ensure integrity of the data they present. certain information that may threaten national security or the AU should not be shared.
- h. Create and promote awareness of what is happening on the ground as they have greater access.
- i. To actively work to improve the relationship between the AU and Member States by not only focusing on the negative but also the good being done in the continent.

Recommendations

The three regional meetings provided an important platform for the AGP organs to interact with CSOs. During the dialogue sessions it emerged that already there are many areas where CSOs and AGP are partnering to achieve the aspirations of Agenda 2063 as well as the SDGs. However, the specific area of use of Afrobarometer data to promote data-based decisions is a new frontier for cooperation that should be pursued by both parties in an effort to promote policy making that is based on grounded research. The Afrobarometer data drawn from over two-thirds of the AU members provides ample evidence of the pulse of the continent regarding the citizens' perceptions. The specific focus on democracy, governance and human rights that the D4GA has prioritised deal with the most pertinent issues facing Africa today. The following recommendations are suggested based on the deliberations during the three regional meetings.



Recommendations

General Recommendations

- On strengthening collaboration between Pan-African CSO networks and AGP: Based on the enthusiasm for collaboration shown by both the CSOs and AGP organs represented, it is recommended that calendars of planned activities are shared in advance so that work plans are aligned to enhance chances of participation, joint activities and complementarity.
- On joint capacity building efforts: It is recommended that AU organs and CSOs collaborate and complement each other to jointly build the capacity of citizens on the different research outputs, AU manuals, instruments and policies to enhance advocacy campaigns and capacity building.
- On media, the use of information technology and social media: Many Africans are now able to share and receive information via the internet. While coverage is not yet universal, it is recommended that D4GA create a dedicated website where research outputs, AGA protocols and decisions and other documents will be digitized and stored for easy access and use by African citizens in their advocacy campaigns.
- On formalising relations: while formal and informal relations already exist between D4GA consortium alliances and some AGP and RECs, it is recommended that wherever possible Memoranda of Understanding be and signed to formalise relations, improve access and align programming.
- On increased awareness and on AGP agenda and enhancing complementarity through advocacy: noting that the D4GA and AGP converge on the aspirations of Agenda 2063 generally, and on democracy, governance and human rights specifically, it is recommended that they hold annual meetings to jointly strategise and partner in all opportunities to use Afrobarometer data, raise awareness, popularise the AU shared values, the ACDEG and other instruments.

Recommendations to D4GA and Pan-African CSOs

- On research and use of Afrobarometer data to influence AGP agenda: it is important that the D4GA has targeted to work with 9 out of the 19 AGP organs. It is recommended that the D4GA target all the 19 AGP organs and as well as Regional Economic Communities (RECS) that are a critical arm of the African Governance Architecture, particularly in the key areas of democracy, governance and human rights where they also have sub-regional instruments that can be leveraged on.
- On strengthening CSO advocacy capacity: Many Pan-African CSOs do not have enough knowledge and capacity and therefore lack confidence to lead or engage in advocacy work on AGP agenda. It is recommended that D4GA organise workshops and seminars to build skills and capacity of Pan-African CSOs to strengthen their capacity and make them ready for advocacy campaigns.
- On monitoring and evaluation: many commitments to collaborate among CSOs and between CSOs and AGP Organs were pledged during the three meetings. Also, many outputs were committed to, including creating databases, research, publications, scorecards etc. It is recommended that D4GA strategically monitors these outcomes and evaluate them at the end of this project to get a sense of the overall impact of the three and half-year project.

Recommendations to AGP

- On accessibility and information dissemination: while ECOSOCC is the gateway for civil society to contribute to AU's principles, policies and programmes, it is recommended that all the AGP organs appoint a civil society liaison point person to improve accessibility and communication that will enhance collaborative efforts towards Agenda 2063.
- To further promote civil society participation: considering that the Agenda 2063 document is people centred and encourages civil society to participate in policy processes of the AU, it is recommended that the ECOSOCC annual citizens forum that brings together CSOs from the region to discuss relevant issues and share experiences be a culmination of the engagements and collaborations with other AGP organs where CSOs will have contributed directly to policy decisions using Afrobarometer data.

