**Data for**
**Governance Alliance**
African voices for African policy



# Report on Stakeholder Engagements

**Enhancing human rights in Africa: Building capacity for advocacy on education, climate change, and elections**

August and September 2024

**Accra, Ghana I Cape Town, South Africa I Nairobi, Kenya**

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# Acknowledgments

## Rangariro (Remembrance)

# Dr. Webster Zambara
*A beloved colleague and friend*
*A life well-lived*

**Webster** was more than just a colleague; he was a mentor, a friend, and a beacon of wisdom and kindness. His infectious laughter, sharp wit, and genuine care for others made him a beloved figure among his peers.

*A man of many talents* **II** *A skilled facilitator* **II** *A gifted writer* **II** *A passionate advocate* **II** *A champion for justice, peace, and human* rights.

**A mentor:** He generously shared his knowledge and experience, guiding and inspiring those around him.

**A legacy of learning and laughter:** Webster's legacy extends beyond his professional achievements. His infectious laughter, sharp wit, and unwavering dedication to his work will be deeply missed.

He was a man who lived life to the fullest, always eager to learn and share his knowledge with others. His memory will forever be cherished. As we mourn his loss, let us celebrate his life and continue to honor his legacy by striving for peace, justice, and human rights.

## List of acronyms

| | |
|---|---|
| **AB** | Afrobarometer |
| **ACDEG** | African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance |
| **ACERWC** | African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child |
| **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 Center for Democratic Development |
| **CSOs** | Civil Society Organisations |
| **D4GA** | Data for Governance Alliance |
| **ECOSOCC** | Economic, Social and Cultural Council |
| **ECOWAS** | Economic Community of West African States |
| **EUC** | European Union Commission |
| **IDS-UoN** | Institute for Development Studies (University of Nairobi) |
| **IJR** | Institute for Justice and Reconciliation |
| **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 |
| **TJ** | Transitional Justice |
| **UCG** | Unconstitutional Change of Government |
| **UN** | United Nations |
| **WADEMOS** | West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network |

## About the Data for Governance Alliance (D4GA)

The Data for Governance Alliance (D4GA) is a consortium of five organizations led by Afrobarometer (AB). They include the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), the University of Nairobi (IDS-UoN), the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR), and Laws Africa. Afrobarometer coordinates the consortium's activities.

D4GA currently collaborates with 15 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) across East, West, and Southern Africa. The consortium's initiatives aim to strengthen collaboration between Pan-African CSO networks and members of the African Governance Platform (AGP) to advance the AGP agenda and the AU Agenda 2063.

# 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) in August and September 2024 under the theme **'Enhancing Human Rights in Africa: Building Capacity for Advocacy on Education, Climate Change, and Elections.'**

Civil society organizations (CSOs), African Union (AU) organs, and experts examined the current state of human rights and its impact on children, youth, education, governance, peace, elections, climate change, and transitional justice. CSOs continue to lead on these issues with crucial roles in advocating for reforms and monitoring early warnings, and together with the AU organs will lead change. Experts led presentations on each theme, initiating discussions that highlighted concerns,and proposed cogent recommendations and road maps for partnerships.

The convenings also fostered greater cooperation among CSOs and the AU Organs and other stakeholders to support the realization of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The enhanced collaboration improves access to technical expertise, better understanding of institutional collaboration, effectiveness, enhanced technical capacity for cocreation of advocacy programs, and improved capabilities for assessing data driven evidence initiatives.

# Key outcomes

**Climate change** emerged as a major concern, with participants recognizing its disproportionate impact on Africa. Discussions focused on the continent's struggle with extreme weather events, deteriorating agricultural conditions, and rising migration due to environmental degradation. Africa is disproportionately affected by climate change, with extreme weather events, worsening agricultural conditions, and increased migration due to environmental degradation. Over 60% of Africans believe that the conditions for agriculture have worsened.

**Human Rights** concerns continue to increase, particularly as signs of democratic backsliding and weakened governance emerge. These concerns include increased restrictions on fundamental freedoms, especially freedom of expression. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights plays a critical role in monitoring, protecting, and promoting human rights across the continent.

Access to **Education** varies widely between urban and rural areas, with only 9% of rural residents attaining post-secondary education. Key challenges include gender disparities, violence in schools, and the disruption of education due to conflict-related school closures.

**Trust in Elections** continues to decline, even as commitment to the democratic process remains strong. Political instability has further eroded public confidence in electoral systems. While a majority of Africans still view elections as effective in removing inefficient leaders, there has been a noticeable drop in public trust. Although 75% of Africans continue to support elections, this figure has declined over the past decade. Concerns about the fairness and credibility of elections, particularly regarding transparency and potential manipulation, remain pressing.

**Democratic backsliding and human rights violations** remain critical challenges across Africa. Participants highlighted growing concerns, particularly around restrictions on freedom of expression. They called on AU organs to strengthen collaboration with CSOs to effectively monitor and promote the implementation of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

**Transitional justice mechanisms** are crucial for addressing historical wrongs and building trust in societies affected by conflict. However, effective implementation faces challenges, particularly in securing political support and resources.

**Data-Driven Advocacy for Change:** Presentations by Afrobarometer and Laws.Africa showcased data analysis tools that enable CSOs to access free, country-specific data to strengthen their advocacy efforts, especially on issues like gender equality and gender-based violence. Notable disparities in climate awareness, human rights conditions, and electoral integrity across the continent underscore the importance of these tools in helping CSOs hold governments accountable and push for evidence-based reforms.

**Equipping CSOs for Effective Advocacy** CSOs received training in digital advocacy and strategic communication, with a focus on leveraging data and digital tools to enhance their impact. The training emphasized building strong coalitions, crafting compelling messages, and using multimedia platforms to raise awareness. CSOs also strengthened their skills in tracking progress, co-creating advocacy initiatives, and implementing joint monitoring and evaluation plans to ensure more coordinated and effective advocacy efforts.

# Key recommendations

■ Increase advocacy for the protection and promotion of migrant workers' rights, inclusive education, policies to address the impact of climate change on coastal communities, and the implementation of transitional justice mechanisms.

■ Strengthen collaboration between CSOs and AU organs, such as ECOSOCC, APRM, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, to enhance monitoring, reporting, and promotion of human rights and governance standards.

■ Utilize data and digital tools to support advocacy efforts, including using the Afrobarometer's online data analysis tool and the AfricanLii platform, to hold governments accountable and raise awareness on key issues.

■ Engage with the AU Youth Envoy to advocate for youth inclusion in decision-making processes and the operationalization of youth-related policies.

■ Align transitional justice efforts with the African Union Transitional Justice Policy and the UN Guiding Principles to address the long-term impacts of colonialism and slavery on African populations.

■ **Education inequality requires action.**
The discussions emphasized disparities in access to education, particularly between rural and urban areas. Gender disparities were also highlighted, with a focus on the lack of menstrual hygiene facilities contributing to girls' absenteeism. Speakers addressed how violence and instability lead to school closures, particularly in conflict zones like the Sahel.

# Summary: Reflections on post-2023 convenings

## Key achievements

- Increased collaboration between CSOs and AGA members through joint events, webinars, capacity building workshops, and Pan-Africa partnerships.
- Successful bridging of the gap between the AU and CSOs through ECOSOCC's efforts.

## Challenges

- Limited engagement with AU organs beyond the initial seven involved in the project.
- Limited human capital within AU organs hindering collaborative initiatives.
- Inconsistent progress reports and updates from some CSOs.
- Networking and collaboration challenges among Pan-Africa CSOs.
- Difficulties in engaging at the national level.

