



**REPORT OF THE
FOURTH EDITION OF
THE PEOPLE DIALOGUE
FESTIVAL – KENYA**

2022



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACEPIS	The Africa Centre For People, Institutions and Society
ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Land
CCM	Chama Cha Mashinani
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CMD	Centre For Multiparty Democracy
CRECO	Constitution and Reform Education Consortium
CSO	Civil Society Organization
Dr.	Doctor
DAP-K	Democratic Action Party -Kenya
DP	Democratic Party of Kenya
ELOG	Election Observation Group
ELGIA	Electoral Law and Governance Institute for Africa
FEMNET	Africa Women’s Development and Communication Network
FSI	Fragile State Index
Hon.	Honourable
IEBC	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
IRCK	Interreligious Council Of Kenya
KAF	Kofi Annan Foundation
KAS	Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
KANU	Kenya African National Union
KCIC	Kenya Climate Innovation Centre
KWC	KANU Women Congress
MP	Member of Parliament
NARC-K	National Rainbow Coalition Kenya
NIMD	Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy
ODM	Orange Democratic Movement
PDF	People Dialogue Festival
PP	Pro-bono Psychologist



PWD	People/Person With Disability
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
Sen.	Senator
UDA	United Democratic Alliance
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UDPK	United Disabled Persons of Kenya



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Executive Summary

Kenya, through the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD) has routinely held the peoples dialogue festival (PDF), which a platform that brings together citizens from all walks of life and their leaders, both aspiring and in office, to discuss opportunities and constraints of the ultimate goal of increasing human welfare. The March 2022 PDF was the fourth to be held in Kenya, and came in the backdrop of a global COVID 19 pandemic and a general election expected on August 9, 2022. The PDF outlines five themes namely, forging electoral accountability for stable political environment; safeguarding the digital space to advance democracy; national electoral peace and security; strengthening partnerships for the achievement of the global sustainable development goals; and an exposition on political parties. The event was held physically at the Kenya Museum grounds and was also streamed online. It was attended by nearly three thousand participants from all walks of life and by national and county governments' officials, members from the civil society and international diplomatic community. As expected, the dialogue was comprehensive given the variety of themes, key note speakers, discussants, and participants. From the discussions that were held for the three days, the following are recommendations that were made:

1. There is need for continuous improvement of the political landscape in order to ensure free, fair and credible elections and ultimately democratic growth of the country. All stakeholders involved in promoting democracy through political parties, including the parties themselves, have to continue improving the conditions in political parties towards their ideologization and general strengthening. The youth must be involved especially in demanding political parties' manifestos, and elect leaders on the basis of their manifestos.
2. There is need for empowering citizens to interrogate manifestos of electoral contestants vying for elective seats to ensure that the manifestos factor in proposals on how they (contestants) will work towards achievement of sustainable development goals.
3. There is need for citizens to exercise their political rights within political parties. Citizens should be sensitized on the need to join political parties, and on the need to influence or shape those party manifestos.
4. There is need for the establishment and support of fact-checking system anchored in political parties to ensure the monitoring and holding members accountable for the information they propagate.



PART ONE: INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

1.1. Background

This report outlines the outcome of the 4th Centre for Multiparty Democracy’s People Dialogue Festival (PDF) held in Nairobi –Kenya between Wednesday 9th and 11th March, 2022. The Centre for Multiparty Democracy is a political parties-based membership organization established in 2004, whose mandate is to enhance multiparty democracy and strengthen the institutional capacity of political parties in Kenya through policy influence and capacity building. The organization provides a platform for political parties, political actors, and policy makers to engage in dialogue and cooperate in strengthening multiparty democracy.

To achieve its goals and objectives, CMD-Kenya adopted the PDF concept which mirrors democracy festivals organized in the Nordic- Baltic Sea region, which provides an opportunity for citizens and leaders to meet eye-to eye and on the same level terms to dialogue about issues that facing their countries. The rallying call for the 2022 PDF was #formNiDialogue which means that dialogue is the answer to Kenya’s pressing challenge of good political governance and socioeconomic development.

1.2. Rationale

Kenya is at a critical political period as the August 2022 general election draws near. The 2022 general election occurs in the backdrop of the 2018 handshake, or peace agreement, between President Uhuru Kenyatta and his main challenger in the 2013 and 2017 general elections, former Prime Minister Raila Odinga; and in the backdrop of fall-out between the President and the Deputy President, William Ruto. As of now, Odinga and Ruto are the main contenders while President Kenyatta is on course to respect the Constitution and exit after serving for two terms. The same fate falls on governors who have served two terms.

Although IEBC has not declared the campaign period open as the law requires, the politicians have been campaigning for a fairly long time. Instructively, the campaign process has been relatively peaceful at national and county levels. However, just like the Presidents support for Mr. Odinga has raised some tensions, it is perceptible that some exiting governors may attempt to influence their succession which will imply some degree of bias towards the contestants.

The 2022 election will be the third since the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution. Since independence in 1963, Kenya has made major strides in democracy, development, peace fostering and inclusion. However, the democratization process is encumbered by a youth population (age 18 – 34) that is large forming about one-quarter of the population but appearing more disconnected and disengaged from constructive political engagement. For instance, media reports relating to recent mass voter registration showed a high degree of apathy among the youth. As a Daily Nation Newspaper article of February 15, 2022, by Peter Mburu reported, “young people in particular feel hopeless due to lack of jobs and a myriad of economic hardships. They have sworn not to participate in one of their most crucial constitutional rights – voting – until their challenges are addressed”.

Other democratic challenges include non-inclusion of citizens in development talks and decision-making process and lack of political goodwill in developmental projects, and corruption. Thus, effort is needed in ensuring that there is inclusivity and political goodwill in implementation of development goals.

