



2014 IIAG PRESS RELEASE

Monday 29 September 2014

Mo Ibrahim Foundation records improvement in overall African governance but highlights some concerning trends

The 2014 Ibrahim Index of African Governance, launched today, shows that between 2009 and 2013 overall governance improved on the African continent. However, over the past ten years, the main drivers of this overall positive trend have changed.

“The results of the 2014 IIAG challenge our perceptions about the state of African governance. Africa is progressing but the story is complex and doesn’t fit the stereotypes. Even if the overall picture looks good, we must all remain vigilant and not get complacent,” said Mo Ibrahim, Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

At the country level, the 2014 IIAG highlights the potential of governance underperformers while revealing the weaknesses of current frontrunners. Countries in the bottom half of the rankings register the largest improvements over the past five years. Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger and Zimbabwe have changed course since 2009 from negative trajectories to become the biggest improvers on the continent. This progress has been driven in large part by gains in *Participation & Human Rights*. Meanwhile, the historically strong performers, Mauritius, Cabo Verde, Botswana, South Africa and Seychelles, have shown some deterioration in at least one category over the past five years, notwithstanding that all these countries remain on overall upward trends.

“The 2014 IIAG results show that high ranking countries cannot assume that future achievements will necessarily follow previous accomplishments. More generally, let us make sure that the *Africa Rising* narrative, that everyone is talking about, truly benefits all African people,” said Jay Naidoo, Board Member of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

At category level, the 2014 IIAG also reveals that the main drivers of the overall positive trend in African governance have changed. For the most recent five years, from 2009 to 2013, progress has been jointly driven by *Participation & Human Rights* and *Human Development*, whereas the main driver of gains in the previous period (2005-2009) was *Sustainable Economic Opportunity*, which has stalled in the most recent period.

Progress in the *Participation & Human Rights* category has gathered momentum, making it the most improved 2014 IIAG category over the last five years (+2.4). While in *Rights* and *Gender* the trends are both positive, it is in the area of *Participation*, particularly *Political Participation*, where the strongest gains in score have been achieved for this latest period.

“With a growing electorate that has demonstrated a desire to be heard, the results of the 2014 IIAG confirm that *Participation & Human Rights* is a crucial aspect of governance that governments cannot ignore,” said Mary Robinson, Board Member of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.



Mo Ibrahim FOUNDATION

In contrast, after an improvement of +3.4 between 2005 and 2009, the largest of any category in this time period, *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* has registered the opposite trend over the last five-year period, with a deterioration of -0.2. This is due to a reversal of trends in two of the four sub-categories, *Public Management* and *Business Environment*, and a slower pace of improvement in the other two sub-categories, *Infrastructure* and *Rural Sector*.

“Perhaps some of the low-hanging fruit of better economic management have been garnered. The challenge grows for the continent to become a fully competitive force in the global market at a time when commodity price trends are becoming less helpful to many countries on the continent,” said Lord Cairns, Board Member of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

Meanwhile, the *Safety & Rule of Law* category continues to expose concerning trends, with 12 countries showing their weakest performance since 2000, in 2013. Having shown a deterioration of -1.5 between 2005 and 2009, this dimension of governance registers another negative trend in the last five-year period, although to a lesser extent (-0.8). *Safety & Rule of Law* is the only category in the 2014 IIAG to have demonstrated two consecutive five-year period deteriorations in the last ten years. *National Security* is the only sub-category within *Safety & Rule of Law* to have shown progress over the past five years (+0.5), driven in large part by *Cross-border Tensions*, the most improved indicator in the 2014 IIAG. This aspect of improved citizen security is in contrast to the deterioration registered in *Personal Safety* (-1.1) in the past five years, driven by declines in four of the six underlying indicators.

“Even if overall governance trends are positive, contrasting performance in the 2014 IIAG is of concern. The strength and sustainability of Africa’s future prosperity will be defined by the continent’s commitment to all governance dimensions, including safety, security, and the rule of law,” said Salim Ahmed Salim, Chair of the Ibrahim Prize Committee.

On the other hand, *Human Development* has remained a consistent improver, showing positive movement of +2.3 since 2009, after a positive trend of +2.2 between 2005 and 2009. All sub-categories and 41 out of 52 countries have seen an improvement over the past five years, with a quarter of these having improved by more than +5.0 points. *Health* is the most improved sub-category within the 2014 IIAG. In the last five years, all of its underlying indicators, which measure issues such as maternal mortality, immunisation and undernourishment, have registered progress. However, this largely positive picture masks the poor performance of some countries, particularly in *Welfare*.

“The 2014 IIAG underscores the need to focus on building equitable and efficient institutions, such as health systems, accountability mechanisms and statistical offices. Without these, we will not be able to meet the challenges we face – from strengthening the rule of law to managing shocks such as the Ebola virus,” concluded Hadeel Ibrahim, Founding Executive Director of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

####



Mo Ibrahim FOUNDATION

Notes to Editors

- The Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) provides an annual assessment of the quality of governance in African countries and is the most comprehensive collection of data on African governance. The 2014 IIAG combines 130 variables from 34 independent African and global sources.
- The 2014 IIAG covers a 14-year data period from 2000 to 2013. The two five-year periods referred to are 2005-2009 and 2009-2013.
- All scores in the IIAG are out of 100.
- The 2014 IIAG covers 52 African countries. Following the secession of South Sudan in 2011, Sudan was, for the first time, excluded from the IIAG. Once comprehensive data are available for South Sudan and Sudan both countries will be included in the IIAG.
- Slight annual refinements are made to the IIAG, which may be methodological, or based on the inclusion or exclusion of indicators. The entire IIAG data set is therefore retrospectively revised, in accordance with best practice. **Comparisons between years should be performed entirely on the 2014 IIAG data set.**
- The Mo Ibrahim Foundation was established in 2006 with a focus on the critical importance of leadership and governance in Africa. By providing tools to support progress in leadership and governance, the Foundation aims to promote meaningful change on the continent.
- Visit www.moibrahimfoundation.org for further detail, or visit <http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org/downloads/publications/2014/2014-iiag-data-portal.xls> to access the data set.

Contact Details

- Sophie Masipa, masipa.s@moibrahimfoundation.org +44 (0) 207 535 5067
- Kristen Robinson, kristen.robinson@portland-communications.com +44 (0) 207 842 0151