



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

Accra, Ghana
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News release

“Data in the hands of African civil society is a powerful instrument for change” – Prof. E. Gyimah-Boadi

The Data for Governance Alliance (D4GA) Continental Reflections on Democracy, Governance, and Human Rights in Africa convening was recently held in Accra, Ghana, bringing together 60 civil society leaders, policy makers, and development partners from across the continent to examine emerging challenges to democratic governance and identify practical pathways for strengthening accountability, human rights, and citizen participation.

The high-profile convening was led by Afrobarometer and funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Speaking at the event, Afrobarometer co-founder Prof. Gyimah-Boadi noted that access to credible citizen-generated data is critical to strengthening accountability and amplifying citizens' voices in governance at a time when democratic backsliding, disinformation, and shrinking civic space threaten hard-won gains across Africa.

Gyimah-Boadi further noted that equipping civil society organisations (CSOs) with accessible and actionable data is key to closing gaps in public awareness, strengthening engagement with frameworks such as the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063, and improving the tracking of governance commitments.

Held under the theme “Advancing democracy, human rights, good governance, and AU-CSO engagement,” the high-level convening provided a platform to deepen collaboration between CSOs and the AU, while promoting the use of data and evidence in governance and accountability processes.

In his keynote address, Ambassador Salah Hammad, head of the African Governance Architecture Secretariat at the AU, emphasised the need to deliver on democratic promises: “When African leaders fail to uphold their democratic commitments, we must ask hard questions. Because treaties mean nothing without action, implementation, and accountability.”

Also addressing participants, Daniel Böhme, deputy head of development cooperation at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Accra, stressed the growing importance of data-informed policy making, especially in a context of constrained resources, noting that “The extent to which data continues to inform policy processes matters even more now, in a time where resources are shrinking.”

Karin Stanghed, deputy head of the EU delegation to the AU, reaffirmed the EU's support for the AU's efforts to strengthen the role of civil society, think tanks, research centres, and academia in advocacy and accountability processes, particularly as a means to prevent conflict.

The convening produced a set of key outcomes, including policy recommendations and the finalisation of a draft communiqué, which will guide future engagement on democracy, governance, and human rights in Africa.



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Participants further proposed a series of targeted interventions aimed at strengthening accountability mechanisms, enhancing citizen participation, advancing human-rights protections, and promoting inclusive governance systems that respond to citizens' needs.

The convening reaffirmed the need for stronger collaboration among civil society, regional institutions, and policy makers to safeguard democratic values and ensure governance systems remain transparent, inclusive, and people-centred.

About the 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 and African Union organs. The project is led by Afrobarometer and its partners: 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.

About Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Ten survey rounds in up to 45 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 surveys (2024/2025) cover 38 countries. Afrobarometer's National Partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples of 1,200-2,400.

Media inquiries

Maame Akua Amoah Twum
Afrobarometer communications manager
Email: maameakua@afrobarometer.org
Telephone: +233 208 326 343

Data for Governance Alliance consortium partners



Afrobarometer (AB) is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network, headquartered in Accra, Ghana, that has conducted surveys, analysis, outreach, and capacity building on democracy, governance, freedom, and related issues in up to 45 African countries. AB's work is grounded in the belief that African societies thrive when African voices count in public policy and development.

Website: www.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 the rest of Africa through investments in research and advocacy, outreach, and strategic dialogues and engagements within governments and between government, private sector, and other key actors. CDD-Ghana is an AB Core Partner.



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Website: 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 socioeconomic and political development in East Africa through the application of research findings to development policies, and promoting dialogue across public, private, and nonstate actors. IDS is an AB Core Partner.

Website: 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: www.ijr.org.za



Laws.Africa, based in South Africa, focuses on addressing Africa's deficiency in access to reliable legal material on human rights, the environment, commerce, and technology. Laws.Africa develops legal-technology solutions, and digitises and publishes high-quality, accurate African government gazettes, updated legislation, and case law to partners and audiences in Africa and the rest of the world.

Website: laws.africa/.