As Kenya prepares the 2022 general election, it is paramount for political party leaders to ensure that they campaign responsibly in order to avoid pre- and post-election conflicts. As such the fourth PDF could not have come at a more appropriate time than this.



1.3. Aim and Objectives

The aim of PDF 2022 was to provide a leveled platform for dialogue between citizens and decision makers towards consolidating the country socioeconomic and political landscape. The event built on the lessons learnt from the last three PDF events, thus entrenching dialogue as an instrument to resolve political crises, reduce violence, and enhance sustainable peace by transferring grievances voiced from the streets into formalized processes, promote public participation, transformative change and enhance civic competence. The dialogue was intended to elicit reasoned arguments and rigorous self-examination, and tolerance for divergent points of view. The event involved the participation of national political elites, representation from diverse social and political groups.

Based on the themes discussed the specific objectives of PDF 2022 were to:

- Provide opportunity for youth, women and persons with disabilities (PWDs) to air out their views around various governance issues such as inclusion and participation in governance.
- Promote public participation in democratic development
- Promote dialogue between political parties, candidates and voters;
- Create a platform for holding the government accountable in implementation of sustainable development goals and economic development.
- Promote national electoral peace and security for sustainable economic development.
- Assess the role of journalism in shaping political engagements and outcomes.

The expected results were:

- Increased awareness of opportunities for youth, women and PWDs in governance and how they can participate in decision making and national development;
- Enhanced civic education about sustainable development goals, the extent of their implementation and how the common citizen can hold the government accountable where they are not implemented;
- Increased participation of youth in politics;
- Responsible use of social media by spreading truthful information and curbing the spread of fake news;
- Responsible reporting by journalists.

Thematic Areas

The principal theme for PDF 2022 was “collaboration and competition in democratic development”. The specific discussion sub-themes were:

- Towards Electoral Accountability and Stable Political Environment in Kenya in 2022.
- Safeguarding the Digital Space to Advance Democracy.
- National Electoral Peace and Security.
- Strengthening Partnerships for the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Kenya.
- Political Parties Expo "Know A Party, Join A Party, Vote A Party.
- Harnessing the youth Voice for Effective & Inclusive Implementation of the SDGs in Kenya



PART TWO: METHODOLOGY

2.1 Venue

The PDF 2022 was held at the Kenya National Museum ground in Nairobi. Discussions around the thematic areas were structured and held in several venues including the Amphitheater, Courtyard, SDG village, National Youth Council tent, main stage and #NiSisiNiSasa village. A total of 18 events and discussions were held concurrently in the various venues. The event was held over three days (9th -11th March 2022).

2.2 Methods of Engagement

Keynote addresses

Panel discussions

Political parties' expositions

Online discussions

Live performances including music, spoken word poems, dances and plays.

Total Population	Male	Female	Youth	PWD	
2875	1746	1129	1911	43	
	60.7%	39.3%	66.5%	62.8% M	37.2% F

2.3 Number and Demographic Profile of Participants

A total of 2,875 participants attended the PDF, of whom 60.7 percent (1,746) were male and 39.3 percent (n=1,129). Nearly two-thirds of the participants (66.5 percent, n=1,911) were the youth (i.e., aged 35 years and below). Forty-three (43) of the participants were PWDs, of whom 62.8 percent (n=27) were male and 37.2 percent (n=16) were female. These statistics show PDF 2022 even had high gender imbalance (i.e., a significant level of female exclusion), a significant inclusion of the youth, a notable presence of PWDs, and a significant inclusion of general community members.

2.4 Number and Profile of Institutional Participants

The event was attended by 70 government officials of whom 49 were from the County government and 21 from the national government. Other professional stakeholders included development partners especially from Denmark (including the Danish Ambassador in Kenya), member of the international diplomatic community, political party leaders, representatives from the civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector, as well as high school and university students.



PART THREE: THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

This section outlines the themes and subthemes discussed in the PDF. The context, product and outcome of each theme area is discussed therein.

THEME 1: TOWARDS ELECTORAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND STABLE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN KENYA IN 2022

Moderator: Mr. Frankline Mukwanja, Executive Director, CMD-Kenya.

Speakers:

1. Sen. Abshiro Halake – Chairperson, CMD-Kenya
2. Ms. Kimberly Sandra – Student, Buruburu Girls’ High School.
3. Mr. Caesar Rabala – Student, Alliance High School.
4. Ms. Angela Wambugu – Team Leader, Democratic Governance Unit, UN Women.
5. Mr. Rasmus Prehn – Minister of Food and Agriculture – Denmark.
6. Mr. Lawrence Omuhaka – Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture.

Sub-Theme 1: Kenya in My Eyes

This was discussed during the opening ceremony of the PDF held at the NiSisiNiSasa village. It was an introspective discussion on how citizens view and think about the political environment in Kenya since independence.

The discussion noted that political parties and politicians have a big influence on how the electorate think and vote, and therefore parties should set a good example by conducting free and fair party primaries ensuring democracy is upheld.





The discussion highlighted that the Kenyan electorate is highly divided along political parties and tribal basis. This threatens national unity as the country approaches the August 2022 general election. The Kenyan youth are observed to be easily manipulated to elect incompetent leaders by being offered bribes to favor a certain candidate. This leads to election of incompetent leaders and poor policy decision making which is, for example, evidenced in the unemployment problem in Kenya today.

To break this chain of vulnerability, it was suggested that Kenyans should strive to elect leaders who are visionary and competent, and who can be trusted to fight corruption, enhance stability, and promote technology.

The discussion also highlighted the exclusion of minority groups namely women, youth and PWDs in political participation both in terms of representation in electoral positions and in decision making especially in political parties. The implication is that there is muted articulation of their needs, which undermines the goal of democracy to promote inclusivity in society.