Section Four

Synthesis of proposed projects and indicators

In all three meetings CSOs and AGP members worked together to propose activities that will be jointly accomplished to support democracy, governance and human rights in Africa, towards achieving Agenda 2063. The following is a collation of the proposed activities, key issues and indicators.

Joint Activities between D4GA & AGP

	Joint Activities	Key Issues	Year 1	Year 2	Indicators
1	Data collection and dissemination Knowledge production and management	UCG Popularising ACDEG Fighting corruption Increasing youth participation in political & economic affairs Promote meaningful participation of women & children in politics & economy AUTJP Fight terrorism Monitor & report electoral violence	UCG Corruption Electoral violence Terrorism ACDEG	Corruption Youth participation ACDEG Women & children AUTJP Terrorism Political transitions Electoral violence UCG	Provide data on ACDEG in Year 1 & Year 2 Policy briefs and publications
2	Tracking of signing and ratification of AU charters & protocols. Promote implementation of AU decisions and instruments	Encourage signing of ACDEG by member states Signing & ratification of ACHPR atification of the ACERWC by remaining countries	ACDEG ACHPR ACERWC	ACDEG ACHPR ACERWC	Score cards tracking implementation of AU decisions and instruments Tracking number of new signatories and ratification of instruments
3	Capacity building, dialogue sessions and advocacy Conduct capacity building sessions on analysing & use of data for both CSOs and AGP Pre-election surveys and monitoring of electoral processes	Elections in some countries are not credible, free and fair as they are not following ACDEG and REC Guidelines	Democracy Governance Human rights	Democracy Governance Human rights Popularization of AUTJP	Track the number of capacity building initiatives jointly organized: 3 regional dialogues in Year 1 & 3 in Year 2 Increase use of AU training manuals on youth participation in political and electoral processes Number of briefings and events popularizing the AUTJP

Joint activities between D4GA and APRM

	Joint Activities	Key Issues	Year 1	Year 2	Indicators
1	<p>Performing Country Reviews on Annual Basis with involvement of CSOs</p> <p>Identify countries that will be reviewed and share calendar of event</p>	<p>Shrinking civic space and low participation of CSOs in country reviews</p> <p>Need for legal reforms</p> <p>Policy reform Lack of citizen participation in issues of governance</p>	APRM reviews	APRM reviews	<p>APRM country reports</p> <p>Scorecards of improvements & compliance to recommendations</p> <p>Policy briefs</p> <p>Reports of national engagements</p>
2	<p>Bi-Annual African Governance Report – a collaborative work that is being performed by the AGA platform with the APRM leading. D4GA contribute to the methodology and popularizing it.</p>	Same as above			<p>Contributions to the AGR and dissemination of the report.</p> <p>Follow up on recommendations and tracking of compliance.</p>
3	<p>African Governance Seminar Series (AGOSS): An academic exercise that brings in think tanks, CSOs, practitioners etc.</p>	Same as above			<p>Number of seminars</p> <p>Research papers</p> <p>Engagements</p>
4	<p>Annual youth symposium: CSOs should look into youth programs of all the AGA platforms and find a way to engage with them and participate in the symposiums</p>	Limited participation of youths in political and economic affairs			<p>Reports of symposia</p> <p>Policy briefs Engagements</p> <p>New networks created & new joint initiatives</p>



Data for Governance Alliance

PROMOTING PUBLIC DATA-BASED ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN AFRICAN STATES

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Joint Activities between D4GA and ECOSOCC

