



## **Making Democracy Work in Africa**

Dialogue to be held by the Brenthurst Foundation and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung  
at the Villa la Collina, Lake Como, Italy, 22-24 July 2018

The democratization of Africa has reached a critical turning point. Polls show that Africans overwhelmingly support democracy and believe it to be superior to any other political system. However, over the last ten years, political liberalization has stalled across the continent and there is some evidence of a return to authoritarian rule. It appears that Africa is no freer than it was ten years ago, although each country has its own unique story.

The aim of the Dialogue will be to understand the future possibilities of democracy in Africa now that multiparty elections have become common across the continent. An important focus will be how to make these elections fairer, including the role of domestic, regional and international observers. However, the conduct of elections alone does not ensure democracy. We will also ask how other important institutions—including parliament, the courts, and the press—can be strengthened. Finally, we will ask about the unique contributions that Africans in countries across the continent can make to their political systems so that institutions reflect particular cultural, political and historic realities.

Key questions include:

- What is the state of democracy in Africa?
- How important overall is the political system and associated values, to economic development?
- How might elections be better and more fairly handled?
- What is the state of institutions that are critical for democracy, for example parliaments, judiciaries, the press, and militaries?
- How democratic are African civil societies?
- Should Africa develop a different democratic model to that advocated by the West. If so, what might that model look like?
- What is the most useful role that outsiders can play in promoting governance and democracy in Africa?

### **Sunday – 22 July**

16h00: Welcome by President Olusegun Obasanjo, Greg Mills and Henning Suhr

#### **16h30: Session One: Challenges of African Democracy: The Leadership Perspective**

Chair: Greg Mills

Discussion led by: President Obasanjo, Hakainde Hichilema and Tendai Biti

18h30: Break

19h30: Dinner at the Villa la Collina

## **Monday – 23 July**

### **08h45: *Session Two: Current Trends in African Democracy***

Discussion led by: Jeffrey Herbst

Respondents: Vera Songwe, Nic Cheeseman

10h15: Break

### **10h45: *Session Three: How to Promote Democracy***

Discussion led by: Lindiwe Mazibuko, Emmanuel Gyimah-Boadi

Respondents: Jonathan Moakes, Anthony Okara, Peter Turkson

13h00: Lunch

### **14h00: *Session Four: Advancing Democracy in Authoritarian Environments***

Discussion led by: VJ Mwaanga, Tundu Lissu

Respondents: Lutero Simango, Erastus Mwencha, Precious Omuku

16h30: Free time and optional excursion to the Monastery/Bellagio

19h00: Dinner

## **Tuesday – 24 July**

### **09h00: *Session Five: The Role of External Actors***

Discussion led by: Kate Almquist, Martin Kasirye

Respondents: Marian Tupy, Karin von Hippel

11h00: **Summary and Conclusions:** Greg Mills, Jeffrey Herbst, Olusegun Obasanjo

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

1. Abel Chivukuvuku (Mr), Angola
2. Adam Branch (Prof), Cambridge University, UK
3. Anthony Okara (Mr), Kenya
4. Barry Desker (Amb), Distinguished Fellow, RSIS, Singapore
5. Branko Brikc (Mr), *Daily Maverick*, South Africa
6. Daniel El Noshokaty (Mr), KAS, Tanzania
7. Diego Scharifker (Mr), Venezuela
8. Driss Ouaouicha (Dr), Al Akhawayn University, Morocco
9. Erastus Mwencha (Mr), Brenthurst Foundation Advisory Board, Kenya
10. Emmauel Gyimah-Boadi (Dr), Ghana Centre for Democratic Development
11. Gerardo Diaz Bazan (Mr), El Salvador
12. Greg Mills (Dr), Brenthurst Foundation, South Africa
13. Hakainde Hichilema (Mr), UPND, Zambia
14. Henning Suhr (Mr), KAS, South Africa
15. Henry Sands (Mr) Sabi Strategy, UK
16. Jeffrey Herbst (Dr), Brenthurst Foundation Advisory Board, US
17. Jonathan Moakes (Mr) Democratic Alliance, South Africa
18. Karin von Hippel (Dr), RUSI, UK
19. Katherine Knopf (Ms), Africa Center for Strategic Studies, US
20. Lindiwe Mazibuko (Ms), fmr Parliamentary Leader of the Democratic Alliance, South Africa
21. Lutero Simango (Mr), Mozambique
22. Marian Tupy (Dr), Cato Institute, US
23. Martin Kasirye (Mr), Commonwealth Secretariat
24. Michelle Ndiaye-Ntab (Ms), Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Ethiopia
25. Nic Cheeseman (Prof), University of Birmingham, UK
26. Olusegun Obasanjo (President), Nigeria
27. Peter Turkson (Cardinal), Vatican, Italy/Ghana
28. Precious Omuku (Rt Rev), Special Adviser to Archbishop of Canterbury, UK/Nigeria
29. Saul Musker (Mr), University of Oxford, South Africa
30. Tendai Biti (Mr) Former Minister of Finance, Zimbabwe
31. Torben Brylle (Amb), Denmark
32. Tundu Lissu (Mr), CHADEMA, Tanzania
33. Vera Songwe (Dr), UNECA, Ethiopia
34. Vernon Mwaanga (Hon), Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Zambia
35. Waldemar Vrey (Mr) Former Special Representative for UNMIL, South Africa