

Country and group trends can vary drastically depending on the base year for analysis. Whilst a country can register improvement or decline over the last ten years, it may show the opposite trend in the last five years. The IIAG results reveal that governance performance is not linear. Countries regularly improve or decline between years. Since the start of the IIAG time series (2000), Rwanda is the only country in Africa to show year-on-year improvement of their *Overall Governance* score. No country registers year-on-year decline.

Due to the constantly moving nature of governance performance, the 2017 IIAG analysis focuses on assessing trends in the last five years (2012-2016), within the context of the last decade (2007-2016).

This analysis provides long-term findings as well as focusing on the short-term, in order to provide a more nuanced assessment of the performance and trajectories of countries, regions and groups.

The intention of this analysis is to illustrate that whilst the IIAG can be used to view long-term trends, due to the changing nature of governance performance, it is important to assess both the long-term and short-term along side each other.

Whilst a country can either improve or deteriorate over the decade, the trend displayed in recent years shows important and useful characteristics for analysis.

Whilst registering improvement over the decade, a country can, over the last five years:

- Increase its rate of improvement;
- Slow its rate of improvement;
- Show recent decline.

Similarly, a country showing decline over the decade can, over the last five years:

- Increase its rate of decline;
- Slow its rate of decline;
- Show recent improvement.

In order to capture these 'trends within trends', countries are classified according to the direction and size of their annual average trend in the most recent five years, compared to the direction and size of their annual average trend shown over a decade.

The time periods used for analysis are:

Ten-year period: 2007-2016

Five-year period: 2012-2016

To determine whether progress/decline is quickening/slowing, the annual average trend for each period is calculated.

The annual average trend for the ten-year period is the total change in score between 2007 and 2016, divided by nine (the number of annual time periods experienced).

The annual average trend for the five-year period is the total change in score between 2012 and 2016, divided by four (the number of annual time periods experienced).

In total, there are six groups of trajectories: *'Increasing Improvement'*, *'Slowing Improvement'*, *'Warning Signs'*, *'Bouncing Back'*, *'Slowing Deterioration'* or *'Increasing Deterioration'*.

These classifications are applied to all measures in the IIAG, and are used for groups as well as countries.

Classification	Characteristic
Increasing Improvement	Annual average improvement over both periods, accelerating in the last five years
Slowing Improvement	Annual average improvement over both periods, losing momentum in the last five years
Warning Signs	Annual average improvement over the decade, but decline in the last five years*
Bouncing Back	Annual average decline over the decade, but improvement in the last five years*
Slowing Deterioration	Annual average decline over both periods, decelerating in the last five years
Increasing Deterioration	Annual average decline over both periods, worsening in the last five years

* Where trends are static (show no change), the following classifications are applied: Static (over ten years) to decline (over five years): 'Warning Signs' | Improve (over ten years) to static (over five years): 'Warning Signs' | Decline (over ten years) to static (over five years): 'Bouncing Back' | Static (over ten years) to improve (over five years): 'Bouncing Back'

A 'No Change' classification is applied in three instances. 1. When the annual average trend is exactly the same in both periods (if annual average trend appears the same but a classification is given, differences will exist beyond the second decimal place). 2. When a country/group achieves the best possible score (100.0) in 2012 and in 2016. 3. When a country/group achieves the worst possible score (0.0) in 2012 and 2016. In these latter two, no classification can be applied as scores can not go higher or lower.

Annual Average Trend = Total change in score between years / Number of annual time periods

