

## Can't measure it? Can't manage it

Information, effectively communicated, is central to mutual responsibility and accountability for progress in Africa. The quality of dialogue between governments and citizens, and between African countries and their international partners, depends upon it. Gathering information is not easy.

Data on social conditions and expenditures is often inadequate and, when it exists, unreliable and not gender disaggregated. As Mo Ibrahim pointed out during the launch this week of the [Ibrahim Index of African Governance](#), African Statistical Offices are in bad shape. Moreover, donors' new financial commitments can be confusing. How much of the money is 'real', or new rather than recycled?

Accessing trustworthy information can be tough. Information provision during crises, when beneficiaries are most in need of it, is particularly challenging. Those with data may be ill equipped or unwilling to provide it. When reliable information is available, there may be little or no capacity to access or communicate it. Low literacy and numeracy levels, including among elected local and national politicians, complicates things further. Moreover, the motives of data and information providers can be loaded for institutional, political or commercial purposes.

But there is vast accumulated experience and examples of best practice in all these areas – data collection, opinion surveys, strengthening numeracy skills and analytical capacity, and communication. Mobile telephony and a growing broadband network are creating opportunities in even the remotest and poorest parts of the world.

Governments can do much more to collect and communicate information about the use of resources, including in national, sectoral and local budgets. Parliaments and civil society can do more to demand that this happen. Business can make data available in ways that help planners and policy makers. Development and humanitarian institutions can also do more, dedicating resources to capacity building for data and information collection as well as to communication strategies.

Information is power. The scope for more effective use of information on governance, development and humanitarian activities is huge. This can empower citizens and beneficiaries as well as help the advocates for Africa's progress. Nothing less than a campaign to upgrade information and communication for governance and development is needed.

## News Overview

In Istanbul, at the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank [cracks emerged on the way forward](#) regarding the strengthening and reform of the two international financial institutions. Finance ministers and central bank governors from 186 nations discussed strategies for sustainable growth and reform of the global financial systems including voting rights and the promised increase of resources were heavily debated.

On Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation launched its 2009 Index measuring the quality of African Governance. To some, it was a surprise to see Africa's strongest economy- [South Africa attaining fifth position and Mauritius scoring highest](#) in the survey.

Updated figures on the [violence in Conakry, Guinea indicate that 157 people were killed and 1,253 injured](#) in what is considered the biggest opposition demonstration to date against the country's military ruler. The AU noted that the violence comes amid uncertainties and setbacks in the effort to restore constitutional order after the December coup and urges the coup leaders to stick to their vow not to run for office in the January presidential election.

[Kofi Annan's visit to Kenya](#) to engage the government over the progress made in reforms comes at a time when the debate is raging over potential trials at the Hague. ICC Chief Prosecutor, Luis Ocampo [offers an approach to help resolve Kenya's civil strife](#) and confirms that key suspects in post-election violence will face justice.

[Uganda](#) has become the [first country in Africa to undertake a reforestation project](#) that will help reduce global warming emissions under the Kyoto Protocol. Besides providing physical financial resources, the project is expected to generate up to 700 jobs for the local population.

At the end of the two day [Africa-South America Summit](#) that rounded off in Venezuela, African countries [pledge a new era of cooperation in the establishment of a new South-South cooperation model with Latin America](#).

Due to the devastating yearly drought endangering the lives of millions of people in [Ethiopia](#), the country is [calling for a review of the 1929 Nile agreement](#) to be able to irrigate from the Blue Nile river to be able to support its hungry people and reduce its dependence on foreign food aid.



As Featured in [Mail & Guardian](#), Oct 2009

## Quote

“The stakes are particularly high for the low-income countries, where up to 90 million people may have been pushed into extreme poverty .... If we do not act, we could see social unrest, political instability, or war.”