## ECOSOCC's role:

- ECOSOCC has played a crucial role in facilitating dialogue and collaboration between the AU and CSOs.
- It serves as an advisory organ, providing expertise and guidance to the AU.
- ECOSOCC is committed to enhancing human rights in Africa and supporting the education sector.
- It faces challenges but remains open to engaging with CSOs.

## Reflections

- ECOSOCC has provided a platform for CSOs to seek support and advocate for their causes.
- The dedication of 2024 to education offers an opportunity for CSOs to address inequalities and support the girl child.
- There is a need for greater advocacy and support for children, especially girls.

## Key takeaways from Q&A

- Human rights are claimed, not given, and require continuous engagement to promote it.

- ECOSOCC supports the safe school declaration and works to address child recruitment into conflicts.

- ECOSOCC provides support to CSOs at both continental and national levels.

- Impact assessment is essential for documenting and disseminating good practices.

- ECOSOCC encourages greater information sharing and collaboration among CSOs.

- Data-driven advocacy and evidence-based approaches are crucial for influencing governments.

*Overall, the post-2023 convenings highlight the growing collaboration between CSOs and the AU, while also identifying challenges that need to be addressed for sustained progress.*

# Section 1
# Background

The Data for Governance Alliance (D4GA) aims to equip African civil society organizations (CSOs) with data-driven tools and knowledge to effectively engage with the African Union's (AU) Governance Platform and national governments. The project seeks to foster collaboration between AU organs and Pan-African CSOs to advance governance, democracy, and human rights throughout Africa.

The project, titled "Enhancing Pan-African Civil Society Participation and Engagement with the African Governance Platform (AGP) in Protection and Promotion of Democracy, Governance, Human, and People's Rights in Africa," focuses on data-based advocacy by Pan-African CSO networks concerning governance, democracy, and human rights issues within the AGP. The project highlights the global decline in the commitment to and integrity of the rule of law, with many African countries struggling with leaders wanting to hold onto power for so long, erosion of human rights, and judicial systems that are not able to give timely, affordable and accessible justice to their citizens.

The D4GA consortium aims to address these challenges by equipping African CSOs with data and skills to advocate effectively for improved governance and rule of law at national and continental levels.

The project's objectives include raising awareness among African citizens about AU organs' work, collecting and popularizing information on national implementation of continental commitments and efforts, facilitating access to African Governance Architecture (AGA) Protocols and decisions, providing CSOs with tools and strategies for governance and human rights advocacy, and ultimately enhancing governance, democracy, and human rights in Africa.

The D4GA project has conducted and will continue to implement activities across five workstreams. These activities aim to collect and analyze public attitude data on governance, develop an online information platform, offer workshops and training to policy actors and advocates, create opportunities for CSO-AGA consultation and collaboration, and disseminate knowledge products through various channels.

Specifically, D4GA has collected data on governance through Afrobarometer surveys and used this data to generate publications on critical issues. It has also developed an online platform with over 10000 AU documents.

Additionally, D4GA has conducted regional convenings to train CSOs on data access and use, and to facilitate collaboration between CSOs and AU members.

Finally, D4GA has been actively disseminating knowledge products through traditional and digital channels.

**The D4GA project has conducted and will continue to implement activities across five workstreams:**

- **Data collection and analysis:** D4GA has collected data on public attitudes towards governance through Afrobarometer surveys and used this data to produce publications on critical issues.

- **Online information platform:** D4GA has developed an online platform serving as a resource for information on the AGP agenda.

- **Workshops and training:** D4GA has conducted workshops to train CSOs on accessing and using data for advocacy on AGP-related issues.

- **CSO-AGA collaboration:** D4GA has facilitated collaboration between CSOs and AU members through regional convenings and webinars.

- **Communications:** D4GA has disseminated knowledge products through traditional and online channels to reach a wider audience.

# The convenings



The Data for Governance Alliance (D4GA) Consortium convened three meetings across West, Southern, and East Africa between September and October 2022 to promote collaboration between Pan-African civil society and the African Governance Platform (AGP) in advancing democracy, governance, and human rights in Africa. The meetings marked the launch of a three-and-a-half-year project funded by the European Union Commission (EUC) and led by Afrobarometer to achieve these goals through data-based advocacy and engagement. The convenings were repeated in 2023 and 2024 with varied topics and themes. The topics for each convening were considered based on critical governance, democracy and human rights issues making news and affecting the continent. The AU themes for the year were also considered.

The project aims to address the stalling progress in democracy, good governance, and human rights across Africa.

It seeks to increase African citizens' awareness of AGP organs, facilitate access to AGP Protocols and decisions, and strengthen AGP and African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 implementation.

The project is motivated by the declining quality and frequency of publicly available data for key categories in Africa, coupled with a lack of awareness and visibility of the AGP agenda. It seeks to tackle these impediments and enhance CSO participation in the AGP success.

The three regional meetings were highly successful in achieving their objectives, as evidenced by the enthusiasm among participants and the collaborative spirit demonstrated. The meetings successfully engaged seven out of nine targeted AGP organs and fostered a strong inclination towards leveraging Afrobarometer data for Africa's development.

The meetings emphasized the importance of data-based decisions in achieving the aspirations of Agenda 2063, highlighting the existing collaboration between CSOs and AGP organs in this area. They also underscored the potential of Afrobarometer data to promote policy making based on grounded research.



## Recommendations

Strengthening collaboration between Pan- African CSO networks and AGP

Conducting joint capacity-building efforts

Utilizing media and information technology

Formalizing relations

Increasing awareness of the AGP agenda

Using Afrobarometer data to influence AGP agenda



Overall, the three meetings laid the groundwork for a fruitful collaboration between Pan-African CSOs and AGP organs in advancing democracy, governance, and human rights in Africa. The successful engagement and recommendations generated during the meetings provide a promising outlook for the project's potential to contribute to the implementation of Agenda.

# The stakeholder engagements



The stakeholder engagements were highly successful, marked by overwhelming enthusiasm and active participation. Seven out of the nine targeted AGP organs participated, all expressing strong interest in leveraging Afrobarometer data to advance Africa's development.

Africa has made progress in advancing governance, democracy, and human rights, but new developments like unconstitutional changes of government, third termism, terrorism, and climate change threaten these gains. The COVID-19 pandemic worsened these challenges, widening fault lines and worsening human rights situations.

The three regional meetings created platforms for collaboration between CSOs and AGA organs to discuss the importance of data-based decisions towards achieving Agenda 2063.

The dialogues highlighted existing partnerships between CSOs and AGP organs, while also revealing that the use of Afrobarometer data to inform evidence-based decision-making represents a promising new frontier for collaboration.

Recommendations include strengthening collaboration between Pan-African CSO networks and AGP, conducting joint capacity building efforts, using media and information technology, formalizing relations, increasing awareness of the AGP agenda, and using Afrobarometer data to influence AGP agenda.

# 2022 Convenings



Between September and October 2022, the Data for Governance Africa (D4GA) consortium convened three regional meetings in West Africa (Accra, Ghana), Southern Africa (Cape Town, South Africa), and East Africa (Nairobi, Kenya). Held under the theme *"Enhancing Pan-African Civil Society Participation and Engagement with the African Governance Platform (AGP) in the Protection and Promotion of Democracy, Governance, and Human and Peoples' Rights in Africa,"* the meetings helped reinvigorate relationships between Pan-African CSOs and AGA Platform members. They provided a structured platform for meaningful engagement and dialogue between civil society actors and AGP institutions.

