



Monday 5th October 2009

Southern Africa outpaces North Africa in governance performance

2009 Ibrahim Index of African Governance shows that half of Africa's ten best performing countries are in Southern Africa

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA: The 2009 Ibrahim Index of Governance is published today by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, an organisation committed to supporting great African leadership. The Ibrahim Index is Africa's leading assessment of governance, established to inform and empower the continent's citizens.

The Ibrahim Index measures the delivery of public goods and services to citizens by government and non-state actors across 84 indicators of governance. Those governance indicators are grouped in four overall categories: *Safety and Security*, *Participation and Human Rights*, *Sustainable Economic Opportunity*, and *Human Development*. All 53 of Africa's countries are then ranked according to their total scores across the categories.

- **Mauritius tops the 2009 Ibrahim Index with a total score of 82.8**, ranking first in all four main categories. Cape Verde is ranked second with a total score of 78.0. Seychelles is ranked third with a total score of 77.1, followed by Botswana with a total score of 73.6. South Africa is ranked fifth with a total score of 69.4.
- **Southern Africa is the continent's best performing region, with an average score of 58.1**, followed closely by North Africa with an average score of 57.7. West Africa is ranked third with an average score of 51.7, followed by East Africa with a score of 46.9. Central Africa is the worst performing region, with an average score of 40.2.
- **Southern Africa is ranked highest in both *Safety and Rule of Law* and *Participation and Human Rights***, with five of Africa's ten best performing countries - Mauritius, Botswana, South Africa, Namibia and Lesotho - coming from southern Africa.
- **North Africa is ranked highest in both *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* and *Human Development***. However, in the category of *Safety and Rule of Law*, North Africa is ranked third out of five, and in the category of *Participation and Human Rights*, North Africa comes second from bottom. While all North African countries apart from Mauritania feature in the top half of the rankings, only Tunisia appears in the top ten.
- **West Africa is ranked second in both the categories of *Safety and Rule of Law* and *Participation and Human Rights*, coming third in *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* and second from bottom in *Human Development***. While the region's 16 countries include Cape Verde and Ghana which are ranked second and seventh respectively, they also includes Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire which are both ranked in the bottom ten.
- **East Africa is ranked third in both the categories of *Participation and Human Rights* and *Human Development*, and is ranked fourth in both the categories of *Safety and Rule of Law***



and Sustainable Economic Opportunity. While the region's 12 countries include Seychelles and Tanzania which are ranked third and twelfth respectively, they also include Eritrea, Sudan and Somalia which are all ranked in the bottom ten.

- **Central Africa is the worst performing region across all four categories.** All seven Central African countries are ranked outside the top 20 in the 2009 Ibrahim Index, with all of them except Gabon performing below the average for the continent.
- **Somalia is the worst governed country on the continent, with a total score of 15.2.** In 52nd place, Chad has a total score of 29.9, while Zimbabwe is third from bottom in 51st place with a total score of 31.3.

Reflecting important structural and methodological improvements to the Ibrahim Index over the last year, the 2009 Ibrahim Index includes a new framework for assessing governance, and improvements to make the index more reflective of current governance realities. For the first time, in 2009 the Ibrahim Index covers all 53 countries in Africa. It also includes data from 2008, making it more current than any other assessment of African governance.

The full Board of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation convened in Cape Town this morning for the launch of the third iteration of the Ibrahim Index. Mo Ibrahim, the founder and Chairman of the Foundation, says:

“The 2009 Ibrahim Index gives us the clearest – and most current – snapshot of governance performance on the continent we have ever had. With Southern Africa outperforming North Africa, we can see a picture emerging that fundamentally challenges our perceptions about Africa. Our objective is to generate debate about what we can expect our governments to deliver in our name.”

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation is supported by a research team at the Foundation, headed by Dr Hania Farhan, a Technical Committee of representatives from key African institutions, and Dr Daniel Kaufmann of the Brookings Institution, who co-produces the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators. The Foundation also draws on the expertise of an Advisory Committee of academics drawn from institutions across Africa.

