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Progress in African governance over last decade held back by deterioration in safety and rule of law, Mo Ibrahim Foundation reports

Almost two-thirds of African citizens live in a country in which safety and rule of law deteriorated in the last ten years

London, Monday 3 October 2016 – The 2016 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), launched today by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, reveals that improvement in overall governance in Africa over the past ten years has been held back by a widespread deterioration in the category of *Safety & Rule of Law*.

The tenth edition of the IIAG, the most comprehensive analysis of African governance undertaken to date, brings together a decade of data to assess each of Africa's 54 countries against 95 indicators drawn from 34 independent sources. This year, for the first time, the IIAG includes Public Attitude Survey data from Afrobarometer. This captures Africans' own perceptions of governance, which provide fresh perspective on the results registered by other data such as expert assessment and official data.

Over the last decade, overall governance has improved by one score point at the continental average level, with 37 countries – home to 70% of African citizens – registering progress. This overall positive trend has been led mainly by improvement in *Human Development* and *Participation & Human Rights*. *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* also registered an improvement, but at a slower pace.

However, these positive trends stand in contrast to a pronounced and concerning drop in *Safety & Rule of Law*, for which 33 out of the 54 African countries – home to almost two-thirds of the continent's population – have experienced a decline since 2006, 15 of them quite substantially.

This worrying trend has worsened recently, with almost half of the countries on the continent recording their worst score ever in this category within the last three years. This is driven by large deteriorations in the sub-categories of *Personal Safety* and *National Security*. Notably, *Accountability* is now the lowest scoring sub-category of the whole Index. Without exception, all countries that have deteriorated at the *Overall Governance* level have also deteriorated in *Safety & Rule of Law*.

The improvement in the *Participation & Human Rights* category, found in 37 countries across the continent, has been driven by progress in *Gender* and in *Participation*. However, a marginal deterioration appears in the sub-category *Rights*, with some worrying trends in indicators relating to the civil society space.

Sustainable Economic Opportunity is the IIAG's lowest scoring and slowest improving category. However, 38 countries – together accounting for 73% of continental GDP – have recorded an improvement over the last decade. The largest progress has been achieved in the sub-category *Infrastructure*, driven by a massive improvement in the indicator *Digital & IT Infrastructure*, the most improved of all 95 indicators. However, the average score for *Infrastructure* still remains low, with the indicator *Electricity Infrastructure* registering a particularly worrying decline in 19 countries, home to 40% of Africa's population. Progress has also been achieved in *Rural Sector* sub-category.

Human Development is the best performing category over the last decade, with 43 countries – home to 87% of African citizens – registering progress. All dimensions – *Education*, *Health* and *Welfare* – have improved, although progress in the sub-category *Welfare* has been affected by declines in *Social Exclusion* and *Poverty Reduction Priorities* indicators.

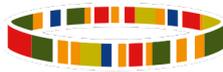
Mo Ibrahim, Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, says: “The improvement in overall governance in Africa over the last decade reflects a positive trend in a majority of countries and for over two-thirds of the continent's citizens. No success, no progress can be sustained without constant commitment and effort. As our Index reveals, the decline in safety and rule of law is the biggest issue facing the continent today. Sound governance and wise leadership are fundamental to tackling this challenge, sustaining recent progress and ensuring that Africa's future is bright.”



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Key findings of the 2016 IIAG include:

- Over the past decade, the continental average score in *Overall Governance* has improved by one point.
- Since 2006, 37 countries, hosting 70% of African citizens, have improved in *Overall Governance*.
- The greatest improver at the *Overall Governance* level over the decade is Côte d'Ivoire (+13.1), followed by Togo (+9.7), Zimbabwe (+9.7), Liberia (+8.7) and Rwanda (+8.4).
- Even if Ghana and South Africa feature in the top ten performing countries in *Overall Governance* in 2015, they are also the eighth and tenth most deteriorated over the decade.
- At the *Overall Governance* level, the three highest scoring countries in 2015 are Mauritius, Botswana and Cabo Verde, and the three most improved over the decade are Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Zimbabwe.
- *Safety & Rule of Law* is the only category of the Index to register a negative trend over the decade, falling by -2.8 score points in the past ten years.
- In 2015 almost two-thirds of African citizens live in a country where *Safety & Rule of Law* has deteriorated over the last ten years.
- *Accountability* is the lowest scoring (35.1) of the 14 sub-categories in 2015.
- The continental average score for the *Corruption & Bureaucracy* indicator has declined by -8.7 points over the last decade, with 33 countries registering deterioration, 24 of them falling to their worst ever score in 2015.
- A large majority (78%) of African citizens live in a country that has improved in *Participation & Human Rights* over the past decade.
- Progress over the decade in *Participation & Human Rights* (+2.4 points) has been driven by *Gender* (+4.3) and *Participation* (+3.0), while *Rights* (-0.2) registered a slight decline.
- Six of the ten highest scoring countries in *Rights* have registered deterioration in the past ten years.
- Two-thirds of the countries on the continent, representing 67% of the African population, have shown deterioration in *Freedom of Expression* over the past ten years. Eleven countries, covering over a quarter (27%) of the continent's population, have declined across all three civil society measures – *Civil Society Participation*, *Freedom of Expression* and *Freedom of Association & Assembly* – over the decade.
- In 2015 more than two-thirds of African citizens (70%) live in countries where *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* has improved in the last ten years.
- *Digital & IT Infrastructure* is the most improved indicator (out of 95) of the IIAG over the decade.
- *Diversification* is the lowest scoring indicator in the IIAG, and shows deterioration over the past ten years.
- 40% of Africans live in a country which has registered deterioration in *Electricity Infrastructure* over the decade, with over half of Africa's economy affected by this issue.
- The marginal deterioration of -0.8 points over the decade registered in *Business Environment* masks considerably diverging trends, with 24 countries declining, five by more than -10.0 points, and 28 countries progressing, five by more than +10.0 points.
- Niger, Rwanda, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Kenya have progressed by more than +10.0 points in *Business Environment* over the decade.
- 43 countries, hosting more than four-fifths (87%) of the African population, have registered improvement in *Human Development* over the decade. Rwanda, Ethiopia, Angola, and Togo have increased by more than +10.0 points in *Human Development* over the decade.
- All 54 countries have registered progress in *Child Mortality* over the decade.
- Over the last ten years, the *Poverty* indicator has registered improvement (+7.2 points), with 29 countries, accounting for 67% of Africa's population and 76% of Africa's GDP, improving.
- However, the *Poverty Reduction Priorities* indicator has registered an average decline of -1.3 points, with 23 countries, hosting 45% of Africa's population, declining.



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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 2016 IIAG combines 95 indicators from 34 independent African and global data institutions.*
- *The 2016 IIAG data set available online covers a 16-year data period from 2000 to 2015.*
- *The 2016 IIAG Report analyses trends over the last decade, covering the ten-year period: 2006-2015.*
- *All scores in the IIAG are out of 100.0, with 100.0 being the best possible score.*
- *The 2016 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 2016 IIAG data set.*
- *Visit mo.ibrahim.foundation/iiag for further detail.*
- *You can follow the Mo Ibrahim Foundation on Twitter, @Mo_IbrahimFdn, or its Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MoIbrahimFoundation> and Instagram (@moibrahimfoundation). To follow the discussion around the 2016 IIAG, use the hashtag #IIAG.*

Easy Tweets

- *@Mo_IbrahimFdn: Almost two-thirds of #Africans live in a country in which safety & rule of law deteriorated in the last 10 years #IIAG 2016 <http://mo.ibrahim.foundation/iiag>*
- *@Mo_IbrahimFdn: #Africa's leaders must improve safety & rule of law to strengthen the progress of recent years and fulfil our continent's promise #IIAG 2016 <http://mo.ibrahim.foundation/iiag>*

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