



Production of country situation reports

Senegal, Benin, Cape Verde, Nigeria

State of Democracy, Elections and Governance

African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (CADEG)

Recruitment of a consultant/researcher

Terms of reference

1. About Gorée Institute

GOREE INSTITUTE is a pan-African civil society organisation whose mission is to contribute to the advent of peaceful, just and self-sufficient African societies; more present on the international scene with democratic but effective institutions and states, open citizens and an engaged civil society. To this end, we strengthen the capacities of the institutions and individuals that make up these societies and work towards the peaceful resolution of conflicts, the consolidation of democratic processes and institutions, and artistic, social and economic creativity.

GOREE INSTITUTE achieves its mission by striving to broaden the range of paradigms, tools, know-how and knowledge that can promote the emergence of peaceful, self-sufficient and open African societies.

GOREE INSTITUTE builds strong partnerships with its stakeholders based on mutual respect, commitment and truly professional relationships.

The programmes, activities and institutional identity of GOREE INSTITUTE are underpinned by three essential and interdependent elements: reflection, which enables us to promote intellectual production and encourage a visionary and preventive approach to contemporary problems and challenges; research, which enables us to subject the most promising ideas arising from the reflection phase to empirical study; and intervention, which enables us to act frequently on results and research.

2. Charter Project Africa

The Charter Project Africa is a pan-African initiative that supports civil society in promoting the continental commitments contained in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) - the African Union's central policy document for advancing democratic governance in African Union member states. The project is led by six organisations and will run for three years, starting in 2021. It has a dedicated secretariat based in Addis Ababa that creates links between pan-African civil society and African Union decision-makers.

This programme aims to contribute to and overcome the political and structural barriers that limit civil society engagement in the AGA and is designed in recognition of the central role that civil society can play. It is also aligned with the "EU Strategy for Engagement with Pan-African Civil Society" which will ultimately support the role of civil society in achieving aspiration 3 and 6 of the AU Agenda 2063. "An Africa of good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law" and "An Africa whose development is people-centred, building on the potential of Africans, especially its women and young people, and caring for its children".

3. Background and justification

African countries are sovereign and accountable to their own citizens for their management of public affairs. But there are certain principles, values and "rules of the game" such as how elections should be conducted that are agreed at international, regional and continental level. Many of these standards are adopted under the auspices of the pan-African continental organisation, the African Union.

Today, the main barometers by which the level of performance of a democracy, elections and governance is measured remain the holding of free and transparent elections, an active civil society, a political class inclined to rise to the occasion whenever a democratic principle is violated, a free, mature and independent public opinion, a flourishing press, etc.

The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG), an instrument of continental governance which celebrated its fifteenth anniversary at the beginning of 2022, is a reference tool for the standards and principles laid down by the African Union on democracy, governance and elections. Civil society when it comes to putting the CADEG into practice in a given country.

Since the adoption of the Charter in 2007, although some States have made significant progress in terms of democracy, this progress has been undermined by a number of instabilities, notably coups d'état, post-electoral conflicts, irredentist crises, nepotistic management of power with agendas deemed, rightly or wrongly, to be unavowed, etc. Examples abound in Africa. Added to all these factors is the shrinking civic space in West Africa. Senegal, seen as a showcase for democracy, saw all its democratic efforts ruined for at least a decade, before experiencing a citizen's upsurge in 2012 and a return to political and institutional crisis in 2023. Benin has enjoyed a real political success story thanks to its regular alternation of power, but its democratic achievements are now being called into question, characterised by the personification of power and a much-criticised system of sponsorship by elected representatives. Nigeria is still suffering the ravages of radical Islamism, the corollary of a low level of democracy and resilience to external shocks, despite a democratic transition since the presidential election of 2022. Cape Verde, despite the pain of gaining independence and the beginnings of a timid democratisation process, is in a phase of confirming its democratic gains.

