

# **SOUTHERN AFRICA NATIONAL LEVEL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUES**

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## **CONCEPT NOTE**

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# PUTTING THE ACDEG AT THE CENTRE OF THE CONSOLIDATION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA THROUGH THE USE OF CIVIC TECH AND PROMOTING CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN AGA

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## INTRODUCTION

Democracy Works Foundation (DWF) is a southern African non-profit company focused on democracy development in the region. With headquarters in South Africa, DWF works through its country offices to provide tools to develop resilient democracies.

As an independent foundation, we build and promote inclusive, equitable and sustainable consensus democracies. We do so by providing tools, platforms and content to strengthen democrats, democratic culture and democracy institutions.

Through the Charter Project Africa which is aimed at promoting the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) DWF is continuing to deliver on this vision of strengthening democracy across the African continent.

The Charter Project Africa is a multi-stakeholder initiative involving a Consortium of six organisations: the European Partnership for Democracy (lead), Africтивistes, Code for Africa, DWF, Goree Institute and ECDPM.

# THE PROJECT AIMS TO USE DIGITAL DEMOCRACY TECHNOLOGIES TO STRENGTHEN PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS IN AFRICAN UNION MEMBER STATES THROUGH THE AFRICAN GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE (AGA), AND THE PROMOTION OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND GOVERNANCE (ACDEG).

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This will include empowering civic initiatives, as primary stakeholders, in eleven target countries to use civic technologies and data-driven solutions to amplify citizen voices at the continental level, promote democratic governance, support civic engagement with the AGA and the African Union (AU), and analyse and monitor implementation of the ACDEG.

As an independent foundation, we build and promote inclusive, equitable and sustainable consensus democracies. We provide tools, platforms and content to strengthen democrats, democratic culture and democracy institutions.

The focal countries are: Botswana, Benin, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia.

The project will also facilitate collaboration between African Union policymakers, national policymakers, and civic initiatives to address the challenges of democratic governance jointly.

The Charter Project Africa, since 2021, has been supporting national and continental civil society-led efforts to promote the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) through the development and use of civic tech tools and a focus on youth and women participation in initiatives.

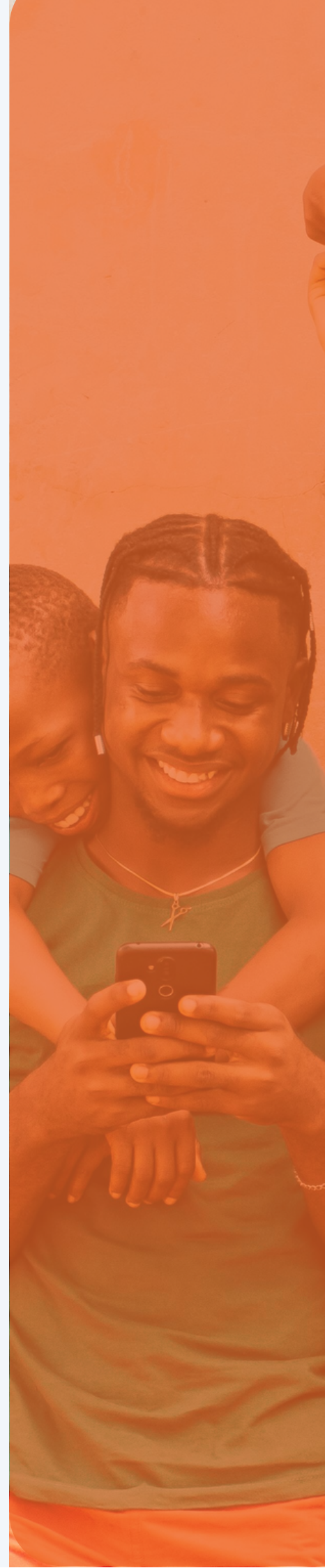
The Charter Project Africa has also been focusing on facilitating greater engagement between local civil society and the African Governance Architecture (AGA).

**THE PROJECT HAS BEEN WORKING  
ACROSS THE 11 PROJECT COUNTRIES  
AND DEMOCRACY WORKS FOUNDATION  
(DWF) HAS BEEN SUPPORTING FOUR  
NATIONAL-LEVEL INITIATIVES RUNNING  
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, SPECIFICALLY:  
BOTSWANA, SOUTH AFRICA, TANZANIA  
AND ZAMBIA.**

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The organisations that have been awarded grants under the Charter Project Africa have been working to promote, popularise and call for the ratification (in the case of countries that have not ratified) and domestication (in the case of countries that have ratified) the ACDEG and to encourage the entrenchment of African Union shared values, broadly.

As part of supporting these civil society efforts, DWF will host a series of national multi-stakeholder dialogues that aim to bring together stakeholders from civil society, government, private sector, regional institutions and the AGA to reflect on the imperative of acceding to AU's shared values instruments, particularly the ACDEG, and to facilitate dialogue, collaboration and synergies among stakeholders.



# THE NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUES AND DGI WORKSHOPS

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The national multi-stakeholder dialogues and DGI workshops will take place over two days, combining a keynote address, panel discussions and workshops. The public dialogues will provide an opportunity to present the Charter Project Africa's contribution to facilitating engagement between local civil society and the AGA through the use of civic technologies and how promoting and fostering cooperation between regional and continental institutions and civil society increases the prospects of entrenching AU's shared values.

The capacity-building workshops for our DGI partners will focus on the ACDEG (its provisions, implementation mechanisms, ratification/implementation processes), the AGA fundamentals (institutional framework, political context, regional/continental interlinkages), civic technologies (software solutions, applications), digital campaigning (content production/marketing), democracy support interventions (research, deliberative methods, policy advocacy).

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increased capacity for advocacy on good governance and democracy using the ACDEG and other AU shared values instruments
- Relationship building and networking between stakeholders
- Increased capacity to access and use civic technologies
- Producing country overviews

# MAIN THEME

Putting the ACDEG at the centre of the consolidation of good governance and democracy in Africa through the use of civic tech and promoting civil society participation in AGA



How ratifying and implementing the ACDEG can contribute to entrenching good governance and democracy



The role of civic technology in the promotion of AU shared values and enabling civil society participation, advocacy and activism

## SUB THEMES



An introduction to the AGA and opportunities for AGA-civil society collaboration

## TARGET GROUPS

Charter Project Africa grantees, AGA Platform members, EU country missions, Local CSOs, Government officials, and Project consortium members.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE CHARTER PROJECT AFRICA**

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