The discussion noted that the Kenyan parliament is required to conduct public participation in formulation of bills, but citizens rarely participate, which was attributed to lack of awareness and interest from the citizens. It was strongly emphasized that there is need for civic education to demonstrate the importance and channels of public participation.

The discussion, further, reflected on the practice of PDF in Denmark noting that the forum enhances honest and open dialogue on matters concerning the country by all persons regardless of their gender or social economic status. It was noted that the current PDF was the fourth in Kenya, and that there has been notable progress in organizing the PDF event as well as in inclusivity of diverse categories of participants.

Moderator: Mr. Tonny Mboyo

Panelists:

1. Mr. Kabala Kile - Deputy Party Leader, NARC Kenya
2. Mr. Mukami Wangui - Chairperson, Young Democrats, Democratic Party of Kenya (DP)

The panel discussion comprised of representatives from two political parties. The experiences shared during the session highlighted two important points:

- The youth should bring something on the table if they are to be included in the political parties' decision-making.
- The youth should recognize that it is a journey to rise in the political ladder; hence, patience, selflessness and consistency are key.

Sub-Theme 3: Generation Z: Harnessing Technology for Accountable Leadership

The overall objective of the sub-theme was to discuss the role of technology in holding leaders accountable in fulfilling their mandate. It was observed that social media technology is a convenient and cost-effective channel which political parties can use to enhance open communication with people. This would enable the parties to build strategic, socially responsible, and mutually beneficial relationships with the

Moderator: Mr. Sam Nyamwange - Business Development & Sustainability Manager- NairoBits Trust

Panelists:

1. Hon. Patricia Mutheu - Member of County Assembly, Nairobi – Mlango Kubwa
2. Mr. Joel Daniel - Chairperson – IEBC Youth Coordinating Committee
3. Ms. Diana Rose Ouma - Director- Youth SDGs Kenya
4. Mr. Tim Dagori - Practice Lead- Technology & Social Practice at Co-Creation Hub

Sub-Theme 2: Life Through My Lenses: My Experience as A Youth Leader in The Political Sphere

The session highlighted several positive outcomes of using social media which includes:

- Enabling people to push for development agenda;
- Helping people put pressure on the government to be more accountable by people presenting their views, pushing grievances and asking the government to address them fully;
- Mobilizing citizens to register as voters and to eventually vote;
- Enhancing democracy through open debates in social media;
- Easy access to leaders.



Sub-Theme 4: Challenges in the Electoral Process

The discussion focused on challenges that the Kenya electoral process has faced and is still facing in terms of making sure that elections are free and fair; and that women, youth and people with disabilities are included in politics and political parties' agendas.

The electoral management body (IEBC) was found not being proactive in dealing with issues pertaining to elections especially the process, outcomes, and the grievances redress.

The electoral commission was called upon to ensure integrity of the outcome on the elections. The discussion strongly observed that Kenyans must not see weaknesses in the electoral system as they have seen in previous elections so that the outcome is believable.

Moderator: Ms. Mildred Nzau

Discussants

1. Dr. Eseli Simiyu- Secretary General, DAP-Kenya
2. Mr. Felix Owour- Executive Director, ELGIA
3. Mr. Albert Kochei- Secretary General, Chama Cha Mashinani (CCM)
4. Mr. Job Wanjohi- Kenya Association of Manufacturers
5. Mr. Erick Ngondi- UDPK Board member
6. Mr. Kirsten Brosbol- former minister, Denmark
7. Hon. Naisula Lesuuda- MP Samburu West
8. Mr. Ulrik Haagerup- Founder and CEO, Constructive Institute, Denmark.
9. Ms. Rosalia Omungo- CEO, Kenya Editors Guild.
10. Ms. Clara Osoro-Wote Koote
11. Mr. Sam Muraya-Journalist
12. Ms. Jane Godia- Women in News

Sub-Theme 5: The Role of Journalism in Enhancing Democratic Conversation and

Building Bridges

Journalism provides a forum for discussing ideas. It helps citizens to be informed about politics, agendas and performances of politicians and acts as a warning platform of corruption and abuse of power. Despite all this, journalism has on several occasions been used to promote violence especially, through vernacular stations; spread propaganda and even mask corruption cases.

Panelists

1. Hon. Naisula Lesuuda- MP Samburu West
2. Mr. Ulrik Haagerup- Founder and CEO, Constructive Institute, Denmark.

This discussion investigated ways in which journalism can be helpful in supporting democratic conversation and build bridges. During the discussions it was noted that there is need for journalists to cultivate their interviewing skills to enhance meaningful conversations and solutions when interviewing politicians. Additionally, it was noted that since journalism and governance are intertwined, journalist should work towards giving hope to the community and hold the leaders accountable on a day-to-day basis. Media houses were also encouraged give airtime to hardworking politicians with good ideas.



THEME 2: STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ACHIEVEMENT IN KENYA

Sub-Theme 1: Demystifying Global Development Goals and the Decade of Action + Youth

This session was held on day 2 at the *NiSisiNiSasa* village. The aim was to demonstrate practical ways the youth can be a part of implementing the SGD goals that pertain to their welfare. The key speaker – Danish Ambassador to Kenya, observed that democracy is not an event, but a process that takes place over a period of time. He cited the case of the Danish youth who are actively engaged in political activities aimed at achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs), and asked the Kenyan youth to do the same by actively participating in the electoral process and making sure that political leaders have life changing manifestos before electing them into office. Further, he called upon the youth to be more innovative and creative to curb the high unemployment rates, protect the environment and prevent further adverse climate changes.

