



‘Elections and Monitoring in Africa: A Playbook for Democrats?’

Dialogue to be held by the Brenthurst Foundation and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
at the Villa la Collina, Lake Como, Italy, 7-9 May 2017

A 2016 Afrobarometer survey showed that just 40 percent of Africans in 36 countries believed that the last elections in their country were free and fair, and just 25 percent said that they trusted their national election commissions ‘a lot’. Many described elections with rampant bribery, media bias and threats of violence. The picture is, of course, varied, with transparent processes counterposing obvious setbacks; in 2016, the success in Ghana contrasting against controversial elections in Gabon, Uganda, and Zambia. Yet elections remain important democratic markers, and the health of democracy, too, an indicator of economic fortune. With this in mind, and given that there are a number of key elections during 2017 including in Angola, the Congo and Kenya. In response to a growing concern of the lack of faith in African elections and the widespread use of digital and other means to undermine electoral processes in Africa, this Dialogue seeks to evaluate key recent elections. In so doing the event aims to produce an up-to-date analysis of the methods used to manipulate and undermine these processes, and to draft a ‘playbook’ for democrats and election observers alike.

Sunday - 7 May

15h00: Welcome by President Olusegun Obasanjo and KAS Representative

15h30: Session One: Case Studies from Zimbabwe and Kenya

Discussion led by: Tendai Biti (Zimbabwe); Raila Odinga (Kenya)

17h30: Break

19h00: Dinner

Monday - 8 May

08h45: Session Two: Case Study from Nigeria

Discussion led by: Nasir Muhammad el-Rufai, Attahiru Jega and Hannah Roberts

10h15: Break

10h45: Session Three: Case Studies from Uganda and Zambia

Discussion led by: Godber Tumushabe (Uganda), Hakainde Hichilema and Steven Ellis (Zambia)

13h00: Lunch

14h00: Session Four: Perspectives on International Observers

Discussion led by: Eric Schultz, William Sweeney, Guy Scott, Emanuele Giaufret, Erastus Mwencha

16h30: Free time. Optional excursion to the Monastery/Bellagio

19h00: Dinner at the Villa la Collina

Tuesday - 9 May

09h00: Session Five: A Technical Playbook

Discussion led by: Henry Sands, Denis Kadima and Phil Carter

11h00: Summary and Conclusions

12h00: Lunch followed by optional excursion to Bellagio/Departures