



## **Caucus for the Appointment of Chairpersons of the IOPD Africa Sub-Regions**

### **I. Context**

The International Observatory on Participatory Democracy in Africa (IOPD Africa) is a pan-African organization serving national governments, local authorities, civil society organizations, universities, research centers and media that wish to deepen knowledge and practices in participatory democracy, governance and local development.

In 2022, IOPD Africa renewed its political steering bodies with the election of a Chairperson of the Board of the Observatory at the continental level and Chairpersons in each of the sub-regions of Africa. IOPD Africa has also appointed operational focal points to coordinate activities at the sub-regional and national levels.

In accordance with this vision, a first college of Presidents was appointed for the political representation of IOPD Africa in their respective sub-regions. These mandates, lasting three (3) years, have contributed to strengthening the legitimacy of IOPD Africa's political decisions, facilitating the sharing of experiences and anchoring participatory democracy practices in the territories. As the end of these initial mandates approaches, IOPD Africa is opening a new phase of democratic renewal of its bodies, through the organization of caucuses in each of the sub-regions of Africa.

During the sub-regional caucuses, it will be a question of consensually identifying a president of the sub-region, who will also sit on the Board of the Observatory.

### **II. Objectives of the Sub-Regional Caucuses**

The objectives of the IOPD Africa sub-regional caucuses will be to:

- Present IOPD Africa, its objectives, its governance bodies, as well as their missions;
- Present the major actions carried out during the 2024-25 fiscal year, as well as those in perspective;
- Appoint the president of each sub-region of the continent by consensus.

### **III. Eligibility criteria**

Mayors, presidents of municipal councils, presidents of departmental councils, presidents of regional councils and any other local elected officials are eligible for the sub-regional presidency of IOPD Africa. The criteria for election are as follows:

- The local authority must be a registered member of the IOPD Africa;
- Local authorities that are not members of IOPD Africa can apply, but must finalize their membership before taking office via the following link (<http://inscription.oidp-afrique.org/>).
- The President must be the elected authority in his or her local government, and his or her term of office must still cover a minimum of three (3) years;

- Experience in participatory democracy and the existence of a national network of local authorities applying participatory processes is a plus (optional).

**NB: Incumbent Presidents have the possibility to run for a second term.**

#### **IV. Methodology and Timeline**

The sub-regional caucuses will be held from **10 to 12 September 2025**, online via the link: [webinaire.oidp-afrique.org](http://webinaire.oidp-afrique.org). This virtual assembly will be an opportunity to present the IOPD Africa and its bodies to stakeholders, collect possible observations and contributions, and then identify, on the spot, the candidates wishing to run for the subregional Presidency.

At the end of the presentations of the potential candidates, the appointment of the president of the sub-region will be made by consensus of the participants. If no unanimous agreement is reached, a vote will be open to all participants present at the webinar. This democratic vote, supervised by the Secretariat, will guarantee the legitimacy of the President, while respecting the Observatory's principles of transparency.

#### **Tentative Timeline**

<b>Timetables</b>	<b>Wednesday 10 Sept</b>	<b>Thursday 11 Sept</b>	<b>Friday 12 Sept</b>
09am-11am GMT	East Africa	Southern Africa	Central Africa
2pm-4pm GMT	West Africa	North Africa	