



CALL FOR A WRITING RETREAT / WORKSHOP ON ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

Senegal, Dakar | 29 November to 3 December 2023

In December 2023, the HSRC will host a writing retreat where scholars from five African regions will debate and produce papers and policy briefs on electoral processes and democracy in Africa. The retreat is an initiative of the Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA), a division that leads the HSRC's Africa research agenda. AISA's goal is to produce knowledge that enables sustainable peace, security and inclusive development while exploring pathways for transformative policies and practices in Africa. Prominent scholars in the domain of elections and democracy in Africa are expected to attend the writing retreat. The primary objectives are:

- Providing an opportunity for attendees to collaborate and co-write journal articles with other African scholars.
- Initiating and creating a network of researchers in the domain of democracy and elections in Africa, a critical research area aimed at strengthening peace, security and governance in Africa.
- Contributing towards capacity development for master's and PhD trainees/interns, who will have the chance to publish with established African scholars.

The new political elites that came to power in Africa after 1960 were concerned with the consolidation of states on the continent and, therefore, instituted a one-party system that eroded most of the democratic gains the decolonial state had achieved at independence. At the writing retreat, we will debate some of these issues and produce papers and policy briefs that critique and address the challenges associated with these processes. Ideally, established scholars from all five regions of Africa should be represented at the retreat.

Interested scholars from Africa can contact: Ms Mmakwena Chipu at mchipu@hsrc.ac.za and send an expression of interest to publish@hsrc.ac.za.

The deadline for the submission of an expression of interest is 10 November 2023. Successful scholars will be notified within two weeks of having submitted the concept note. It is expected that scholars will co-publish with an HSRC researcher.

FORMAT:

- Concept notes of no longer than 1500 words should be submitted by 7 November 2023.
- Successful applicants will be contacted by 11 November 2023.
- A co-authored draft paper must be submitted by 24 November 2023, which will guarantee participation at the retreat.
- Targeted dates for the retreat: 29 November to 3 December 2023
- The deadline for final submission of papers and policy briefs is 20 January 2024.