	Joint Activities	Key Issues	Year 1	Year 2	Indicators
1	Joint meetings on Democracy, Terrorism and UCG in Africa, draft outcome documents and the roadmaps. CSOs to support with the implementation of the outcome from the Accra Citizen Forum and the Malabo Declaration on Terrorism and UCG; violation of democratic principles and values.	Violation of democratic values and principles Limitations and enforcement of terms of office			Increase in the number of countries that sign and ratify AU protocols and legal instruments promoting democracy, good governance and human rights. CSO produce scorecards tracking ratification and adherence.
2	Implement AU shared values & instruments (ACDEG and complementary instruments, including on corruption)	Ratification and Implementation of outcome documents and recommendations. If there are reporting mechanisms, CSOs fill in the gaps for reporting and support follow-ups and research.			Increase in the number of countries that sign, ratify and accede to the ACDEG. CSO initiatives to promote ACDEG
3	Map D4GA priorities with relevant regional protocols, policies and instruments	Limited awareness, knowledge and access Number of instruments advancing democratic governance, peace & security the AU creates. This needs to be mapped out and linked to the relevant AU protocols to support the work. protocols to support the work.			Data mapping prioritisation of protocols, policies and instruments across Africa.
4	Support implementation of the Livingstone Formula and the Maseru conclusion. Framework documents that are co-created by CSOs and Peace & Security Council.	Inadequate CSO engagement with the instruments and their work plans CSOs participate in discussions & development of instruments & frameworks promoting democracy, good governance and human rights in member states.			Number of collaborative efforts between national governments and CSOs Increase in CSO engagements with AGA Platforms.

5	Popularize the relevant AU instruments and Agenda 2063	Inadequate visibility, awareness and usage. There are a number of donor-driven programmes for implementing SDGs and not enough for the Agenda 2063	ACDEG ACHPR ACERWC	ACDEG ACHPR ACERWC	Visibility of CSO work to promote Agenda 2063 and other AU policies and instruments
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Joint Activities between D4GA and the Office of the Youth Envoy (OYE)

	Joint Activities (Year 1)	Joint Activities (Year 2)	Issue	Indicators
1	Regional engagement for governance training for student leaders and youth in Parliament.	Continues from year 1	Training in leadership and democratic governance, human rights knowledge and skills.	Number of regional training programs recorded and increased youth engagement in democracy, governance and human rights on the continent.
2	Research on perceptions on youth and development.	Continues from year 1	Identifying the challenges and gaps on regional youth development, policies and programs.	Research report that captures the data and recommendations on how the challenges can be addressed.
3	Advocacy for youth advisory networks at national levels.	Advocacy for youth advisory networks at national levels.	Lack of youth perspective in local, national and regional governance structures.	Number of national youth representatives in governance structures increases at all levels of governance. Policies influencing and promoting inclusive decision making in governance and human rights centred around the youth are implemented.
3	Publicizing youth activities on governance and human rights in Africa	Publicizing youth activities on governance and human rights in Africa	Lack of awareness on youth issues among young people.	Sharing and publishing youth newsletters and leveraging social media and creating a youth channel where content will be generated from the member states.

Joint activities between D4GA and PAP

	Joint Activities	Key Issues	Year 1	Year 2	Indicators
1	PAP's country visits.	Challenge with gathering new information as it primarily relies on national Parliaments to share details on what CSOs to meet.			Engagements with civil society during country visits.
2	PAP is working on developing model laws on gender parity, migration and climate change. There is a call for contributions, CSOs can contribute through the provision of data, can participate in regional and national consultations and be part of a validation process. The process starts in November 2022.	Lack of model laws that promote democracy, good governance human rights & guide national governments and regional institutions			<p>Invitations by AU organs to participate and shape the development of digital platforms.</p> <p>PAP and relevant members of D4GA collaborate to develop model laws on climate change</p>

Joint activities between D4GA and PAP D4GA and ACERWC

	Joint Activities	Key Issues	Year 1	Year 2	Indicators
1	Country visits to assess the situation in Member States – planned for Benin and the Ivory Coast.	Promotion of child rights in Africa Children and digital rights – AU to share the concept note.			<p>Signing of an MoU to promote digital spaces as a cheaper avenue to connect. Continental commemoration on the Intl day of the child (planning for a 3-day commemoration).</p> <p>CSOs popularise the work of the Committee by sharing their decisions and publications through round tables, social media campaigns, inclusion in public databases, etc.</p>

Evaluation

At the end of each meeting participants completed evaluation forms. From the summative evaluations, participants appreciated the relevance of the stakeholder meetings. As reflected on the evaluation forms, all the sessions presented scored high on the Likert scale averaging 80%, and were highly appreciated as informative, and the main highlight was gaining knowledge and skills from the advocacy training which they intend to use in their own programmes. The other highlight was engaging with various AGA Platforms and gaining knowledge of their mandates. The session on communication was also positively recognised as an important skill needed in advocacy work. The proposed joint activities, if the commitments are upheld, will be evidence of the outcomes of the three stakeholder meetings.

