NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON STATE PARTIES REPORTS UNDER THE
African Charter on Democracy Elections and Governance

NYAGATARE, RWANDA
4 – 5 OCTOBER 2018

Programme Booklet
Welcome to the
NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS
CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP
ON STATE PARTIES REPORTS
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African Charter on Democracy
Elections and Governance

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The transformation of the Organization of the African Unity into the African Union (AU) that was formed in 2002 brought a new dimension in the workings of the AU Member States. This was more glaring in respect of the advancement of the democratic and participatory governance on the continent. The AU was partly formed to deal with continental challenges in a new manner that would address their root causes, including addressing the structural causes of conflicts, which are at the core of democratic governance deficits in Africa. Since the inception of the AU, several instruments containing norms and standards have been adopted, including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG). Adopted on 30 January 2007, ACDEG came into force on 15 February 2012. It sets out continental standards and norms on democratic governance, constitutionalism, rule of law, human rights, diversity management as well as transitional justice in Africa.

Central to the AU democratic governance agenda, is the promotion of the ratification, domestication, implementation of and reporting on the AU Shared Values Instruments, including ACDEG. This agenda is premised on a Declaration on the Theme of the Summit: "Towards Greater Unity and Integration Through Shared Values" (Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XVI)). In this decision, the Heads of State and Government noted the challenges in promoting, ratifying and domesticating instruments of Shared Values and reaffirmed their commitment to speed up the ratification and domestication of these instruments. In the same Declaration, the Heads of State and Government urged the African Union Commission (AUC) to put in place measures and modalities to support AU Member States to establish the required capacities and processes for implementing, monitoring and reviewing of domestication efforts. In an effort to give effect to this Declarations, the AU has put in place frameworks and mechanisms, including the African Governance Architecture (AGA).
The AGA is inspired by the Constitutive Act of the AU that expresses the AU’s determination to ‘promote and protect human and people’s rights, consolidate democratic institutions and culture, and ensure good governance and the rule of law’. This determination is buttressed by related objectives and principles contained in Article 3(g and h) and Article 4(m) of the Act on the promotion, protection and respect for human rights, democratic principles and institutions, and good governance. These ideals are further reinforced by norms, pronouncements, decisions and instruments adopted by the AU, in particular the ACDEG which is the legal foundation of AGA.

The mandate of AGA stems from the Decision of the 15th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government (AU/Dec.304 (XV) held in July 2010 which recalled the decision adopted by the 16th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the AU and endorsed by the 14th Ordinary Session of the Assembly to dedicate the theme of the 16th Ordinary Session of the Assembly to the Shared Values of the AU, that was held in Addis Ababa in 2011 and provided a mandate for putting in place a ‘Pan-African Architecture on Governance’. As a result, in 2012 the AUC established AGA as a “platform for dialogue between the various stakeholders” who are mandated to promote good governance and strengthen democracy in Africa, in addition to translating the objectives of the legal and policy pronouncements in the AU Shared Values.

Critical to the workings of the AGA is its institutional framework - the African Governance Platform - which was established as a basis for facilitating harmonisation of instruments and coordination of initiatives in governance and democracy in Africa. The Platform is composed of AU Organs, Institutions and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), with a formal mandate for the promotion and sustenance of good governance, democracy and human rights in Africa. The Platform is mandated to among other things coordinate efforts by its Members aimed at accelerating the elaboration, popularization, domestication, implementation of and reporting on Shared Values Instruments on democracy, elections, governance, human rights and humanitarian assistance across the continent. By implication, the African Governance Platform is the evaluation mechanism for the implementation of the ACDEG as stipulated in Article 45 (c) of the Charter and as elaborated in Rule 4(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the African Governance Platform and its Annex on the State Reporting Guidelines on the Charter.

Thus far, 46 AU Member States have signed, 31 have ratified while 6 have neither signed nor ratified the Charter. The Charter is composed of eleven (11) Chapters, which set out principles and commitments for AU Member States to nurture and consolidate democratic governance in Africa. In the same vein, States Parties to ACDEG are obliged to comply with the Charter obligations, including reporting on the legislative, or other relevant measures taken with a view to giving effect to the principles and commitments of the Charter (Article 49).

