



# FIGHTING INFORMATION MANIPULATION THE ROLE OF FACT-CHECKERS NIGERIA

The **EU EOM in Nigeria** reinforced **the crucial role of fact-checkers in verifying online content**, protecting the **integrity of information** and **helping voters to make an informed choice on election day.**

Full story below 

**The European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) deployed in Nigeria for the 2023 general elections monitored closely the social media environment and content related to the elections and the political campaign, highlighting both online risks and the critical role of local fact-checkers.**

**NIGERIA**



**During the 2023 elections, information manipulation flooded various social media platforms, used by around 36 million of Nigerians, becoming a threat to the democratic process.**

In response, a dozen fact-checking and media organisations joined forces to form the **Nigerian Fact-checkers Coalition (NFC)** - a nationwide effort to confront falsehoods with facts.

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Fact-checkers are crucial in assessing and **verifying content** to provide the public with **independent, accurate, and reliable information**, protecting the integrity of information and helping voters to **make a well-informed decision on election day**.

*Working across platforms, the coalition fact-checked a wide range of content, in multiple local languages, contributing to public trust and to the integrity of the electoral process in countering and combating electoral disinformation.*

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***Freedom of expression allows individuals to express opinions and ideas without interference, and to seek, receive, and impart information through various mediums.***

***These are core values rooted in the human rights, and assessed by the EU EOMs.***

*The EU EOM underlined the role of the Nigerian Fact-checkers Coalition (NFC), which tackled a large amount of false online content and contributed to raising awareness on the dangers of disinformation.*

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**“The fact that observers paid attention to social media showed just how central these platforms have become to our democracy”, said Mr Opeyemi Kehinde, FactCheckHub editor, who also headed the NFC. “It sent a message that what happens online matters - and that it can shape real-world outcomes. Knowing the EU EOM was watching gave additional recognition to our efforts and highlighted the importance of credible, coordinated fact-checking during the elections”, he added.**