By Dominique Strauss Kahn, opening the World Bank/IMF meetings, Istanbul

## G20 Update

### G20

[Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit 2009](#)

### CANADA

[Canada has pledged \\$2.6 billion in loan guarantees to the AfDB to increase the institution's lending capacity](#)

### CHINA

[China calls on West to lift sanctions against Zimbabwe](#)

### EU

[The EU reiterates its willingness to support the reform process that is crucial for reconciliation, nation-building, development and prevention of further conflict in Kenya](#)

[The EIB lends €120m for clean electricity and water in Egypt](#)

[A €165m Regional Strategy Paper/Regional Indicative Programme \(RSP/RIP\) has been approved to help support regional and economic integration in Central Africa](#)

### FRANCE

[Alain Joyandet is considering the idea of an on-line lottery to raise around €10m a year for projects such as girls' schooling](#)

[AFD and the West African Development Bank \(BOAD\) signed a €50m agreement to help finance agriculture projects in Africa](#)

### INDIA

[India calls for reforms in the IMF and WB that will give bigger roles to emerging economies in economic policy making](#)

### JAPAN

[The Japan Bank for International Cooperation \(JBIC\) will provide the Standard Bank of South Africa with a \\$150m loan to improve inter-African trade](#)

### UK

[UK pledges a £12m funding package to support Liberia's commitment to provide free health care to its citizens](#)

[DFID announces £39m in humanitarian assistance for the Horn](#)

### US

[USAID launched \\$20m agricultural support facility as part of one of its several assistance programs to Zimbabwe](#)

[USAID, General Mills, and PEPFAR Partner to improve the capacity of small and medium-sized food processing businesses](#)

## Multilateral Organizations

### AfDB

[AfDB approves \\$125.6m loan to finance Road Project in Uganda](#)

[AfDB and Main One Cable Company sign a loan agreement of \\$61m in support for ICT projects along the West African coast](#)

[AfDB announces a financial package worth \\$190m to link up Congo and Cameroon with the aim of strengthening regional integration in Central Africa](#)

[2009/2010 African Economic Outlook is launched](#)

### AU

[The AUC Chairman is visiting Washington to lobby Africa's position in the global arena](#)

[AUC has announced its intention to apply sanctions against Guinea over killings](#)

### EAC

[Ministers from five EAC endorse a common market protocol paving way for free movement of goods, labour and services](#)

### ECOWAS

[Stakeholders agree on a regional framework to help secure freedom of expression for its citizens](#)

### IMF

[October 2009 Regional Economic Outlook for sub-Saharan Africa expresses cautious optimism](#)

[IMF pledges more voting power to emerging market and developing countries with the hope of increasing the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Fund](#)

[The IMF recommends a \\$1.3 billion loan program for Angola](#)

### ITU

[ITU pushes for role of ICTs to be recognized in Copenhagen agreement as a cross- sectoral tool to combat climate change](#)

### UN

[The UNDP 2009 Human Development Report recently launched breaks new ground in applying a human development approach to the study of migration](#)

[A new manifesto titled "Global Economic Ethic – Consequences for Global Businesses" has been launched](#)

### WB

[The WB Group unveiled its \\$215m Central African Backbone Program aimed at providing reliable, high- speed telecommunication infrastructure in the Central African region](#)

[Communiqué of the Development Committee on the transfer of real resources to developing countries](#)

[World Bank estimates the annual cost of adaptation in developing countries to be \\$75-100 billion for 2010-2050](#)

## Countdown to Copenhagen – 59 Days

Statement by 131 countries at climate talks in Bangkok- [China leads accusation that rich countries are trying to sabotage climate treaty.](#)

IFPRI publishes a report titled [Climate Change: Impact on Agriculture and Cost of Adaptation.](#)

'Beds are Burning'-Global music petition to demand climate justice at the UN Climate Change Conference in December.

[US threatens to derail climate talks](#) by refusing to include Kyoto targets

[India shifts stance from deal-breaker to deal-maker](#) in COP15 negotiations

## Opinions

[All Africa: My Take on the Ibrahim Index of African Governance, 7 Oct. 2009](#)

