



AFRICAN INTER-PARTY DIALOGUE NETWORK (AIPDN)

2026 MID-YEAR NEWSLETTER

From Dialogue to Democratic Resilience

January – August 2026 | Issue 01

A Message from AIPDN

The first eight months of 2026 have been a period of purposeful engagement, learning and partnership-building for the African Inter-Party Dialogue Network (AIPDN).

Across West, East and Central Africa, AIPDN has continued to advance its mission of promoting structured, inclusive and sustainable dialogue among political parties and democratic stakeholders. Our work has focused on strengthening the institutions and relationships that make dialogue possible from research and policy engagement to organisational capacity building, electoral preparedness and country-level dialogue processes.

The year has also reinforced an important lesson: democracy is strengthened not only through elections, but through the quality of engagement between political actors before, during and after electoral cycles.

As we look towards the final months of 2026, AIPDN will build on this momentum through engagements in The Gambia, Kenya, Burundi, South Sudan and Senegal while deepening our work on electoral security, inclusive participation, research, partnerships and organisational effectiveness.

January- December 2026 AT A GLANCE

- Supporting political actors and stakeholders to create spaces for constructive engagement and consensus-building.
- Generating evidence on political party financing, electoral preparedness and emerging governance and security risks.
- Strengthening the institutional and organisational capacities of civil society and democratic actors.
- Partnerships
- Expanding collaboration with regional institutions, civil society organisations, political actors and development partners.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY – AUGUST 2026

Strengthening Skills for Peace and Dialogue in Africa



The Training Programme on Diplomacy, Negotiation and Mediation was successfully held from 26–30 January 2026 at the West Africa Research Center (WARC) in Dakar, Senegal. The programme was jointly organized by the African Inter-Party Dialogue Network (AIPDN), WARC, and the University of Nairobi's Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies (IDIS).

The five-day training brought together professionals from academia and research, government institutions, and civil society, creating a diverse platform for learning and exchange on diplomacy, conflict prevention, negotiation, mediation, and peacebuilding.

Through expert presentations, case studies, simulations, group exercises, and plenary discussions, participants developed practical skills and strengthened their capacity to facilitate dialogue and contribute to peaceful conflict resolution.

The programme drew on the expertise of resource persons from IDIS, Prospect Peace – Africa Institute, the Senegalese Foreign Service, government departments, and partner institutions.

Participants welcomed the programme's practical approach, quality of facilitation, and relevance to their professional roles. Overall, the training made a valuable contribution to building African capacities for effective diplomacy, peaceful conflict resolution, and sustainable peacebuilding.

Strengthening Partnerships for Inter-Party Dialogue

AIPDN strengthened its institutional partnerships through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of Pan African Strategies-Peace Security Governance (IPS) and the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) Senegal, the Goree Institute and the Inter-Party Committee of the Gambia creating a platform for greater collaboration in advancing dialogue and democratic governance.

AIPDN also started collaborating with The ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions (ECONEC) which the regional association of Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) of the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). ECONEC promotes credible, transparent, inclusive, peaceful, and democratic electoral processes by strengthening cooperation, institutional capacity, knowledge sharing, and technical assistance among national electoral commissions.



Rethinking Inter-Party Dialogue in West Africa Roundtable

On 28 April 2026, AIPDN, together with the ECOWAS Commission, convened a roundtable in Dakar on “Rethinking Inter-Party Dialogue and Consensus-Building in West Africa.”



The engagement brought together approximately 40 political leaders, electoral management bodies, civil society organisations and regional stakeholders to examine the future of inter-party dialogue at a time of growing democratic fragility in the region.

The discussion highlighted the importance of moving beyond dialogue as an event and towards dialogue as a continuous as insitutionalised mechanism capable of preventing tensions, building consensus and supporting peaceful political competition.

Key reflection

Sustainable democracy requires sustained dialogue.

Organisational Transformation and Effectiveness Training

Dakar | 20–24 July 2026

A major milestone in AIPDN's organisational development work came in July, when AIPDN and WANEP-Senegal delivered a five-day Organisational Transformation and Effectiveness Training for three civil society organisations from Senegal's Casamance region.

Participants from KABONKETOOR, Action Jeunesse Environnement and USFORAL received practical tools covering institutional governance, resource mobilisation, strategic partnerships, digital technologies and artificial intelligence and Ecosystems and Partnerships. Each participating organisation developed its own institutional action plan.

The training demonstrated AIPDN's commitment to strengthening the wider ecosystem that supports democratic governance, not only political parties, but also civil society organisations and other factors that contribute to peace and inclusive participation.



HIGHLIGHTS -LOOKING AHEAD: SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2026

The remainder of 2026 will see AIPDN deepen country-level engagements while expanding research, electoral-security and inclusive participation initiatives.

SEPTEMBER -

AIPDN will focus on translating research into policy and dialogue through:

Completion of the AIPDN/Oslo Center Study on Political and Campaign Finance Regulation: Assessing Challenges and Opportunities in the implementation of the Existing Regulatory Regime and convening of a roundtable to discuss its findings.

The Inter-Party Committee (IPC) and AIPDN, with support from TrustAfrica, will convene leaders of all 22 registered political parties, the Independent Electoral Commission, civil society organizations, youth and women's inter-party platforms, and development partners. The meeting will focus on reaching and adopting key agreements to promote a peaceful, credible, and inclusive electoral process ahead of The Gambia's December 2026 elections.

Focus: Turning research into practical dialogue and strengthening preparedness for upcoming electoral and political processes.



OCTOBER -

PPI-A/ AIPDN Electoral Preparedness and Emerging Risks: Building a Shared Framework for Kenya's 2027 General Elections

Organisational Effectiveness & Transformation Training – West Africa Civil Society Organisations

NOVEMBER -

Religious Leaders-led Inclusive Dialogue Meeting in Bujumbura, Burundi.

Focus: Broadening the circle of dialogue and bringing influential community actors into efforts to prevent political tensions and strengthen social cohesion.

DECEMBER -



FROM ACTIVITIES TO IMPACT

The story of AIPDN in 2026 is not simply a story of meetings, workshops and research projects.

It is a story of building the relationships, institutions, knowledge and capacities that make democratic dialogue possible.

Visit the AIPDN website

<https://aipdn.org>

African Inter-Party Dialogue Network (AIPDN) Secretariat is hosted by Prospect Peace Institute Africa (PPI-A)
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