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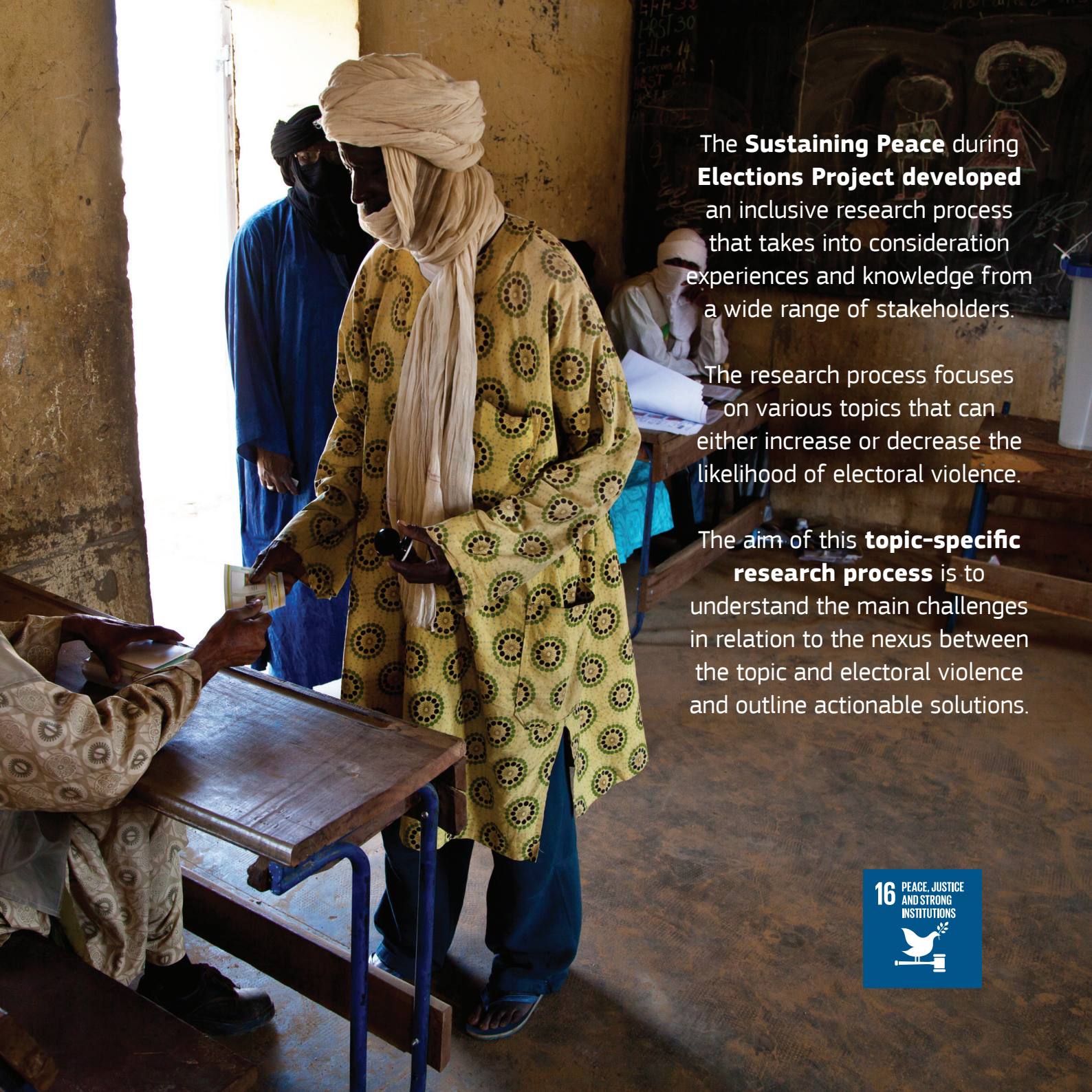


Peaceful and Inclusive Elections in a Digital Age

Sharing challenges and identifying
programmatic solutions

AGENDA

8,9 & 10 – November 2023 – Brussels, Belgium



The **Sustaining Peace during Elections Project** developed an inclusive research process that takes into consideration experiences and knowledge from a wide range of stakeholders.

