



Positive outlook for African governance, but some warning signs

Mo Ibrahim Foundation calls for vigilance as a number of countries struggle to build on recent progress

Dakar, Senegal, Monday 20 November 2017 – The 2017 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), launched today by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, reveals that the continent's *Overall Governance* trajectory remains positive on average, but in recent years has moved at a slower pace. As many countries struggle to build on recent progress or to reverse negative trends, and as concerns emerge in some key sectors, the Foundation is calling for vigilance on the continent's future.

The eleventh edition of the IIAG looks at both country and indicator trends over the last five years (2012-2016), within the context of the last decade (2007-2016). By evaluating more recent progress on governance alongside long-term performance, the 2017 IIAG provides the most nuanced assessment to date of the evolution and direction that countries, regions and specific dimensions of governance are taking.

Over the last ten years, 40 African countries have improved in *Overall Governance*. In the last five years, 18 of these – a third of the continent's countries and home to 58% of African citizens – including Cote d'Ivoire, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria and Senegal, have even managed to accelerate their progress. In 2016, the continent achieved its highest *Overall Governance* score to date (50.8 out of 100.0).

However, over the same period, Africa's annual average rate of improvement in *Overall Governance* has slowed. Of the 40 countries improving in *Overall Governance* during the last decade, more than half (22) have either done so at a slower pace in the last five years (i.e. Rwanda and Ethiopia) or show decline (i.e. Mauritius, Cameroon and Angola). Furthermore, eight of the 12 countries registering decline in *Overall Governance* over the past decade are showing no signs of turning things around, with scores decreasing at an even faster rate over the second half of the decade. This group includes Botswana, Ghana, Libya and Mozambique.

The best performing category of the IIAG, *Human Development*, reaches its highest average score to date in 2016 (56.1 out of 100.0), with all three underlying governance dimensions – *Welfare, Education and Health* – improving over the last ten years. However, all register slowing progress over the second half of the decade. Worryingly, in a continent where 41% of the population is under 15 years old, progress in *Education* has nearly ground to halt. Africans are particularly dissatisfied with how governments are addressing changing educational needs, as reflected by the accelerated pace of decline in the *Education Provision* indicator over the last five years.

Despite being the slowest improving category over the past decade and within the past five years, *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* has recorded progress since 2014. While the African average improvement has slowed over the last five years, 16 countries, representing 51% of the continent's population and 54% of its GDP, have managed to accelerate their rate of improvement in this period. For 22 countries, however, progress is slackening (i.e. Mauritius and Rwanda) or even reversing to decline, as in Angola. The sub-category *Infrastructure* is a major driver of the continent's overall performance in *Sustainable Economic Opportunity*, picking up momentum over the last five years, even if *Electricity Infrastructure* continues to register average decline. The deterioration in Africa's *Rural Sector* over the last five years, which could threaten recent progress in this key area for the continent's sustainable growth and wealth-creating potential, is a particular cause for concern.

Participation & Human Rights is the only category picking up speed in the last five years, with the greatest number of countries (17) improving at an accelerated rate across all four categories of the IIAG. However, this masks some concerning trends in certain countries and dimensions. 18 countries show either a slower pace (i.e. Congo, Gabon, Nigeria, Rwanda, Togo and Uganda) or even display warning signs, declining in the second half of the decade (i.e. Egypt). The average positive trend is in fact mainly driven by the accelerated progress in *Participation*, led by a majority of countries improving in *Free & Fair Elections*. Worryingly, however, *Political Participation* shows a slight average decline over the last five years, which could threaten the progress made over the decade, while average deterioration in *Civil Society Participation* appears to worsen over the last five years.

On a more positive note, the pace of deterioration in *Safety & Rule of Law* seen over the decade has slowed in the last five years. This is mainly driven by slowing decline in *Personal Safety* – although indicators such as *Crime* and *Political Violence* remain on concerning negative trajectories – and by progress appearing over the last five years in *Rule of law*. However, *Accountability*, already the lowest scoring sub-category in the IIAG, is lately



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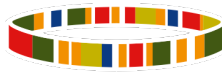
registering even slower progress. Another concerning trend shows *National Security* deteriorating at an even faster pace over the second half of the decade, more than doubling its annual average decline. At category level, deterioration worsens over the second half of the decade for 15 countries, including Burundi, Cameroon, Libya, and Mozambique, while some countries, such as Angola and Mauritius, register a recent downturn despite improvement over ten years.

Mo Ibrahim, Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, said: “As the index shows us, overall governance in Africa is improving. This is good news. However, the slowing and in some cases even reversing trends in a large number of countries, and in some key dimensions of governance, means that we must be vigilant. Without vigilance and sustained efforts, the progress of recent years could be in danger of vanishing.”

To watch Mo Ibrahim comments on the IIAG 2017 results and to explore the findings please visit <http://mo.ibrahim.foundation/>.

Note to editors:

- *The Mo Ibrahim Foundation was established in 2006 with a focus on the critical importance of leadership and governance in Africa, by providing tools to assess and support progress in leadership and governance.*
- *The Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) provides an annual assessment of the quality of governance in African countries and is the most comprehensive collection of data on African governance.*
- *The 2017 IIAG combines 100 indicators from 36 independent African and global data institutions.*
- *The 2017 IIAG analyses how the quality of governance across Africa has changed over the past five years (2012-2016) within the context of the last decade (2007-2016).*
- *All scores in the IIAG are out of 100.0, with 100.0 being the best possible score.*
- *The 2017 IIAG covers 54 African countries. Sudan and South Sudan were included in the IIAG for the first time in the 2015 IIAG. There are no data for South Sudan prior to secession in 2011.*
- *Slight annual refinements are made to the IIAG, which may be methodological, or based on the inclusion or exclusion of indicators. The entire IIAG data set is therefore retrospectively revised each year, in accordance with best practice. Comparisons between years should be performed entirely on the 2017 IIAG data set.*
- *Access the IIAG Data Portal directly: <http://iiag.online/>*
- *Learn more about the Mo Ibrahim Foundation:
Online: <http://mo.ibrahim.foundation/>
Twitter: [@Mo_IbrahimFdn](https://twitter.com/Mo_IbrahimFdn)
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Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/moibrahimfoundation/>*
- *This year, MIF will take the data directly to the public through various activities. We will be kicking off with a Facebook Live event to encourage discussion across social media about governance and leadership in Africa using the hashtags **#AskMIF and #IIAG**.*



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Easy Tweets

- *.@Mo_IbrahimFdn: 58% of Africans live in a country where #governance has improved, however there are some warning signs #IIAG 2017. Explore more mo.ibrahim.foundation*
- *.@Mo_IbrahimFdn calls for vigilance, as a number of countries struggle to build on recent progress #IIAG 2017. mo.ibrahim.foundation #governance*

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