Sub-Theme 2: Domestication of the SDG's

Domestication in the context of the SDGs relates to the adoption of the global policies within the national framework policy context. In Kenya, the adoption of these initiatives is well anchored in the country's long-term blueprint, vision 2030; and in Kenya's Constitution 2010 which paved way for the formation of a

1. Florence Syevuo - County Coordinator SDGs Kenya Forum
2. Ken Oluoch- Rep of Council of Governors
3. Catherine Nyambura- Athena Network
4. Vincent Ogaya - Kenya Climate Innovation Centre
5. Josephine Nyamai - Member of the Youth Sounding Board, Danish Embassy





The discussion emphasized that devolution was best suited in the achievement of SDGs in Kenya; and called upon the mainstreaming of SDGs such that they can be adopted at the county level. The discussion observed that there has been mobilization of funds for SDGs; hence, citizens should be alive to the need to hold leaders accountable.

The discussion, further, pointed out that there is need for collaboration between the government and the private sector in the implementation of the SDGs to make their achievement more efficient and effective.

It was suggested that the Voluntary Local Review (programme) conducted in Busia in 2019 was a good model that could be replicated in other counties either by voluntary uptake or by mandate. The review was carried out to determine the amount of work done by the County government in relation the SDGs. Moreover, the discussion emphasized the need for citizens to interrogate manifestos of electoral contestants vying for gubernatorial seats to ensure that the manifestos factor in proposals on how they (contestants) will work towards committed implementation of the SDGs.

The discussion also focused on the sustainability of the energy sector, which is contained in SDG7, and aims to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”. In this regard, Mr. Makaka observed that the Kenyan government has invested heavily in geothermal energy. The private sector, through private investment, has also been brought on board to help the government accelerate the process towards clean energy. A key project that is in the planning phase is the transformation of the Dandora garbage dumpsite into an energy producing site.



Sub-Theme 3: Accelerating Implementation of SDG2 in the Decade of Action

Sub-Theme 1: Holding Governments Accountable to SDG2

The sustainable development goal 2 aims to “end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture”. Current estimates are that nearly 10percent (690 million) of the world population suffer food insecurity. Of the food insecure, an incredible 36percent (more than 250 million) live in Africa where the number of undernourished is growing faster than anywhere in the world (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/>). In Kenya, malnutrition remains unacceptably high, with 29 percent of children in rural areas and 20 percent of those living in cities stunted. Agriculture remains the main economic driver but is very vulnerable to climate shocks. Unpredictable rainfall and recurring drought contribute to the disruption of crops, 95 percent of which are rain-fed. In addition, soil erosion is a major challenge (<https://www.wfp.org/countries/kenya>).

Moderator: Mr. Davis Adieno

Panelists:

Mr. Lawrence Omuhaka- Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya

Mr. Rasmus Prehn- Minister of Food Agriculture - Denmark

Dr. Anette Schwandner- Country Director, KAS

Dr. Edward Mungai- CEO, Kenya Climate Innovation Center (KCIC)

Lauren Landis - World Food Programme.

The session provided for an open discussion about the challenges facing food security and production in relation to ending hunger, and the role of young people in food security. Some of the challenges that were pointed out include:

- Inadequate involvement of the youth in agriculture
- Lack or low youth ownership of agricultural land;
- Expensive farm inputs;
- Inadequate education on agricultural production and marketing;
- Unfavorable government regulations on food production process;
- Lack of partnership with other countries that have better agricultural production and marketing systems.

The discussion noted that despite these challenges, there has been a significant improvement in the food systems in Kenya following the World Food Summit held in 2021 which changed many people’s thoughts about food production by introducing the angle of partnership and collaborations, where partnerships with other nations was considered as the best strategy towards attaining zero hunger.

The government of Kenya is also working actively with the youth population to ensure that they are incorporated in agricultural activities, with the right education to help them venture into agriculture; working with livestock farmers from the ASAL areas and providing them with the finances to help them purchase animal feed in bulk and store it. It was also noted that the government has been encouraging inland fish farming through the county government structures and it had started bearing fruits in some counties.



Sub-Theme 4.1: Mental health and SGDs- Leave no Kenyan behind

The session dubbed “how do we achieve global goals by 2030” sought to discuss how Kenya can achieve SGD3 which touches on mental health. In Kenya, according to the Ministry of Health, it is estimated that one in every 10 people suffers from a common mental disorder such as depression, anxiety, or substance use disorders whereby youth aged between 18-29 years are the most affected. The discussion observed that the youth are faced with challenges such as unemployment and high indebtedness which makes a decent living hard to achieve; and therefore, renders them vulnerable to mental ill-health. These challenges were cited as a reason for youth to engage in crime as a way of displacing their trauma. The discussion noted that the government is not prioritizing mental illness as it should, and that in most cultures in Kenya

Moderator: Mr. Gathoni Mbugua.

Discussants;

1. Sen. Sylvia Kasanga- Nominated Senator, Kenya
2. Dr. Nasir Omar- Ministry of Health,
3. Mr. Mathew Mutiso- Social Entrepreneur.

Kenya has made small strides regarding legislation of mental health issues as there is a mental health Bill 2020, which however, is yet to be passed. The bill seeks to advance rights of the people with mental health issues and proposes a budget that will cover treatment costs. The Kenyan government has also been working on integrating mental health into the general health, by ensuring that all citizens are fully covered through the Universal Health Coverage that was implemented in 2021. It was mentioned that the government has allocated funds to mental health in the 2021/2022, which will see to it that there will be more activities undertaken to promote mental health.

The discussion highlighted other programs that champion mental health issues such as Pro-bono Psychologists (PP) who reach out to the youths in schools, universities, and colleges to engage them in mental health conversations.

There were suggestions that the government should call upon all mental health stakeholders to cooperate and initiate and strengthen mental health discourse with one of the aims being to establish a national mental-health helpline.