The research process focuses on various topics that can either increase or decrease the likelihood of electoral violence.

The aim of this **topic-specific research process** is to understand the main challenges in relation to the nexus between the topic and electoral violence and outline actionable solutions.



PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS IN A DIGITAL AGE Sharing challenges and identifying programmatic solutions

8,9 & 10 - November 2023 - Brussels, Belgium

[Link to Detailed Speaker Notes:](#)

[Speaker Notes - Peaceful and Inclusive Elections in a Digital Age .docx](#)

8.30 - 9.45

Registration

WELCOME REMARKS

9.45 - 10.00

Opening

Description: Welcome to participants, introductory comments

Moderator: Gianpiero **Catozzi**, Senior Electoral Advisor - Coordinator
Joint EC-UNDP Task Force on Electoral Assistance at UNDP

Speakers: A) Camilla **Bruckner**, *Director Brussels Office UNDP*

B) Gaëlle **Nizery**, *Team Lead, EU Foreign Policy Instruments*
- *European Commission*



10.00 - 11.15

Session 2: Democratic Governance in the Digital Age

Description: A broader view of the challenges facing democratic processes in the context of increased polarization, information pollution and digital threats

Moderator: Meaghan **Fitzgerald**, *Head of the Election Department - OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights*

- Speakers:**
- A. Tom **Millar**, *Team Leader for Democracy - Human Rights, Gender, Democratic Governance - European Commission*
 - B. Sarah **Lister**, *Head of Governance - United Nations Development Programme UNDP*
 - C. Katherine **Maher**, *Chairperson of the Board - Signal, Former CEO Web Summit*
 - D. Meera **Selva**, *Chief Executive Europe - Internews Europe*

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ELECTORAL PROCESSES IN THE CURRENT INFORMATION LANDSCAPE

11.30 - 12.10

Session 3: Information Integrity and the Challenge to Elections across the World

Description: Discussion on information pollution in elections and future threats globally

Moderator: Robert **Gerenge**, *Regional Electoral Advisor - UNDP, Africa*

- Speakers:**
- A. Deborah **Brown**, *Senior Researcher - Human Rights Watch*
 - B. Riccardo **Chelleri**, *EU Election Observation Missions - European Union*
 - C. Simon-Pierre **Nanitalamio**, *Deputy Director - DPPA Electoral Assistance Division, UN*
 - D. Karine **Kakasi Siaba**, *Political / Elections Officer - African Union (AU)*

12.10 - 13.00

Session 4: The Impact of Disinformation on Election Processes: Country Cases

Description: Electoral Stakeholders on how information pollution has impacted elections, based on their practical experiences and different perspectives.

Moderator: Niamh **Hanafin**, *Senior Advisor Information Integrity - UNDP*

- Speakers:**
- A. Dr Emad **al-Sayah**, *Chairman - High National Election Commission (HNEC), Libya*
 - B. Christian **Cirhigiri**, *Policy Officer - Digital Peace, Search for Common Ground (SfCG)*
 - C. Patient **Ligodi**, *Journalist - Actualite.cd*
 - D. Vusumuzi **Sifile**, *Executive Director - Panos, Zambia*