- Built capacity of Pan-African CSOs to access and efficiently use data for advocacy on governance, democracy and human rights issues in Africa.

- Built capacity of Pan-African CSOs on various advocacy techniques to guide development and use of advocacy tool kit in their work.

- Created platform for interactions between the AGA Platform members and Pan-Africa CSOs to get more insights into the work of the AGA organs.

- Connected Pan-African CSOs with AGA Platform members to continue their engagements.

# 2023 Convenings



- Held in South Africa, Ghana, and Kenya.

- Focused on youth challenges, unconstitutional government changes, access to justice, elections, climate change, and child welfare.

- Used data from Afrobarometer surveys and Laws.Africa's legal document platform.

- Provided training on data analysis tools for CSOs and AU organs.

- Aimed to improve governance, democracy, and human rights in Africa.



# 2024 Convenings



- Held in Nairobi, Accra, and Cape Town

- Sought to address negative impacts on education, governance, peace, elections, and climate change

- Aimed to build capacity for CSOs and AU organs to advocate for change

- Utilized online and physical participation for wider inclusivity

- Enhanced Expertise and Skills

- Comprehensive Progress Evaluation

- Strengthened Collaboration(s)

- Co-created Advocacy Programs

- Agreed to implement Joint Monitoring and Evaluation programs.

## Participants

- AU organs and institutions
- CSO partners from each region
- D4GA consortium members
- Local media representatives
- Private sector and academia

**Achieved goal**

*Strengthened collaboration between CSOs and AU organs to work strategically towards Africa with better human rights and development*

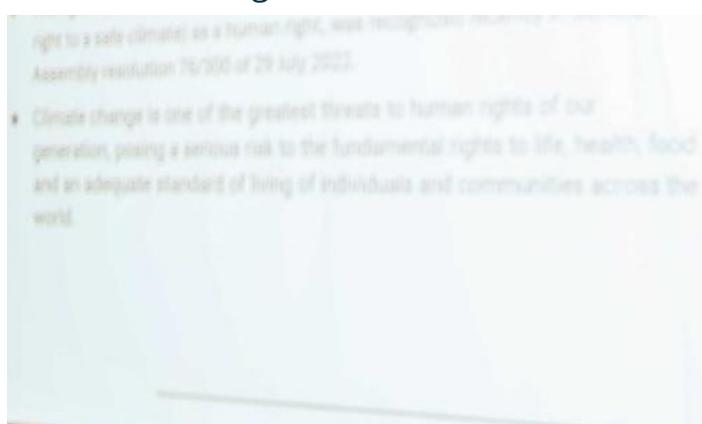# Summary of presentations by partner organizations

The presentations by D4GA CSOs highlighted the importance of the D4GA [Advocacy Manual](#) and Afrobarometer data in their research and advocacy work. The CSOs shared insights from their projects, including the use of Afrobarometer data to inform public policy briefs, opinion articles, and citizen engagement strategies.

They also emphasized the importance of building relationships and partnering with AU organs like ECOSOCC, AGA, the Pan African Parliament, and the APRM. The partners articulated that, over the period, networking and collaboration with other D4GA CSOs, AGA organs and respective national level policy makers formed the core of their activities through the use of AB data for research, and advocacy tools from preceding convening.

Overall, the presentations highlighted a strong focus on human rights, governance, and social justice in Africa. Many organizations expressed a desire to collaborate with other CSOs and the AU to achieve their goals.

The CSOs expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate in AU-level engagements and highlighted the importance of upscaling and access to resources in multiple languages. They also noted challenges in engaging with AU organs and the need for more expeditious processes for research outputs.

*The D4GA partners in the three D4GA focus regions (East Africa, West Africa, and the Southern Africa) shared their work focus, experiences and interventions made since the last convening in 2023, at each of the 2024 regional convenings.*

# East Africa Partners

## Human Rights Watch (HRW)

- **Focus:** Elections, human rights violations, civic space, media freedom, accountability, poverty, and inequalities in Africa

- **Goals:** Engage with AU organs and regional mechanisms, promote government accountability, and collaborate with other CSOs

- **Impact:** Long-term, but has influenced laws and AU responses

## Africa Youth Trust

- **Focus:** Youth-led advocacy on youth and governance

- **Goals:** Conduct capacity building, implement projects in East Africa and SADC, engage in policy development, and network with other organizations

- **Impact:** Developed East Africa youth policy, trained youth on budget processes, and interacted with the AU

## East Africa Civil Society Forum

- **Focus:** Umbrella body for CSOs in East Africa

- **Goals:** Convene, conduct capacity building, research, and community engagements

- **Impact:** Learned about AB data, seeks to forge more networks, and collaborates with governments

## Siasa Place

- **Focus:** Devolution, politics, and accountability

- **Goals:** Collaborate with other CSOs, learn from each other, and improve collaboration with the AU

- **Impact:** Used AB data for research on women, youth, 16 days sustained advocacy and activism, and employment

## Haki Yetu

- **Focus:** Amplifying voices of vulnerable people through policy advocacy, awareness creation, research, and data-driven advocacy

- **Goals:** Create linkages with AU organs and network with other CSOs and research institutions

- **Impact:** Published on killings of elderly, created a documentary on the same, and seeks to collaborate with others

## West Africa Partners

### West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)

- Engaged with ECOWAS Ambassadors to understand the regional body's stance on climate

### Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)

- Focused on access to information and how to use data to improve the rights of people affected by climate change

### Parliamentary Network Africa (PNA)

- Built media capacity to report on and engage with the Pan African Parliament (PAP).

- Established parliamentary monitoring organizations and the PAP CSO forum for CSO engagement with Mps.

### Anchito Foundation For Self-Help

- Youth-led organization focused on youth development and information dissemination at the local level

- Developed Youth Manifesto to guide youth advocacy for youth centered policies

### Save my Children Foundation

- Used advocacy tools from previous convenings to implement a borehole project in Techiman

- Aims to understand climate change's impact on community health.

# Southern Africa Partners

## DDP

- Used Afrobarometer data to improve advocacy and fundraising efforts, resulting in significant programmatic support funds

- Participated in CSO forums facilitated by the Pan-African Parliament and APRM

## IPPR

- Provided training to smaller CSOs on using Afrobarometer data and the D4GA Advocacy Manual

- Published opinion pieces and hosted Afrobarometer survey launch events. Worked closely with the APRM on information sharing

## Democracy Works Foundation

- Provided training to smaller CSOs on using Afrobarometer data and the D4GA Advocacy Manual

- Published opinion pieces and hosted Afrobarometer survey launch events. Worked closely with the APRM on information sharing

## Centre for Democracy and Human Rights

- Published a Fair Tax monitor using Afrobarometer data

- Identified key priority areas for climate change and youth political participation. Participated in Pan African Parliament forums and online engagements

## Good Governance Africa

- Used the advocacy manual to refine their advocacy strategy and identify collaboration opportunities

- Participated in gender justice initiatives and worked closely with AU organs

- Used Afrobarometer data to produce policy papers and participated in Summer Schools

# Section II
## Synthesis of thematic areas

### Outcome Statement: Human Rights and Democracy in Africa

The state of human rights in Africa is inextricably linked to the quality of democracy. While progress has been made, challenges persist, including the erosion of democratic principles limited access to justice, and violations of fundamental rights.

## Key findings

**Public perception:** While a majority of Africans feel free to participate in political processes, concerns remain about police conduct, government transparency, and economic conditions.

**Human rights violations:** Freedom of expression is under threat, with internet shutdowns and threats to journalists reported.

**Institutional challenges:** The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights faces challenges in dissemination and collaboration with civil society.