Sub-Theme 4.2: Mental health in the Millennial Era

Moderator: Tonny Mboyo

Panelists: *All drawn from the “Coalition Action for Preventive Mental Health Kenya.*

1. Claire Omollo - Clinical Psychologist
2. Nely Gichobi - Counselling Psychologist
3. Sharon Onyango - Nurse practitioner



The discussion was held on day 2 in the NiSisiNiSasa Village main stage, and it focused on the challenge of mental health in the millennial era. The discussants were drawn from the Coalition Action for Preventive Mental Health Kenya which is a mental health ecosystem investment accelerator organization based in Kenya. It involves communities in coming up with ways to alleviate mental health conditions. The discussion revealed that the millennial era is the most affected in terms of mental health issues compared to prior eras. Factors that were pointed out to have accelerated the problem were peer pressure from social media, increased drug abuse and socio-economic issues such as youth unemployment and low-income rates. It was further pointed out that men were more affected by mental health issues than women.

There were suggestions to mitigate the mental health issues such as avoiding drug abuse and seeking help from parents and professionals when necessary.

Sub-Theme 4.3: Climate Change and the SGDs

Panelists:

Mr. Rasmus Prehn- Minister of Food Agriculture - Denmark
Mr. Sylvester Makaka – Kenya Association of Manufacturers

Climate change is spelt out in the Sustainable Development Goal 13 which aims to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact”. The associated targets of SDG 13 focus on the integration of climate change measures into national policies, the improvement of education, awareness-raising and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warnings. The discussion aimed at expressing how climate change has led to inadequate rainfall hence low food production.



During this session it was noted that climate change discussions were happening in public forums. It was agreed that climate change was not only about globalization, but it is about food shortage, pollution, transportation, water shortage due to inadequate rainfall among others. Inadequate rainfall has led to food shortage because agriculture in Kenya largely depends on it.

The discussion expressed concern that agricultural production has been left to older people while the youth has neglected it as a job creating sector. The discussion impressed upon the youth to consider agriculture as a viable job sector. Further, the discussion impressed upon the government to engage young people at the local level on climate change discussions.

The private sector was challenged to reduce or end carbon emissions. To this end, private sector participants noted that the sector is well involved addressing pollution, energy efficiency, recycling, and water



Sub-theme 4.4: Peace for Sustained and Continuous Development

Peace has direct and indirect effect on economic growth. Conflicts, violence, and war devastate the accessible physical and human resources and wipe out socio-political institutions which contribute to economic growth positively. The confidence of investors both locally and internationally is lost while human resources migrate.

The key speaker Mr. Waweru Mathenge – NCBA Bank Group Company Secretary observed that political stability and peace create a conducive environment for business that can lead to economic empowerment. Peace and stability will also give Kenyans a sense of certainty that their present investments will be safe in future.

He pointed out that if the system works for all of us that is through policies it would create a conducive environment for doing business and guaranteeing a future for the same. In addition, he cited that mutual respect across all levels and diversities of our population could breed and sustain peace.

Moderator: Mr. Festus Odingo

Panelists:

1. Ms. Esther Oketch- Coordinator, KEFIADO
2. Ms. Hellen Apillo- Regional coordinator Africa FEMNET
3. Ms. Jane Anyango- POLYCOM
4. Ms. Angela Nduku- White Ribbon Kenya

This discussion aimed at pointing out challenges that women face in their efforts to achieve economic empowerment and gender equality and suggesting solutions to the same. It was noted that, generally, there is no major backing and support on the realization of gender equality as no one seems to be ‘walking the talk’.

Lack of funding for women empowerment activities was deemed a major challenge since ‘money drives action’. Another challenge identified lack of knowledge on existing interventions. For example, it was pointed out that while the Women Enterprise Fund and Uwezo Fund are particularly designed for women and youth empowerment, there is still low uptake of these grants owing to lack of awareness and sufficient knowledge on their requirements.

There were suggestions to the challenges whereby it was pointed out that:

- The national budget and county budgets should be gender responsive;
- The government should focus on the diversity of women, in order to understand their needs well; and engage women in making decisions that concern them (e.g., the women fund);
- The government should also remove barriers that impede women from accessing resources;
- There should be civic education on economic empowerment targeting creation of awareness on the availability of the funds;
- Encourage women to form coalitions and partnerships with other women related organizations that can help them access development.



THEME 3: POLITICAL PARTIES EXPO: KNOW A PARTY, JOIN A PARTY, VOTE A PARTY

Sub-Theme 1: Inclusivity and Transparency of Political Parties

This discussion took place in the political parties' expo with opening remarks from Mr. Frankline Mukwanja-Executive Director CMD-Kenya, Mr. Victor Nyongesa-CEO Youth Agenda, Ms. Anne Nderitu-Registrar of Political Parties, and Hon. Justine Muturi -Speaker of the National Assembly.

Reflections by Mr. Mukwanja echoed that currently young people are not aware of political party leaders but are quite aware of their ethnic group's leaders. This was deemed as not healthy for a democracy. He averred that there are 85 registered political parties in Kenya and made a strong case for the youth to join political parties of their choice in order to more substantially participate in the electoral process. He also made a case for political parties to make deliberate policies for the inclusion of women, youth, and PWDs.



Speakers:

1. Mr. Joshua Changwony – Executive Director, Constitution and Reform Education Consortium (CRECO)
2. Mr. Mule Musau – National Coordinator, Elections Observation Group (ELOG)
3. Ms. Dorothy Anika-Steering Committee Member, Political Parties Liaison Committee
4. Mr. Wilfred Mutubwa -Vicechair, Political Parties Disputes Tribunal

CMD-Kenya’s Chairperson Sen. Abshiro Halake, in her opening remarks, pointed out that the youth and women should join political parties and demonstrate knowledge of their political parties’ manifestos. She emphasized that the backbone of our political parties has been the youth and that democracy is not the way for the majority, but the protection for the minority.



