

## News Release

Embargoed until 11.30 BST / 10.30 GMT / 6.30 EST on Tuesday 25 September 2007

### **Mo Ibrahim Foundation launches world's most comprehensive ranking of African governance**

London & Cape Town: New index to shine a light on governance and provide a valuable tool for holding governments to account

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation is today publishing an innovative new ranking of governance quality in sub-Saharan Africa. Developed under the direction of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, with the help of an advisory council of African academics, the Ibrahim Index of African Governance assesses sub-Saharan Africa's 48 nation states against a comprehensive new index of governance indicators.

The Ibrahim Index provides both a new definition of governance, as well as a comprehensive set of governance measures. Based on five categories of essential political goods, each country is assessed against 58 individual measures, capturing clear, objective outcomes. To be published annually, the Index records the performance of countries in 2000, 2002 and 2005, offering a report card on the accomplishments of each country.

The founder and Chairman of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, Dr. Mo Ibrahim, says:

"We are shining a light on governance in Africa, and in so doing we are making a unique contribution to improving the quality of governance. The Ibrahim Index is a tool to hold governments to account and frame the debate about how we are governed. Africans are setting benchmarks not only for their own continent, but for the world."

Key features of the Ibrahim Index include:

- Comprehensiveness – the large number of measures included in the Ibrahim Index makes it one of the most comprehensive assessments of the governance in sub-Saharan Africa ever undertaken.
- Focus on political goods – the Ibrahim Index uniquely defines governance as the delivery of key political goods, capturing defined, measurable outcomes rather than subjective assessments.
- Geographical coverage – the Ibrahim Index examines all 48 countries of sub-Saharan Africa for three years (and hereafter annually), making it among the most complete and up-to-date indexes ever compiled.
- Ranking – The Ibrahim Index is the first such attempt to explicitly rank sub-Saharan African countries according to governance quality.
- Progressiveness - the Ibrahim Index will be expanded and refined on an annual basis, offering a continually improving assessment of governance.

The full data set is being presented as a fully interactive tool on the Mo Ibrahim Foundation website – [www.moibrahimfoundation.org](http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org)

As part of the Foundation's mandate to improve governance quality, the website also features a formal mechanism whereby constructive criticism and feedback can shape a continually improving index year on year.

A project of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the Ibrahim Index has been prepared and compiled entirely independently of the Foundation by Professor Robert I. Rotberg and a team at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation was launched in October 2006 to promote good governance in Africa with the support of, among others, Nelson Mandela, Alpha Konaré, Bill Clinton, and Tony Blair.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2007, the Foundation will announce the winner of the world's biggest prize, the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership, to be awarded to a former African executive Head of State or Government who has demonstrated exemplary leadership. The Index will inform the deliberations of the Foundation's Prize Committee, chaired by Kofi Annan, when it meets next month.

- **A press briefing, at which Mo Ibrahim and Professor Robert Rotberg present the main findings of the index and answer questions from the media, will take place at 11.30 am on Tuesday 25 September at the Foundation offices, 35 Portman Square, London W1H 6LR. All members of the media are welcome.**
- **The full data of the 2007 Ibrahim Index of African Governance will be published on the Foundation's website at 11.30BST on Tuesday 25 September: [www.moibrahimfoundation.org](http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org)**

## CONTACT

Diana Jackson  
T. + 44 (0)207 404 5344  
M. + 44 (0)7904 752736  
[diana.jackson@portlandpr.co.uk](mailto:diana.jackson@portlandpr.co.uk)

Robert Watkinson  
T. + 44 (0)207 421 6143  
M. + 44 (0)7984 433486  
[robert.watkinson@portlandpr.co.uk](mailto:robert.watkinson@portlandpr.co.uk)



## Appendix A: The Ibrahim Index of African Governance

The 2007 Index is based on data from 2005, the last year with reasonably complete available data for nearly all sub-Saharan African countries.