Conclusion

The Afrobarometer surveys have revealed that African citizens want democracy but are not getting enough of it from their leaders. The values and aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063 that are also espoused in the ACDEG, on whose thrust the AGP is largely premised, require collective efforts from the continent's citizens. There is data-based evidence that to have democratic institutions is a necessary but insufficient condition for democracy, good governance and human rights to prevail. For these to take effect, the agents of the established institutions and the citizenry more broadly, led by organized Pan-African civil society, must live by and reinforce the democratic values that they were created to promote and uphold in order to achieve the aspirations of Agenda 2063. The three meetings convened in East, West and Southern Africa showed that there is enough appetite for collaboration and cooperation between the AGP and Pan- African civil society for the promotion of democracy, good governance and human rights in Africa to make the continent a bastion for positive peace, development and prosperity. It is the "Africa the we want".

Continental
Committee
of NGCs

National
Secretariats
Coordinating
Committee

Research Institute

Peer Review Mechanism (PRM)

230 15th Road, Midrand, South Africa

www.aprm.org

Annexure i: List of Presentations

[Afrobarometer impact stories_18sep22_.pptx](#)

[AGP Platform Presentation September 2022.pptx](#)

[CAPETOWN_ECOSOCC_Ppt 22.09.2022.pptx](#)

[Charter Project Africa SA Presentation Sept 2022- D4GA.pptx](#)

[D4GA Comms Presentation \(1\).pdf](#)

[D4GA Paul overview_2October_NM \(1\).pptx](#)

[DGA Cape Town Advocacy Training 05102022.pptx](#)

[Introduction to Afrobarometer_18sep22_.pptx](#)

[Introduction to the APRM \(Lennon\).pptx](#)

[Justice Mavedzenge presentation session_4Oct22.pptx](#)

[Key findings_18 Sept \(1\).pptx](#)

[Key findings_18 Sept.pptx](#)

[Links from the Charter Project Africa Presentation on Leveraging Civic Technology and Digital Engagement to Citizen Engagement and Accountable Governance\(1\).docx](#)

[Pan African Parliament Presentation to 1st Stakeholder Training on Gov, Dem, Human Rights in Africa 6 Oct 2022.pptx](#)

[Slides for Boni's keynote 3 Oct 22.pdf](#)

Annexure ii: List of Websites

ACDEG	https://au.int/en/treaties/african-charter-democracy-elections-and-governance
ACERWC	https://www.acerwc.africa/en
Africa.Laws	https://laws.africa/
African Lii	https://africanlii.org/
AGA African Union	https://au.int/en/aga
Afrobarometer	https://www.afrobarometer.org/
APRM	https://au.int/en/aprm
CDD-Ghana	www.cddgh.org
ECOSOCC	https://au.int/en/about/ecosocc
IDS (University of Nairobi)	https://ids.uonbi.ac.ke/university-nairobi
IJR	https://www.ijr.org.za/
PAP	https://au.int/en/pap

Annexure iii: Programme (South Africa)

Stakeholders' Convening on Governance, Democracy and Human Rights in Africa – Southern Africa

3-7 October 2022 Cape Town, South Africa

Monday – 3 October 2022

Session 1

Welcome, opening session, keynote speech

Time	Activity	Responsible
9h00-10h30	Welcome, security, about Data for Governance Alliance	Prof Tim Murithi (welcome), Mr Nyasha Mpani (host), Dr Webster Zambara, IJR (facilitator)
	Keynote address elections in Southern Africa	Dr Boniface Dulani, Afrobarometer, University of Malawi
10h30-10h45	Break – group photos, media interviews, tea	Host/facilitator

Session 2

Workshop starts, house rules

Time	Activity	Responsible
10h45-11h15	House rules, introductions, expectations	Facilitator
	The convenings, the broader project and utility for participants	Host

Session 3

Workshop starts, house rules

Time	Activity	Responsible
11h15-11h35	About Afrobarometer	Dr Hmadziripi Tamukamoyo, Afrobarometer
11h35-12h25	Findings from surveys, analysis, publications, Q&A	Ms Josephine Sanny, Afrobarometer
12h25-13h00	Impact stories	
13h00-14h00	Lunch	

