



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI



Wilton Park

Programme

Kenya's Good Governance Moment: at home, regionally, and globally

1030-1330 GMT /1330-1630 EAT

Monday 15 and Friday 19 March 2021 | WP1911V

To be held virtually

Since the creation and sharing of an inclusive and progressive Constitution in 2010, Kenya has reached many democratic milestones including the adoption of a more decentralized governance structure of 47 county governments and the formulation of action plans to counter violent extremism (with the participation of community members, religious leaders, security officials, and government representatives). Devolution was born of the real challenges that Kenyans had grappled with since independence, including the need for accountable exercise of power, effective self-governance, equitable social and economic development and public participation. But work still needs to be done to achieve governance structures that are more inclusive, transparent, and accountable and to strengthen national policies and institutions that support this ambition.

In addition to devolution and support to country governments, several key themes will underpin the ambitions for peaceful and credible elections. These include the administration of free and fair elections supported by the free press, key engagement with civil society to ensure it plays an important role in ongoing government oversight, and countering ongoing attacks by violent extremist groups within Kenya's borders.

In a politically complex region, it is important that Kenya remains a bulwark of democracy and stability. Against a backdrop of Kenya's non-permanent seat on the UNSC (2021-22) and a seat on the AU-PSC over the same timeframe, Kenya has the opportunity to highlight how it can role-model open societies and support global and regional institutions in enforcing the international rules-based order. How Kenya conducts itself domestically will have a wider regional and global bearing, all important at a moment when Kenya is well-positioned to optimise its influence around the globe.

This virtual meeting will bring together key stakeholders from both the public and private sector to explore the key issues around governance in Kenya and identify recommendations for developing and extending ongoing work to achieve positive structural change. Participation will include international regional and domestic good governance experts, stakeholders in devolution, civil society organisations and faith groups, the private sector and business community as well as representatives from the executive, judiciary, legislature and other key electoral and governance bodies.

The meeting seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Identify the means and measures for building a strong and independent open society, identifying lessons – positive and negative - from the period since the 2010 Constitution.
- Identify appropriate linkages between Kenya's state and non-state actors and determine how the international community can best support.
- Identify the means to ensure that Kenya's 2022 elections can be inclusive, fair and peaceful
- Identify how Kenya can use the opportunities of the current period, including its non-permanent seat on the UNSC and building back from COVID-19, to project and progress good governance regionally and globally.

In partnership with the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi and with support from the British High Commission in Nairobi

Monday 15 March

1030-1050 GMT /
1330-1350 EAT

Welcome and introduction

Nick Linfield

Programme Director, Wilton Park

Stephen Kiama Gitahi

Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi

Jane Marriott

High Commissioner, British High Commission, Nairobi

1050-1140 GMT /
1350-1440 EAT

1. Promoting electoral accountability

Plenary session; speakers will open the session with brief remarks to stimulate the subsequent round table discussion.

With particular focus on ensuring electoral accountability, the rule of law, devolution and service delivery, this session will explore: how Kenya can champion electoral accountability domestically; and what needs to be done to address the issues of misinformation which could potentially undermine the election? Participants will be asked to reflect on how promoting constitutionalism in Kenya will contribute to Kenya's security and prosperity.

Joyce Ekuam

Director Voter Education, Partnerships and Communications, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, Nairobi

Irūngū Houghton

Executive Director, Amnesty International Kenya, Nairobi

1140-1230 GMT /
1440-1530 EAT

2. Civic engagement and public participation

Plenary session; speakers will open the session with brief remarks to stimulate the subsequent round table discussion.

The 2010 constitution promoted democracy and enhanced people's participation in democratic and governance processes. Ten years on there are many lessons on how Kenya can take its open society to a new level. This session will examine the following questions: What lessons should we take from the 2010 Constitution? How to ensure that

citizens - including women, youth, and other marginalized groups - are actively engaged and have their voices heard? How should independent institutions, judiciary, civil society and media freedoms be supported and protected? What role should political leaders, CSOs, church leaders, business representatives, the international community and other groups play, particularly with regard to the 2022 elections?

Abraham Rugo Muriu

Country Manager for Kenya, International Budget Partnership, Nairobi

1230-1320 GMT /
1530-1620 EAT

3. Breakout groups

Breakout groups plus 15 mins feedback.

Four themes:

- I. Free media - What should the role of the media be and how can free media exist? How can the media support a free, fair and credible election and act against electoral violence?

Facilitator: Pamella Sittoni

Executive Editor, Nation Media Group, Nairobi

- II. Women's political participation – How to promote political representation for women? How to tackle violence towards women in office, locally and in the media?

Facilitator: Florence Kajuju

Chairperson, The Commission on Administrative Justice, Nairobi

- III. Independent institutions – How to support strong and independent institutions? Which institutions and functions are essential to ensure a free, fair and credible election?

Facilitator: Grace Maingi

Executive Director, Uraia Trust, Nairobi

- IV. Business – the role of business in promoting and supporting good governance

Facilitator: Paul Kamau

Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi

1320-1330 GMT /
1620-1630 EAT

4. Summary of Day 1

Patrick Kwasi Brobbey

PhD Candidate, University of Edinburgh

Friday 19 March – Day 2

1030-1050 GMT /
1330-1350 EAT

1. Welcome and recap of day 1

Nick Linfield

Programme Director, Wilton Park

Karuti Kanyinga

Research Professor & Director, IDS – University of Nairobi

1050-1150 GMT /
1330-1450 EAT

2. Kenya's moment: influencing good governance regionally, and globally

Plenary session; speakers will open the session with brief remarks to stimulate the subsequent round table discussion.

What lessons has Kenya learned through its and others role in shaping peace, security, and good governance regionally? How can Kenya build on the advances of the last

decade to optimise its influence and build on the active role it has developed through, for example, the EAC and the African Union? What global opportunities does the UNSC seat provide? What lessons from the intersection of COVID-19 and democracy can Kenya share with the global community?

Monica Juma

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Nairobi

Peter Anyang' Nyong'o

Governor, Kisumu County, Kisumu

Daniel Musinga

Judge, Court of Appeal, Nairobi

Nic Cheeseman

Professor of Democracy, University of Birmingham

1150-1245 GMT /
1450-1545 EAT

3. Breakout groups: recommendations for action

Breakout groups plus 15 mins feedback

Three themes:

1. International relationships: what are the key themes that Kenya should champion during its 'moment'?

Facilitator: Njoki Wamai

Assistant Professor, International Relations Department, United States International University-Africa (USIU-A), Nairobi

2. The role of regional institutions (IGAD, AU, EAC, etc) in promoting good governance.

Facilitator: Paul Kamau

Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi

3. Civil society and media – the role of civil society and the media in promoting and supporting good governance

Facilitator: John-Allan Namu

Senior Anchor and Researcher, Africa Uncensored, Nairobi

1245-1310 GMT /
1545-1610 EAT

4. Conference recommended actions

A plenary discussion following on from the breakout groups to identify implications and recommendations for positive actions, outcomes and the methods for progressing these.

1310-1330 GMT /
1610-1630 EAT

5. Concluding remarks

Karuti Kanyinga

Research Professor & Director, IDS – University of Nairobi

Tiffany Kirlew

Political Counsellor, British High Commission, Nairobi

Nick Linfield

Programme Director, Wilton Park