13:00 - 14:30

Lunch

14.30 – 15.30	<p>Session 5: Identifying and Responding to Electoral Information Pollution</p> <p>Description: How electoral information pollution is defined, can be accurately identified and what contributes to effective responses.</p> <p>Moderator: Darren Nance, <i>Chief Electoral Officer - UNMISS South Sudan</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Lutz Guellner, <i>Head of Strategic Communications (Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference) - European Union</i> B. Lara Levet, <i>Policy Officer - Meta</i> C. Qadaruddin Shishir, <i>Editor - AFP Fact-Check Bangladesh</i> D. Ransford Wright, <i>National Coordinator - Independent Radio Network (IRN) Sierra Leone</i>
15.30 – 16.30	<p>Session 6: Building Public Resilience to Information Pollution</p> <p>Description: How societies and the broader information ecosystem can be strengthened to support the public in being less susceptible to election information pollution</p> <p>Moderator: James Deane, <i>Co-founder - International Fund for Public Interest Media</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Kelvin Aguirre, <i>Commissioner, - Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE), Honduras</i> B. Adeline Hulin, <i>Project Coordinator - UNESCO</i> A. Jad Hani, <i>Media Researcher - Samir Kassir Foundation</i> B. Alasdair Stuart, <i>Advisor/ Research Manager - BBC Media Action</i>
16:30 – 17.00	Coffee Break
17.00 – 18.00	<p>Session 7: Approaches to Regulating Political Speech and Information Pollution during Elections</p> <p>Description: To consider the most effective ways of regulating online political speech around an election to ensure a level playing field, protect freedom of expression, prevent hate speech and incitement to violence.</p> <p>Moderator: Guilherme Canela, <i>Chief Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists Section - UNESCO</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Sherri Aldis, <i>Director - UN Regional Information Centre for Western Europe</i> B. Akaki Beridze, <i>Legal Maintenance Division - Central Election Commission of Georgia</i> C. Victor Bwire, <i>Deputy CEO - Media Council of Kenya</i> D. Krisztina Stump, <i>Head of Unit, Media Convergence and Social Media - DG CNECT, European Commission</i>

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILDING INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS

9.00 - 10.00	<p>Session 8: Global Trends on the Impact of Programming around Peaceful and Inclusive Elections</p> <p>Description: What inclusion looks like in the election process and how it can be achieved</p> <p>Moderator: Aleida Ferreira, <i>Global Lead on Democratic Institutions - UNDP</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Asha Allen, <i>Advocacy Director for Europe - Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT)</i> B. Keare Castaldo, <i>Election Adviser - OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)</i> C. Lluís Rodriguez, <i>Expert on Inclusion - UNDP</i> D. Lenka Homolkova, <i>CTA - UNDP Liberia</i>
10.00 - 10.30	Coffee Break
10.30 - 11.30	<p>Session 9: Successes and Failures in designing Gender- Inclusive Electoral Processes: Country Experiences</p> <p>Description: Country experiences in building inclusivity within elections and broader democratic processes, focusing on gender.</p> <p>Moderator: Najia Hashemee, <i>Regional Elections Advisor Arab States - UNDP</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Ariunzaya Ayush, <i>Secretary - Mongolian People's Party</i> B. Yuliya Shpilova, <i>Programme Officer - INT IDEA</i> C. Takawira Musavenga, <i>- UNDP, CTA Zambia</i> D. Bizuwork Ketete, <i>Board Member - NEBE</i>
11.30 - 12.10	<p>Session 10: Sustaining Peace during Electoral Processes: Programmatic Guidance from SELECT</p> <p>Description: An exchange on the SELECT research streams, and the key learnings.</p> <p>Moderator: Sebastien Coquoz, <i>Conflict Prevention and Elections Policy Officer - EEAS - EC</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Saré Knoope, <i>Project Manager SELECT - UNDP</i> B. Zana Idrizi, <i>Lead Expert Inclusive Governance Workstream - UNDP</i> C. Ajay Patel, <i>Lead Expert Information Integrity Workstream - UNDP</i> D. Brinda Gangopadhyia Lundmark, <i>Lead Expert Gender Workstream - UNDP</i>
12.10 - 12.30	<p>Session 11: Digital Threats to Inclusion</p> <p>Description: A presentation to take a wide angle on how digital threats can threaten modern election processes</p> <p>Moderator: Emanuele Sapienza, <i>Global Lead - Civic Space - UNDP</i></p> <p>Speaker: Deborah Brown, <i>Senior Researcher - Human Rights Watch</i></p>

