



## BRIEFING NOTE

### Ibrahim Index of African Governance

*"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." Mo Ibrahim*

#### Introduction

The Ibrahim Index of African Governance is a new, comprehensive ranking of sub-Saharan African countries which has been created to:

- Provide objective criteria by which citizens can hold their governments to account, and,
- Stimulate debate about governance across sub-Saharan Africa and the world

A project of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the Ibrahim Index aims to strengthen governance in Africa in order to improve the lives of Africans everywhere

The first Ibrahim Index was published in September 2007 and will be updated on an annual basis, thus serving as a scorecard of national progress in sub-Saharan Africa.

#### Structure of the Index

The Ibrahim Index 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.

The 2007 Ibrahim Index is based on data from 2005, the last year with reasonably complete available data for nearly all sub-Saharan Africa countries. The Ibrahim Index and category scores are reproduced in Appendix A, with the full data set available online.<sup>1</sup> In this first year, data for 2000 and 2002 is also being published by the Foundation to provide a benchmark for gauging recent progress.

A complete list of the 58 measurements used by the Ibrahim Index is given in Appendix D.

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<sup>1</sup> For a comprehensive presentation of the Index data, please see: [www.moibrahimfoundation.org/index](http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org/index)



## Key features of the Ibrahim Index

The Ibrahim Index complements a large body of academic work and initiatives concerned with benchmarking governance. However, it represents a methodological departure from other attempts to measure governance, especially for Africa. In particular, the following distinguishing features should be noted:

- i) **Comprehensive definition of governance** - the large number of measures included in the Ibrahim Index makes it one of the most comprehensive assessments of the governance in sub-Saharan African ever undertaken.
- ii) **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. In this manner, the Ibrahim Index presents clear, simple data and country rankings, figures that anyone can use to understand how well their government is performing relative to others in a given year.
- iii) **A commitment to ranking** – the Ibrahim Index is the first such attempt to explicitly rank sub-Saharan African countries according to governance performance.
- iv) **Geographical coverage** – in terms of country coverage, the Ibrahim Index is among the most complete and up-to-date, examining all 48 countries of sub-Saharan Africa for three complete years (and hereafter annually).
- v) **Progressiveness** - the Index will be expanded and refined on an annual basis, offering a continually improving assessment of governance. The Foundation welcomes all suggestions and constructive criticisms, which can be submitted via the Foundation's website.

## Academic direction

The Ibrahim Index has been prepared under the direction of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. The team has been led by Professor Robert Rotberg, Director of the Program on Intrastate Conflict and Conflict Resolution, and 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).



### **The Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership**

The Ibrahim Index will inform the selection of winners of the annual Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership, which 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.

Winners 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 Mo Ibrahim Foundation**

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).