**Economic hardship:** Poverty rates remain high, affecting access to basic rights and livelihoods.

**Trust in Institutions:** Religious leaders are generally more trusted than government institutions.

## Recommendations

**Strengthen democratic institutions:** Promote fair and inclusive elections, enhance the rule of law, and ensure accountability of government officials.

**Protect human rights:** Uphold freedom of expression, protect journalists, and address violations of other fundamental rights.

**Improve governance:** Enhance transparency, accountability, and access to information for citizens.

**Address economic challenges:** Implement policies to reduce poverty, create jobs, and improve livelihoods.

**Strengthen civil society:** Support the role of civil society organizations in monitoring human rights, advocating for reforms, and providing legal aid.

**Enhance egional cooperation:** Strengthen the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and support its efforts to promote and protect human rights.

**Invest in education:** Promote education and awareness about human rights to empower citizens and build a culture of respect for fundamental freedoms.

## Outcome statement: The state of education in africa

The state of education in Africa remains deeply concerning, characterized by significant disparities in access, quality, and equity. Despite progress made in recent years, numerous challenges persist that hinder the continent's development potential.

## Key findings

- **Limited access:** A significant portion of Africans, particularly women and those in rural areas, lack formal education. This is exacerbated by factors such as poverty, genderbased challenges, and the absence of nearby schools.

- **Poor quality:** Education quality is compromised by issues such as high student-teacher ratios, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of teacher training. This contributes to low learning outcomes and limited skills development.

- **Inequity:** Education is often inequitable, with disparities based on gender, location, and socio-economic status. This perpetuates existing inequalities and limits opportunities for marginalized groups.

- **Corruption:** Corruption in the education sector, including bribery and nepotism, undermines access and quality for many

- **Policy gaps:** Governments have fallen short in delivering on their obligation to make education accessible, affordable, and relevant to the needs of the 21st century

## Recommendations

- **Increased investment:** Governments should allocate adequate resources to education, ensuring that funding is equitable and efficient.

- **Improved infrastructure:** Investing in school infrastructure, including classrooms, laboratories, and libraries, is essential for providing quality education

- **Teacher development:** Teacher training and professional development should be prioritized to enhance their skills and capacity.

- **Equity measures:** Policies and programs should be implemented to address disparities in access and quality, ensuring that no child is left behind.

- **Anti-corruption measures:** Strengthening accountability and transparency in the education sector is crucial to combat corruption.

- **Partnerships:** Collaboration between governments, civil society organizations, and development partners is essential for addressing the challenges facing education in Africa.

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## Elections: The key issues include the following

### Despite challenges, Africans support democratic elections:

**75% of Africans still support democratic elections for choosing leaders.**

**However, this support has declined slightly over the past decade.**

**Recent coups, unconstitutional change of governments and concerns about manipulation have eroded trust in some countries.**

### Youth participation:

**Youth (under 35) are the largest demographic group, but face barriers to voting.**

**Many African countries lack policies to promote youth participation.**

**Minimum age requirements for some political offices exclude youth.**

**The African Youth Charter is under-utilized.**

### Recommendations for strengthening elections:

- Address declining trust by tackling election disputes and instability.
- Encourage multiparty systems, especially where unpopular.
- Minimize voter intimidation and fear of retribution.
- Improve the perception and reality of free and fair elections.
- Strengthen civil society monitoring of elections throughout the cycle.
- Implement the African Youth Charter to promote youth participation.
- High voter turnout overall, with rural and older populations voting more.
- Despite process concerns, many prioritize leaders who deliver basic needs.
- Civil society needs to adapt its work to changing political cultures.
- Technology has both potential and risks for elections.

### Emphasis on:

- Educating and mobilizing youth for political participation
- Addressing the root causes of voter apathy, such as economic disenfranchisement.
- Holding governments accountable for delivering on promises.
- Ensuring effective implementation of election observer recommendations.
- Finding alternative ways to improve electoral processes and outcomes, if the current approaches are seen as ineffective.

# Climate change

Despite increasing evidence of the devastating impacts of climate change on African communities, the continent's response to the crisis remains inadequate. While there is growing awareness of the issue and some efforts to mitigate its effects, the pace and scale of action are insufficient to address the urgency of the situation. The interconnectedness of climate change and human rights is not fully recognized, and the potential of indigenous knowledge to inform climate projections is underutilized.

## Recommendations

**Strengthen the Integration of Climate Change and Human Rights:**

- **Policy Development:** Governments should develop comprehensive climate change policies that explicitly address human rights implications. This includes ensuring that climate actions do not exacerbate existing inequalities or create new ones.

- **Rights-Based Approaches:** Adopt a rights-based approach to climate change, recognizing that the impacts of climate change disproportionately affect vulnerable populations.

- **International Cooperation:** Advocate for international cooperation to address climate change, emphasizing the need for climate justice and the equitable distribution of burdens and benefits.

**Enhance Climate Adaptation and Resilience**:

- **Community-Based Approaches:** Support community-based adaptation initiatives that leverage local knowledge and resources to build resilience.

- **Early Warning Systems:** Invest in early warning systems to provide timely information on extreme weather events.

- **Infrastructure Development:** Prioritize climate-resilient infrastructure, particularly in vulnerable areas.

**Promote Sustainable Development:**

- **Green Growth:** Transition to low-carbo,TJ, sustainable development pathways that prioritize economic growth while minimizing environmental harm.

- **Renewable Energy:** Invest in renewable energy sources to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

- **Sustainable Agriculture**: Promote sustainable agricultural practices that enhance food security and reduce greenhouse gas emissions**.**

**Leverage Indigenous Knowledge:**

- **Integration:** Incorporate indigenous knowledge into climate projections and decision-making processes.

- **Community Participation:** Ensure that indigenous communities are actively involved in climate-related initiatives.

**Strengthen Governance and Accountability:**

- **Transparency:** Improve transparency and accountability in climate governance, including the use of public funds.

- **Civil Society Engagement:** Foster active participation of civil society organizations in climate policy development and implementation.

- **International Cooperation:** Strengthen international cooperation to address climate change, including through mechanisms for sharing knowledge and resources.

# Transitional justice

To foster sustainable peace, justice, and reconciliation in Africa, it is imperative to implement comprehensive transitional justice (TJ) mechanisms that address the root causes of conflict, including colonial legacies, socio-economic disparities, and corruption. These mechanisms should be inclusive, participatory, and aligned with international standards while respecting African cultural contexts.

## Recommendations

- **Prioritize Mental Health and Psychosocial Support:** Integrate mental health and psychosocial support into TJ efforts, adopting a trauma-informed and victim-centered approach. Allow victims to choose their preferred healing path, including opting out of court processes if desired.

- **Strengthen Democratic Institutions:** Address democratic deficits by promoting fair elections, strengthening independent institutions, and ensuring accountability of government officials.

- **Empower Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):** Support CSOs to advocate for TJ and hold governments accountable. Provide resources and training for CSOs to effectively participate in TJ processes.

- **Address Colonial Legacies:** Acknowledge and address the lasting impacts of colonialism on African societies. Explore avenues for reparative justice and restitution, considering international standards and African-specific approaches.

- **Promote Economic Justice:** Address socio-economic inequalities to ensure equitableaccess to resources and opportunities.  Implement policies that promote inclusive growth and reduce poverty

- **Adopt a Comprehensive TJ Approach:** Combine judicial and non-judicial mechanisms, incorporating traditional justice systems where appropriate. Ensure that TJ processes are inclusive, participatory, and culturally sensitive.