Session 3

Data use, visualization

Time	Activity	Responsible
14h00-14h40	Online data analysis platform	Mr Sibusiso Nkomo, Afrobarometer
14h40-15h10	Group work (pairs)	
15h10-15h30	Plenary presentations	
15h30-16h00	Data visualization, Q&A (videos)	
15h30-16h00	Close for the day	Facilitator

Tuesday – 4 October 2022

Session 1

African governance policy and laws, digitization

Time	Activity	Responsible
9h00-9h30	Recap day 1	Facilitator
9h30-10h30	African governance platform policy, digitization legal information, collection of data, future developments	Ms Mariya Badeva-Bright, Laws Africa
10h30-10h45	Break	
10h45-11h00	Q&A	

Session 2

AGP platform, scorecards, issues

Time	Activity	Responsible
11h00-11h30	Emerging issues with data collection, introduction to scorecards, use in advocacy	Dr Justice Mavedzenge, Laws Africa
11h30-12h30	Policy briefs using AGP data, Q&A	
12h30-13h00	Use of the AGP platform, AfricanLii platforms	
13h00-14h00	Group work (individual) and plenary	
	Lunch	

Session 3

Civic technology in governance

Time	Activity	Responsible
14h00-14h20	Enhancing citizen engagement and accountable governance - Why civic technology and digital engagement?	Mr Andrew Songa, Charter Project Africa
14h20-15h00		
15h00-15h30	Approaches to digital civic engagement, examples of digital civic engagement at work, challenges to using digital civic engagement	
	Charter Project Africa demonstration	
	Close for the day	

Wednesday – 5 October 2022

Session 1

Advocacy training for policy action

Time	Activity	Responsible
9h00-9h30	Recap day 2	Facilitator
9h30-10h15	Experience sharing, advocacy work at the local, national, and Pan-African levels, successes, and failures	Dr Nansata Yakubu, Advocacy trainer
10h15-10h45		
10h45-11h00	One-ask advocacy – identifying issues for policy action	
	Break	

Session 2

Advocacy actions, mapping

Time	Activity	Responsible
11h00-11h30	The advocacy cycle and tools	Advocacy trainer
11h30-12h15	The make-up of one-ask advocacy: the levers of power, building and managing networks/coalitions and consensus building	
12:15-12h45	Stakeholder mapping and engagement	
12h45-13h00	Q&A	
13h00-14h00	Lunch	

Session 3

Advocacy messaging

Time	Activity	Responsible
14h00-14h30	Audience segmentation and messaging	Advocacy trainer
14h30-15h00	Communication tools and channels	Ms Efua Idan Atadja, CDD-Ghana
15h00-15h20	Importance of data to advocacy, where and how to access data	Advocacy trainer
15h20-15h40	Data analysis and visualization, employing new information tools	
15h40-16h30	Group work, plenary	
	Close for the day	

Thursday - 6 October 2022

Session 1

Importance of engagement, collaboration, and solidarity

Time	Activity	Responsible
9h00-9h30	Recap of Day 3	Facilitator
9h30-10h30	Southern Africa Situation Analysis - informed by presentations from day 1-3	
10h30-11h00	Introducing Institutions and their work/mandates	
11h00-11h30	Break	

Session 2

Participatory dialogue between civil society and AGA representatives

Time	Activity	Responsible
11h30-13h00	Inter-disciplinary dialogues - roles and responsibilities: good practices, improving collaboration and solidarity	Facilitator
13h00-14h00	Lunch	

Session 2

Participatory dialogue between civil society and AGA representatives

Time	Activity	Responsible
14h00-15h40	<p>Parallel thematic sessions in breakout rooms</p> <p>Breakout Session 1 – promotion and protection of democracy</p> <p>Breakout Session 2 – promotion and protection of good governance</p> <p>Breakaway Session 3 – promotion and protection of Human Rights</p> <p>Breakaway Session 4 – Gender, women, peace, and security</p> <p>Breakaway Session 5 – Emerging Issues and responses</p> <p>Breakaway Session 6 – Media and social media tools and strategies</p>	Facilitator
15h40-16h30	Plenary - report back sessions and discussion of work/action plans	

