



## Background Briefing

*“Without good governance in Africa, natural resources will continue to be squandered, investors will continue to be deterred, and citizens will lack the physical and financial security due to them. But if governments across the continent rise to the challenge, Africa will finally be able to realise its great potential.” – Mo Ibrahim*

### The Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Development cannot be achieved without good governance. Good governance means that all of a country's resources are harnessed to translate into improved quality of life for its people. While there have been improvements in many African countries recently, weaknesses in governance and capacity are central to the issues currently facing the continent.

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
- 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
- Support aspiring leaders for the African continent

The Foundation was launched in October 2006 and is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of:

- **Mo Ibrahim (Founder and Chair)**, Founder, Celtel International
- **Lalla Ben Barka**, Deputy Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa, and former Director, Regional UNESCO Bureau for Education
- **Lord Cairns**, Former Chairman, Actis Capital LLP and former Chief Executive Officer, SG Warburg
- **Nathalie Delapalme**, Inspector General at the Inspection Générale des Finances and former Advisor on African Issues to French Foreign Ministers
- **Sir Ketumile Masire**, Co-Chairperson of the Global Coalition for Africa and former President of Botswana
- **Mamphela Ramphele**, Former Managing Director, World Bank and former Vice-Chancellor, University of Cape Town
- **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 former Prime Minister of Tanzania
- **Nicholas Ulanov**, Managing Director, The Ulanov Partnership and co-founder, Royal Institution World Science Assembly

The Foundation supports the transformation of Africa by focusing its intellectual and financial resources on three major initiatives.

- The Ibrahim Index of African Governance



- The Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership
- The Ibrahim Scholarship Programmes

## **The Ibrahim Index of African Governance**

The Ibrahim Index of African Governance is a comprehensive ranking of African countries according to governance quality. Funded and led by an African institution, the Ibrahim Index aims to be Africa's leading assessment of governance that informs and empowers citizens to hold their governments and public institutions to account.

The Ibrahim Index measures the delivery of public goods and services to citizens by government and non-state actors. The Ibrahim Index uses indicators across four main pillars: Safety and Rule of Law; Participation and Rights; Sustainable Economic Opportunity; and Human Development as proxies for the quality of the processes and outcomes of governance.

The Ibrahim Index assesses governance against 84 criteria, making it the most comprehensive collection of qualitative and quantitative data that measures governance in Africa.

In keeping with the Foundation's commitment to ensure that the index is continually improved over time and can be used by civil society, this project has been strengthened in significant ways this year. The 2009 Ibrahim Index<sup>1</sup> includes new indicators more regularly updated, and therefore more immediately reflective of current reality. The index has also been extended this year to consider the entire continent, not just the sub-Saharan region.

In addition, the Ibrahim Index will be compiled in partnership with African academics and researchers. Already, experts from various African institutions including: Afrobarometer, the American University in Cairo, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA – in Senegal), and the Institut de Recherche Empirique en Economie Politique (IREEP- in Benin) support the Foundation's research team. These experts sit on the Academic Advisory Council and the Technical Committee, whose work is overseen by the Foundation's Director of Research, Dr Hania Farhan.

For more information on the Ibrahim Index, including the full data and background papers, please visit [www.moibrahimfoundation.org/index](http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org/index)

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

The Ibrahim Prize recognises and celebrates excellence in African leadership. The prize is awarded to a democratically elected former African Executive Head of State or Government who has served their term in office within the limits set by the country's constitution and has left office in the last three years.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2007 and 2008 Ibrahim Indexes were created and prepared under the auspices of the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government's Program on Intrastate Conflict and Conflict Resolution under the direction of Professor Robert Rotberg and Dr Rachel Gisselquist. We continue to welcome their contributions to the debate on governance in Africa.



The prize consists of US\$5million over 10 years and US\$200,000 annually for life thereafter. It is the largest annually awarded prize in the world. The Foundation will consider granting a further \$200,000 per year, for 10 years, towards public interest activities and good causes espoused by the winner. The winner of the Ibrahim Prize is selected by an independent prize committee, appointed by the Foundation board, which assesses every eligible sub-Saharan African leader on their exercise of leadership and the performance of their country during their time in office.

The members of the Prize Committee are:

- **Kofi Annan (Chair)**, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations and Nobel Laureate
- **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, International Atomic Energy Agency and Nobel Laureate
- **Graça Machel**, Chancellor of the University of Cape Town and former Minister of Education in Mozambique
- **Mary Robinson**, Former President of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Salim Ahmed Salim**, Former Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity and former Prime Minister of Tanzania

## The Ibrahim Scholarship Programmes

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation provides the following academic scholarships to support aspiring leaders for the African continent:

**The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)** – The Governance for Development in Africa Initiative at SOAS aims to build the skills of bright young Africans to enable them to improve the quality of governance in their countries. The programme will have a number of strands: leadership development fellowships, residential schools in Africa on governance, a lecture series available on-line, and PhD scholarships.

**Together for Sudan** – The Foundation provides substantial support for Together for Sudan to sponsor female students in all faculties in Ahfad University in Khartoum, with a particular emphasis on business studies. The programme began with support for forty students and will grow by forty women each year for the next three years.

**The London Business School** – The Mo Ibrahim Foundation Scholarship for sub-Saharan Africa aims to equip talented individuals from sub-Saharan Africa with the management and leadership skills essential for individual, corporate and national success. Each year one scholarship, providing full payment of fees and a living allowance, will be awarded to an exceptional MBA candidate from sub-Saharan Africa with financial need.

**The American University in Cairo** – The Foundation will provide two graduate fellowships and two full undergraduate scholarships to students of Nubian origin, from Egypt or Sudan, with a working knowledge of the Nubian language, who are keen to support the enrichment and preservation of Nubian culture and heritage.