Paul Collier, Director for the Centre for the Study of African Economies at the University of Oxford, and author of *The Bottom Billion* says “The new Mo Ibrahim index on African governance is important. It has three key strengths. First, it is based on a comprehensive trawling of available indicators, and so is not overly dependent upon any single one. Second having no institutional affiliation it is free of political bias. Third, it is an exclusively African undertaking. As a result, both Africa's citizens and its governments stand to benefit.”

The Ibrahim Index of African Governance was created in recognition of the need for a robust, comprehensive and quantifiable tool for citizens and civil society to track government performance in Africa. The development of the Ibrahim Index reflects the Foundation's long-term commitment to support African ownership of the governance debate, to develop capacity in African institutions, and to improve the quality, reliability, and availability of data about Africa.



- The news conference to launch the 2009 Ibrahim Index of African Governance is taking place at: Centre for African Studies, University of Cape Town, Cape Town on Monday 5 October, at 10.00am (SAT – GMT +2)
- The full data of the 2009 Ibrahim Index of African Governance will be published on the Foundation’s website at 10.00am in South Africa (GMT+2) on Monday 5 October: www.moibrahimfoundation.org
- A full media resource page including country specific news releases, photographs and background materials is available for all media: www.moibrahimfoundation.org

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Notes to Editors

1. The 2009 Ibrahim Index of African Governance is based on the latest available data for each indicator; the majority of which is from 2008. Previous years’ indices are calculated using the latest data that would have been available that year
2. The Mo Ibrahim Foundation has defined African regions according to the criteria set out by the African Development Bank: www.afdb.org/countries

Southern Africa: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe

North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia

East Africa: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda

West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, São Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo

Central Africa: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon

3. The Mo Ibrahim Foundation is committed to supporting great African leadership that will improve the economic and social prospects of the people of Africa. The Foundation’s focus is the promotion of good governance in Africa and the recognition of excellence in African leadership.



The Foundation aims to stimulate debate on good governance, provide criteria by which citizens and civil society can hold their governments to account, and recognise achievement in African leadership and provide a practical way in which leaders can build positive legacies on the continent when they have left office.

