



News Release

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New data shows that two thirds of sub-Saharan African countries have improved governance performance

Comprehensive ranking of African governance in 2006 shows most notable improvement in participation and human rights, with Liberia showing significant overall progress

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA: The 2008 Ibrahim Index of African Governance is published today by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, an organisation committed to supporting great African leadership. The Ibrahim Index, a comprehensive ranking of sub-Saharan Africa's 48 countries according to governance performance shows that:

- Almost two thirds of sub-Saharan African countries – 31 out of 48 – have recorded an improvement in governance performance
- Liberia shows the most progress, recording a 10.4 point improvement to rank 38th in the Ibrahim Index with a final score of 48.7 out of 100
- In each of the categories of Participation and Human Rights; Rule of Law, Transparency and Corruption; Human Development; and Sustainable Economic Opportunity, the majority of countries in sub-Saharan Africa have improved their scores between 2005 and 2006
- Participation and Human Rights is the category with the largest improvements, with 29 countries demonstrating progress. Many of these have demonstrated improved participation in elections generally deemed free and fair by international observers. However many issues remain across the continent in this area particularly with regard to women's rights
- 30 countries have improved their scores in the sub-category of Macroeconomic Stability and Financial Integrity
- In the sub-category of Educational Opportunity (within the category of Human Development), 32 countries improved their scores between 2005 and 2006. Only five countries regressed in this area over this period
- Nearly all countries have recorded progress in generating greater access to technology, with 40 countries improving their scores for internet usage and 44 countries improving their scores for phone subscribers
- On average the regional groupings of the Southern African Development Community, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic Community of West African States, and the East African Community all improved governance performance between 2005 and 2006. The Horn of Africa was the only region to see an average decrease in score during this period
- Only two of the countries in the bottom ten places of the Ibrahim Index improved their overall scores compared to last year



For the second year running, Mauritius tops the Ibrahim Index, scoring 85.1 this year. Membership of the top five remains unchanged and is comprised of Seychelles, Cape Verde, Botswana and South Africa all of which score over 71.0.

The full Board of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation convened in Addis Ababa, the home of the African Union, to make the announcement this morning. Mo Ibrahim, the founder and Chairman of the Foundation, says:

“Obscured by many of the headlines of the past few months, the real story coming out of Africa is that governance performance across a large majority of African countries is improving. According to this comprehensive analysis, progress is being made across the continent against a range of key governance indicators. I hope that these results will be used as a tool by Africa’s citizens to hold their governments to account, and stimulate debate about the performance of those who govern in their name.”

Mary Robinson, a member of the Board of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation who has previously served as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and President of Ireland, says:

“It is particularly fitting that during the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights we are seeing the most notable improvement in governance take place within the category of participation and human rights. More sub-Saharan African countries than ever are holding democratic elections, and I am hopeful that this will help form the platform for continued progress across the continent.”

The Ibrahim Index is a comprehensive ranking of sub-Saharan African nations according to governance performance, which is assessed against 57 criteria. These criteria are divided into five overarching categories which together make up the core obligations which governments have to their citizens.

The Ibrahim Index was created in recognition of the need for a comprehensive and quantifiable method of measuring governance performance in sub-Saharan Africa, and has been designed as a tool for civil society and citizens to hold governments to account, to stimulate debate on governance, and to provide a diagnostic framework to assess governance in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Ibrahim Index is produced by Professor Robert Rotberg, Dr Rachel Gisselquist and their team at the Program on Intrastate Conflict and Conflict Resolution at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, under an agreement with and funding from the Foundation Board. Professor Rotberg is supported by an advisory council of African academics and corporate leaders.

- **The press conference to launch the 2008 Ibrahim Index is taking place at the Sheraton Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at 10am EAT / 7am GMT on Monday 6 October**
- **The full data of the 2008 Ibrahim Index of African Governance will be published on the Foundation’s website at 10am EAT / 7am GMT on Monday 6 October**
www.moibrahimfoundation.org/index
- **A full media resource page including country specific press releases, photos, audio clips and interviews as well as background material is available for all media at**
www.moibrahimfoundation.org/media



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Notes to editors

1. The Ibrahim index is a progressive and responsive tool that that will evolve to accommodate feedback and critiques from various stakeholders such as citizens, civil society, business, governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as taking into account economic and social transformation that may affect the governance context in sub-Saharan Africa. First published in September 2007, the Ibrahim Index assesses the quality of governance in sub-Saharan Africa every year, making it a valuable reference tool for people across the continent to gauge the effectiveness of their national political leadership over a period of time.
2. The 2008 Ibrahim Index is based on data from 2006, the last year with reasonably complete available data for nearly all sub-Saharan Africa countries. A time lag in indices of this nature is standard practice. This is mainly due to problems with data collection and availability. The Ibrahim Index, with its two year time lag, is more up-to-date than many other indices. The data from earlier years are still relevant since the course of progress over time provides the most important analyses of governance changes in a country, and this movement can still be charted with a two year delay.
3. The authors of the Ibrahim index have retrospectively revised the scores and rankings for previous years to reflect newly available data.
4. Full details of the project team are available at www.moibrahimfoundation.org/index
5. 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 world leaders, including Kofi Annan, Nelson Mandela, and Amartya Sen. The Foundation aims to stimulate debate around, and improve the quality of, governance in Africa.