During the discussions, the Secretary General of ODM party Mr. Edwin Sifuna informed the audience that his party has developed a handbook for the participation of women in the party activities.

Additionally, Hon. Muturi pointed out that Kenya believes in unity and justice (*Umoja na Haki*) and therefore no one should be left out in decision making process.

The discussion was guided by two main questions:

- What role does political parties play in an election and what is the role of ideology?

- In what ways can political parties make elections free, fair, and credible?

It was noted that political parties have become vehicles which serve certain political interest and are not based on ideologies. The role of the Political Parties Dispute Tribunal was highlighted as the intermediary between the party and its members. It gives guarantee that the process will be fair and free. Its role is to build the capacity of political parties to create dispute resolutions themselves.

In terms of representation, there is need for proportional representation that makes sure even those who lose in elections are still represented. It was also noted that not every party leader is pro-gender equality and as a society, we still have patriarchal problems. It was also pointed out that the electoral process is not just the outcome, but the procedure.



Sub-Theme 2: Youth and Leadership

The youth constitute a large percentage of the Kenyan population, but they have not been adequately included in decision making process in any area of national interest in the country. The result is a relatively large number of unemployed youths who lack appropriate tools to effectively contribute to the national development.

The session brought together young people from different areas to discuss the following sub-themes:

FACILITATOR: Ms. Viridiana Wasike

Panelists

1. Hon. Kivutha Kibwana - Governor County, Government of Makueni.
2. Jane -Volunteer, Enkare Foundation
3. Mr. Eugene Okanda - Young Leaders Summit

- Opportunities for youth;
- Youth and devolution;
- Negative ethnicity; and
- Youth perception by elders.

It was observed that since young people are innovative, they can take advantage of the blue economy. They can also engage in agriculture where they can enhance value addition in food processing, thus creating employment. In relation to devolution, it was noted that devolution created an avenue for young people to explore ways in which they can meaningfully be involved in decision-making at the county level. It was pointed out that devolution has, to some extent, enhanced negative ethnicity since people from other ethnic groups are not readily welcome to access employment opportunities in “foreign counties”.

The discussion revealed that at the county level, there is low valuation of youth in leadership by those in older generations. It was observed that young people are seldom considered for leadership positions, such as county executive positions. The exclusion at the county government decision making was equated, and attributed to, exclusion in political parties. Young discussants observed that in political parties, they are relegated to youth leagues and do not participate in the mainstream party leadership structure.

Panelists

1. Ms. Diana Ambani - Danish Youth Sounding Board
2. Ms. Diana Sifuna – CEO, Jonathan Jackson Foundation
3. Mr. Klaus Lhen - The Confederation of Danish Industry
4. Mr. Soren Jepsen - Danish Trade Union Development Agency

Sub-Theme 3: The Labour Dialogue

The session was carried out in the National Youth Council tent and the aim was to discuss the participation of youth in the trade unions movements.



The discussion revealed that traditionally, trade union movements are at their strategic apex dominated by older persons. This is because their membership is for people employed in the formal sector. The reality on the ground is that young people do not see the need to join trade union movement because they are either working in the informal sector or are not gainfully employed.

The discussion averred that the informal sector employs about 80 percent of the workforce. There is, therefore, to the need to explore how workers in the sector can be assisted to negotiate for better pay. It was observed that the labor movement leadership can use modern technologies, such as social media, to reach out to workers in the informal sector and to include them in the movement's leadership.

It was also noted that the Danish Trade Union Development Agency has supported programs to enhance the leadership of young people through trade unions. The Confederation of Danish Industry has helped create a training curriculum. In Kenya, it was observed that there is a challenge in training, for example, it was argued that the National Industrial Training Authority is training using an old curriculum that has not been revised for a long time. Young people were encouraged to consider vocational training to enhance their skill sets and thus their employability because the courses are short and cost effective. It was concluded that there is need to train young people for the jobs in demand.





Sub-Theme 4.1: Youth Governance and Participation

There are many benefits of enabling the youth to participate in governance. According to the World Youth Report, youth participation leads to better decisions and outcomes because young people have a body of experience unique to their situation and they have views and ideas that arise from their experience. Additionally, youth participation in governance strengthens their understanding and commitment to national issues.

Moderator: Mr. Billy Aura - Governance Consultant, Warande Advisory Center.

Panelists:

1. Mr. Jude Achieng - Siasa Place
2. Mr. Caesar Rabala- Alliance school student.

The discussion brought out important points where it was noted that exclusion of youth seems intentional because older leaders do not want to be held accountable. The government should carry out regular civic education on how the youth can participate in governance. The youth were encouraged to actively participate in national elections by choosing responsible leaders. The youth should not just vote, but analyze each party's manifesto and only vote for the achievable and realistic manifestos.

Subtheme 4.2: What does the youth got to do with governance?

This discussion sought to find out why and how young people can be involved in governance. The speaker pointed out that it is important for youth to participate in the political process because politics affect all aspects of our livelihoods including the social, economic, and political spheres of life.

Moderator: Ms. Tracy Osogo –CMD and Mr. Tonny Mboyo.

Speaker:

Ms. Suzanne Silantoi – Policy analyst at Africa Practice



The discussion suggested that the youth can participate effectively in political governance by:

- Electing leaders who can legislate better policies to bring about change;
- Conducting peaceful demonstrations to advocate for their rights and grievances;
- Read and understand leaders' manifestos the basis for voting a party or an individual leader into a political office;
- Understand and know each leaders' constitutional mandate in order to engage them effectively;
- Join parties and fight for their space from within.

Subtheme 5: Youth Inclusion in Democratic Processes

The youth can be a creative force, a dynamic source of innovations, and they have undoubtedly, throughout history, participated, contributed, and even catalyzed important changes in political systems, power-sharing dynamics, and economic opportunities. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2012 the youth face barriers that hinder their inclusion in governance and decision-making processes such as poverty, multiple forms of discrimination and underrepresentation.

