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## 2012 Ibrahim Index of African Governance: Unfavourable shifts in South Africa and some of Africa's other regional powerhouses

The sixth Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), released today, reveals that governance has improved in many African countries since 2000. However, it also reveals that some of Africa's regional powerhouses – including Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa – have shown unfavourable governance performance since 2006. Over the past six years, all four countries have declined in two of the four main IIAG categories – *Safety & Rule of Law* and *Participation & Human Rights*. Each of these four countries deteriorated the most in the *Participation* sub-category, which assesses the extent to which citizens have the freedom to participate in the political process. South Africa and Kenya have also registered declines in *Sustainable Economic Opportunity*. And Nigeria, West Africa's powerhouse, has for the first time this year fallen into the bottom ten governance performers on the continent. South Africa came 3rd out of 12 countries in Southern Africa, and 5th out of 52 overall.

Abdoulie Janneh, former Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa and Board Member of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, said: "Given the vast natural and human resources of these four regional powers, these governance results are a concern. Each of these countries plays a key role in the economic and political landscape of the continent. To continue to optimally play this role requires a sustained commitment to balanced and equitable governance."

The 2012 IIAG provides full details of South Africa's performance across four categories of governance: *Safety & Rule of Law*, *Participation & Human Rights*, *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* and *Human Development*.

### South Africa's performance in the 2012 IIAG:

- South Africa scores 71 (out of 100) for overall governance.
- South Africa scores higher than the regional average for Southern Africa which is 59.
- South Africa scores higher than the continental average which is 51.
- South Africa receives its highest score in the *Human Development* category (77) and its lowest score in the *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* category (62).
- At sub-category level South Africa's highest rank is in *Public Management* (1st) and lowest is in *Personal Safety* (41st).
- Between 2000 and 2011 South Africa's overall governance score improved, however, since 2006, South Africa has shown unfavourable governance performance in the categories of *Safety & Rule of Law*, *Participation & Human Rights* and *Sustainable Economic Opportunity*.

### South Africa's category and sub-category scores:

Rank (of 52)	Category / Sub-Category	Score (100 = highest)	African Average Score (100 = highest)
5th	Overall	71	51
7th	Safety & Rule of Law	71	53
3rd	Rule of Law	88	48
5th	Accountability	71	43
41st	Personal Safety	33	44
8th	National Security	95	78
3rd	Participation & Human Rights	73	48
5th	Participation	73	45
6th	Rights	69	44
2nd	Gender	78	54

8th	<b>Sustainable Economic Opportunity</b>	62	47
1st	Public Management	76	55
6th	Business Environment	71	50
12th	Infrastructure	41	32
22nd	Rural Sector	58	54
7th	<b>Human Development</b>	77	57
4th	Welfare	76	51
5th	Education	80	54
16th	Health	74	66

### Southern Africa's performance in the 2012 IIAG:

- Southern Africa is the top performing African region in the 2012 IIAG.
- Southern Africa performs strongly in all four categories of the IIAG, ranking 1st in *Safety & Rule of Law* and *Participation & Human Rights*, and 2nd in *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* and *Human Development*.
- Southern Africa scores above the continental average in all four categories and in 13 out of 14 sub-categories of the IIAG.
- *Rural Sector* is the only sub-category in which Southern Africa's score falls below the continental average.

### Overall results

The 2012 IIAG shows that governance in Africa has improved since 2000. In the last 12 years, at the continental level, there have been improvements in 11 out of the 14 sub-categories of the IIAG. The largest improvements are shown in the sub-categories of *Health*, *Rural Sector*, and *Gender*, with all indicators showing improvements since 2000. At indicator level, of the 88 indicators included in the IIAG, the largest improvements appear in *Cross-Border Tensions*, *Core International Human Rights Conventions*, *Legislation on Violence against Women*, *Ratio of External Debt Service to Exports*, *Digital Connectivity* and *Anti-Retroviral Treatment Provision*.

### Mixed regional trends

While West, Central and Southern Africa are slowly improving their overall governance scores, both North Africa and East Africa have registered declines. East Africa has now been overtaken by West Africa in the category of *Sustainable Economic Opportunity*. Two of the anchor countries of East Africa – Kenya and Uganda – have demonstrated deteriorations in *Sustainable Economic Opportunity*, dragging down the regional trends.

### The importance of 'balance'

Overall, since 2006, the strongest continental performances are registered in the categories of *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* and *Human Development*, where there have been improvements in all sub-categories. Meanwhile, the categories of *Safety & Rule of Law* and *Participation & Human Rights* have registered declines, mainly due to regressions in three sub-categories: *Rule of Law*, *Personal Safety* and *Rights*.

This imbalance of governance performance between the four main categories of the IIAG was highlighted in the previous two editions of the IIAG, when Egypt, Libya and Tunisia stood out as cases in point. This characteristic, which appears across the continent, remains a concern.

Over the last six years, almost half (21) of the 52 African countries register increased imbalance between the four categories. The 2012 IIAG shows that five of the six most imbalanced countries belong to North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. Not only does North Africa remain the most imbalanced region in Africa, it has also experienced the greatest



regional governance deterioration since 2006. Contrary to the other four regions, North Africa is the only one that has deteriorated in the sub-categories of *National Security*, *Public Management* and *Infrastructure*.

