

**INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE FOR SUSTAINABLE  
ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY AND PEACE IN  
ZIMBABWE**

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# Introduction

- A history of contested election outcomes, violence, polarisation- yet ***I PRAY I VOTE!!!***
- Is inclusive dialogue a precondition for sustainable electoral democracy and peace?
- Dialogue: levels-family, community, national, conferences
- A **POLITICAL** dialogue or **NATIONAL** dialogue?
- Inclusive Dialogue: principles, the case of Zimbabwe

# National Dialogue

- An interaction of **political elites?**-Big or Small?
- An institutionalised or non-institutionalised process outside a constitution?
- Engagement of as **many relevant actors** as possible
- The opportunity to **co-shape and co-design** the future
- A structured and facilitated conversations on an issue of concern by **representatives** of the various groups and institutions

# Inclusive Dialogue

- Can be interpreted and measured in relation to the quantity of representation, e.g. the percentage of women or youth involved in a process.
- Through the lens of capacity, influence and voice – that is, the quality of representation.
- Transparent- BUT to what extent with the publicity?
- All key interest groups: Who is KEY?

## Principles of Dialogue

- Inclusive but technically supported
- Capture the aspirations of ALL
- Holistic in nature: political, social and economic dimensions
- Compliant to internationally accepted standards and norms but home grown
- Informed by the spirit and values of the national constitution
- Transparency and public participation should be guaranteed
- Informed by past and present while driven by future vision

## Principles...

- A credible convener: NOT Mediator? Capacity issues are important
- Clear mandate: constitutional, political, public etc.
- Appropriate and clear rules of procedure
- Implementation plan which can easily be monitored by all stakeholders

## Dilemmas in National Dialogue

- Mandate and dialogue
- Convening capacity Vs Credibility-Recognition
- Inclusivity and Legitimacy
- Inclusivity and Power
- Complexity Vs Effectiveness
- Inclusivity and Representativeness
- Inclusivity and Ownership

## What is the Problem in Zimbabwe?

- Fragmentation
- “Democratic” Constitution Vs Lack of Constitutionalism
- Economic Challenges



## Hence Need for Dialogue? YES!

- Closure of political hostilities caused by a disputed election outcome in 2018: *Kudira Jecha Vs Kurakasha*
- Stabilization of the socio-economic and political development
- Address human rights violations and human insecurity
- Predictability for investors

## Focus Should be on:

- **Relationships:** Restoration, healing and revitalization of relationships among all Zimbabweans and between Zimbabwe and the rest of the world.
- **Governance:** Renewal of a national social contract between the citizens and those in government based on the full alignment of laws to the constitution and full implementation of the same
- **Economy:** Recovery and rebuilding of a just, growing and inclusive value-based Economy supported more by local human and natural resources than external benevolence which is not sustainable and predictable

## But possible obstacles to dialogue...

- Beneficiaries of the status quo
- Monopolization of the process
- Elements in political parties
- Selfish and personal political mileage
- Fear for loss of livelihoods
- Citizens fearing the repeat of “GNU” precedence
- Representation: size, Reps in Parliament etc.

## Options on Mandate in Zimbabwe's Dialogue Process

- Assume it fits in the NPRC mandate
- Parliament supporting Dialogue through a specific law?
- President establishing a special Dialogue Commission?
- Informality and voluntarism in facilitating dialogue: Non State Actors

## Where are we?

- National Consensus Building Processes-Ecumenical Elections Covenant: the Church efforts- engagement with Political parties(High Level), Parliament, Security Sector, Youths, Women, Business, Media Engagement/partnership etc.
- Political Parties: President Mnangagwa
- Civil Society efforts
- NPRC: dialogue framework
- Coordination issues?

## Recommendations

- Resolve issue of mandate in national dialogue
- Coordination issues among Church, CSOs, NPRC, politicians etc.
- Monitoring of the process by CSOs-ZHRC issue
- From a “Winner Takes All to the Proportional Representation”
- Management of electoral results: predictability, communication
- Multi Party and Stakeholders Engagement should be ongoing
- Strengthening Code of Conduct: Sensitivity to electoral cycle
- Peace pledges should be monitored and ongoing
- Citizen participation
- Advocacy for the alignment of laws to the constitution

*Proverbs 16:3 NIV*

*3. Commit to the Lord whatever you do,  
and he will establish your plans.*

**Thank You!**

