



SAPES Policy Dialogue Forum.

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“The Trump Victory: Implications for the USA itself, global dynamics and Africa”.

The Presidential Election in the United States of America in 2024 were perhaps the most acrimonious in living memory. Despite winning an overwhelming majority in the Electoral College, President-elect, Donald Trump, had only a narrow margin (1.6%) over his opponent, Kamala Harris. The US clearly a deeply politically polarised country, and this will have implications for how the country navigates itself through its internal political in the next four over a range of highly divisive issues.

For the rest of the world, the concern is over what will be the foreign policy of the US during the Trump administration’s life. The international order is more anarchic – to use John Mearsheimer’s phrase – than ever before, and the potential clash between the major hegemonic powers more worrying than ever before. With the wars in Gaza and the Ukraine, and the increasing impotence of the UN, will the new US administration seek to minimise international anarchy or exacerbate it? Will it help to stop the global trend towards autocratic governance or join the trend?

For Africa, these are not trivial issues. Africa is one of the few regions in the world where democracy seems to be growing – witness the recent elections in Botswana and Mauritius – but African countries are facing the double jeopardy of economic recession and climate change. How will an apparently isolationist and climate-denying new US administration craft its policies towards Africa?

The possible implications of the Trump victory for the US itself, global dynamics, and Africa, will be addressed by an expert panel.

Convener & Moderator

Ibbo Mandaza (Director, SAPES Trust)

Presenter:

Gilbert Khadiagala (Professor of International Relations, University of Witwatersrand)

Panellists:

Michelle D. Gavin (Former Ambassador; Senior Fellow for Africa Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations)

Todd Moss (Former Deputy Assistant Secretary, State Department)

Stephen Chan (Professor of World Politics at SOAS, University of London)