



## Concept Note | Governance and Electoral Violence in Africa | 18 – 22 January 2021

### 1. Background

Although nearly all countries hold elections in the contemporary world, they have an elevated risk for violence in Africa. Due to the increasing reliance on elections as a tool for democratic participation, the stakes for elections outcome are often high. The incidence and severity of election-related violence varies across the continent, and several elections have been held successfully without resorting to violence.

The occurrence of electoral violence in Africa can be attributed to many factors. One factor is that election violence is used to express frustrations with structural issues such as governance defects, misconstrued understanding of democratization and its processes, and failed election promises among others. Additionally, incumbent leaders prolonging their stay in power by the use of repressive and violent security forces also tends to escalate election violence. Furthermore, the prevalence of electoral violence is also instigated by some opposition politicians who see politics as a means by which to enrich themselves rather than effect real change. Thus, people resort to violent elections pre, post and during elections as a response to bad governance, repression and individual political gains.

Despite these trends, African elections need not be marked by public demonstrations and violent conflict between the government and opposition supporters. By addressing structural and deeply entrenched socio-economic and political problems prevailing on the continent, African leaders, civil societies, along with the African Union (AU) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), can mitigate the recurrent challenge of electoral violence and facilitate the execution of peaceful elections.

### 2. Course Objectives

After the completion of this course, participants will:

- Be able to analyze the causes of election-related violence;
- Comprehend the links between governance and electoral violence in Africa;
- Understand the complementarity between the African Governance Architecture and Africa Peace and Security Architecture;
- Understand the mechanics of preventing, managing and resolving election related violent conflicts in Africa; and
- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of constitutionalism and the rule of law in Africa.

### 3. Course Structure and Methodology

The training is structured as a five (5) day online course, designed with a participatory and self-reflection learning approach.



## INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY STUDIES ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

The pedagogical approach will combine lectures, group discussions, and practical applications through the use of case studies. Participants admitted into the training programme should be prepared to present short technical reports on their own experiences on the course theme.

### 4. Target Audience

The course targets experts and African professionals, for example, those working at the AU, RECs, or African civil society organizations. International applicants working for a governmental, inter-governmental or multilateral agencies with keen interest in African peace and security issues are equally encouraged to apply.

### 5. Admission Requirements

Applicants must have:

- At least five years of work experience in the fields of peace, security and development, democracy and governance issues, or related fields;
- A minimum of a first degree; and
- Good command of the English language, **which is the medium of instruction.**

### 6. Date

18 – 22 January 2021

### 7. Tuition Fee

500 USD

### 8. Application Deadline

8 January 2021

### 9. Contact Person

For any inquiries, please contact the Programme Officer, Mahlet Fitiwi: [mahlet.f@ipss-addis.org](mailto:mahlet.f@ipss-addis.org)