10th RELEASE OF THE MO IBRAHIM FOUNDATION 2016 IBRAHIM INDEX OF AFRICAN GOVERNANCE

2016 Ibrahim Index of African Governance

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Natural Sound and English and French Speech

Channel 1: English and Natural Sound; Channel 2: French translation

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No Restrictions on Use

**Source: Mo Ibrahim Foundation**

**Progress in African governance over the last decade is significant but held back by deterioration in Safety and Rule of Law**

**Headline:** The 2016 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), the 10th release by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, reveals overall improvement in governance over the past ten years, with some deterioration in one category: *Safety and Rule of Law*. 37 countries, which are home to 70% of African citizens, registered progress across *Human Development*, *Participation and Human Rights* and *Sustainable Economic Opportunity*.

**Shotlist: London, United Kingdom (3 October 2015)**

1. Graphics about the Ibrahim Index
2. Shots of dais and audience
3. Mo Ibrahim Foundation Founder and Chair Mo Ibrahim speaking about the Ibrahim Index of African Governance, saying: We see an improvement. It’s not a fantastic improvement, but it is an improvement. So: good news, but not fantastic news. We also notice that actually it’s 2000 to 2005 and 2006, there was the greatest improvement in governance, actually. There was real improvement there. But after that it started to slow down. And for two or three years now we have been raising the issue about this stagnation. Somehow people got a little bit too comfortable. And I think we really need to continue the work. It is challenging. That is an improvement, it’s not a fantastic improvement; it’s not enough.
4. Ibrahim saying: It’s the job of the government to deliver public goods to the population, and as such it is measurable – you can measure this. We want to move the narrative from, “I like this president because he speaks well, or he sings well or he dances well,” to: “What actually has he delivered over the year? What actually did he deliver to his people? That will be the way we evaluate our government and the way we wish the conversation between civil society, governments, business, all stakeholders, to be – around facts, about data.
5. Ibrahim saying: It is really interesting. While in this case data proves there is actually improvement in health and education, actually the African people’s perception is different. And that raises the question: Is that because people’s expectations are getting higher now, so they are not really satisfied with what is being given? Is it social media now giving people that view of what is available, of what really happens, what guys are getting in other continents compared to what we are doing here? It is something we really need to understand and really look in to a little bit more.
6. Former Botswana President and winner of the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership Festus Mogae, saying: The Index perhaps is the one thing that can help, since we all read it, as leaders, and think of it in our own privacy, and see where we have been placed. I think that’s perhaps the most effective weapon against corruption and fraud. And as far as citizens are concerned, governments that want to fight corruption – they can do so.
7. Ngaire Woods, Dean, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, saying: Ten years ago, people would talk about “the Africa premium”, or “the Africa Penalty” – the penalty that African countries across the continent paid because they had poor governance. And what the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, and the Ibrahim Index have done is given us real information, year on year, about what governance in each of the 54 countries of the continent looks like. And that’s shown people, first, that governance in many countries is good and improving, that there isn’t an Africa-wide story. It’s enabled people to think very carefully and use this dashboard to make nuanced decisions. And second, it has shown the importance that real information can keep you ahead of the curve.
8. Jendayi Frazer, President and CEO of 50 Ventures, LLC; former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, saying: If you look at it as a balance, and look at all four major indicators, there is reason to be optimistic. Governance has actually gone up. Not as fast as it should because I think personal security and national security – *Personal Safety and National Security* indicators are dragging it down. But definitely if we can have interventions that are smart and that help society itself address its problems towards sustainable peace, then I am very optimistic.
9. Donald Kaberuka, former President of the African Development Bank and Chair of the Board of Directors, saying: Economics may be doing very well, but attention must focus on distribution and inclusion is vital. Now, the fact that rural economies are improving is good, gender attention is good, but the education quality issue worries me enormously. And I hope policy-makers look at the demographic dynamics: So, child mortality is down; attendance in school is up; but education outcomes are falling. That suggest to me that it could be a problem in the next 20 years, when the famous “demographic dividend” shows up.
10. Abdoulie Janneh,  Executive Director, Liaison with Governments and Institutions in Africa for the Mo Ibrahim Foundation; former UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, (UNECA), saying: Mechanisms have been put in place to minimize. Look, there is no country where there is no corruption, but the question is, let’s do our best to minimize it, to make sure there is no impunity when people are corrupt and held accountable. I think that’s the general trend in Africa. The awareness is here, the willingness, and the determination to say, “Let us do something about it.” I think I feel that in the continent.
11. Abdalla Hamdok, Chair of the Ibrahim Index of African Governance Advisory Committee; Deputy Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), saying: Any serious government in the continent today won’t wait to see itself in the Index. Is it going up? Is it going down? So the Index is essentially addressing the fact of the assessment that: If you can’t measure it, you can’t improve it.” And this is why the Index is here to stay.
12. Valerie Amos, Director of SOAS; former UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, saying: There are some really positive things that have come out of the Index this year. Looking at it over a 10-year trajectory, I was particularly struck by the *Human Development* indicators. If you look at education, if you look at health, if you look at welfare, there has been a sustained increase in all of those indicators on the continent. Now, that doesn’t necessarily match with people’s perceptions of where things are. But I think the fact that the data is telling us that things are improving, against the backdrop of where people’s expectations are rising, I think that could only be a good thing.
13. Mohamed ElBaradei, former Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); Ibrahim Prize committee member, speaking in Arabic: You cannot separate the Rule of Law from the overall indicators. What we are trying to do is measure all the indicators in Africa. How we can measure how the people in Africa can catch up with the rest of the world and become free and prosperous. And what we see right now is that Personal Safety, Rule of Law is not as it should be in fact it is deteriorating, but I have to look at “Why this is happening? Is it because political participation is not as good as it should be? Human rights are not in good shape?” People feel unemployment, corruption. When you have that, we have a tendency to say that we people can’t identify with government and we will take the government into our own hands.