## 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



## Appendix B: 2002 Category and Overall Scores

Ranking	Country	Ibrahim Index of African Governance (2002)	Safety and Security	Rule of law, transparency and corruption	Participation and human rights	Sustainable economic opportunity	Human development
1	Seychelles	81.8	83.2	75.5	77.9	74.7	97.7
2	Mauritius	80.2	91.7	80.5	73.5	66.6	89.0
3	Botswana	72.7	75.0	89.0	78.1	53.1	68.2
4	Cape Verde	71.4	84.0	73.8	73.9	49.5	75.9
5	Namibia	71.2	75.8	86.0	82.7	52.9	58.7
6	South Africa	71.1	61.1	73.8	88.5	62.3	69.9
7	Gabon	68.2	94.4	61.1	64.9	57.9	62.8
8	Ghana	67.8	85.4	70.1	77.1	44.3	62.3
9	São Tomé and Príncipe	66.0	84.0	58.8	93.8	35.0	58.3
10	Senegal	64.4	85.6	64.2	75.9	44.0	52.3
11	Lesotho	63.8	91.7	69.4	60.9	42.3	55.0
12	Malawi	63.7	86.1	65.7	67.4	44.6	54.5
13	Benin	62.3	78.4	59.5	74.6	45.7	53.6
14	Tanzania	61.2	83.3	55.7	67.4	48.1	51.3
15	Mauritania	58.6	77.2	72.1	54.6	32.6	56.5
16	Kenya	57.7	63.4	55.9	61.0	44.6	63.8
17	Zambia	57.1	77.8	60.7	57.3	46.0	43.8
18	Madagascar	56.7	85.8	54.4	66.3	33.3	43.5
19	Gambia	56.6	78.4	57.1	56.4	40.5	50.5
20	Mozambique	55.9	86.1	43.1	76.7	34.6	38.9
21	Mali	54.4	84.0	55.9	59.2	32.7	40.3
22	Uganda	53.7	63.3	56.1	51.0	49.1	49.1
23	Guinea	53.1	72.8	50.5	58.6	37.3	46.4
24	Burkina Faso	53.1	78.4	50.5	51.5	39.2	45.7
25	Djibouti	53.0	78.4	39.9	59.7	37.0	50.1
26	Zimbabwe	52.8	77.0	45.2	49.0	44.9	48.0
27	Cameroon	51.9	77.7	39.2	39.5	46.9	56.4
28	Sierra Leone	51.4	69.5	35.1	78.1	44.3	29.7
29	Swaziland	51.1	63.9	49.1	34.7	48.9	58.8
30	Comoros	51.0	78.4	48.1	45.9	36.5	46.0
31	Rwanda	50.8	73.5	53.3	35.3	47.9	44.1
32	Ethiopia	50.7	75.7	49.4	49.9	29.3	49.0
33	Togo	50.5	78.2	48.0	46.1	41.6	38.3
34	Côte d'Ivoire	49.8	66.0	48.9	41.5	40.7	52.2
35	Guinea-Bissau	49.7	70.8	47.8	67.0	23.9	38.9
36	Niger	49.5	78.4	50.6	60.0	28.8	29.4
37	Equatorial Guinea	49.3	84.8	34.3	41.2	45.3	40.9
38	Central African Republic	48.8	67.8	48.0	64.2	37.5	26.6
39	Eritrea	47.7	69.1	61.4	29.8	31.5	46.6
40	Congo	47.2	65.6	45.9	36.1	36.7	51.9
41	Nigeria	45.5	61.7	38.9	42.8	35.6	48.5
42	Burundi	42.1	49.6	47.3	32.3	41.8	39.7
43	Liberia	41.2	55.8	21.2	57.2	40.1	31.6
44	Chad	39.7	67.1	38.1	53.6	24.3	15.5
45	Sudan	39.5	34.2	44.5	27.9	35.4	55.7
46	Democratic Republic of Congo	38.1	49.8	35.8	37.1	28.8	39.1
47	Angola	35.0	43.0	24.3	33.1	35.5	39.1
48	Somalia	27.0	57.9	20.0	25.8	1.7	29.3