Sixteen years after the adoption of the African Charter for Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG), a brief inventory of the state of progress of democracy shows that the results are very mixed. Are we not currently experiencing "democratic disenchantment" in Africa? After all the hopes raised, the efforts made and the money sunk, have the results lived up to expectations? What progress have countries made in terms of democracy, governance and elections? What are the main factors explaining these mixed results, depending on the country? Are there any particular features that might explain the disparity in trajectories?

It will be difficult to give definitive answers to these questions, because the answers will vary from country to country, depending on the stakeholders involved and the issues at stake. In fact, several dimensions need to be taken into account to better understand the trajectories of the various African states involved in this latest wave of democratisation.

Similarly, a strong civil society, a free press, etc. are all factors that can come into play in the attempt to understand the problems of democracy in West Africa.

Democracy, governance and elections interact and enrich each other. It is therefore important to make the link between them, their state of progress within a society and its capacity to respect human rights. More and more institutions are being set up at national and international level to monitor whether or not a state is respecting human rights. It is therefore important to study all these aspects in relation to the African Charter on Democracy, Governance and Elections.

By focusing on the CADEG, it would be interesting to answer this series of questions, in particular: what explanations can be given for the crisis of the democratic project in West Africa? what specific features can shed light on the mixed results after several decades of the exercise of democracy in West Africa? What are the dynamics and trends that are emerging with regard to democracy in Africa? What are the internal provisions relating to respect for the CADEG?

4. General objective

The purpose of this country situation report is to assess the extent to which the country has implemented the measures drawn up by the CADEG in terms of good governance, respect for human rights, deepening of democracy and organisation of free, inclusive and transparent elections. See whether the country adheres to the CADEG's values: respect for the rule of law and human rights; culture of democracy and peace; democratic institutions; political, economic and social governance, etc. In short, the report uses the CADEG as an accountability framework, as a reference point, to assess what the country is doing and then to undertake advocacy actions on this basis.

5. Specific objectives

More specifically, the study aims to :

- Identify the various stakeholders in the democratic governance and electoral processes project
- Carry out a country sector review to provide information on the state of Democracy, Governance and Elections
- Highlight the roles of the various players in the process
- Carry out an analysis of the national situation from an institutional and legal point of view with regard to the ratification and implementation of the CADEG
- Giving an understanding of national phenomena that are driving change and can have a lasting impact on the process of democratisation and governance
- Identify good practices in relation to the African Charter on Democracy, Governance and Elections
- As part of the public policy co-production process, to make proposals or recommendations for improving or strengthening the public policies undertaken, in relation to the issues covered by the study.
- Give the reasons for the delays and slowness in submitting reports on the country's progress in the area of CADEG to the African Governance Architecture (AGA),
- Make recommendations to the government and other stakeholders, including the SC, the AU and ECOWAS.

6. Deliverables

- An overview of the state of democracy, governance and elections in relation to the African Charter for Democracy, Elections and Governance.
- Recommendations are made to national, regional and continental stakeholders to improve Democracy, Elections and Governance according to the specific national characteristics that emerge.
- A publication is made

7. Tasks and responsibilities of the researcher

- Participate in online meetings with the programme team
- Propose a research methodology and timetable
- Review the literature on the subject
- Draft the country situation report and make the necessary corrections (in terms of content and form) until final validation by the Gorée Institute programme team.
- Present the report (online or in person) at the regional multi-stakeholder advocacy forum

8. Researcher profile

- Degree in international relations, political science, law, social science or other related subjects
- PhD with 5 years' experience or Master's degree with 10 years' experience
- Knowledge of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and its fundamental principles
- Experience of working with non-governmental organisations
- Mastery of the country's political context
- Excellent writing and speaking skills in French or English
- Ability to work with limited supervision (autonomous)
- Respecting deadlines for submitting work
- Reside in the country where the study is produced
- Ability to travel outside the country
- Experience of studies on issues of governance, elections, human rights and democracy (with production of reports)

9. How do I apply?

Interested candidates should send their letters of application, CVs and two previously produced reports to info@goreeinstitut.org no later than 00:00 on **Thursday 31st March 2024**. Do not forget to mention the name of the country for which you are applying in the subject line.

NB: The study only covers Senegal, Cape Verde, Nigeria and Benin. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.