**Story:** The tenth edition of the IIAG, the most comprehensive analysis of African governance undertaken to date, brings together a decade of data to assess each of Africa’s 54 countries against 95 indicators drawn from 34 independent sources.

Governments need to be graded based on facts and data, Mo Ibrahim Foundation Founder and Chair Mo Ibrahim said, based on the delivery of public goods. And countries are paying attention, according to the Chair of the Index Advisory Committee, Abdalla Hamdock. “The Index will be around for many years,” he predicted, because the Index launch is now a date on the African schedule which any “serious” government anticipates. Former Botswana President and winner of the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership Festus Mogae called it, “The most effective weapon against corruption.”

This year, for the first time, the IIAG includes Public Attitude Survey data from Afrobarometer. This captures Africans’ own perceptions of governance, which provide fresh perspective on the results registered by other data such expert assessment and official data. In fact, according to Ibrahim, the disparity shows that citizens are raising their expectations, a feeling echoed by former UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos.

Over the last decade, overall governance has improved by one score point at the continental average level, with 37 countries – home to 70% of African citizens – registering progress. This overall positive trend has been led mainly by improvement in Human Development and Participation & Human Rights. Sustainable Economic Opportunity also registered an improvement, but at a slower pace. Ibrahim noted that it was, “Improvement, but not enough.”

However, these positive trends stand in contrast to a pronounced and concerning drop in Safety & Rule of Law, for which 33 out of the 54 African countries – home to almost two-thirds of the continent’s population – have experienced a decline since 2006, 15 of them quite substantially. For Mohamed ElBaradei, former Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in many cases the people have lost faith in their governing institutions and therefore take the law into their own hands. But he warned that without the Rule of Law, the other indicators won’t be able to improve.

This worrying trend has worsened recently, with almost half of the countries on the continent recording their worst score ever in this category within the last three years. This is driven by large deteriorations in the subcategories of Personal Safety and National Security. Notably, Accountability is now the lowest scoring subcategory of the whole Index. Without exception, all countries that have deteriorated at the Overall Governance level have also deteriorated in Safety & Rule of Law.

38 countries – together accounting for 73% of continental GDP – have recorded an improvement over the last decade. The largest progress has been achieved in the sub-category Infrastructure, driven by a massive improvement in the indicator Digital & IT Infrastructure, the most improved of all 95 indicators. However, the average score for Infrastructure still remains low, with the indicator Electricity Infrastructure registering a particularly worrying decline in 19 countries, home to 40% of Africa’s population.