



PRESS STATEMENT

(For immediate Release – Wednesday 20th April 2022)

Sustaining Democratic Resilience in the Context of Erosion: Lessons from Europe and Africa

The Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) in collaboration with the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD) and the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) will on **Friday 22nd April 2022** hold a Roundtable on the topic: “Sustaining Democracy in the Context of Erosion: Lessons from Europe and Africa” at IDEG, East Legon, Accra.

The Roundtable discussion will climax a 3-day visit to Ghana by the delegation from the DIPD, led by Lisabeth Pilegaard, its Executive Director and bring finality to DIPD partnered projects in Ghana over the last 4 years. The visit which is facilitated by IDEG and the CDD is intended to accord the delegation opportunity to engage a select representation of stakeholders on matters of mutual interest in areas of women’s rights, gender parity, good governance and democracy, as well as forge closer ties for future collaborations between DIPD and their Ghanaian counterparts.

The Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD) provides democracy assistance through partnership-based projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. The Institute works to develop and further democratic institutions in political systems and civil society, focusing on media, young people, elections, gender and human rights. They bring together individuals, groups and political parties to share ideas, knowledge and experiences and support projects that strengthen a democratic culture and also participate in partnerships with organizations specialized in support for political parties.

Established by the Danish Parliament in May 2010, its overall purpose is to strengthen and complement the Danish democracy assistance, particularly through support to political parties and multi-party platforms in developing countries.

Generally, there is a growing population of ‘dissatisfied democrats’ who are finding alternative government systems attractive across the continent. In the words of the US President Joe Biden, “... there is an increasing dissatisfaction of people all around the world with democratic governments that they feel are failing to deliver for their needs”. The globe is continuously experiencing the diminishing returns of the supply-side of democracy.

Therefore, with the resurgence of undemocratic government changes, the weak strategic and operational response of regional bodies (EU, AU, RECs, etc), decreasing trend of the supply-side of democracy, a call for democratic stability is imperative.

This scenario therefore necessitates and makes relevant the discussion topic. The overarching goal of the roundtable discussion is to reflect on the looming reversal of democracy and good governance in Europe and Africa and proffer solutions for mitigation. Specifically, discussions will seek to answer the following questions: What is the prognosis of democratic stability in Europe and Africa? How effective are the existing regional and continental frameworks in fighting undemocratic government changes? How can the existing framework be sharpened for effectiveness in combating the retreat of democracy?

By the end of the discussions, it is expected that discussants would explore the internal and external conditions necessitating the decline of democracy in Europe and Africa, examine the effectiveness of existing regional and continental frameworks in fighting undemocratic regimes and proffer enduring solutions to the problem.

The Panel for the Roundtable will include Ms. Lisbeth Pilgaard, Executive Director, DIPD, Dr. Lawrencia Agyepong, Lecturer, Department of Communication Studies GIJ, Mr. Emmanuel Bombande, Senior Mediation Adviser, United Nations and Hon. Akwasi Osei-Adjei, Former MP and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Facilitators for the joint IDEG, DIPD, CDD program are Dr. Emmanuel O. Akwetey, Executive Director, IDEG, and Dr. Kojo Asante, Director of Advocacy and Policy Engagement, CDD. The program will be moderated by Ms. Kathleen Addy, Deputy Chairperson of the National Commission for Civic Education.

Participants for the roundtable discussion will be drawn from political parties, the diplomatic corps, government representatives, security practitioners, civil society organizations, academia, youth, women's groups, professional organizations, and the media amongst others.



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Issued by: IDEG on behalf of IDEG, DIPD, CDD