

# Protecting Elections, defending information integrity:

## Join the Partnership on Information Integrity in Elections(PIIE)

The 2024 National and Provincial Elections marked a turning point for South Africa, seeing an unprecedented surge in digital threats—from deepfakes to targeted campaigns designed to undermine the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). As we approach the **2026 Local Government Elections**, we cannot afford to work in silos. **PIIE** is a multi-stakeholder coalition—led by **Moxii Africa**, **SANEF**, and **Africa Check**—dedicated to safeguarding the integrity of our democratic processes. We are looking for partners to join this unified front.

### Why Join PIIE?

In an era of rapid technological change and generative AI, no single organization can combat disinformation alone. By joining PIIE, you become part of a structured, high-impact framework that:

- **Strengthens Information Integrity:** Move beyond reactive fact-checking to help build a healthy information ecosystem.
- **Amplifies Your Impact:** Leverage the collective reach of the partnership to ensure your research and alerts reach a wider audience.
- **Avoids Duplication:** Coordinate efforts with other players to ensure resources are used efficiently where they are needed most.
- **Protects Democracy:** Directly contribute to ensuring that South African voters are informed and empowered, rather than misled.

### Membership Benefits

- **Direct Line to the IEC:** Access a streamlined communication channel with identified IEC focal points for rapid response on urgent electoral matters.
- **Resource & Insight Sharing:** Gain access to shared research, tools, and a multi-stakeholder forum to strategize throughout the election cycle.
- **Collaborative Innovation:** Participate in **Ad Hoc Working Groups** to solve specific technical challenges, from algorithmic transparency to platform accountability.
- **Autonomy:** PIIE is designed to support your work, not dictate it. Membership fosters collaboration without detracting from your organization's individual mandate.

### How You Can Contribute

We are looking for both **Principal Members** (CSOs, academics, and research institutes) and **Associate Members** (Tech platforms, media houses, and independent state organs).

You can contribute by:

- **Monitoring & Research:** Identifying and analyzing trends in mis- and disinformation.
- **Communication:** Distributing verified information through your unique channels to combat "dark" or false narratives.
- **Strategic Input:** Serving on the steering committee or working groups to help shape policy and governance.
- **Commitment to Values:** Upholding the South African Constitution and a shared pledge toward mutual respect and transparency.

Which member are you?

The proposed PIIE framework establishes a two-tiered membership structure designed to maintain a clear distinction between the watchdog role of civil society and the collaborative roles of other sectors.

## Principal Members

This category is strictly reserved for independent actors who serve a public interest or "watchdog" function.

- **Eligibility:** Limited to independent civil society organizations (CSOs), research institutes, academics, and individuals.
- **Exclusions:** Explicitly excludes organs of state and for-profit companies.
- **Track Record:** Members must have an established history of work in elections, freedom of expression, or combating online harms in South Africa.
- **Governance:** Founding CSO members in this tier are responsible for the steering committee, which handles governance, oversight, and policy decisions for PIIE.

## Associate Members

This is a broader category intended for entities that play a functional role in the information ecosystem but may have different institutional mandates.

- **Eligibility:** Includes for-profit entities, media companies, and relevant organs of state.
- **Sub-categories:**
  - **Independent State Organs:** Such as the South African Human Rights Commission, the Information Regulator, and GCIS.
  - **Industry & Tech:** Social media platforms and internet service providers.

- **Media Entities:** Print, broadcast, and online news organizations.
- **Role:** These members provide essential platform and sector-specific cooperation to help PIIE meet its objectives without blurring the distinct roles of civil society.

## Join Us at the Launch

**Date:** 26 March 2026

**Core Partners:** Moxii Africa, SANEF, Africa Check

Be more than a spectator in the fight for truth. Join PIIE and help us build a resilient, informed, and truly democratic South Africa.

**Interested in joining?** Please prepare to provide your entity name and representative details at the launch event.

## Who does what?

### PIIE Roles & Responsibilities Guide

#### 1. The Coordination Tier

This tier ensures the coalition runs smoothly and maintains a direct line of communication with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

- **Secretariat (Moxii Africa, with Africa Check and SANEF):** Responsible for the day-to-day management, administration, and coordination of PIIE activities. This includes financial management and record-keeping for any funds raised.
- **Steering Committee (Founding CSO Members):** Provides governance, oversight, and high-level decision-making. They are responsible for developing founding documents, establishing membership criteria, and finalizing policy positions.
- **IEC Focal Point:** A designated person within the Commission who serves as the primary liaison to ensure information is communicated quickly and effectively between the IEC and PIIE members.

## 2. The Participation Tier

PIIE is built on two distinct membership categories to balance the "watchdog" role of civil society with the expertise of other sectors.

### Principal Members (CSOs & Academics)

- **Role:** Act as independent watchdogs holding state and non-state actors accountable during the election cycle.
- **Contribution:** Provide research, monitoring, and expert analysis on election-related online harms and freedom of expression.
- **Eligibility:** Limited to non-profit organizations and individuals with an established track record in the public interest.

### Associate Members (Tech, Media & State Organs)

- **Role:** Provide functional support and sector-specific cooperation to strengthen the information ecosystem.
- **Contribution:** Share resources, assist with content moderation trends (platforms), provide media reach (news entities), or offer institutional oversight (independent state organs).
- **Eligibility:** Open to relevant for-profit companies, media houses, and independent organs of state.

## 3. Commitments for All Members

To maintain the integrity and credibility of PIIE, every member commits to the following values:

- **Constitutional Values:** Uphold the South African Constitution and international human rights standards.
- **Electoral Integrity:** A shared commitment to free, fair, and credible elections.
- **Good Faith:** Interact with other members with mutual respect, fairness, and trustworthiness.
- **Active Participation:** Regularly engage in PIIE meetings and activities to share information and raise awareness.
- **Diligence:** Exercise reasonable care and skill in all PIIE-related engagements.
- **Transparency:** Disclose any potential conflicts of interest immediately to the Secretariat or Steering Committee.

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## Next Steps for the March 26th Launch

1. **Select Your Tier:** Determine if your organization fits the **Principal** or **Associate** criteria.

2. **Identify Representatives:** Choose your primary point of contact for PIIE activities.
3. **Formalize Interest:** Be ready to complete the expression of interest form during the launch event