Interviewer: Khrystyna

Participant country: Botswana

1. First Impressions: What struck you as most interesting and insightful about this interview?
   1. Disinformation should be prosecuted similarly to how cyber crimes are prosecuted.
   2. Lack of regulation of political parties finances makes parties vulnerable to foreign influence but Chinese might be hesitant to affiliate with specific parties as they can lose elections.
   3. Sophisticated disinformation has to come from abroad – local actors lack capacity.
2. What existing information threats did the participant identify? (list)
   1. Social media is not regulated (anyone can post anything).
   2. Attempts to use disinformation against some political candidates (both external and internal – but hard to attribute).
   3. From neighboring countries – present Botswana as instable to sway tourists to visit them instead.
3. What was the most insightful in participant’s description of threats from China?
   1. China might be wary to support a political candidate/party as they might lose elections.
   2. Chinese companies operate in the region, so there might be some influence.
4. What needs did the participant identify?
   1. Regulation of social media
   2. Legislation on disinformation.
   3. Regulation of political parties finances.
5. What support did they identify that they would like to see from the US?
   1. NA.

### Interview with BOTSWANA (at ALFS)

* Information threat is that social media is not regulated. Anyone can post anything.
* AI can impersonate to spread disinformation. They tend to mislead.
* We have a policy on the government level. We enacted a law to protect people against it. They can post anything about anything.
* We have a cybercrime act. A person A is being used, somebody is faking their documents – this is prosecuted.
* During the elections, we had attempts to de-campaign some of the candidates – we had problems with [Bocar?]. AI was used to spread false information.
* Any false information is a threat to the military.
* The origin is mixed. Some of it, for example, if it is a video which is authentic, it comes from within the country. But there are some outside attempts. You never know who is behind it. Different countries have different communications.
* It is not always political. Other Southern African countries around us – there is a free movement across borders – they use propaganda to sway tourists away from coming to Botswana and to go to other countries instead. They want to show us [in a bad light].
* Chinese companies are operating so [Chinese influence] might be possible.
* For elections, somebody might be conducting a plan if there are actors financing people, for example, at the party level. We do not have any government policy for financing political parties. They have to find their sources anywhere. But Chinese companies might not want to do it. They think ahead – if a party loses elections, they don’t want to be associated with that party.
* We have poaching. People who pretend to be fishermen but come for hippos or elephants.