

KAS-International IDEA Regional Dialogue for Climate Deliberation in Sub-Saharan Africa

27th September 2024, 09:00hrs, Microsoft Auditorium, Strathmore University, Nairobi, Kenya

Context:

Climate change is one of the defining challenges of our time that will determine the fate of coming generations on our planet. Climate action since the 2015 Paris Agreement shows that while solutions are available, neither ambition nor implementation are progressing at the required pace. Democratic institutions must adapt to the cause not only to protect the climate but also since climate change poses an existential risk to democracy. Democracy will struggle to remain a credible and legitimate political system if it does not identify effective solutions to the climate crisis.

Climate assemblies are examples of innovation that includes citizens directly in developing climate policy, which can raise climate ambition and strengthen the legitimacy of the difficult policy choices involved in the transition towards net zero. Climate assemblies can potentially turn protest demands into actionable recommendations and help build social mandates for change. Against this background, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and International IDEA Climate Change and Democracy Programme organise a high-profile dialogue, exploring the potential of climate assemblies in the Global South as one solution to increase democratic legitimacy of climate policies.

Themes:

- Climate Change and Democracy
- Climate Policy
- Citizen deliberation practices

Programme:

Friday, 27th September 2024

09:00 – 10:00

Registration

10:00 – 10:40

Welcome and opening remarks

Prof. Izael Da Silva

Professor at Strathmore University and Deputy Vice Chancellor-Research and Innovation; UNESCO chair on climate change mitigation and sustainability

Ms. Anja Berretta

Director of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa

Ms. Clara Mutanda

Programme Officer, International IDEA, Africa and West Asia Office

10:45 – 11:15

Presentation: Enhancing Climate Action through Deliberative Practices in Africa

Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh

Senator William McMaster Chair in Global Human Rights, Mc Master University, CAN; Expert-Rapporteur, United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, UN-OHCHR; Project Director, Participedia

11:15 – 12:00

Panel Discussion - Climate Change and Deliberative Democracy: The Potential of Climate Assemblies in Sub-Saharan Africa

Panelists

Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh, Senator William McMaster Chair in Global Human Rights, Mc Master University, CAN; Expert-Rapporteur, United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, UN-OHCHR; Project Director, Participedia

Dr. Brenda Ogembo, Democracy and Governance Expert; Principal Clerk Assistant and Deputy Head of the Senate Liaison Office at the Parliament of Kenya

Ms. Kira Alberts, Associate Researcher, Centre for Research on Democracy, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Mr. David Ombisi, Programme Management Officer, UNEP Africa, Civil Society Unit

Moderator - Mr. Michele Poletto

Adviser, Climate Change and Democracy, International IDEA

12:00 – 12:30

Q&A with the audience and Closing Remarks

12:30

Group Photo

12:30-13:30

Lunch

Further Information: michelle.nambiro@kas.de

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