



News Release

For immediate release, Monday 19 October 2009

Mo Ibrahim Foundation announces decision not to award Ibrahim Prize this year

Foundation to hold governance forum in Dar Es Salaam where African stakeholders will gather to discuss key issues and opportunities for progress

In announcing the decision of the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership Prize Committee, the Board of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation released the following statement from the Prize Committee:

“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 Prize Committee welcomed the progress made on governance in some African countries while noting with concern recent setbacks in other countries.

This year the Prize Committee has considered some credible candidates. However, after in-depth review, the Prize Committee could not select a winner.”

Mo Ibrahim, the founder of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, said:

“The Prize Committee is independent of the Board. It is the Prize Committee’s decision not to award a Prize this year and we entirely respect it. We made clear at the launch of the Foundation that there may be years when there is no winner.

This Foundation was established to stimulate debate around, and improve the quality of, African governance. Although there is much focus on the prize, the Foundation is engaged in many other activities to help improve governance. Central to these is the Ibrahim Index of African Governance, which the Foundation published earlier this month, which gives powerful information to all citizens about the performance of their countries.”

The Board of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation also confirmed that despite the fact that there is no laureate this year, the planned events in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 14 and 15 November 2009 will go ahead. These events will include a discussion forum that will bring together stakeholders to discuss issues that are key to Africa’s future progress including climate justice, agriculture and food security and regional economic integration. The aim of the forum is to articulate shared aspirations and a common vision for the future around these issues.



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Mo Ibrahim said of the forum: "At a time when, we are seeing overall progress in Africa, despite worrying setbacks in some countries, it is vital that African stakeholders and institutions come together to look for a way forward on the major challenges facing the African continent. I look forward to the discussions around this urgent African agenda."

The forum will include the following sessions:

- Climate change and climate justice chaired by President Festus Mogae. President Mogae is one of United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon's four special envoys on climate change.
- Agriculture and food security, chaired by H.E. Mr Kofi Annan. Mr Annan is Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).
- Regional Economic Integration, chaired by H.E. Mr Abdoulie Janneh. Mr Janneh is Secretary-General of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

- Ends -

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Notes for Editors:

- **Media resources, including photos, press releases, audio from the press conference and background material will be available from 12noon BST (11am GMT) on Monday 19 October**
- **A video news release from the press conference will be available to all broadcasters via the following:**

FOR ALL REUTERS WNE subscribers:

VNR as above

Issued at 14:30 GMT

VNR for Africa and London end (repeated 3x):

16:00 – 16:30 GMT

Intelsat 904 @ 60degE

Transponder 38, Channel 1A, Downlink 4161.50 RHC

Symb rate: 5.632 Ms/s, FEC: $\frac{3}{4}$, Signal: MPEG2 (4:2:0) in the clear

London end: FL XCN C1

- **The forum on governance will take place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 14 November 2009**
- **The full data of the 2009 Ibrahim Index of African Governance has been published on the Foundation's website: <http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org/en/section/the-ibrahim-index>**



Mo Ibrahim FOUNDATION

1. The decision of the 2009 Ibrahim prize was determined by the Prize Committee of seven eminent individuals. The Prize Committee assesses democratically elected former Executive Heads of State or Government from sub-Saharan African countries who have served their term in office within the limits set by their country's constitution, and have left office within the last three years.
2. The Prize Committee is chaired by former United Nations Secretary-General **Kofi Annan** and comprised of **Martti Ahtisaari**, former President of Finland and Nobel Laureate; **Aïcha Bah Diallo**, former Minister of Education in Guinea and Director of Basic Education at UNESCO; **Mohamed ElBaradei**, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and Nobel Laureate; **Graça Machel**, Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, and former Minister of Education and Culture in Mozambique; **Mary Robinson**, former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (and Board member of the Foundation); **Salim Ahmed Salim**, former Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity and former Prime Minister of Tanzania (and Board member of the Foundation)
3. The Mo Ibrahim Foundation was launched in October 2006 and is committed to supporting great African leadership. It was founded by Mo Ibrahim, one of Africa's most successful business entrepreneurs, and has the support of a number of global figures, including Kofi Annan, Nelson Mandela and Amartya Sen. The Foundation aims to stimulate debate around, and improve the quality of, governance in Africa
4. The previous winners of the Ibrahim Prize are Festus Mogae, the former President of Botswana, Joaquim Chissano, the former President of Mozambique and Nelson Mandela, who was made an Honorary Laureate in recognition of his extraordinary leadership qualities and achievements.