To give effect to Articles 44, 45 and 49 of the ACDEG, AUC in close consultation with the African Governance Platform Members developed Guidelines for State Parties Reports under ACDEG. The Guidelines were adopted by the 28th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council on 28 January, 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They are intended to provide a framework to States Parties to report on the legislative, or other relevant measures taken with a view to giving effect to the Charter principles and commitments.
Over the past two decades, Africa has made commendable progress towards peace and stability, socio-economic development and democratisation. With the democratisation wave that swept Africa from the 1990s, the continent has undergone noticeable changes. Today, unconstitutional changes of government, including military coups are universally condemned; elections are the main method of power transfer; and respect for human and peoples’ rights is a universal principle. In addition, inter-state conflicts have greatly reduced, facilitating peace and stability to prevail as key enablers for Africa’s development and democratisation, while constitutional mechanisms based on the rule of law are used to tame excesses of state power. In addition, Africa’s democratisation trajectory has been characterized by coherent national identity, strong democratic institutions, developed civil society and well performing economies. As such, AU Member States have so much to learn from each other about the different pathways through which even the poorest and most unstable countries can become democratic and uphold the provisions of ACDEG.

As such, the ACDEG State reporting process provides an opportunity to State Parties to:

a. Reaffirm their commitments to uphold the provisions of the Charter;
b. Report on efforts undertaken to fulfil their obligations under the Charter;
c. Measure progress towards the implementation of the Charter and assess the effectiveness of national mechanisms involved in the process;
d. Identify obstacles and establish successful collaborative relationships with other State Parties, AU Organs, Institutions and RECs, and national stakeholders; and

e. Identify challenges encountered in the fulfilment of their commitments in the Charter and develop home grown solutions.

Thus far, out of 31 State Parties only one – the Republic of Togo – has submitted its initial State report on the implementation of ACDEG and 25 are due to do so. Only the Republic of Togo has submitted its report. In order to facilitate the submission of State Parties initial reports on the implementation of ACDEG, the Department of Political Affairs as the host for the AGA Secretariat has designed a programme to offer technical assistance to State Parties towards this process. The programme is intended to provide a platform for strengthening national stakeholders’ capacities towards the monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Charter. The programme is also aimed at providing a platform for lessons learning on tracking of the implementation of ACDEG.
The Rwanda National Stakeholders Consultative Workshop on State Parties Reports under ACDEG will focus on the following areas:

• Reflection on the state of democratic governance in Rwanda and an understanding of the Rwanda Governance Scorecard;

• Critical analysis of the challenges and prospects for structural prevention of conflicts in Africa within the context of ACDEG;

• Understanding the Guidelines of State Parties’ Reports under ACDEG, including its linkages to the Rwanda Governance Scorecard;

• Appreciation of existing democratic governance and human rights self-monitoring tools and Treaty Reporting Obligations in Africa;

• Reflection on the role of RECs in the ratification, implementation and reporting on ACDEG;

• Curation of lessons learned by Rwanda from the domestication and implementation of ACDEG; and

• Analysis of the role of civil society organisations, including youth and women organisations in the implementation and reporting on ACDEG.
Goal and Objectives

**Goal**
The overall goal of the Workshop is to provide a platform for national stakeholders in Rwanda to share experiences and comparable lessons towards the implementation, monitoring, evaluation of and reporting on ACDEG.

**Objectives**
Specifically, the Workshop will:

a. Fast-track the designation of National Focal Point for ACDEG in Rwanda;
b. Discuss mechanisms for national stakeholders to organise and centrally facilitate the preparation of State Report on the implementation of ACDEG;
c. Facilitate sharing of experiences and comparable lessons on how to coordinate information gathering and data collection from government entities for reporting on the implementation of ACDEG; and
d. Create an understanding and appreciation of the Guidelines for State Parties Reports under ACDEG.

Expected Outputs and Outcome

**Outputs**
a. Designation of National Focal Point for ACDEG; and
b. Draft Outline of the Republic of Rwanda initial State Report on ACDEG.

**Outcome**
The envisaged outcome of the Workshop is participatory and democratic governance in Rwanda sustained

Methodology
The Capacity Building Workshop will be conducted using a mixture of methodologies including presentations and plenary discussions on selected topics coupled with training sessions and stimulation exercises on organizing, data collection and reporting modalities. The Workshop will be designed to empower participants to learn, share their insights, reflect and engage constructively.

Dates and Venue
The Capacity Building Workshop is scheduled to take place from 4 to 5 October 2018 in Nyagatare, Rwanda.
The Capacity Building Workshop is an initiative of the African Governance Platform convened by the Department of Political Affairs with support from the AGA Secretariat. The Workshop will be convened in collaboration with the Rwanda Governance Board with support from the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda and Development Partners.