- **Strengthen Institutional Frameworks:** Establish independent and transparent bodies to oversee TJ processes. Provide adequate funding and resources for these institutions.

- **Align TJ Efforts with Development Goals:** Integrate TJ into broader development agendas, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda 2063.

- **Promote Regional Cooperation:** Encourage regional cooperation and knowledgesharing among African countries to strengthen TJ efforts.

- **Advocate for International Support:** Seek international support, including financial assistance, technical expertise, and advocacy, to implement effective TJ programs.

# Section III
## Key learning

**Effective Multichannel Communication Strategies for Advocacy:** The training provided valuable insights into developing effective multichannel communication strategies for advocacy. Key points discussed included:

### Importance of Multimedia Approaches:

- Utilize various channels to reach different target audiences, including the general population, affected groups, governments, and regional neighbours.

- Consider using traditional media (radio, television, newspapers), social media, roundtable discussions, and protests.

### Effective Communication Strategies:

- **Data-driven storytelling:** Use compelling statistics and research to support arguments.

- **Tailored messaging:** Create messages that resonate with specific target audiences.

- **Traditional and non-traditional platforms:** Utilize a mix of channels to reach a wider audience.

- **Effective messaging:** Craft clear and concise messages that convey key points.

- **Coalitions:** Build partnerships with other organizations to amplify impact.

- **Powerful imagery:** Use visuals to evoke emotions and drive engagement

- **Dialogue:** Create opportunities for dialogue with stakeholders.

### Role of AI in Communications:

- AI can enhance efficiency and support various tasks, but should not replace human creativity.

- Use AI as a tool to complement human efforts, not as a substitute.

- Leverage AI tools for content creation, audience analysis, and social media management.

### Practical Tips for Content Creation:

- Establish a unique online brand identity.

- Define key stakeholders and messaging.

- Develop content pillars.

- Create templates for consistency. Stock up on content.

- Document processes.

- Build organizational capacity with tools and platforms.

### Challenges and Solutions:

- **Funding constraints:** Seek alternative funding sources or pool resources with other organizations.

- **Limited expertise:** Invest in expert media engagement strategists and equipment.

- **Digital literacy:** Provide training and resources to enhance digital skills.

# Section IV
# Key issues and recommendations

## The Erosion of Democracy: A Global Crisis; and the Need for Civic Action

In recent years, the foundations of democracy have faced unprecedented challenges globally. From the rise of authoritarian regimes to the erosion of civil liberties, the democratic ideals that once seemed unshakeable are now under siege. This erosion is particularly evident in the context of human rights, governance, and the rule of law.

Professor Karuti Kanyinga's timely analysis, on "the Question of Human Rights, Governance, and Democracy" underscored the alarming erosion of democratic principles and institutions worldwide. From the rise of right-wing populism and xenophobia to the direct assault on democratic symbols like the U.S. Capitol, the foundations of democratic governance are under siege. This global democratic recession is exacerbated by the failure to uphold the rule of law and the rights of all citizens, particularly marginalized groups.

In Africa, the legacy of colonial rule continues to cast a long shadow over contemporary democratic struggles. The colonial state, designed to protect the interests of privileged settlers, established a system where rights and privileges were disproportionately distributed based on wealth and race. This discriminatory framework has persisted, undermining the principles of equality and justice that are essential for a functioning democracy.

## Transitional Justice and Human Rights in Africa: Looking forward to a better Africa

In a keynote address, 'Chief Justice Emeritus, Justice David Maraga emphasised that, to enhance transitional justice and human rights in Africa, it is imperative to strengthen judicial institutions, promote public trust in the judiciary, and address systemic challenges hindering the effective protection of human rights. Referencing George Orwell's "Animal Farm", he highlighted the inequality that exists within societies, even 'when there is a pretense of equality'. He argued that conflicts are often preceded by a breakdown of law and order and lead to systemic abuse of human rights. Thus, there is the need for stronger institutions to prevent conflicts and highlight the role of courts in providing equal protection to individuals and groups.

The contending issues facing African countries are the lack of guaranteed judicial independence; judges facing intimidation and lack of adequate funding, political interference, and low public trust. It is important for CSOs to undertake advocacy to build trust in the courts and address the factors that contribute to low trust, such as impunity, weak legal systems, and social and cultural challenges.

CSOs can also implement robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks, invest in capacity building, and utilize data to inform their work. Ultimately, CSOs working with the judiciary will amplify people's involvement in the judiciary, demystify the courts processes and, measuring progress through data will ensure the importance of justice for all when the analysis or findings are disseminated.

In the discussions, Professor Paul Kamau validated these assertions with the country case of Kenya, detailing that to a large extent, the Kenyan judiciary has been hindered by a lack of political will and a culture of impunity in addressing human rights abuses and implementingtransitional justice.

Despite efforts by CSOs and judicial rulings, the government has failed to address issues such as the disappearance of human rights defenders, the abuse of power by state officials, and the recommendations of truth and reconciliation commissions. The judiciary's role has therefore been limited by its inability to enforce its rulings and its dependence on the executive branch.

Invariably, the lack of gains in democratic dividends is what has led to 'democracy being under attack in Africa' due to declining governance indicators and trust in institutions. He also argues that transitional justice, which includes reconciliation, nation-building, and constitutionalism, is crucial for promoting or restoring democracy.

Conflict often leads to a decline in the rule of law and human rights, and courts must play a key role in promoting transitional justice across the continent. However, the independence of courts can also be limited by factors such as limited funding and political interference. Citizens continue to articulate the importance of trust and confidence in the judiciary for the rule of law to be effective.

## Climate Change: A Call for Collective Action in Africa

The keynote address by Dr. Edem Selormey highlighted the disproportionate impact of climate change on Africa, as evidenced by the worsening of agricultural conditions and the increase in extreme weather events. The clarion call is the need for urgent and collective action to address these pressing issues.

She highlighted the need for collective action citing Afrobarometer data that shows over 60% of Africans believing agricultural conditions have worsened due to climate change. Extreme weather events and climate change-induced migration have also become more prevalent, compounding the effects.

Dr. Selormey emphasized the importance of early warning systems, resource management, and climate-resilient infrastructure to protect vulnerable communities. She also discussed the weakening of global climactic processes, such as the AMOC, and the financial constraints hindering implementation efforts.

Participants raised concerns about climate change as a human rights issue and the potential role of CSOs in advocating for government action. They also noted the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, thereby making it a gendered issue as well.

## Importance of collaboration between Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the African Union (AU)

Professor Cheryl Hendricks emphasized the importance of collaboration between Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the African Union (AU) to address issues like elections, climate change, education, human rights, and transitional justice. She advocated for data-driven governance and CSO programming to improve responses to these challenges.

Regarding education, Professor Hendricks criticized the lack of quality education in Africa, leading to unequal outcomes and further inequality. She highlighted the disparity between private and public schools in South Africa as an example.



She noted Africa's disproportionate burden of cost in terms of climate change impact despite contributing the least to global warming. She called for disaster management strategies and citizen-inclusive approaches to mitigate climate change effects. Meanwhile on human rights, she condemned the suppression of civil rights and the decline in trust in governments, but praised South Africa's approach in the aftermath of the 2024 elections as i maturing democracy and promoting inclusive dialogues.

Professor Hendricks' call to action for the CSOs was to purpose and continue defending hardwon rights by engaging multi stakeholders in participatory processes.

