
Democracy's Silent Partners: Civil Society in Electoral Processes

Peace

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BACKGROUND

UNITAR, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies & CECOE ETHIOPIA present

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While politicians, voters, and electoral management bodies occupy the spotlight during elections, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) often operate behind the scenes, quietly but powerfully shaping the fairness, inclusiveness, and credibility

of electoral processes. From educating voters and observing polls to advocating for legal reforms and amplifying marginalized voices, CSOs are democracy's "silent partners"; essential, yet under-recognized actors in sustaining electoral integrity. This webinar explores the critical but often unseen roles that civil society plays across the electoral cycle. It aims to elevate the visibility of civic actors, share successful strategies, and examine the growing pressures they face: from digital repression and shrinking civic space to political backlash and resource constraints.