## Appendix C: 2000 Category and Overall Scores

Ranking	Country	Ibrahim Index of African Governance (2000)	Safety and Security	Rule of law, transparency and corruption	Participation and human rights	Sustainable economic opportunity	Human development
1	Seychelles	81.5	83.3	75.5	78.9	72.0	97.8
2	Mauritius	80.7	91.7	81.2	79.0	63.0	88.6
3	Botswana	72.0	75.0	87.3	78.1	52.2	67.1
4	South Africa	70.9	61.1	76.5	87.4	60.6	69.0
5	Namibia	70.7	73.9	90.6	79.1	50.4	59.6
6	Cape Verde	69.9	84.0	77.5	65.5	47.0	75.6
7	Gabon	66.5	94.4	52.6	65.2	57.5	62.7
8	Malawi	64.2	86.1	68.4	67.6	44.0	54.7
9	Ghana	63.8	85.6	63.4	65.1	43.1	61.8
10	Benin	63.8	78.4	61.3	80.4	45.0	53.7
11	São Tomé and Príncipe	61.5	84.0	58.8	76.2	32.6	56.0
12	Senegal	61.0	76.7	62.2	71.6	44.1	50.5
13	Madagascar	59.1	86.1	48.4	79.0	38.9	43.3
14	Tanzania	58.7	83.3	57.4	54.9	46.9	51.2
15	Lesotho	57.5	91.7	67.5	33.2	40.7	54.5
16	Gambia	56.7	78.4	57.1	56.5	42.4	49.1
17	Kenya	56.5	63.7	54.7	55.5	44.2	64.5
18	Zambia	55.3	77.8	61.3	48.1	45.8	43.5
19	Mauritania	53.8	77.2	70.2	37.1	31.1	53.3
20	Mozambique	53.5	86.1	39.8	71.0	32.6	37.9
21	Zimbabwe	52.7	75.9	52.9	43.5	41.3	49.7
22	Burkina Faso	52.3	78.4	58.9	42.8	37.1	44.1
23	Guinea-Bissau	52.0	72.8	47.8	70.8	29.8	39.1
24	Côte d'Ivoire	52.0	76.1	50.9	39.4	40.3	53.3
25	Cameroon	51.8	77.8	40.5	39.3	46.4	54.9
26	Uganda	51.8	69.6	54.1	39.2	48.9	47.0
27	Djibouti	51.4	78.1	39.9	54.5	35.0	49.3
28	Swaziland	51.2	63.9	52.8	32.6	47.8	59.0
29	Mali	51.1	84.0	55.9	45.4	32.7	37.4
30	Togo	50.7	78.3	48.0	51.6	37.7	37.7
31	Guinea	50.3	61.4	48.6	60.1	36.0	45.5
32	Comoros	50.0	78.4	48.1	43.5	35.3	44.6
33	Central African Republic	49.5	72.9	48.0	62.4	37.8	26.6
34	Niger	48.8	78.4	50.6	59.8	27.2	28.1
35	Congo	48.7	71.4	45.9	37.2	38.5	50.6
36	Rwanda	47.5	64.4	49.6	34.9	45.1	43.4
37	Ethiopia	47.2	63.8	42.9	50.7	30.8	47.7
38	Equatorial Guinea	46.7	80.8	34.3	40.1	35.9	42.3
39	Nigeria	46.1	63.8	34.4	47.1	37.0	48.3
40	Liberia	42.2	54.0	21.2	57.0	47.0	31.6
41	Sierra Leone	40.9	44.0	37.0	58.1	37.0	28.5
42	Burundi	39.3	40.8	47.3	29.6	39.9	39.1
43	Eritrea	38.8	52.3	36.4	33.3	25.0	47.1
44	Chad	37.8	62.9	38.1	53.4	21.0	13.8
45	Sudan	35.3	31.9	41.2	14.0	34.5	55.2
46	Democratic Republic of Congo	34.4	54.3	35.8	22.8	19.3	39.9
47	Angola	32.0	36.3	23.6	32.8	30.2	37.1
48	Somalia	27.2	63.1	20.0	23.0	1.4	28.6



## **Appendix D: Structure of the Ibrahim Index of African Governance**

*Performance in the Ibrahim Index of African Governance is assessed against 58 separate sub-sub-categories, which are grouped into 15 sub-categories and ultimately five categories. For comprehensive notes on the method and data sources of the Ibrahim Index, please visit [www.moibrahimfoundation.org/index](http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org/index)*

### **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

Within the Safety and Security category there are two sub-categories: National Security and Public Safety.

#### **1. National Security**

The National Security sub-category contains six sub-sub-categories:

- i. The number of armed conflicts in which a government is involved during that year
- ii. Intensity of the violent conflicts in the country that year
- iii. The number of deaths due to international attacks on civilians by governments or formally-organised armed groups
- iv. Refugees and asylum seekers originating from each country
- v. Internally displaced persons
- vi. Ease of access to small arms and light weapons

#### **2. Public Safety**

The Public Safety sub-category contains one sub-sub-category:

- i. Level of violent crime

### **RULE OF LAW, TRANSPARENCY, AND CORRUPTION**

The Rule of Law, Transparency, and Corruption category contains three sub-categories: Ratification of Critical Legal Norms; Existence of Independent and Efficient Judicial Systems; and Corruption.

