



## **Panellists:**

**Dr Victor Shale** is the Senior Manager in the Office of the CEO, Electoral Commission of South Africa. He has more than 20 years' elections and governance experience. He is the Lead Author of the SADC Model Law on Elections, and also developed a blue print for the African Union on Youth Participation Guide in political and electoral processes. He is the co-editor of the books "When elephants Fight: Preventing and Resolving Election-related Conflicts in Africa" and "The Impact of Floor Crossing on Party Systems and Representative Democracy". He holds a PhD in politics from the University of South Africa (UNISA) and a MPhil in Conflict Transformation from the University of Port Elizabeth (UPE).

**Professor Mohamed Salih** is Professor of Politics of Development at the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague and the Department of Political Science, University of Leiden in the Netherlands. Regional research interests, fieldwork, academic and policy research interests: Africa and Middle East and shortly in the English-speaking Caribbean

**Ms Sonali Champion** is a PhD candidate in Politics at the University of East Anglia. Her research is on capacity in democratic institutions, with a focus on election management bodies. This research builds on professional experience in election administration and international electoral observation and support, as well as an MSc in Comparative Politics: Democracy and Democratization

**Ms Nighat Dad** is the founder and Executive Director of Digital Rights Foundation (DRF), Pakistan. She is currently serving on the Oversight Board for Meta, working on content moderation on the platform, and serving Member of the Advisory Council on Human Rights and Technology at Microsoft. She has been working for over a decade on issues of online content moderation, advocating with governments and tech companies to tackle online violence against women, minorities and other vulnerable groups. Nighat is a TED Fellow and former Berkman Klein Center (Harvard University) affiliate and has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Dutch Human Rights Tulip Award and TIME's Next Generation Leader.

**Mr Robert Gerege** is Principal Advisor to Election Management Bodies at the African Union Commission where he oversees electoral assistance to the AU Member States. He previously worked as Electoral Advisor at the United Nations Mission in D.R. Congo as well as Head of Special Programmes at the EISA. He is a PhD candidate in Politics at the University of the Witwatersrand researching on the Political Economy of Disrupted Electoral Cycles