



SOUTH AFRICA



**SAFEGUARDING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY
IN THE DIGITAL AGE:
STRATEGIES FOR COMBATTING DIGITAL
DISINFORMATION**

AN AFRICAN CONFERENCE

Cape Town, South Africa

2 – 5 March 2020

DAY ONE: MONDAY 2 MARCH 2020**ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION AND WELCOME**

Time	Item	Speakers
13h00 - 15h00	Arrival & check in	
13h00 – 16h30	Registration	
18h30 – 21h00	Formal Welcoming Ceremony and Official Dinner	Mr. Glen Mashinini, Chairperson of the Commission South Africa Dr Khabele Matlosa, Director, Department of Political Affairs, African Union Commission (AUC) Dr Ayodele Odusola, UNDP Resident Representative The Honourable Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Home Affairs

DAY TWO: TUESDAY 3 MARCH 2020**SETTING THE CONTEXT: THE RISE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND ITS IMPACT ON DEMOCRACY**

Over the past decade, social media has exploded around the world to become a leading source of information, news and dialogue for the public. This section provides the context for the conference through sessions that paint a picture of breath and depth of social media on the one hand and its impact on the other.

Time	Theme/Item	Speakers
09h00	Welcome and housekeeping	Programme Director Mr Sy Mamabolo

SESSION 1: THE SOCIAL MEDIA LANDSCAPE

Digital media has had a profound impact on public opinion and has been a game changer in electoral politics across the globe. This session looks at the provenance of social media, its growth, spread and impact on electoral democracy. Different topics under this session will interrogate the rapid use of technology, distribution of information to the electorate by different users including and not limited to: political parties, candidates and election management bodies (EMBs), think tanks, media houses and civil society. Inputs in this section will also delve into social media and access on the African continent.

SESSION MODERATOR: COMMISSIONER DR NOMSA MASUKU

09h15 – 09h35	Social media, its history and socio-political impact	Ms H. Nanjala Nyabola Writer. Researcher. Humanitarian. Political Analyst.
09h35 - 09h55	Access to social media platforms and technology in Africa	Mr. André-Michel Essoungou, United Nations
09h55 – 10h25	Plenary discussions	
10h25 - 11h00	TEA BREAK	

SESSION 2: SOCIAL MEDIA USES AND ABUSES IN ELECTIONS

The growth in the spread and popularity of social media has brought with it great benefits to electoral democracy including the rapid, convenient and cost-effective distribution of information to the electorate. But these very qualities which give social media its profound power and impact also carry with it grave risks to the integrity of the electoral process. Flowing from Session 1, this session focuses generation of information data, packaging, analysis and usage around the world in general and in Africa in particular. It interrogates the phenomenon of “fake news” that is carried through a variety of social media platforms and digital technologies.

SESSION MODERATOR: DR AYODELE ODUSOLA

11h00 – 11h55	Big data analytics, social media and elections	Panel presentation: Ms Sophia Ignatidou, Chatham House Ms Chenai Chair Ms Ruth Price, Digital Action
11h55 – 12h15	Disinformation and elections	Ms. Karen Allen Institute for Security

		Studies
12h15 – 13h00	Plenary discussion	
13h00 - 14h00	LUNCH BREAK	
<p>SESSION 3: NORMATIVE AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS GOVERNING SOCIAL MEDIA</p> <p>In order to respond to potential threats posed by social media, international organisations, statutory bodies, EMBs, civil society organisations including mainstream as well as social media platforms have introduced a variety of measures to mitigate the risks. This session focuses on the external and internal regulation of social media by different actors and draws good practices while highlighting the pitfalls.</p> <p>SESSION MODERATOR: MS JANET LOVE</p>		
14h00-15h00	Control measures by social media platforms	<p>Panel presentation:</p> <p>About Twitter: Mr Emmanuel Lubanzadio, Public Policy Manager Sub-Saharan Africa Twitter</p> <p>About Facebook: Ms Fatu Ogwuche, Politics & Government Outreach Lead, Sub-Saharan Africa, Facebook</p> <p>About Google: Mr Dominic Cull, Code for Africa</p> <p>Internet Service Providers Association: Mr Chris Roper, Deputy CEO</p>
15h00 – 15h45	Perspectives regarding social media regulation	<p>Panel presentation:</p> <p>Adv Pansy Tlakula, Information Regulator (SA)</p> <p>Representative from the Communications Authority of Kenya (TBC)</p> <p>Ms Avani Singh, media and social media law expert</p>
15h45 – 16h15	Plenary discussions	

SESSION MODERATOR: MR MAWETHU MOSERY, DEPUTY CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

16h15-16h45	TEA BREAK	
16h45-17h05	Digitisation of Democracy in SADC: Regional Insights from the 2019 elections	Dr Fritz Nganje University of Johannesburg
17h05 – 17h20	Partnering with civil society, media and social media platforms to combat disinformation: A case study	Mr William Bird Media Monitoring Africa
17h20 - 18h00	Plenary discussion	
18h00	END OF DAY TWO	
18h30	DINNER	

DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2020

TAKING ACTION: HARNESSING AND MANAGING SOCIAL MEDIA IN ELECTIONS

This section zeroes in on the use of social media in elections. It offers EMBs from across the continent the opportunity to share experiences regarding the dividends of social media for their outreach programmes, challenges and measures taken in mitigation of social media risks.