Mo Ibrahim, Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation said: “It is encouraging to note that the Millennium Development Goals have contributed to the improvement of all 52 countries in the *Human Development* category since 2000. But the post-MDG framework now has the potential to make similar improvements across the full package of goods and services that all citizens have the right to expect, and that governments have the responsibility to deliver.”

### **General improvements in gender, but West Africa lags behind**

In all regions, the highest sub-category score in the *Participation & Human Rights* category was achieved in *Gender*. The notable exception is West Africa, which receives its lowest sub-category score in *Gender*. West Africa is underperforming in this core governance dimension in comparison to other *Participation & Human Rights* sub-categories.

Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and Board Member of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation said: “Gender equality is a fundamental governance issue, as captured by the IIAG. It is not only a question of human rights. Africa’s women have the capacity to bring about remarkable change and therefore equity and equality between men and women is in the strategic interests of African leaders and governments.”

### **Success stories...and some failures**

Over the last six years, Tanzania has climbed up the IIAG’s rankings, making it into the top ten for the first time. Angola, Liberia and Togo have left the IIAG’s group of the ten worst performers. They have been replaced by Eritrea, Guinea Bissau and Nigeria.

From 2000 to 2011, seven countries demonstrated a significant improvement in their overall governance score: Liberia, Angola, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. One country, Madagascar, has significantly declined.

Significant improvements at category level have been registered in *Safety & Rule of Law* by Liberia and Sierra Leone, in *Participation & Human Rights* by Angola, Guinea and Liberia, in *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* by Angola, Liberia, Mauritius and Sierra Leone, and in *Human Development* by Niger. Significant deteriorations have been registered in *Safety & Rule of Law* by Libya and Madagascar and in *Participation & Human Rights* by Madagascar.

### **Statistical autonomy**

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation continues to advocate addressing the paucity of African data and the importance of statistical autonomy within African countries.

Mo Ibrahim said: “Good governance is about harnessing a country’s resources to achieve the results any citizen living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has a right to expect. One of Africa’s biggest leadership and governance challenges going forward is to master its own robust statistical system. Political sovereignty begins with data autonomy.”

**-Ends-**

### **For more information**

To request an interview, please contact:



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The full data set of the 2012 IIAG will be published on the Foundation's website on Monday 15 October, along with a media resource page including country specific news releases, photographs and background materials: [www.moibrahimfoundation.org](http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org)

The press conference will be streamed live on the Foundation's website, where journalists will also be able to submit live questions. You can access the live stream here: <http://www.moibrahim.org/index>

- Twitter: [@Mo\\_IbrahimFdn](https://twitter.com/Mo_IbrahimFdn). Suggested hashtag to comment on the 2012 IIAG: [#MIFIndex](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MIFIndex)
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MoIbrahimFoundation>
- YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/moibrahimfoundation>
- Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/moibrahimfoundation>
- Google +: <https://plus.google.com/108279944197155618576/posts?hl=en>

## Notes to editors

### The Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG)

Established in 2007, the IIAG is the most comprehensive collection of quantitative data that provides an annual assessment of governance in every African country, with the exception of the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan for which there are insufficient disaggregated data. Compiled in partnership with experts from a number of African institutions, the IIAG provides a framework for citizens, public authorities and partners to assess the effective delivery of public goods and services. The IIAG provides a tool for current and future leadership and for all stakeholders to robustly assess policy outcomes. Data used in the compilation of the 2012 IIAG are from 2000 – 2011. The data therefore do not capture any possible progress in post-Arab Spring countries.

### The Mo Ibrahim Foundation (MIF)

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation (MIF) invests in governance and leadership to catalyse Africa's transformation.

By providing tools and advocating for progressive leadership and responsible management, the Foundation works to bring about meaningful change in Africa.

Africa has made considerable progress in recent years. New challenges arise, however, as the continent grapples with the question of translating material wealth into improved quality of life for citizens. The contradictions of growth without sufficient employment or economic gains without matching rights for citizens produce imbalances that can only be resolved through more effective government - visionary leadership and responsible governance.

Overall improvements will occur when governments define an inclusive vision that builds on available human and natural resources, use data to assess results and determine the choices they make, and pursue implementation with vigour and determination.

- Leadership is centred on setting priorities or making choices and taking risks.

Progressive leadership:

- defines a clear and coherent vision that is inclusive, inspirational and innovative
- requires courageous and forward-looking decision-making
- delivers results

The Foundation focuses on highlighting examples of successful leadership and on providing opportunities and access for potential leaders to enhance leadership in Africa.

- Governance is centred on the implementation of policies and the management of risk.

Responsible management ensures:

- optimal allocation of limited resources
- inclusivity of all sectors of society
- balanced pursuit of successful development
- effective implementation and delivery of programmes

The Foundation focuses on promoting a data-driven and results orientated approach to policy-making and on bringing together diverse stakeholders to improve the quality of governance in Africa.