## The Power of Data for Governance

Ambassador Hammad Salah emphasized the importance of data-led governance for informed decision-making in advancing good governance and democracy in Africa. He called for increased use of research data in policy responses and encouraged D4GA actors to communicate research outcomes effectively. He also highlighted the need to strengthen the African Peer Review Mechanism and engage with the AGA-African Peace and Security Architecture. He urged D4GA actors to not only analyse data but also communicate research findings to citizens, governments, and the media in a clear and accessible manner. *"By doing so, we can empower Africans to understand and utilize data for their own benefit,"* he added.



Ambassador Salah emphasized the critical link between human rights, peace, security, good governance, and development as essential pillars for securing the dividends of democracy. He identified key internal threats to democracy and good governance, including ethnic conflicts, civil wars, one-party dominance, and political repression. While acknowledging some progress in strengthening democratic institutions across the continent, he noted that democratic regression remains a significant and pressing challenge.

He emphasized the importance of implementing the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance (ACDEG) and called for universal ratification, implementation, and submission of state reports.

Ambassador Salah also addressed Africa's peripheral status in the global political economy and the need for greater independence. He acknowledged the role of international capitalism but emphasized the importance of identifying new ways of disengaging from external support. He called for educational system reforms to build the continent we need and emphasized.

> *In today's interconnected world, data has become an indispensable asset. It is the cornerstone of informed decision making, good governance, and democratic progress.' Though unfortunately, research data is often overlooked by policymakers across Africa, leading to a dearth of evidence-based policy responses'.*

*Ambassador Hammad Salah*

## ECOSOCC Recommits to Citizen-Driven Solutions and Educational Advancement

Mr. Bright Sefah, expressively outlined the mutual benefits of the partnership with D4GA and how this aligns in promoting advocacy initiatives aligned with Aspiration 3 of Agenda 2063. He emphasized the importance of citizendriven solutions for addressing human rights challenges and achieving continental development.

The ECOSOCC therefore reaffirms the partnership with D4GA, with the commitment to advancing human rights, democracy, and inclusive education in Africa.



He added that, the areas for expanded work are citizen-driven solutions and the need for improved foundational literacy and numeracy skills, and increased investment in STEM education as underpinned by the AU theme for 2024. The ECOSOCC therefore encourages CSOs to actively participate in its initiatives and utilize its resources to contribute to Africa's development agenda.

## Enduring sub-themes of importance discussed included:

- **Global Decline in Democracy:** The erosion of democratic principles and institutions worldwide, particularly evident in the rise of right-wing populism and attacks on marginalized groups.

- **Colonial Legacy of Inequality:** The enduring impact of colonial structures on African governance, characterized by the protection of privileged elites and the marginalization of the poor and vulnerable.

- **Eroding Trust in Institutions:** Decreasing public confidence in formal institutions, including governments and the judiciary, in Africa.

- **Challenges for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):** The evolving role and challenges faced by CSOs in promoting democracy and accountability in Africa.

## Recommendations

- **Prioritize Climate Adaptation:** Governments should invest in early warning systems, resource management, and climate-resilient infrastructure to protect vulnerable communities from the adverse effects of climate change.

- **Promote Climate Justice:** CSOs should advocate for policies that address the human rights implications of climate change, particularly for marginalized groups such as women.

- **Strengthen International Cooperation:** Governments and international organizations should collaborate to address the global challenges of climate change, including financial constraints and the weakening of global climatic processes.

- **Foster Public Awareness:** CSOs should raise awareness about climate change and its impacts, encouraging citizens to demand accountability from their governments.

- **Integrate Climate Action into Development Plans:** Governments should incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures into their national development plans to ensure sustainable and resilient development.

- **Strengthen Democratic Institutions:** Invest in strengthening democratic institutions, including electoral commissions, judiciaries, and civil societies, to ensure their independence and effectiveness.

- **Promote Human Rights and Equality:** Advocate for the protection of human rights, particularly for marginalized groups, and work to address systemic inequalities.

- **Hold Governments Accountable:** CSOs and the media should play a more active role in holding governments accountable for their actions and ensuring adherence to democratic principles.

- **Address the Colonial Legacy:** Develop policies and programs that address the ongoing impact of the colonial legacy on African societies, particularly in terms of inequality and governance.

- **Support CSOs and Independent Media:** Provide financial and logistical support to CSOs and independent media to enable them to effectively promote democracy and hold governments accountable.

- **Empower Marginalized Groups:** Work to empower marginalized groups, such as women, youth, and ethnic minorities, to participate fully in the democratic process and advocate for their rights.

- **Promote Regional Cooperation:** Foster regional cooperation among African countries to address shared challenges and strengthen democratic governance.

- **Strengthen data-driven governance:** Promote the use of data for informed decisionmaking. and evidence-based policy.

■ **Judicial Independence and Funding:**
  • Ensure the independence of the judiciary through legal safeguards and institutional mechanisms.

  • Allocate adequate and timely funding to the judiciary to support its operations and enhance its capacity.

  • Establish transparent and accountable mechanisms for budget allocation and expenditure.

■ **Public Trust and Confidence:**
  • Promote public awareness of human rights and the role of the judiciary in protecting them.

  • Implement measures to enhance public trust in the judiciary, such as improving transparency, accessibility, and accountability.

  • Address systemic issues such as impunity, political interference, and weak legal systems that erode public confidence.

■ **Capacity Building and Training:**
  • Invest in capacity building and training for judicial personnel to improve their knowledge and skills in human rights law and practice.

  • Support the development of specialized courts and tribunals to handle cases of human rights violations.

■ **Reform education systems:**
  Implement educational reforms that align with Africa's development needs and reduce external influence.

■ **Data-Driven Approach:**
  • Utilize data and evidence to inform policy decisions and monitor progress in human rights protection.

  • Invest in research and data collection to identify gaps and challenges in the implementation of transitional justice mechanisms.

■ **Civil Society Engagement:**
  • Strengthen the role of civil society organizations in promoting human rights and advocating for justice.

  • Support CSOs in implementing robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess progress and identify areas for improvement.

■ **People-Centered Approach:**
  • Ensure that the judiciary operates in a manner that is accessible and responsive to the needs of the people it serves.

  • Involve communities in the design and implementation of transitional justice programs

■ **Advocate for democratic principles:** Support the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance (ACDEG) and address challenges related to democratic regression.

■ **Promote economic independence:** Explore ways to reduce Africa's reliance on external support and influence.

- **Engage with the African Union:** Actively participate in the African Union's processes and support the implementation of Agenda 2063.

- **Promote gender equality and youth empowerment:** Implement gender-inclusive approaches and projects that empower women and youth.

- **Continued Citizen-Driven Solutions:** D4GA and ECOSOCC should foster and support citizen-driven initiatives that address human rights challenges and promote democratic governance.

- **Investment in Education:** Governments and international organizations should prioritize investment in education, particularly foundational literacy, numeracy, and STEM education, to equip Africans for the 21st century.

- **Enhanced CSO Engagement:** ECOSOCC should continue to facilitate multistakeholder engagement and provide resources to strengthen the capacity of CSOs to participate effectively in the development process.

- **Utilization of ECOSOCC Resources:** CSOs are encouraged to actively engage with ECOSOCC's online platforms, attend in-person forums, and utilize resources such as the 2024 CSO Manual for Engagement

# Section V
# Consolidating partnerships

**Civil Society and the AU AGA Platforms:** The training provided valuable insights into developing effective multichannel communication strategies for advocacy. Key points discussed included:

## Areas for further engagement

- **Strengthening electoral integrity:** CSOs can play a crucial role in monitoring elections and ensuring accountability of election management bodies.