09h00	Welcome and housekeeping	Programme Director
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SESSION 4: SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE ELECTORAL CYCLE

EMBs have varying experiences regarding the use of social media around the election cycle especially public outreach purposes. This session is meant to provide comparative experiences by a select panel of EMBs which have harnessed as well as managed social media. The EMBs will share strategies they employed to raise awareness of the threats inherent in social media especially “fake news” as well as how they dealt with the legislative, enforcement and technological solutions to the challenges faced.

SESSION MODERATOR: COMMISSIONER MOSOTHO MOEPYA

09h20 – 10h40	Social media in EMBs: Lessons learned by selected African EMBs	<u>Panel presentation:</u> Representatives of EMBs from: Dr Sa’ad Umar Idris, Independent National
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		<p>Electoral Commission of Nigeria</p> <p>Ms Janet Love, Vice Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of South Africa</p> <p>Mr Ayachi Belgacem Commissioner Instance Superieure Independante pour les Elections – ISIE Republic of Tunisia</p> <p>Mozambique (TBC) Senegal (TBC)</p>
10h40 – 11h15	Plenary discussion	
11h15 – 11h45	TEA BREAK	
11h45 – 12h15	<p>Social media approaches by EMBs: A global perspective</p>	<p>Mr Alberto Fernandez Gibaja, Senior Programme Officer Political Participation and Representation Programme</p> <p>International IDEA</p>
12h15 – 13h00	Plenary discussion	
13h00 – 14h00	LUNCH BREAK	
<p>SESSION 5: MANAGING AND MITIGATING THE RISKS OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN ELECTIONS</p> <p>BREAKAWAY SESSIONS</p> <p>As a sequel to session 4 above, this session will delve deeper into the management and mitigation of the risks entailed in the use of social media. The session will take the form of breakaway groups and feedback sessions to give participants the opportunity to share country specific, sub-regional, regional, continental and international experiences regarding partnerships with social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Google and others to deter the manipulation of social media. Participants will also deliberate on the regulation and education approaches for the management and mitigation of risks of social media in elections.</p>		
14h00 – 16h00	Breakaway session 1: Utilising partnerships in managing social media in elections	Moderator/Facilitator Rapporteur

	Breakaway session 2: Regulatory approaches to managing social media in elections	Moderator/Facilitator Rapporteur
	Breakaway session 3: Education and communication approaches to managing social media in elections	Moderator/Facilitator Rapporteur
16h00 – 16h30	TEA	
16h30 – 17h30	Workshop: Protecting your personal data in the digital age	TBC
17H30	END OF DAY THREE	
18H30	DINNER	

DAY FOUR: THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2020

MOVING FORWARD TOWARDS INTEGRATED SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT IN ELECTIONS

This section provides a consolidation of the issues raised in session 5 above. Participants shall present issues emerging from the breakaway groups programme. This will be followed by the conference summary on key issues with concrete policy propositions for consideration by individual delegates.

Time	Item	Speaker
09h00	Welcome and housekeeping	
Session 6 09h15 – 10h00	Feedback from breakaway sessions	Session moderator: Mr Masego Sheburi
09h15 – 09h30	Report back from breakaway session 1	Rapporteur Group 1
09h30 – 09h45	Report back from breakaway session 2	Rapporteur Group 2
09h45 – 10h00	Report back from breakaway session 3	Rapporteur Group 3
10h00 – 11h00	Plenary discussion	

11h00- 11h30	TEA BREAK	
Session 7	Summation and way forward	Session Moderator: Mr Masego Sheburi
11h30 – 12h00	Summation of conference proceedings and way forward	Mr Sy Mamabolo: Chief Electoral Officer, Electoral Commission of South Africa
12h00 – 12h30	Closing remarks and thanks	Ms Janet Love: Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, South Africa Dr Khabele Matlosa, Director, Department of Political Affairs, African Union Commission (AUC) Dr Ayodele Odusola, UNDP Resident Representative
12h30 - 13h30	LUNCH BREAK	
	END OF DAY FOUR	
14h00	EXCURSION	TBC