

## AU Pre-Summit Engagement

### Citizens' Dialogue on Human Rights, Justice, Governance and Peace in Africa

12 February 2026 | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

#### Agenda

	Item	Facilitators/Speakers
9:00 - 9:30	<b>Arrival and Registration</b> <b>(Tea/Coffee served)</b>	Ruth Ogbewekon Focal Point, Research and Publications, PALU  Desire Assogbavi, Advocacy Advisor, Open Society Foundations
9:30 - 10:30	<b>Opening &amp; Framing: Why This Dialogue, Why Now?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Welcome Remarks</li> <li>● Role of Citizens and CSOs in Africa's Reform</li> <li>● Keynote Address: Africa at an inflection point and the status of our continent in a divided world.</li> </ul>	Tefesehet HAILU, Senior Researcher, Amani Africa  <i>Representative</i> AU-ECOSOCC  Brian KAGORO Managing Director, Programs, Open Society Foundations

<p><b>10:30 - 12:30</b></p>	<p><b>Working Groups or Plenary</b></p>	<p><i>Participants to split into three thematic working groups, facilitated as follows-</i></p>
	<p><b>Theme I: Human Rights &amp; Civic Space Under Pressure: where do we go from here?</b></p> <p><b>Guiding Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What explains the accelerating erosion of civic freedoms?</li> <li>● Is judiciary capture becoming normalized?</li> <li>● What continental tools are underutilized (ACHPR, ACtHPR, AU mechanisms)?</li> <li>● How do we move from documentation to protection?</li> </ul> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Key priority actions to safeguard civic space at national &amp; AU levels.</p>	<p>Isabel MWANGI Policy and Advocacy Manager, Africa Renaissance</p>
	<p><b>Theme II: Democracy, Legitimacy &amp; Constitutional Order</b></p> <p><b>Guiding Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Why are constitutional orders and elections failing to inspire trust?</li> <li>● Is the AU governance architecture sufficiently enforced?</li> <li>● How can citizen participation rebuild legitimacy?</li> </ul>	<p>Jeggan GREY-JOHNSON Advocacy Advisor, Open Society- Africa</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What reforms are urgent before the next electoral cycle?</li> </ul> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Clear reform proposals for strengthening constitutionalism and electoral integrity.</p>	
	<p><b>Theme III: Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention in Africa</b></p> <p><b>Guiding questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the relationship between governance failures and the outbreak or escalation of conflict?</li> <li>• How effective is the African Peace and Security Architecture in anticipating and responding to emerging crises?</li> <li>• How can the current APSA framework be improved for conflict prevention and de-escalation?</li> <li>• Where do accountability gaps in addressing mass atrocities exist, and how can this be resolved?</li> </ul> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Actionable recommendations to strengthen African-led prevention &amp; crisis response and, bridge the accountability gap.</p>	<p>Esther MNARO-MUIGAI Programme Manager, PALU</p> <p>Emmaculate A. LIAGA, Researcher, Institute for Security Studies</p>
<p>12:30 - 14:00</p>	<p><b>Closing, Lunch and Networking</b></p> <p><b>Plenary discussion</b></p>	

	<p>Reporting and recommendations from thematic working groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Theme I</li><li>● Theme II</li><li>● Theme III</li></ul> <p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Family Photo</b></p> <p><b>Lunch &amp; Networking</b></p>	<p>Don Deya CEO, PALU</p>
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