- **Promoting inclusive development:** CSOs should advocate for the inclusion of marginalized groups, such as youth, women, and persons living with disabilities, in development processes.

- **Enhancing AU-CSO collaboration:** The AU should create more accessible platforms for CSO engagement and provide adequate resources for their participation in AU initiatives.

- **Advocating for human rights:** CSOs can work with the ACHPR to monitor human rights violations and ensure the implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

- **Improving governance:** CSOs can contribute to the APRM by participating in selfassessments and holding governments accountable for their commitments.

## Challenges and recommendations

- **Bureaucratic hurdles:** CSOs face challenges in accessing AU institutions and navigating bureaucratic procedures. The AU should simplify these processes to facilitate collaboration.

- **Resource constraints:** Many CSOs lack adequate funding and resources to effectively carry out their work. Increased support from the AU and other donors is needed.

- **Lack of visibility:** Some AU institutions, such as ECOSOCC and the APRM, are not well-known or accessible to CSOs.

## Recommendations for CSOs

- **Utilize available platforms:** CSOs should actively participate in AU forums, such as the annual citizen's forum, to raise their concerns and advocate for their priorities.

- **Build partnerships:** Collaborate with other CSOs and AU institutions to strengthen their impact and leverage resources.

- **Engage in research and advocacy:** Conduct research to inform their advocacy efforts and use evidence-based approaches to influence policy decisions.

- **Strengthen their capacities:** Invest in capacity building to enhance their skills and knowledge in areas such as advocacy, monitoring, and reporting.

**Charter Africa**

**Expand financial and technical support** to CSOs to enable them to conduct comprehensive election observations and monitoring throughout the pre-, during, and post-election phases.

**Promote the adoption** of the Action for a Holistic Electoral Approach for Democracy (AHEAD)-Africa initiative to ensure effective follow-up of election observer mission recommendations.

**Facilitate collaboration** between CSOs and election management bodies (EMBs) to enhance transparency and accountability in electoral processes.

**Strengthen electoral integrity:** Promote the implementation of the AHEAD-Africa initiative to ensure follow-up on election observer mission recommendations.

**Economic, Social, and Cultural Council**

**Increase representation** of ECOSOCC in all AU member states to foster stronger AU-CSO partnerships.

**Advocate for domestication** of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) to promote democratic consolidation.

**Adopt inclusive approaches** to development challenges, addressing the needs of youth, women, and persons living with disabilities.

**Streamline bureaucratic processes** within the AU to facilitate efficient collaboration with CSOs.

**Encourage CSOs** to actively participate in the annual citizen's forum and other AU platforms to influence policy decisions.

**Enhance CSO engagement:** Encourage CSOs to participate in the annual citizen's forum, promotional campaigns, and the AHEAD-Africa initiative.

**African Peer Review Mechanism**

**Support more member states** in completing self-assessment reviews and encourage CSOs to participate in developing shadow reports.

**Foster collaboration** between CSOs and in-country reviewers to enhance the quality of APRM assessments.

**Strengthen the APRM's capacity** to enforce recommendations and hold member states accountable for implementing reforms.

**Increase youth engagement** Advocate for increased youth engagement in global platforms like the G20.

**African Court on Human and People's Right**

**Grant observer status** to more CSOs to enable them to effectively monitor human rights on the continent.

**Facilitate collaboration between** CSOs and the ACHPR to advocate for citizen's rights and ensure the implementation of Commission recommendations.

**Provide technical support t**o CSOs to enhance their capacity to engage with the ACHPR and monitor human rights violations.

## General Recommendations

- Improve communication and coordination between AU organs and CSOs to ensure effective collaboration and timely engagement.

- Address language barriers to facilitate greater participation of CSOs from Lusophone countries.

- Utilize digital platforms to enhance information dissemination and engagement with CSOs.

- Support CSOs in capacity building and training to strengthen their ability to contribute to AU initiatives.

- Create a more conducive environment for CSOs to operate freely and without fear of reprisal.

- Prioritize human rights: Focus on enhancing human rights in Africa, as outlined in Agenda 2063.

- Strengthen partnerships: Foster stronger partnerships between CSOs and AU organs to promote democracy, good governance, and inclusive development.

## Section VI
## Synthesis of proposed projects and indicators

### Human Rights

**Key Challenges:** Homophobic attacks, violence against women, restrictions on freedom of information, and government inaction.

• **Potential Projects:**
  o Advocacy campaigns: Raise awareness about human rights violations, lobby for policy changes, and support victims.

  o Capacity building: Train CSOs and community leaders on human rights monitoring, documentation, and advocacy.

  o Legal aid: Provide legal assistance to victims of human rights abuses.

### Education

**Key Challenges:** Inequality in access, poor quality, and violence in schools.

• **Potential Projects:**
  o Education campaigns: Advocate for increased funding, improved teacher training, and reduced school fees.

  o Community mobilization: Empower parents and communities to demand quality education.

  o Monitoring and evaluation: Track progress on education indicators and identify areas for improvement.

### Transitional Justice

**Key Challenges:** Lack of political will, resource constraints, and social divisions.

• **Potential Projects:**
  o Truth commissions: Establish truth commissions to investigate past abuses and promote reconciliation.

  o Reparations programs: Design and implement reparations programs for victims.

  o Legal reforms: Advocate for legal reforms to ensure accountability and justice'

### Climate Change

**Key Challenges:** Climate-induced displacement, food insecurity, and government inaction.

• **Potential Projects:**
  o Climate justice campaigns: Advocate for climate justice and equitable resource distribution.

  o Community adaptation: Support communities in adapting to climate change through sustainable practices.

  o Policy advocacy: Influence climate policies at the national and international levels.

**Data-Driven Approach:**
  o Utilize data to identify key issues, target specific populations, and measure impact.

  o Employ data visualization techniques to effectively communicate findings to stakeholders.

  o Leverage digital tools for data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

**Targeted Advocacy:**
  o Tailor messages to specific audiences, considering their needs, values, and beliefs.

  o Build strong relationships with key stakeholders, including government officials, civil society organizations, and community leaders.

  o Utilize amulti-pronged approach, combining traditional and digital advocacy methods.

**Capacity Building:**
  o Invest in the capacity of CSOs and community organizations to effectively address these issues.

  o Provide training on advocacy skills, strategic planning, and project management.

  o Facilitate knowledge sharing and networking among CSOs.

**Sustainability**
  o Develop long-term strategies for sustainability, including funding diversification and institutional strengthening.

  o Build local ownership and leadership to ensure the continuity of projects.

  o Monitor and evaluate the impact of projects to inform future interventions.

