



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

The Role of Youth in Democratic Resilience and Governance in Africa
May 11, 2023

BIOGRAPHIES

PANELISTS (In alphabetical order)

Mr. Florindo Chivucute is the founder and Executive Director of Friends of Angola (FOA), and a consultant. Florindo earned his Master's degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University and has over 10 years of experience working in non-profit organizations, international development, international relations, peacebuilding, and education while being active in the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP). Since founding Friends of Angola in April 2014, he has led the design and implementation of six projects in Angola: (1) Radio Angola (an online radio station); (2) Strengthening Nonviolent Civic Engagement Among the Youth; (3) Strengthening Democracy in Angola Through Community Journalism; (4) Zuela Application - a pro-democracy and social networking smartphone app focused on fostering good governance, eradicating corruption, monitoring elections and human right violations and more; (5) Developing Leadership Skills and Democratic Values for Angolan Young Men and Women; (6) anti-kleptocracy project in Angola. All projects were envisioned as part of a larger theory of change (ToC) to strengthen the capacity of civil society, empower women and youth while promoting nonviolent civic engagement by using new and existing technologies in Angola and the South-Western African Region. These projects were funded by The National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Embassy of Canada in Harare, Zimbabwe and U.S. Embassy in Luanda, Angola. Florindo has also published two research papers: "Urban Youth Activism and the Peace Process in Angola" and "Angola and China - Bilateral Economic Strategy."

Ms. Asafika Mpako is the Communications Coordinator for Southern Africa at Afrobarometer. She previously held the role of Project Officer at the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, working on the development and implementation of the Data for Governance Alliance project which aims to enhance democracy, governance and human rights on the continent. Having studied in South Africa, China and the United Kingdom, Asafika holds two master's degrees in Public Policy and Public Administration from Peking University and the London School of Economics, respectively. Prior to her postgraduate training, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Development Studies from the University of Cape Town. She has recently been named a Mandela Washington Fellow and will participate in a leadership institute, studying public management at a U.S university.

Dr. Nzioka Kalekye is an accomplished project manager, teacher of English as a second language, democracy and governance specialist with over 7 years of experience leading complex initiatives in the national and international development sector. She has expertise in research, social inclusion, project design and implementation, policy development and analysis, stakeholder engagement, capacity building and its related praxis. She has a proven track record of delivering results in challenging environments. She believes that the youth of Africa carry the flame of hope as the agents of change in the continent and talent is the key to unlocking youths' individual and the collective future of the continent. She has great interpersonal skills and self-initiative which helps her accomplish tasks ahead of deadlines. Her organization, planning and execution skills come in handy in her field as a managing director, project manager, artist manager, researcher and a poet. She is passionate about education, human capital development, community development, gender equality, poverty alleviation and safe migration especially refugee integration and human trafficking. She has strong multicultural background having travelled extensively and worked with regional and international organizations. She is a trainer in creative writing, art therapy, project management, design thinking and personal development. Her ultimate goal in life is to have an empowered generation of young people who hunger to build sustainable communities around them.