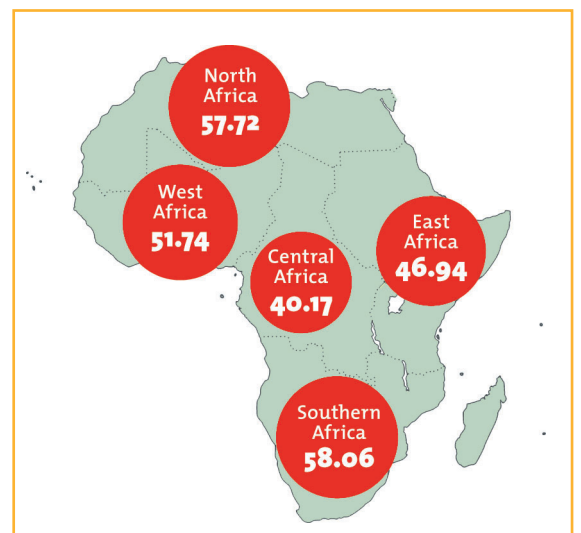
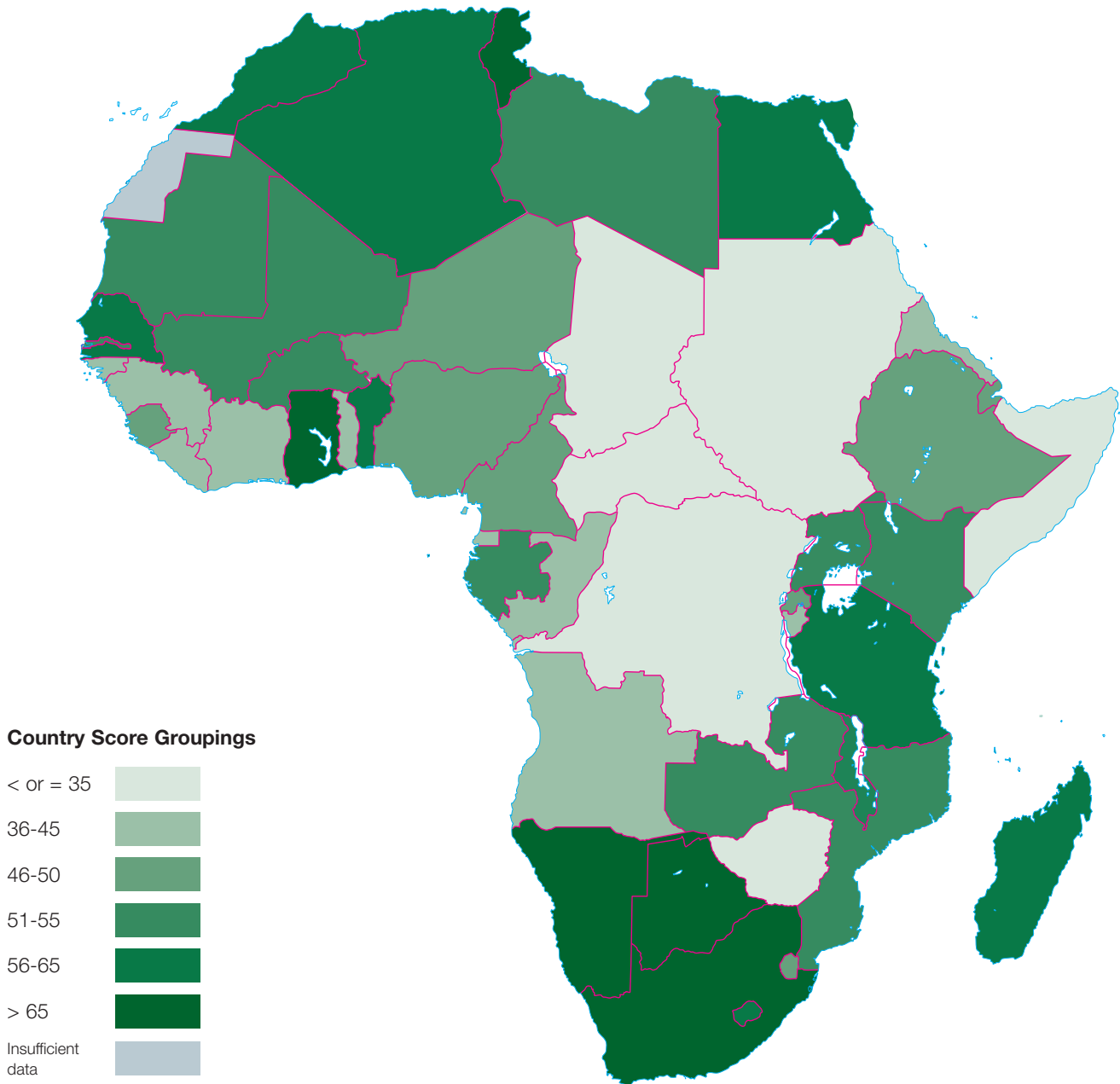
4. The Foundation also confers the Ibrahim prize for Achievement in African Leadership, the largest annually awarded prize in the world. The Prize Committee, chaired by Kofi Annan, awards US\$5 million to a former Executive Head of State or Government who has demonstrated excellence in leadership during their time in office. The announcement of the next winner will take place on Monday 19 October.
5. Journalists wishing to be updated on the Foundation's work should send an email to Simon Allison, allison.s@moibrahimfoundation.org



Appendix A: The Ibrahim Index of African Governance

The 2009 Ibrahim Index of African Governance is based on the latest available data for each indicator; this data is from either 2007 or 2008. Margins of error for all scores are +/- 6 points.

