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News release

AU Amb. Hammad underscores critical role of D4GA data training in driving Agenda 2063

The Data for Governance Alliance (D4GA) series of regional stakeholder engagements ended on a high note in Nairobi, with Amb. Salah Hammad, Head of the African Union (AU) African Governance Architecture (AGA) Secretariat, underscoring the importance of the data in shaping policies.

"As we go with this process of building the Africa we want, data has become extremely important in making policies and decisions that are in favour of building the continent, and also promoting good governance, democracy, and the rule of law," he told participants at the European Union- funded D4GA workshop. The convening focuses on equipping pan-African CSOs with data-driven tools and knowledge to collaborate effectively with the African Union's African Governance Architecture and national governments.

"The Data for Governance Alliance stakeholder convening coincides with the African Union's efforts to strengthen democracy and good governance, and we are benefitting from all the knowledge and skills that this partnership provides," Amb. Hammad said.

The workshop, the final in a series of regional convenings in 2023, offered hands-on training in data analysis, data-based advocacy and effective communications to pan-African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Themed "Enhancing governance, democracy, and human rights in Africa: Empowering pan-African civil society to effectively use data to enhance advocacy.

Brian Kagoro, Managing Director of Programmes at Open Society Foundations urging participants to champion data-driven policies in Africa.

"Policies in Africa should be evidence- and data-driven. Data is key in controlling the narrative and direction of policy debate. We cannot continue relying on data generated outside the continent. It is time for Africa to generate its own data," Karogo said.

Participants engaged with the Afrobarometer [online data analysis tool](#) and the [AfricanLii platform](#) that houses thousands of African Union legal documents. This practical experience has informed advocacy campaigns addressing critical issues, including youth



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empowerment, climate change, unconstitutional changes of government, elections, and child welfare.

Karuti Kanyinga, Director of the Institute for Development Studies, charged the CSO representatives to leverage good quality data to enhance their advocacy efforts.

"We have data that speak very good realities about Africa, and we need to use them to appeal to the conscience of our leaders in order for them to make choices and better interventions on governance, development, democracy and human rights," he urged.

The convening brought together representatives from pan-African CSOs and four African Union organs – the African Peer Review Mechanism, the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption, the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council. This year, the D4GA has trained a total of 60 CSO representatives in data analysis and advocacy in South Africa, Ghana, and Kenya

About Data for Governance Alliance

The Data for Governance Alliance is a four-year project that promotes data-based advocacy and engagement between pan-African civil society organisations (CSOs) and African Union organs. The project is led by Afrobarometer with partners including the Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi, the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, and Laws.Africa. The project is funded by the European Union.

Media inquiries:

Josephine Sanny

Afrobarometer communications and knowledge Manager

Email: jappiah@afrobarometer.org

Telephone: +233243240933



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Afrobarometer (AB) is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network, headquartered in Accra, Ghana, that has conducted surveys, analysis, outreach, and capacity building on democracy, governance, freedom, and related issues in 39 African countries. AB's work is grounded in the belief that African societies thrive when African voices count in public policy and development. Website: <https://afrobarometer.org/>



**Ghana Center for
Democratic Development**

The Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), based in Accra, Ghana, focuses on the promotion of democracy, good governance, and economic openness in Ghana and Africa through investments in research and advocacy, outreach, and strategic dialogues and engagements within and between government, private sector, and other key actors. CDD-Ghana is also an AB core partner.
Website: <https://cddgh.org/>



The **Institute for Development Studies (IDS)**, based at the University of Nairobi in Kenya, is a multi-disciplinary research and training institute. Its focus is on promoting socio-economic and political development in East Africa through the application of research findings to development policies and promoting dialogue across public, private, and non-state actors. IDS is an AB core partner.
Website: <https://ids.uonbi.ac.ke/university-nairobi>.



The **Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR)**, based in Cape Town, South Africa, is one of Africa's leading transitional-justice organisations. Born out of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, IJR uses inclusive and multi-stakeholder dialogue as a foundation to constructively engage on harmful legacies of the past. IJR is an AB core partner. Website: <https://www.ijr.org.za>





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