6. The Foundation also confers the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership, the largest annually awarded prize in the world. The Prize Committee, chaired by Kofi Annan, awards US\$5 million to a former African Executive Head of State or Government who has demonstrated excellence in leadership during their time in office. In October 2007, Joaquim Chissano, the former President of Mozambique, became the inaugural Ibrahim Laureate. The next Ibrahim Laureate will be announced on 20 October 2008.

7. Journalists wishing to be updated about Foundation activities, including the upcoming announcement about the winner of the Ibrahim Prize, should send an email to Risha Chande, chande.r@moibrahimfoundation.org



Appendix A: The Ibrahim Index of African Governance

The 2008 Index is based on data from 2006, the last year with reasonably complete available data for nearly all sub-Saharan African countries.

Country	Safety and Security	Rule of law, transparency and corruption	Participation and human rights	Sustainable economic opportunity	Human development	Ibrahim Index of African Governance	Rank
Angola	82.0	38.4	29.0	32.9	34.4	43.3	44
Benin	86.1	52.3	81.1	36.9	56.2	62.5	13
Botswana	75.0	81.6	87.4	58.2	68.0	74.0	4
Burkina Faso	86.1	56.5	70.1	30.3	48.4	58.3	20
Burundi	62.0	48.3	60.4	35.9	43.3	50.0	35
Cameroon	77.7	43.3	54.7	44.7	56.5	55.4	25
Cape Verde	100.0	86.1	77.7	47.2	62.6	74.7	3
Central African Republic	46.7	42.7	60.2	34.9	33.2	43.6	43
Chad	51.5	40.1	29.8	25.6	22.5	33.9	46
Comoros	94.4	52.8	73.1	37.5	51.5	61.9	14
Congo	68.5	43.5	48.6	48.7	57.1	53.3	28
Congo, Democratic Republic	52.8	24.3	14.7	26.3	30.7	29.8	47
Côte d'Ivoire	75.2	36.0	22.6	42.9	51.6	45.6	42
Djibouti	86.0	43.6	55.6	36.8	54.0	55.2	26
Equatorial Guinea	86.0	43.3	32.2	48.5	36.0	49.2	36
Eritrea	81.0	56.6	10.6	35.4	48.8	46.5	41
Ethiopia	72.8	47.9	40.4	40.5	52.7	50.9	31
Gabon	100.0	56.4	61.2	61.6	67.8	69.4	8
Gambia	86.0	54.7	42.5	40.5	52.2	55.2	27
Ghana	86.1	72.7	80.2	47.3	64.3	70.1	7
Guinea	80.3	51.0	25.4	32.3	50.0	47.8	40
Guinea-Bissau	80.5	34.6	75.2	23.3	45.8	51.9	30
Kenya	63.3	56.0	63.3	48.6	64.5	59.1	17
Lesotho	75.0	69.3	75.5	42.9	53.7	63.3	12
Liberia	58.8	26.8	87.9	36.9	33.2	48.7	38
Madagascar	86.1	57.3	74.9	39.4	44.3	60.4	16
Malawi	86.1	64.0	69.1	40.7	59.7	63.9	11
Mali	77.8	50.0	74.7	31.4	45.8	55.9	23
Mauritania	71.0	58.8	30.8	36.8	56.5	50.8	32
Mauritius	91.7	80.5	92.2	71.4	89.9	85.1	1
Mozambique	86.1	50.4	70.4	36.7	41.7	57.1	22
Namibia	83.3	76.7	75.3	57.4	61.6	70.9	6
Niger	86.1	51.7	79.4	27.6	32.5	55.5	24
Nigeria	63.7	48.2	44.1	40.7	45.9	48.5	39
Rwanda	98.4	46.0	69.5	37.7	43.6	59.0	18
São Tomé and Príncipe	100.0	55.6	83.4	41.5	61.1	68.3	9
Senegal	85.4	66.2	81.7	42.3	54.9	66.1	10
Seychelles	83.2	80.4	76.9	70.0	88.4	79.8	2
Sierra Leone	79.6	37.3	69.8	27.1	31.8	49.1	37
Somalia	38.8	8.2	6.4	26.0	15.2	18.9	48
South Africa	61.1	78.1	86.3	63.5	68.7	71.5	5
Sudan	29.0	29.8	12.0	42.2	58.0	34.2	45
Swaziland	69.4	56.9	28.8	46.5	49.2	50.2	34
Tanzania	83.3	59.6	65.4	43.4	56.4	61.6	15
Togo	77.2	47.1	44.2	42.0	54.4	53.0	29
Uganda	75.1	55.8	61.0	42.2	57.4	58.3	19
Zambia	77.8	60.5	66.6	43.0	43.5	58.3	21
Zimbabwe	75.1	44.6	41.9	38.8	51.7	50.4	33