

## **Dissemination of Electoral Information to Voters in Time of Crisis**

**Date and Time:** Thursday October 29, 2020, 4pm Korea Standard Time (9 am South Africa Standard Time) \*(duration of two hours)

### **Background:**

Election management in time of crisis has forced EMBs and other stakeholders to seek alternatives to safeguard the integrity and fairness of electoral processes. Presently, with the restrictions of movement that were brought due to the COVID-19 pandemic, face-to-face meetings have been impossible, shifting trainings and information sessions to online platforms.

This webinar endeavors to focus on the challenges EMBs have faced in disseminating information to all voters. EMBs and other election stakeholders have taken different roles, in order to guarantee accessibility to information to voters. Participants will share diverse experiences and lessons learned on voter dissemination mechanisms and the interaction with voters throughout the different stages of the electoral cycle.

### **Guiding Questions:**

1. What are some of the challenges EMBs face in relation to voter information dissemination?
2. What are some experiences on alternative methods used to relay information to voters?
3. What stages of the electoral cycle have faced issues and challenge during crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic?
4. How can different stakeholders cooperate to overcome the challenges presented by crisis situations?

### **Brief Profile of the Host Organizations:**

#### **A-WEB-**

The Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB), the global organization of election management bodies, was founded in 2013 under the slogan of 'Democracy to Growth for All Worldwide'. Today, A-WEB is made up of 117 EMBs as members to offer training programs for election officials of member nations, conduct national programs at the request of the

member organization, and provide support during the election cycle to enhance election management capacity. A-WEB supports its members to foster efficiency and effectiveness in conducting free, fair, transparent, and participative elections worldwide.

### **UNISA- University of South Africa**

Founded in 1873 as the University of the Cape of Good Hope, the institution became the first public university in the world to teach exclusively by means of distance education in 1946. Throughout the years, The University of South Africa (UNISA) was perhaps the only university in South Africa to have provided all people with access to education, irrespective of race, color or creed and can truly claim to be the African university in the service of humanity.

UNISA today is the largest open distance learning institution in Africa, offering an unparalleled range of study choices, ranging from short courses and certificate programs to three-and four-year degrees and diplomas, close to 400,000 current students.

### **KOCEI- National Election Commission of the Republic of Korea (NEC)**

The Korean Civic Education Institute for Democracy (KOCEI) was established on May 10, 1996 as an NEC affiliated educational and training institute. Its main role is to provide civic education for democracy to voters, election and political party stakeholder, conducting training programs for foreign election officials and providing education and training for the employees of the NEC.

In July 2020, KOCEI was established as a regional center of A-WEB as approved by the 8<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting.

### **Brief Profile of the Moderator:**

#### **Ms. Ina Kim Lee, Senior Researcher, Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)**



Ms. Ina Kim Lee is a professional in the area of international cooperation with an M.A. in International Area Studies from Seoul National University. Ms. Kim Lee has experience in organizing and implementing election observation programs, capacity building programs for electoral officials and data collection and analysis. With a focus on identity politics, Ms. Kim has also carried out research work on ethnic minorities and the empowerment of women in the political sphere.

## **Brief Profile of the Speakers:**

### **Mr. Rushdi Nackerdien, Regional Director for Africa, IFES**



Rushdi Nackerdien is IFES' regional director for Africa. With more than 20 years of experience in democracy and elections, Nackerdien is an experienced and visionary project manager who has led and pioneered complex international and national programs. He brings his collaborative approach and learning to diverse teams in multiple cultures, ensuring that programs meet and exceed their business objectives on time and within budget. His work always seeks to uplift and empower stakeholders in their implementation, as he is an experienced facilitator who focuses on both the process as well as the outcome. His passion for work on the African continent, without losing a global perspective, has inspired important advances wherever he has worked.