## Advocacy Planning

| Area | Objective | Key Advocacy Messages |
|------|-----------|----------------------|
| **Climate Change** | Examine socio-economic impacts, conduct research, examine | Climate action justice now, plant a tree save a life |
| **Education as a Human Right** | Improve quality of education, establish student-teacher ratios, review curriculum | Education is the greatest equalizer,educate a child, build a generation |
| **Elections** | Promote peace, cohesion, and political dialogue | #MyVoteMyLife; Every Voter's Voice Matters, My |
| **Transitional Justice, Peace, and Security** | Increase women's participation, enhance justice, peace, and security | Healing together = Justice for all |
| **Human Right** | Promote and protect rights of migrant workers | #MigrantRightsAreHuman Rights |

## Joint Advocacy Action PlansAdvocacy Planning

| Result Area | Outputs | Outcomes | Impact | Indicators | Verification |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Climate Change** | **1.** Research reports on socio-economic impacts and climate change<br>**2.** Awareness campaigns and materials<br>**3.** Capacity building programs<br>**4**. Policy recommendations and advocacy materials | **1.** Increased community awareness about climate change<br>**2.** Improved community resilience to climate change<br>**3.** Informed policymaking and implementation | **1.** Reduced vulnerability to climate change<br>**2.** Improved livelihoods and well-being<br>**3.** Sustainable environmental practices | **1.** Number of people reached by awareness campaigns<br>**2.** Participation rates in capacity building programs<br>**3.** Number of policies influenced<br>**4.** Changes in community | Surveys, interviews, document analysis, monitoring reports |
| **Education as a Human Right** | **1** .Training programs for teachers<br>**2.** Revised curriculum<br>**3.** Policy recommendations and advocacy materials<br>**4.** Community engagement activities | **1.** Improved teacher capacity<br>**2.** Aligned curriculum with socio-economic needs<br>**3.** Policy reforms in the education sector<br>**4.** Increased school enrollment and attendance | **1.** Improved student learning outcomes<br>**2.** Increased access to quality education<br>**3.** Reduced dropout rates<br>**4.** Improved socioeconomic outcomes | **1.** Number of teachers trained<br>**2.** Adoption of revised curriculum<br>**3.** Policy changes implemented<br>**4.** Enrollment and attendance rates | Surveys, interviews, document analysis, school performance data |
| **Elections** | **1.** Conflict mapping and analysis reports<br>**2.** Peacebuilding initiatives and campaigns<br>**3.** Media monitoring reports<br>**4.** Advocacy materials and campaigns | **1.** Reduced incidence of election related violence<br>**2.** Increased voter participation<br>**3.** Peaceful and credible elections<br>**4.** Enhanced democratic governance | **1.** Peaceful election processes<br>**2.** Reduced political polarization<br>**3.** Strengthened democratic institutions<br>**4.** Increased citizen trust in electoral processes | **1.** Number of peace building activities conducted<br>**2.** Media coverage of peaceful elections<br>**3.** Voter turnout rates<br>**4.** Incidence of election related violence | Surveys, interviews, media monitoring, election observation reports |

| Result Area | Outputs | Outcomes | Impact | Indicators | Verification methods |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Transitional Justice, Peace, and Security** | **1.** Awareness campaigns and trainings<br>**2.** Policy recommendations and advocacy materials<br>**3.** Support for women's participation in decision-making | **1.** Increased awareness of women's rights<br>**2.** Increased women's participation in peace processes<br>**3.** Improved access to justice for women | **1.** Reduced gender-based violence<br>**2.** Increased women's representation in decision-making bodies<br>**3.** Improved access to justice for victims of conflict | **1.** Number of women participating in peace processes<br>**2.** Number of women in leadership positions<br>**3.** Number of cases of gender-based violence reported and | Surveys, interviews, document analysis, legal aid case records |
| **Human rights of migrant workers** | **1.** Awareness campaigns and legal aid services<br>**2.** Advocacy materials and campaigns<br>**3.** Policy recommendations and lobbying efforts | **1.** Increased awareness of migrant worker rights<br>**2.** Improved access to justice for migrant workers<br>**3.** Policy reforms to protect migrant workers' rights | **1.** Reduced human rights violations against migrant workers<br>**2.** Improved working conditions for migrant workers<br>**3.** Increased access to legal aid and justice | **1.** Number of migrant workers receiving legal aid<br>**2.** Number of cases of human rights violations reported and resolved<br>**3.** Policy changes to protect migrant workers | Surveys, interviews, legal aid case records, monitoring reports |

## Evaluation

At the end of each stakeholder meeting, participants completed evaluation forms. The summative evaluations revealed a high level of satisfaction with the relevance of the discussions. All sessions were rated highly on the Likert scale, averaging 80%, and were widely regarded as informative. Participants particularly appreciated the opportunity to acquire valuable advocacy skills, which they intend to apply in their own programs. Additionally, engaging with diverse AGA Platforms and gaining insights into their mandates was well-received.

The communication skills training was also recognized as an essential component of effective advocacy work. If the commitments made during the meetings are fulfilled, the proposed joint activities will serve as concrete evidence of their success.

## Conclusion

The future of human rights advocacy in Africa is poised for growth and challenges. While emerging trends like increased youth involvement and regional cooperation offer promising avenues, persistent gaps such as limited awareness and enforcement challenges hinder progress.

Despite public desire for democracy, the Afrobarometer surveys underscore the need for stronger leadership. Achieving the aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063 requires collective action from all citizens. Data suggests that democratic institutions alone are insufficient for realizing good governance and human rights.

The three regional meetings highlight the potential for collaboration between the AGP and Pan-African civil society. By embracing democratic values and working together, Africa can create a continent that is a beacon of positive peace, development, and prosperity.

To address these challenges, youth and CSOs should collaborate and engage with AU organs like the PSC and ECOSOCC. They should also focus on research, support data collection, and advocate for the implementation of existing laws. Regional cooperation through networks like EACSO can strengthen advocacy efforts and provide opportunities for engagement and collaboration.

The discussions on human rights advocacy in Africa highlight the need for a more strategic and collaborative approach. While there are numerous opportunities for engagement with African Union (AU) institutions like the Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOCC), there are also significant gaps that need to be addressed.

### Emerging Trends and Opportunities

**Youth Engagement:** The AU is increasingly recognizing the importance of youth participation in shaping policies. CSOs can play a crucial role in empowering young people to advocate for their rights and participate in decision-making processes.

**Research and Data:** CSOs can provide valuable research and data to support the work of AU institutions like the PSC. This can help inform policy decisions and ensure that advocacy efforts are evidence-based.

**Regional Collaboration:** Regional networks like the East African CSOs Forum (EACSO) provide opportunities for CSOs to collaborate, share experiences, and strengthen their advocacy efforts.

## Challenges and Gaps

**Limited Awareness:** Many young people are unaware of their rights or the mechanisms available to protect them. CSOs can help address this by raising awareness and providing education on human rights issues.

**Lack of Collaboration:** CSOs often work in silos, limiting their impact. Greater collaboration and coordination among CSOs can help amplify their voices and achieve more significant results.

**Gender Disparity:** Gender inequality persists in many African countries, affecting women's access to rights and opportunities. CSOs can advocate for gender equality and promote women's empowerment.

## Recommendations

**Strengthen Youth Engagement:** CSOs should invest in youth capacity building and create platforms for young people to participate in advocacy efforts.

**Enhance Collaboration:** CSOs should work together to form strong networks and coalitions that can amplify their voices and influence policy decisions.

**Utilize Data and Research:** CSOs can conduct research and collect data to inform their advocacy efforts and provide evidence-based recommendations.

**Advocate for Policy Change:** CSOs should engage with AU institutions and national governments to advocate for policies that protect human rights and promote social justice.

**Improve Communication:** CSOs should enhance their communication strategies to ensure that their work is visible and accessible to a wider audience.

By addressing these challenges and seizing the opportunities available, CSOs can play a vital role in shaping the future of human rights advocacy in Africa and ensuring that the rights of all individuals are protected. Overall, the future of human rights advocacy in Africa is promising, but it requires continued efforts to address existing challenges and seize emerging opportunities. By working together and leveraging regional cooperation, youth and CSOs can make a significant impact on promoting human rights in Africa.

# Gallery

## Annexures

1. **Annexure I: Reports of 2024 Convenings (East, Southern and West Africa)**

2. **Annexure II: List of Websites**

3. **Annexure III: Sample Agenda (Kenya)**

4. **Annexure IV: Evaluation Form (2024 Convenings)**

5. **Preliminary D4GA Impact**

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