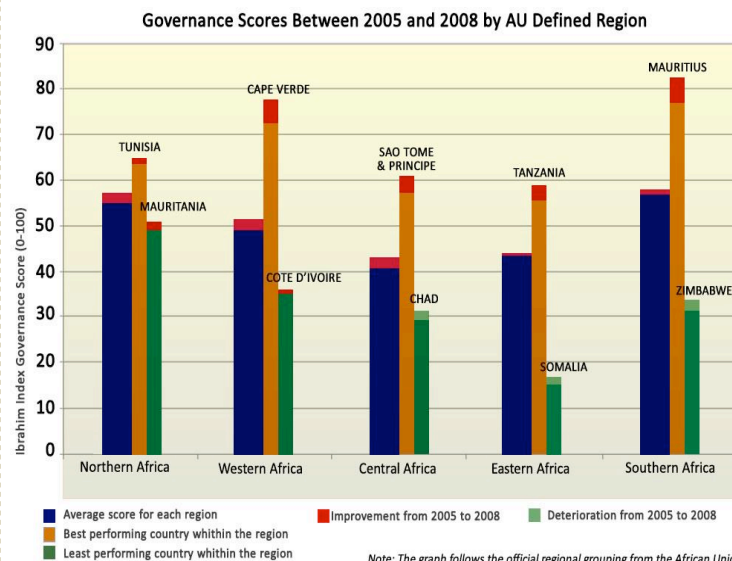
Former Secretary-General of the OAU, Salim Ahmed Salim writes that 2009 Ibrahim Index of African Governance reminds us of the strong link between governance, safety and the rule of law. The index examines how well governments maintain the rule of law; ensures that a system of checks and balances exists and that citizens adhere to it.

[The Banker \(UK\): Kofi Annan Comment, 5 Oct. 2009](#)

In an article ahead of this year's World Bank/IMF annual meeting, Kofi Annan highlights the challenges facing Africa as a result of the fallout from the crisis and calls on the international community as well as Africa's leaders to "face up to their responsibilities" and do what is needed for Africa's development.

[Financial Times \(UK\): Not yet out of Bretton Woods, 28 Sept. 2009](#)

FT editorial comments on the last G20 meeting in Pittsburgh where leaders made a fine pledge to make the G20 "the premier forum" for coordinating policy for the global economy and that if this is genuine then the first order of business would be power sharing within the Bretton Woods institutions.



## APP Activities

Peter Eigen is visiting West Africa this week to assess and encourage progress being made towards the EITI standard  
♦ Kofi Annan visits Kenya to push for reforms  
♦ While speaking at the [2009 Vancouver Peace Summit](#) that aims to expand the global reach of compassion, **Bob Geldof** [applauded Canada for meeting the commitment it made at the 2005 G8 Summit](#) to double aid to Africa  
♦ **Muhammad Yunus** announced the [launch of the Grameen Nurse Institute](#), a new social business-based health care model that prioritizes girls health and prosperity  
♦ While speaking at the [25th anniversary conference of AWEPA](#) **Graca Machel** said that ["it is in the developed world's interest to help reduce poverty in Africa"](#)  
♦ **Tony Blair** together with President Koroma announce investment conference to showcase Sierra Leonean progress to investor and donors from around the world. While speaking at [Governor's Global Climate Summit 2](#), he talks about ways to ensure success in Copenhagen  
♦ On Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. **Michel Camdessus** was interviewed on the reform of the IMF on [BBC'S World at One](#) ♦

## Calendar

5-9 Oct	ITU Telecom World 2009: Geneva, Switzerland
5-14 Oct	Africa-EU Workshop on resources for the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and first Action Plan: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
6-8 Oct	The 5th annual Infrastructure Partnerships for African Development (iPAD) DRC Conference and Exhibition: Kinshasa, DRC
6-23 Oct	UNESCO General Conference: Paris, France
12-13 Oct	FAO High Level Forum: <a href="#">How to Feed the World in 2050</a> : FAO Headquarters-Rome, Italy
14-17 Oct	FAO Committee on World Food Security: Rome, Italy
16 Oct	World Food Day
16-18 Oct	Stand Up and Take Action against Poverty: Worldwide
16 Oct	Botswana General Elections
17 Oct	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
19-22 Oct	121 <sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly and <a href="#">related meetings</a> : Geneva, Switzerland
19-22 Oct	7 <sup>th</sup> World Forum on Sustainable Development-African Session on Climate Change Mobility and Sustainable Prospects of Development: Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
19-23 Oct	Technical Session of AMCEN Pre-COP 15: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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