He was a founding member of the Electoral Leadership Institute. Nackerdien has focused on electoral reform, capacity development, strategic planning, project and program evaluation, and expert advice in elections and development of e-learning materials with a special focus on Africa. He has guided the African Union in revising their election observation approach to incorporate a more comprehensive long-term framework. Nackerdien previously occupied the role of senior program officer for electoral processes at International IDEA. He has worked in a number of countries including Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, South Africa and Egypt. He holds a master's degree from the University of Cape Town.

### **Prof. Su-yeon Kim, KOCEI**



Prof. Su-yeon Kim holds a B.A. in English Education from Seoul National University and a LL.M from the Northwestern University School of Law. During her career at the National Election Commission of the Republic of Korea, she has worked as a Director in the International Cooperation Division, the Cyber Election Crime Investigation Division, Political Fund Crime Investigation Division, and as an Overseas Voting Officer in the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Los Angeles, California. She currently works as a professor in the Korean Civic Education Institute for Democracy.

### **Sam Alfandika, CEO, Malawi EC**



Sam Alfandika is Chief Executive Officer for the Malawi Electoral Commission, a position he has held since January 2018. He has 15 years of experience in electoral management and advisory both at national and international level, having previously served in the Malawi Electoral Commission, UNDP Malawi, UNDP Nigeria, UNDP Iraq and UNDP Afghanistan.

## **Reverend Crispin Kayembe Lunganga, Director of Cabinet of Rapporteur, DRC CENI**



Reverend Crispin Kayembe Lunganga is the Director of Cabinet of the Rapporteur of DR Congo Independent National Election Commission (CENI).

In 2004, he succeeded to be hired as a senior expert and produced the basic procedures of what had to become procedures for voter registration since 2005. From then, he was hired to prepare and run the first democratic election in DR Congo (DRC). He participated in the training of special Congolese staff to be used in the election.

After this period of 6 years, he was the head of electoral operations with duties to collaborate (with un experts) in staff training material, training organization and supervision, voting procedures, data compilation procedures, and all other procedures related to result publication.

From the special training done in South Africa, Pretoria (UNISA, credited certificate in management of democratic elections in Africa), and Reverend Kayembe was designated, among few others, for training the participants in the programme, to supervise their field works in their home country and make report to the programme. This was done from 2012-2015. For the time being, Reverend Kayembe is the Director of Cabinet of the Rapporteur of DRC CENI.

## **Henry Makabayi, Supervisor of Voter Data Management Department, EC of Uganda**



Henry Makabayi has more than 17 years of continuous experience in election management especially in voter registration, data management and election results management. He has also managed and supervised elections as a District Returning Officer.

Henry is credited for his innovation of on-site designing and printing photographic ballot papers for use during elections of Members of Parliament of Youth, Workers and Persons with Disabilities who are elected by Electoral Colleges. Before he did this in 2006, voting at these elections was by writing the name of a preferred candidate on a piece of paper which was a challenge to illiterate voters.

Henry also attends to the welfare needs of election officials in Uganda through his role as Chairman of the Electoral Commission Staff Savings and Credit Cooperative Society which has got a membership of 637 election official including all Commissioners. Through this society, Henry and his team have been able to have savings of \$987,000 and offered credit to members to the tune of \$1,730,000 without borrowing from external sources.

## **Dr. Somadoda Fikeni, Director of Special Projects and Advisor to the Vice Chancellor/Principal, UNISA**



Dr. Somadoda Fikeni holds a Ph.D in Comparative Politics & Policy Analysis of Michigan State University. He has worked as a researcher and lecturer in different institutions and has vast experience as a consultant and trainer on policy-related matters. He is currently the Director of Special Projects and Advisor to the Vice

Chancellor/Principal in the University of South Africa. He has also been involved in initiatives to coordinate programmes to popularize and implement the African Union Agenda 2063. He has been the initiator for this programmed in the SADC region. Since 1992 he has provided media analysis on politics, social issues, and public policies.

Dr. Fikeni has been awarded the title of best political analyst in South African media in 2011 and 2017.