Friday – 7 October 2022

Session 1

Interactive dialogue, networking, and co-advocacy strategies

Time	Activity	Responsible
9h00-9h30	Recap of Day 4	Facilitator
9h30-10h30	Civil Society dialogue with AGA institutions – dealing with expectations	
10h30-11h30	SWOT Analysis, synthesizing work plans discussed previous day	
11h30-13h00	Lunch	

Session 2

Inclusive conversations to co-create regional and continental agenda

Time	Activity	Responsible
14h00-16h00	Meaningful networking between AGA institutions and civil society – What does it entail?	Facilitator
	Setting the regional advocacy agenda: Key action plans and indicators are linked to available opportunities within AGA institutions and civil society	Advocacy trainer
	Evaluation and Way forward	
	Closing remarks, vote of thanks	Facilitator

Annexure iv: Evaluation Form

Stakeholder Engagement on Governance, Democracy and Human Rights in Africa

Evaluation Form

In order to improve on our work, we kindly request that you complete this evaluation form as truthfully as possible. Please evaluate the following aspects of the engagement meeting by circling the appropriate number on the Likert scale 1 – 5.

1 – Poor; 2 – Average; 3 – Good; 4 – Very Good; 5 – Excellent

Part One: Logistical arrangements

1. Communication in preparation for the workshop

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

2. Food

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

3. Workshop venue (room, gadgets)

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Part Two: Engagement proceedings

Day 1

Session 1: Setting the scene (Welcome, Opening Session, Keynote Address)

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Session 2: Introductions and Expectations

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Session 3: Afrobarometer public data surveys and impact

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Session 4: Data use and visualisation

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Day 2

Session 1: African governance policy and laws, digitisation

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Session 2: AGP Platform, scorecards, issues

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Session 3: Civic technology in governance

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Day 3**Session 1:** Advocacy training for policy action

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Session 2: Advocacy action, mapping

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Session 3: Advocacy messaging

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Day 4**Session 1:** Importance of engagement, collaboration and solidarity: AGA Mandates

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Session 2: Participatory dialogue between civil society and AGA representatives

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Session 3: Identifying intersectional areas, expectations and plans of action

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Day 5

Session 1: Interactive dialogue, networking and co-advocacy strategies

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Session 2: Inclusive conversations to co-create regional and continental agenda

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Session 3: Evaluation and closing remarks

1	2	3	4	5
Comment				

Part Three: Comments on the stakeholder engagement

1. In what ways do you commit to use the knowledge gained at this engagement

2. Comment on the engagement methodology and facilitation

3. The most outstanding aspect of the engagement for me was

Give reason (s)

4. The most disappointing aspect of the engagement for me was

Give reason (s)

5. I recommend the following follow-up steps

- (i) _____

- (ii) _____

6. Any other comment

The End

Report author - Webster Zambara, PhD

Dr. Webster Zambara is the Senior Project Leader in the Peacebuilding Interventions Programme at the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in Cape Town, South Africa. By combining theory and practice, he is a facilitator, trainer, researcher and advisor in the following areas: justice and reconciliation; conflict transformation; mediation; non-violence; peacebuilding; human rights; project monitoring and evaluation. He holds a PhD in Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), and has written, published and presented papers at international conferences and seminars in these key areas.

Taught and mentored by Professor Johan Galtung, the principal founder of Conflict and Peace studies, Dr. Zambara remains dedicated to developing the capacity of local, national and international actors to resolve conflicts creatively to promote positive peace. He has done peace and development work in more than 15 countries across Africa.

Dr. Zambara frequently writes opinion pieces in newspapers, and also participates in media interviews, debates as well as high-level analyses of the political developments in Africa. He is also a guest lecturer at University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University, as well as a PhD examiner at Durban University of Technology. Dr. Zambara's workshops and interventions are renowned for infusing traditional African ethics and values of Ubuntu to creatively find peaceful solutions to conflicts.

Membership:

- UNDP Team of Experts advising the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission in Zimbabwe
- Transformation Research Unit – Department of Political Science, Stellenbosch University
- Lead Facilitator – Alternative to Violence Project (AVP)

