# AB update

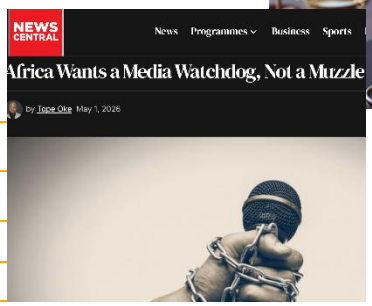
*May 2026 highlights*

## In the field and around the network

- ✓ Afrobarometer Round 11 is off and running, with fieldwork completed in Zimbabwe and underway in Gabon. Coming up: Nigeria, Malawi, Angola, Cameroon. …
- ✓ In partnership with the World Bank's Economists for Transformation Network, AB hosted a webinar on citizens' perspectives on water and sanitation.
- ✓ Afrobarometer launched the first episodes of its #VoicesAfrica podcast, exploring the many ways beyond the ballot box in which Africans are shaping democracy.
- ✓ Dissemination of Round 10 results continued with the publication of country-level findings and a Pan-Africa Profile focusing on civic space.

## In the news and online

A total of **1,551 media hits** were recorded in May across various media outlets, including the Guardian, Substack, Medium, Cambridge University Press & Assessment, Springer, Wiley Online Library, Anadolu Ajansı, SAPO, Mediapart, IOL, NRC, Publico, Rádio e Televisão de Portugal, Ziare.com, Punch, Vanguard, Daily Maverick, Senego, News Central TV. …




## On digital/social media

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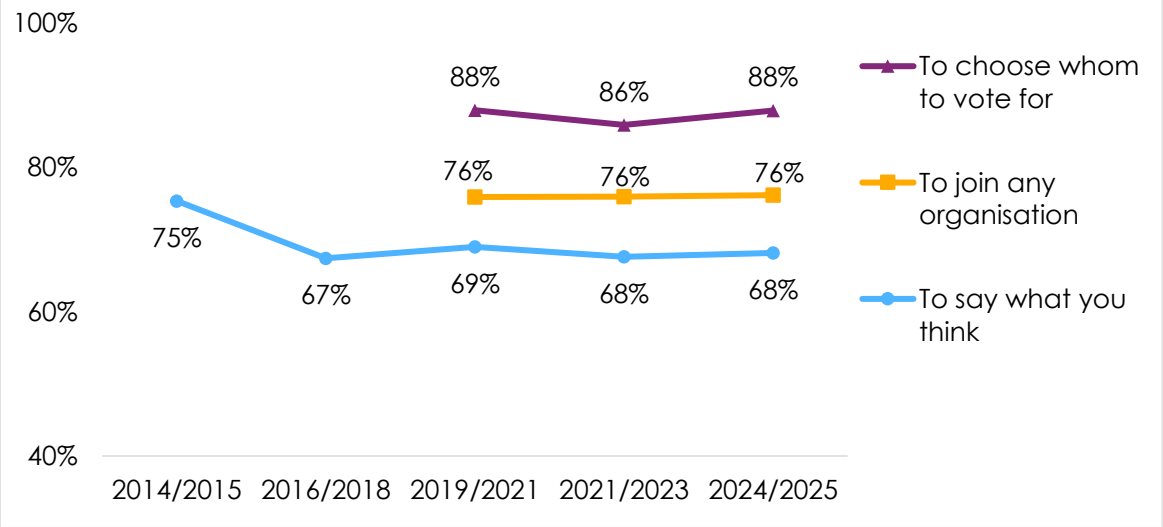
|---|---|
| **Website** | 35,233 users; 7,577 downloads |
| **Online data analysis** | 5,648 user sessions |
| **X** | 36,843 followers |
| **Facebook** | 23,124 fans |

## Chart of the month

**Perceived supply of civic freedoms** | 28 countries | 2014-2025




***Respondents were asked:*** *In this country, how free are you: To say what you think? To join any political organisation you want? To choose whom to vote for without feeling pressured? (% who say "somewhat free" or "completely free")*

## Visibility

- ✓ AB shared insights on the drivers of democracy at the Global Democracy Conference hosted by the Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame.
- ✓ The network hosted a virtual university outreach session with the National Union of Ghanaian Students in China to strengthen research capacities.
- ✓ AB joined a UNESCO regional forum observing World Press Freedom Day, sharing its latest findings on media freedom.
- ✓ The Institute for Governance Reform, AB's National Partner in Sierra Leone, hosted a series of radio podcasts on development and government performance.
- ✓ AB joined West Africa Democracy Radio for a panel discussion on "Is the Sahel witnessing the end of democracy or the rebirth of a new system of governance?"

## Presentations

- ✓ On media access, freedom, and its role, to the Lesotho Press Club and Fondation Hirondelle
- ✓ On "Women in politics – beyond numbers to real power," at the She Empowerment League youth for gender equality conference
- ✓ On corruption, to the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences of Lesotho and at the Transparency International School of Integrity in Zimbabwe
- ✓ On democracy, at the Sierra Leone Democracy Strengthening Programme
- ✓ On "The intersection of climate, audit accountability, financial inclusion, and conflict prevention for women's political and economic empowerment," at the Sierra Leone National Public Dialogue

## Publications

- ✓ Working Paper 224: Service delivery and political trust: A comparative analysis of countries in sub-Saharan Africa
- ✓ Dispatch 1188: Les Sénégalais soutiennent la liberté de mariage des femmes, mais s'opposent à leur autonomie dans les décisions de procréation
- ✓ Dispatch 1187: Amid gloomy economic outlook, Namibian youth identify unemployment as the country's most urgent problem
- ✓ Dispatch 1186: São Toméans strongly support women's reproductive autonomy, sexuality education, and broad access to contraception
- ✓ Dispatch 1185: Seychellois say climate change is making life worse, call on government and rich countries to act
- ✓ Dispatch 1184: Sierra Leoneans back regional mobility despite resistance to immigration
- ✓ Dispatch 1183: Zimbabweans support women's autonomy in marital and reproduction choices, but hold mixed views on contraceptives and abortion
- ✓ Dispatch 1182: Les Malgaches désapprouvent la performance du gouvernement en matière d'accès à l'eau et à l'électricité
- ✓ Dispatch 1181: Demand for civic space holds strong across Africa as supply of freedoms wanes
- ✓ Dispatch 1180 : Les Maliens estiment que la police et les tribunaux doivent faire plus pour protéger les droits des femmes
- ✓ Dispatch 1179: Les Béninois valorisent une identité partagée, mais restent préoccupés par la discrimination et la mauvaise gestion des inégalités
- ✓ Dispatch 1178: Amid electricity crisis, Zambians favour ending state monopoly, investing in renewable sources
- ✓ Dispatch 1177: Rural, poor Basotho hit hard by lack of access to electricity grid
- ✓ Dispatch 1176: Ugandans prioritise job creation and education to help young people, even if it requires higher taxes
- ✓ Dispatch 1175: Seychellois open to international collaboration, want greater African voice on global platforms
- ✓ Dispatch 1174: Les Sénégalais soutiennent une plus grande voix africaine, mais restent ambivalents entre ouverture commerciale et protectionnisme

## Support for Afrobarometer

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