In

Moderator: Ms. Wilkister Aduma,

Panelists:

1. Mr. Roy Sasaka Telewa – CEO National Youth Council
2. Mr. Mbuki Mburu – Youth development and Policy Advocate
3. Mr. Frankline Mukwanja – Executive Director, Centre for Multiparty Democracy
4. Mr. Ameera Abdulla – National Chairperson, Amani National Congress
5. Mr. Alex Matere – Convener, Notable National Leaders

Kenya, youth inclusion in democratic processes remains a wish even though it is a constitutional requirement. This means that they are represented in absentia, their voices are not heard, and decision are made for them. The discussion was shaped by two key questions:

- How can the youth voice be harness?
- How can the youth manifesto be lobbied and be advocated for?

The discussion suggested that harnessing youth voice can be achieved through:

- Genuine leadership in political parties that mainstream the youth in all important party organs.
- Reducing barriers for young people's meaningful participation in democratic processes.
- Accepting the diversity of youth as they are not homogenous.
- Deliberate inclusion of voices of minority ethnic groups within the youth bracket.

On how to advocate for the youth manifesto, it was suggested that:

- Young people should, through political parties, develop a youth manifesto that encompasses all issues related to them, and lobby for its adoption and implementation within the parties.

On how to lobby and advocate for the youth manifesto, it was suggested that the youth must:

- Understand the use of soft power and high-level advocacy; and they should therefore map out various key stakeholders and offices that will be instrumental in handling their issues. In addition, the youth should use collective power as a strategy to lobby for their manifesto.



Sub-theme 6.1: Youth and politics

Approximately 75 percent of Kenya's population is comprised of youth according to Kenya national bureau of statistics. Yet young people make up only 6.5 percent of the country's Parliament (Mzalendo Trust, 2019). A study on the role of youth in Kenya's 11th and 12th Parliaments revealed that the failure of young MPs to receive enough support from political parties and other stakeholders, and the lack of a democratic culture during nominations were the two major challenges that Kenyan youth faced while trying to vie for elective seats (Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, 2019)

Moderator: Mr. Victor Nyongesa.

Panelists:

Ms. Joy Onyango—Compliance Officer, Office of the Registrar of Political Parties

Ms. Wanja Maina – Chairperson Persons with Disabilities League, Jubilee Party

Mr. Nickson Kakiri -Chairperson Kenya National Association of the Deaf

Alex Matere – Notable National Leaders

Sub-theme 6.2: Young PWDS in Politics

The discussion was guided by two questions:

- Why are young PWDs not represented in political parties?
- Why they not interested in political parties?

In this discussion it was pointed out young PWDs are not represented in political parties because they do not have adequate capacity, resources, and political goodwill. Most parties do not have a structure to accommodate people with disabilities. It was, however, noted that a few political parties such as ODM have PWD's league, which however, is not active due to low funding.

On the question of why young people are not interested in political parties several points were noted:

- They do not have resources; hence, they are unable to fund their own electoral campaigns.
- They are not given opportunities in the decision-making processes; hence, they do not feel included
- They often think that politics is older persons.

Sub-theme 7: Youth Involvement in Politics

The key speaker Mr. Johnson Muthama noted that the most vital thing during the next election is unity among Kenyans. Political parties should not mobilize votes based on ethnicity but on ideology. He noted that Kenya's democracy has grown so much that today you require a court order to open ballot boxes. He encouraged young people to vote if they want to see change.

THEME 4: NATIONAL ELECTORAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Kenya is a fledgling democracy with a relatively stable political system but is also at the bottom tiers in political stability measurements, for example, the 2020 fragile states index (FSI) that measures how pressures push a state towards the brink of failure ranked Kenya at position 29 (out of 178 countries) (whereby position 1 means the most fragile state).

The session's discussion revolved around democracy, free and fair elections, inclusivity, and gender equality. For Kenya to realize a peaceful electoral process there needs to be free and fair elections, fair coverage of all candidates by the media and not only the popular ones, and inclusion of youth and women in political parties' manifestos.

Moderator: Mr. Tom Mboya

Panelists:

1. Hon. Gideon Moi- Chairman, KANU
2. Hon. Isaac Ruto- Party Leader, Chama Cha Mashinani (CCM)
3. Hon. Kipruto Kirwa- Vice Chairman, United Democratic Alliance (UDA)
4. Hon. Justin Bedan Muturi- Chairperson Democratic Party of Kenya (DP)
5. Mr. Abubakar Said - Uraia Trust
6. Rev. John Warari – Interreligious Council of Kenya (IRCK)
7. Ms. Sujata Kotamraju- Hindu Council
8. Ms. Chepkoech Towet- KANU Women Congress (KWC)
9. Mr. Francis Aywa- Governance Expert
10. Amb. Nzimbo- Former IEBC Commissioner

As a result of the discussions, political parties were encouraged to mobilize followers based on policy-oriented ideologies. Additionally, the electorate was encouraged to vote for leaders of high integrity, and were urged to use their brains and not their hearts during polling. The electoral commission was also urged to uphold the constitution while conducting the elections for a fair election to be realized, and the courts to show confidence to the people in handling electoral issues.

While the role CMD-Kenya in promoting good governance in Kenya was acknowledged, the organization was encouraged continue holding political parties accountable in their political processes.

THEME 5: SAFEGUARDING THE DIGITAL SPACE TO ADVANCE DEMOCRACY

Sub-theme 1: Social Media for Peace in Kenya.