Country	Safety and Rule of Law	Participation and human rights	Sustainable economic opportunity	Human development	2009 IIAG	Rank
Algeria	55.9	44.4	59.6	73.5	58.4	14
Angola	41.6	43.5	37.1	41.8	41.0	42
Benin	69.2	66.5	47.0	50.2	58.2	15
Botswana	85.0	72.8	68.3	68.2	73.6	4
Burkina Faso	61.9	55.5	46.7	42.2	51.6	27
Burundi	48.4	56.5	35.8	40.4	45.3	38
Cameroon	51.3	39.3	48.3	49.1	47.0	33
Cape Verde	89.9	79.6	68.0	74.5	78.0	2
Central African Republic	43.0	40.8	27.9	28.3	35.0	48
Chad	35.6	25.0	28.7	30.1	29.9	52
Comoros	59.2	48.5	27.4	59.1	48.6	31
Congo Republic of	44.9	40.6	40.4	45.2	42.8	41
Congo Democratic Republic of	31.4	35.6	29.9	36.1	33.2	50
Côte d'Ivoire	37.7	27.8	39.4	41.5	36.6	47
Djibouti	56.0	32.9	41.7	53.5	46.0	36
Egypt	63.1	41.2	62.7	73.3	60.1	11
Equatorial Guinea	47.6	19.6	40.6	49.8	39.4	45
Eritrea	45.3	19.8	31.5	51.2	37.0	46
Ethiopia	49.9	35.2	51.2	46.1	45.6	37
Gabon	55.1	50.8	46.6	63.1	53.9	21
Gambia	57.7	49.8	48.5	64.6	55.1	19
Ghana	71.3	75.2	49.7	67.7	66.0	7
Guinea	43.7	36.3	36.3	45.4	40.4	44
Guinea Bissau	46.9	47.6	32.1	47.4	43.5	40
Kenya	53.3	58.9	50.5	52.3	53.7	22
Lesotho	68.9	72.4	50.8	52.6	61.2	9
Liberia	45.7	54.0	33.7	46.3	44.9	39
Libya	52.6	20.4	53.5	88.3	53.7	23
Madagascar	63.4	66.7	51.9	51.5	58.4	13
Malawi	65.6	57.9	43.8	44.7	53.0	25
Mali	62.4	61.0	49.5	45.3	54.5	20
Mauritania	46.3	56.1	50.0	49.9	50.6	28
Mauritius	87.0	80.7	80.5	83.2	82.8	1
Morocco	61.8	35.9	64.5	69.1	57.8	16
Mozambique	62.5	63.0	46.6	37.5	52.4	26
Namibia	79.5	72.7	61.7	61.3	68.8	6
Niger	56.4	50.2	43.7	36.1	46.6	34
Nigeria	50.6	41.8	42.6	50.8	46.5	35
Rwanda	55.5	45.7	47.1	45.8	48.5	32
Sao Tome and Principe	67.5	64.2	42.7	66.5	60.2	10
Senegal	61.8	61.1	50.1	50.9	56.0	17
Seychelles	75.5	70.6	64.5	97.9	77.1	3
Sierra Leone	52.4	60.2	41.3	41.7	48.9	30
Somalia	9.1	12.5	0.9	38.5	15.2	53
South Africa	70.3	77.0	62.1	68.4	69.4	5
Sudan	23.8	21.6	36.9	51.5	33.4	49
Swaziland	63.3	32.5	52.2	49.8	49.4	29
Tanzania	64.6	67.6	51.5	53.4	59.2	12
Togo	55.3	32.6	30.4	45.0	40.8	43
Tunisia	62.5	41.1	69.6	89.9	65.8	8
Uganda	56.0	58.1	50.8	49.3	53.6	24
Zambia	66.5	59.7	47.8	47.3	55.3	18
Zimbabwe	28.9	32.0	20.2	44.1	31.3	51



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