Ranking	Country	Ibrahim Index of African Governance	Safety and Security	Rule of law, transparency and corruption	Participation and human rights	Sustainable economic opportunity	Human development	Change in ranking 2000-2005
1	Mauritius	86.2	91.7	85.2	88.7	75.5	90.0	1
2	Seychelles	83.1	83.3	74.2	79.3	80.5	98.3	-1
3	Botswana	73.0	75.0	88.3	75.5	58.1	67.9	0
4	Cape Verde	72.9	84.0	80.4	74.6	52.8	72.8	2
5	South Africa	71.1	61.1	75.2	81.1	67.4	70.5	-1
6	Gabon	67.4	94.4	57.1	59.9	62.4	63.0	1
7	Namibia	67.0	77.7	74.5	69.4	55.0	58.3	-2
8	Ghana	66.8	85.9	70.1	67.7	46.5	63.8	1
9	Senegal	66.0	85.9	64.8	75.5	46.2	57.5	3
10	São Tomé and Príncipe	65.3	84.0	55.6	80.4	44.6	61.8	1
11	Lesotho	64.1	91.7	66.7	63.4	43.4	55.5	4
12	Malawi	63.7	86.1	65.0	66.0	45.0	56.3	-4
13	Benin	61.2	78.4	52.8	69.6	46.9	58.4	-3
14	Tanzania	60.7	83.3	58.4	61.0	48.6	52.1	0
15	Kenya	59.3	62.9	57.9	64.1	47.9	63.8	2
16	Mauritania	58.8	77.3	62.3	63.8	34.5	55.9	3
17	Madagascar	57.7	86.1	57.8	58.1	40.1	46.4	-4
18	Rwanda	57.5	76.2	47.6	69.7	47.3	46.9	18
19	Zambia	57.5	77.8	61.3	54.9	47.8	45.8	-1
20	Mali	56.9	84.0	52.7	71.1	33.8	43.1	9
21	Burkina Faso	56.7	78.4	58.5	58.0	39.1	49.2	1
22	Gambia	55.8	78.3	53.4	52.1	44.4	51.0	-6
23	Mozambique	55.8	86.1	43.8	71.0	35.8	42.4	-3
24	Cameroon	55.6	77.7	42.5	50.4	48.1	59.2	1
25	Uganda	55.4	70.5	55.7	50.7	50.0	50.3	1
26	Comoros	53.8	78.3	48.9	55.9	38.1	47.5	6
27	Ethiopia	53.2	75.4	48.7	57.4	33.0	51.6	10
28	Niger	53.1	78.4	52.6	70.7	28.3	35.6	6
29	Djibouti	52.5	78.3	39.8	52.2	39.1	52.9	-2
30	Congo	52.1	71.3	47.8	47.6	40.4	53.2	5
31	Zimbabwe	52.0	75.0	45.8	45.0	44.4	49.7	-10
32	Equatorial Guinea	51.6	85.4	44.3	38.5	47.3	42.3	6
33	Guinea	51.5	72.8	51.1	44.9	37.3	51.5	-2
34	Swaziland	50.9	63.9	51.3	31.2	50.4	57.5	-6
35	Togo	49.8	77.4	46.7	41.4	42.7	40.5	-5
36	Côte d'Ivoire	48.8	77.1	37.8	32.8	44.1	52.2	-12
37	Nigeria	48.3	62.8	44.3	44.2	40.7	49.5	2
38	Eritrea	48.3	74.8	60.1	25.2	33.1	48.2	5
39	Sierra Leone	48.3	72.0	35.1	68.4	39.4	26.4	2
40	Burundi	46.8	60.4	48.8	41.9	40.3	42.2	2
41	Central African Republic	46.7	68.8	45.0	54.5	38.7	26.6	-8
42	Angola	44.3	67.8	38.1	36.8	40.7	38.3	5
43	Liberia	42.7	65.1	32.2	40.4	41.4	34.4	-3
44	Guinea-Bissau	42.7	71.2	33.8	38.7	28.2	41.5	-21
45	Sudan	40.0	31.1	31.4	38.3	41.3	57.8	0
46	Chad	38.8	68.3	42.1	43.3	24.2	15.9	-2
47	Democratic Republic of Congo	38.6	69.4	25.4	24.3	31.6	42.3	-1
48	Somalia	28.1	63.5	19.4	23.5	5.1	28.9	0

## Notes to Editors:

- 1) **The Ibrahim Index of African Governance** measures the provision of key political goods, which are gathered under five major categories. Together, these five categories of political goods provide a definition of good governance.