#### **1. Ratification of Critical Legal Norms**

The Ratification of Critical Legal Norms sub-category contains three sub-sub-categories:

- i. Ratification of core international human rights conventions
- ii. The presence of international sanctions for human rights violations
- iii. Laws on contracts and property rights

#### **2. Existence of Independent and Efficient Judicial Systems**

The Existence of Independent and Efficient Judicial Systems sub-category contains three sub-sub-categories:

- i. Judicial independence
- ii. Efficiency of the courts
- iii. Efficiency of national institutions regarding contract enforcement

#### **3. Corruption**

The Corruption sub-category contains one sub-sub-category:

- i. Public Sector corruption





## **PARTICIPATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Participation and Human Rights category contains three sub-categories: Participation; Respect for Human Rights; and Absence of Discrimination.

### 1. Participation

The Participation sub-category contains four sub-sub-categories:

- i. Competitive executive elections
- ii. Participation of main opposition candidates in executive elections
- iii. Competitive legislative elections
- iv. Participation of main opposition candidates in legislative elections

### 2. Respect for Human Rights

The Respect for Human Rights sub-category contains four sub-sub-categories:

- i. Respect for physical rights
- ii. Respect for civil rights
- iii. Press freedom at the most basic level
- iv. Press Freedom Index

### 3. Absence of Discrimination

The Absence of Discrimination sub-category contains three sub-sub-categories:

- i. Women's economic rights
- ii. Women's political rights
- iii. Women's social rights

## **SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

The Sustainable Economic Opportunity category contains four sub-categories: Wealth creation; Macroeconomic Stability and Financial Integrity; The Arteries of Commerce; and Environmental Sensitivity

### 1. Wealth Creation

The Wealth creation sub-category contains two sub-sub-categories:

- i. GDP per capita
- ii. Economic growth

### 2. Macroeconomic Stability and Financial Integrity

The Macroeconomic Stability and Financial Integrity sub-category contains four sub-sub-categories:

- i. Annual inflation rates
- ii. Government budget deficits and surpluses as a percentage of GDP
- iii. Reliability of financial institutions
- iv. The overall business environment

### 3. The Arteries of Commerce

The Arteries of Commerce sub-category contains five sub-sub-categories:

- i. The density of a nation's road network
- ii. The availability and reliability of electricity
- iii. Mobile (cellular) telephone subscribers (both pre- and post- paid) per 100 inhabitants
- iv. Computer users per 100 inhabitants
- v. Internet users per 100 inhabitants

### 4. Environmental Sensitivity

- i. As measured by the Pilot 2006 Environmental Performance Index (EPI).



## **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

The Human Development category contains three sub-categories: An Analysis of National Poverty Results; An Analysis of Health Outcomes; and An Analysis of Educational Opportunity

### 1. An Analysis of National Poverty

The National Poverty sub-category contains three sub-sub-categories.

- i. What percent of all nationals live on less than \$1 day (the globally recognised poverty figure)
- ii. What percent of all nationals live below their own national poverty line
- iii. How equal or unequal is the national distribution on income?

### 2. An Analysis of Health outcomes

The Analysis of Health outcomes contains eleven sub-sub-categories.

- i. Life expectancy at birth
- ii. Infant mortality per 1000 live births
- iii. Maternal mortality per 10,000 live births
- iv. Undernourishment
- v. Percentage of children (aged 12-23 months) immunised against measles
- vi. Percentage of children (aged 12-23 months) immunised against diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), and tetanus (DPT)
- vii. Percentage of people (aged 15-49 years) living with HIV
- viii. Estimated number of new TB cases (incidence) per 100, 000 people
- ix. Access to qualified physicians: density of physicians per 1000 people
- x. Access to trained nurses: density of nurses per 1000 people
- xi. Percentage of the population with access to portable water

### 3. An Analysis of Educational Opportunity

An Analysis of Educational Opportunity contains seven sub-sub-categories.

- i. Adult literacy
- ii. Adult literacy among women
- iii. Primary school completion rate
- iv. Primary school completion rate among girls
- v. Pupil/Teacher ratio in primary schools
- vi. Persistence: Progression of all students from primary to secondary school
- vii. Ratio of female to male students in primary and secondary school