12:30 - 14:15		Lunch
14.15 - 14.45	<p>Session 12: Causes and Consequences of Electoral Violence</p> <p>Description: How election violence is used by electoral stakeholders and the role on information pollution in fomenting it.</p> <p>Moderator: Panto Letic, <i>Chief Electoral Advisor - UNDP Libya</i></p> <p>Speaker: Professor Ursula Daxecker, <i>Principal Investigator - EVaP</i></p>	
14.45 - 15.45	<p>Session 13: Addressing Online and Offline violence against Women in Public Life</p> <p>Description: A discussion to focus on the different forms of political violence against women - and other marginalised communities - in public life, exploring strategies and programs that can be deployed to combat the concern.</p> <p>Moderator: Luis Martinez-Betanzos, <i>Senior Electoral Advisor, Latin America - UNDP</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Diana Atamaint, <i>President - Consejo Nacional Electoral del Ecuador</i> B. Santiago Aroa, <i>Gender Specialist - UNDP</i> C. Maria Belen Luna Sanz, <i>- HateAid</i> D. Alvaro Beltran Urrutia, <i>- UNDP Peru</i> 	
15:45 - 16.00		Coffee Break
16.00 - 17.00	<p>Session 14: Youth-Inclusive Digital Technology to foster Peaceful and Inclusive Elections</p> <p>Description: How technology can increase the inclusivity of elections, as well considerations and safeguards needed.</p> <p>Moderator: Micky Elanga, <i>Digital Inclusion Expert, EU Digital for Development Hub - European Commission</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Pauline Deneufbourg, <i>Youth Advisor - UNDP</i> B. Wani Geoffrey, <i>Youth Leader, Software Engineer - AlertMe</i> C. Kayle Giroud, <i>Associate Director - Global Cyber Alliance</i> 	

FUTURE OF ELECTIONS

9.00 - 10.00

Session 15: Practical Approaches to Enhance Electoral Inclusion and Integrity

Description: A discussion to highlight the work of UNDP in the development of approaches, technology and programmatic approaches, focusing on the various information integrity tools, other resources, and the opportunity to introduce other initiatives. The session should focus on how to design approaches and then introduce tools – by types of activity.

Moderator: Niamh Hanafin, Senior Advisor Information Integrity - UNDP

- Speakers:**
- A. Alpha Senkpeni, - Local Voices, Liberia
 - B. Osama Aljaber, Digital Democracy Specialist - UNDP
 - C. Gabriel van Oppen Ardanaz, Electoral Assistance Programme Specialist - UNDP

10.15 - 11.45

Session 16: Future Elections: How Technology and Innovations will Shape Elections

Description: A discussion on how the work of election administrators will be affected by future developments in digitisation and technology

Moderator: Skye Christensen, Chief Technical Advisor - UNDP

- Speakers:**
- A. Dr. Hab. David Dueñas-Cid, -Gdansk University of Technology, Poland
 - B. Janet Love, Vice Chair - Electoral Commission of South Africa
 - C. Dr. Piero Alessandro Corvetto Salinas, Chief - National Office of Electoral Processes (EMB), Peru
 - D. Sonia Bea L. Wee-Lozada, Director - Office for Overseas Voting (OCV), Commission on Elections, Philippines
 - E. Elliott Wilkes, Cybersecurity Expert, - CTO, ACDS, UK Gov
 - F. Mrs. Shaildabekova Karmabekovna, Chair - CEC, Kyrgyzstan

11.45 - 12.00

Coffee Break

12.00 - 12.30

Session 17: Closing

- Speakers:**
- A. Sarah Lister, Head of Governance - UNDP
 - B. Petr Jelinek, Deputy Head of Unit - FPI
 - C. Georges van Montfort, Deputy Director - UNDP Brussels



Information integrity topic:

https://www.sustainingpeace-select.org/the-knowledge-hub/?_sft_category=information-integrity

Youth Participation topic:

https://www.sustainingpeace-select.org/the-knowledge-hub?_sft_category=youth-participation

Knowledge hub:

<https://www.sustainingpeace-select.org/>



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