



Shared Responsibility and Mutual Accountability  
for Good Governance in Africa

Monday, 17th May 2010  
Berlin, Humboldt-Viadrina School of Governance

**AFRICA**  
**PROGRESS PANEL**

## **Summary of the Meeting**

Following opening statements by co-hosts Peter Eigen and Olusegun Obasanjo as well as a presentation of key findings of the 2010 Africa Progress Report by the Executive Director of the APP Secretariat, Michael Keating, **the meeting discussed the following points:**

- **The need to foster domestic demand for good governance:** Participants agreed on need to shift from purely supply-side driven discussions on good governance to a more inclusive dialogue that recognizes the key importance of active domestic demand. Participants noted that strengthening the quality and reach of public information efforts, particularly when it comes to explaining meanings and abstractions and linking progress on good governance to poverty alleviation, is key to generating a will to fight corruption within society.
- **The central role of corruption:** Participants agreed that progress in fighting corruption holds the key for solving many of Africa's problems. Several different strands of corruption, including "quiet corruption", current trends as well as the role of African partners in fighting corruption were discussed. To improve awareness of respective responsibilities and mutual accountability, the creation of an index measuring the degree to which partner governments are addressing and curbing corruption, including through appropriate regulation of corporate behaviour, in Africa was suggested. Participants emphasized the need for personal leadership and courage to the fight against corruption.
- **The sustainability of progress:** Participants noted that while many countries across Africa had made remarkable strides in improving governance over the last decades, only very few have been able to sustain this progress. Participants agreed that the factors increasing sustainability, including the existence of strong institutions and the efficient provision of public goods and services, need increased attention of and devotion of resources from both African policymakers and their international partners.
- **The role of civil society and the media:** Participants discussed the crucial role of civil society as well potential problems such as the industrialization and politization of civil society in some parts of Africa. Particular attention was devoted to the need for an independent and fair press, adequate training for journalists, as well as opportunities for civil society to access information and decision-making processes.

- **Defining and measuring governance:** Participants agreed that the term governance was too complex for a straightforward definition, and suggested a number of factors, which need to be considered in any attempt to measure governance, including public service delivery and electoral democracy.
- **The need for mutual accountability for good governance:** Participants agreed that the principles of shared responsibility and mutual accountability should guide the relationship between Africa and its partners.
- **The establishment of an APP consultation group on governance:** At the end of the meeting, participants consented to being included in an informal consultation group thus providing the APP with a valuable advisory and review capacity.