Participants for the Capacity Building Workshop will be drawn from all national ministries, agencies and institutions with mandates to promote governance, democracy and human rights, including non-state actors like think tanks and academic research institutions with experience in the same. By default, participants shall constitute the Focal Point for the coordination of monitoring and reporting activities on the implementation of ACDEG as envisaged under Paragraph 9 of the Guidelines for State Parties’ reports under the Charter.

The documentation for the Capacity Building Workshop will be shared electronically, while hard copies of others will be availed to all participants at the Workshop. These will include: Concept Note and Agenda; Logistics Note; ACDEG and its Annex on Guidelines for State Parties’ Reports under the Charter; and ACDEG Status of Ratification.

The Capacity Building Workshop is an initiative of the African Governance Platform convened by the Department of Political Affairs with support from the AGA Secretariat. The Workshop will be convened in collaboration with the Rwanda Governance Board with support from the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda and Development Partners.

The Workshop will be conducted in English and French on location. Working documents will be available in English and French.

For further inquiries, please contact:

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AGENDA

DAY 1
04 OCTOBER 2018

08:30 - 09:00 Registration of Participants

09:00 – 09:20 Opening Session

Moderator: Amb. Salah Hammad - Ag. Head, AGA Secretariat

Welcome Remarks
Dr. Khabele Matlosa
- Director, Political Affairs, AUC

Opening Remarks
Prof. SHYAKA Anastase
- Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda Governance Board

09:20 – 10.30 State of Democratic Governance in Rwanda and Rwanda Governance Score Card

Moderator: Amb. Salah Hammad - Ag. Head, AGA Secretariat

Presenter:
Dr. USENGUMUKIZA Felicien - Head of Research, Rwanda Governance Board

11.00 – 12.00 ACDEG: Challenges and Prospects for Structural Prevention of Conflicts

Moderator: Ethel Sirengo - EAC Liaison Officer to AU

Presenter: Ibraheem Sanusi - Citizens Engagement Lead, AGA Secretariat

Plenary Discussions

12.00 – 13.00 Introduction to Guidelines of State Parties’ Report under ACDEG: Linkages to Rwanda Governance Scorecard

Moderator: Dr. Ndushabandi Eric - Director General, Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP)

Presenter: Rizzan Nassuna - Democracy Assessment and Governance Expert, AGA Secretariat

Plenary Discussions

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 16.00 Tracking Progress Towards the Implementation of ACDEG: Linkages with Existing Self-Monitoring Tools and other Treaty Reporting Obligations in Africa

Moderator: Mr. Edward Kalisa - Secretary General, Rwanda Governance Board

Presenter: Representative of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

Mrs. Zainabo Sylvie Kayitesi – Commissioner, African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR)

Phillipe Sekone Wendyam – Chair Rights Officer, African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)

Mr. Onen David – Principal Political Affairs Officer, East African Community (EAC)

Plenary Discussions

16:30 - 17:00 Tea/Coffee Break and End of Day 0ne
DAY 2
05 OCTOBER 2018

AGENDA

NYAGATARE, RWANDA 4 – 5 OCTOBER 2018

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SESSION 5
9.00 – 10.40
Lessons Learned from the Domestication and Implementation of ACDEG into National Laws in Rwanda

Moderator: Mrs. KAZAIRE Judith - Delivery and JADF, Rwanda Governance Board

Presenter: Nirere Madeleine – Chairperson, National Commission for Human Rights

Ndengeyinka William – Treaty Body Analyst/Senior State Attorney, MINJUST

Plenary Discussions

10.40 – 11.00
Tea/Coffee Break

SESSION 6
11.00 – 13.00
Role of Civil Society Organisations, including Youth and Women Organisations in the Implementation of and Reporting on ACDEG

Moderator: Mr. Mahoro Uwitonze Eric – Deputy Executive Director, Never Again Rwanda (NAR)

Presenter: Sekanyange Jean – Chairperson & Spokesperson, Rwanda Civil Society Platform (RCSP)

Mr. Mwesigwa Robert – Executive Secretary, National Youth Council

Kamanzi Jacqueline – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF)

Plenary Discussions

SESSION 7
14.00 – 15.00

Moderator: Dr. Khabele Matlosa -Director, Political Affairs, AUC

Plenary Discussions

SESSION 8
14.00 – 16.00
Closing Remarks

Moderator: Amb. Salah Hammad - Ag. Head, AGA Secretariat

Presenter: Dr. Khabele Matlosa -Director, Political Affairs, AUC

Prof. SHYAKA Anastase - Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda Governance Board

16:30 - 17:00
Tea/Coffee Break and End of Workshop