- Safety and Security
- Rule of Law, Transparency and Corruption
- Participation and Human Rights
- Sustainable Economic Development
- Human Development

In total, 58 separate measurements are applied to each country to generate five category scores. The average sum of these category scores generates an overall country score, which serves as the basis for a final ranking.

- 2) **Nelson Mandela** states: “Mo Ibrahim has a vision to promote and recognise good governance that will drive Africa’s political and economic renaissance... This is an African initiative celebrating the successes of new African leadership. It sets an example that the rest of the world can emulate. We call for leaders across the world – in government, civil society and business – to endorse its aims and back its vision.”
- 3) **Professor Robert Rotberg** is Director of the Program on Intrastate Conflict and Conflict Resolution at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, as well as President of the World Peace Foundation. Professor Rotberg has written numerous books on African, Asian, and Caribbean politics and his articles have been published in US, African and British newspapers.
- 4) The preparation of the Ibrahim Index has been supported by an **Advisory Council** of distinguished African scholars and practitioners comprised of: **Michael Chege**, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, University of Florida, and Advisor, International Development Policy, Ministry of Planning and Development (Kenya); **Mathews Chikaonda**, Group Chief Executive, Press Corporation Ltd (Malawi); **Keli Gadzekpo**, Executive Vice-Chairman, Databank (Ghana); **Monde Muyangwa**, Academic Dean, Africa Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University (Zambia); **Moss Ngoasheng**, Executive Chairman of Safika Holdings (Pty) Limited (South Africa); **Nawal Nour**, Director, African Women’s Health Center, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston (Sudan); **Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja**, Facilitator, African Governance Institute, United Nations Development Program (Democratic Republic of Congo); **Julie Oyegun**, Director, World Bank Group, Diversity Programs (Nigeria); **Rotimi Suberu**, Professor of Political Science, University of Ibadan (Nigeria); **Geraldine Umugwaneza**, former Supreme Court Justice (Rwanda); **Leonard Wantchekon**, Professor, Wilf Family Department of Politics, New York University (Benin)
- 5) **The Mo Ibrahim Foundation** is the vision of **Dr Mo Ibrahim**, founder of the African telecommunications company Celtel International and one of Africa’s most successful business leaders, and has been established to support the attainment of good governance in Africa. A not-for-profit organisation, the Foundation is governed by a board of trustees that includes Dr Mo Ibrahim (founder, Celtel International); **Lalla Ben Barka** (Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa); **Lord Cairns** (Chairman, Charities Aid Foundation); **Dr Mamphela Ramphele** (former Managing Director, World

Bank); **Mary Robinson** (former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights); **Salim Ahmed Salim** (former Secretary-General, Organisation of African Unity), and **Nicholas Ulanov** (Managing Director, The Ulanov Partnership).

- 6) **The Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership** will be awarded to a former African executive Head of State or Government who has demonstrated excellence in African leadership. Unprecedented in its scale and scope, the Mo Ibrahim Prize consists of US\$ 5 million over 10 years and US\$ 200,000 annually for life thereafter. A further US\$ 200,000 per year for good causes espoused by the winner may be granted by the Foundation during the first ten years. The first winner of the Mo Ibrahim Prize will be selected by a Prize Committee chaired by former United Nations Secretary-General **Kofi Annan** and comprised of **Martti Ahtisaari**, former UN Special Representative for Namibia and former President of Finland; **Aïcha Bah Diallo**, former Minister of Education in Guinea and Special Adviser to the Director-General of UNESCO; **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, former Minister of Finance and former Minister of External Affairs of Nigeria; **Mary Robinson**, former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (and board member of the Foundation); **Salim Ahmed Salim**, former Prime Minister of Tanzania and former Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity (and board member of the Foundation)

The winner of the first Mo Ibrahim Prize will be announced on 22nd October 2007