Social media enhance the flow of information between candidates and voters. However, online spaces can be used as avenues for propaganda, incitement to violence, hate speech or advocacy of hatred. Online campaigns have been disgraced by firms e.g., Cambridge Analytica, who ran a negative campaign for the Jubilee Coalition in the 2017 elections. In addition, politicians have been cyberbullied by Kenyans on Twitter.

Moderator: LURIT YUGUSUK.

Panelists/Speakers:

1. Rachel - The Africa Centre for People, Institutions and Society (ACEPIS),
2. Mr. Victor Ndede – Amnesty International.

This discussion revealed that cyber bullying is an issue affecting several individuals especially women in politics.

It was suggested that the youth who are the majority in online spaces should enroll online trainings to learn about digital security and safety to know information that should be shared, and which should not be shared. Counselling was also suggested for persons facing cyber bullying. A representative from Amnesty International pointed out that they provide legal support to persons who get mishandled by the government for airing grievances that affect the citizens online or in social media.

Sub-theme 2: Digital Pledge for Online Behavior Ahead of Kenya's 2022 General Elections

Discussants

Mr. Abdul Malik- Koffi Annan Foundation
Ms. Magdaline Wachugu- Nairobits
Mr. Henrik Bach Mortensen- Liberal Democracy, Denmark
Ms. Nelima Wako- Siasa Place.
Mr. Ulrick Haagerup- Constructive Institute, Denmark
Ms. Shiko Kihika- Tribeless Youth

This discussion delved deeper on how online behavior can be destructive to a country especially during elections and what can be done to mitigate this as Kenya approaches the general elections in August 2022.

The main issues pointed out were fake news pedaling and the solutions suggested were:

- Having a fake news fact checking and debunking platform;
- Formulation of rules and regulations on the use of social media;
- Political parties to police their own candidates through agreed rules;
- Curbing the forwarding of inflammatory messages as received more so in the WhatsApp platform and;
- Giving incentives to people who share true news on social media.



PART 4: CONCLUSION AND LESSONS LEARNT

4.1 Conclusion

The 4th Peoples Dialogue Festival was held through physical as well as online participation. The physical participation occurred within the context of the COVID 19 disease pandemic which in Kenya was officially recognized in March 2020 and elicited such preventive and control measures as banning of public gatherings of the scale of previous physical PDFs held in Kenya. By the time of holding of the 4th PDF in March 2022, the pandemic had largely been controlled, though not eliminated, and the government of Kenya had withdrawn the ban on public gatherings. However, the PDF was held with the organizers emphasizing on participants' adherence to prevention protocols including wearing of masks, holding meetings in out-door open spaces, and physical distancing. The PDF was also held in the context of an active political season with a general election expected on August 9, 2022. The PDF was organized five key themes, which resonated with Kenya's prevailing socioeconomic and political developments. These themes were on forging electoral accountability for stable political environment; safeguarding the digital space to advance democracy; national electoral peace and security; strengthening partnerships for the achievement of the global sustainable development goals; and exposition of political parties. All the themes were discussed in sessions that attracted significant levels of attendance and were inclusive of special interest groups including women, youth and persons with disability. The discussions were facilitated by key note speakers, moderators and discussants or panelists that were appropriately selected given that they represent key institutional stakeholders to Kenya's democratization processes including parliament, political parties, civil society organizations, and CMD-Kenya's strategic partners from Denmark who provided an all-important international comparative approach.

4.2 Lessons Learnt

There is need for continuous improvement of the political landscape in order to ensure free, fair and credible elections and ultimately democratic growth of the country. Although Kenya has since 1992 been continuously practicing multiparty democracy akin to the global democratic governance model, there is little, if any, political mobilization based on political ideology. Inasmuch as a political ideology embody and articulate a certain ideal about how a society can be progressed through political action, Kenya's political parties are organizationally undeveloped. Instead of articulating and representing the interests of the unified nation-state, the parties generally embody ethnic and/or regional character, and are often deemed to represent the beliefs and interests of party founders. This explains why it is so common for politicians to easily establish or wind-up a political party, or hop from one party to another in search of political power and not pursuit of a common national interest. The implication is that all stakeholders involved in promoting democracy through political parties, including the parties themselves, have to continue improving the conditions in political parties towards their ideologization and general strengthening. The PDF noted that the youth must be involved especially in demanding political parties' manifestos, and elect leaders on the basis of their manifestos. IEBC and the media were also called upon to promote the ideologization of political parties and the democratization of the national political space as they effectively fulfil their respective mandates.



There is need for empowering citizens to interrogate manifestos of electoral contestants vying for elective seats to ensure that the manifestos factor in proposals on how they (contestants) will work towards achievement of SDGs. The PDF discussed several topical issues related to the SGDs including sustainable energy, ending hunger, mental health, climate change, peace, and women economic empowerment. The single most important information was that citizens should interrogate manifestos of electoral contestants vying for elective seats including gubernatorial and only support those who have factored the SGDs in their manifestos.

There is need for citizens to exercise their political rights within political parties. The traditional dictum that politics is a dirty game has persisted in the mind of many Kenyans and the fear of getting into the murky waters seem to dissuade many from vying for elective positions, and others only to consider their political right as only casting a vote especially in a general election. The result is that many, if not all, political parties are lacking the critical mass required to drive political parties towards their expected role of driving the country's democratization process. For this to happen, citizens should have the interest to join political parties and by so doing shape those parties internal democracy, and expect a spill-over to the general national democratic space. It is certainly true that a membership of a political party that is inclusive by experience and intellectual capabilities will shape those parties' manifestos, and therefore offer the country adequate intellectualization of developmental programmes.

There is need for continuous monitoring of the digital media space to ensure that the political space is not polluted with information and misinformation antithetical to electoral peace and stability. The single most important recommendation was the establishment and support of fact-checking system, which can even be anchored in political parties. Through such as system, political parties would be able to monitor and hold accountable their members with regard to their pronouncements.





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2022

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