

## Deadly corruption

"Are any of Africa's leaders – indeed, are any political leaders anywhere, *really* serious about fighting corruption?" That was the question straddling a recent meeting convened by the APP on shared responsibility between Africa and its partners for good governance on the continent.

If you fight corruption, corruption fights back – with a vengeance, as experience in country after country shows. Anti-corruption champions must be prepared to risk their own and their family's lives. Their chances of success are directly related to the political backing they get from the very top.

And that's the problem. Despite the rhetoric, it's just not there. Newly elected leaders often talk tough but cannot sustain the fight. Political and business elites are just too enmeshed in corrupt practice. Even when Heads of State are themselves 'clean', certainly not always the case, they balk when it comes to exposing, letting alone prosecuting, specific individuals. The political cost is just too high.

As the AU Convention on Corruption says, corruption and impunity devastate economic and social development and undermine accountability. It is ordinary people who pay the price. Fighting corruption, some argue, is the best way to fight poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, inequality and injustice.

What is to be done? The scale of the problem needs to be better defined and measured. Measuring governance is not easy (see chart). Corruption should be more openly acknowledged. Even that requires bravery. When civil society groups, the media and judiciary expose corrupt practice they get into trouble. It helps that Africa's growing middle class is increasingly fed up with corruption.

Shared responsibility for causing and fighting corruption needs to be recognised. African leaders must take the lead. But Africa's partners, whether private investors or governments from industrialized countries and the global South, have a crucial role.

Using ODA in ways that strengthen governance is critical, but not enough. Why isn't more being done, for example, by OECD countries and Africa's newer partners to fight corrupt practice by their companies? To identify and repatriate stolen assets? Needed are rankings not only of corruption in Africa, but of its partners in Africa. We need more solidarity among political leaders in Africa and beyond if anti-corruption efforts are to succeed.

## From Agenda to Action Turning Resources into Results for People



Africa Progress Panel Chair, Mr Kofi Annan, Peter Eigen, Linah Mohohlo and Olusegun Obasanjo to announce key findings of the Africa Progress Report 2010 in the lead up to the World Cup in South Africa on Tuesday 25 May 2010. The landmark publication analyses the continent's progress and issues key recommendations to African leaders and its international partners. The Africa Progress report will be available on our website: [www.africaprogresspanel.org](http://www.africaprogresspanel.org) as of 25 May 2010.



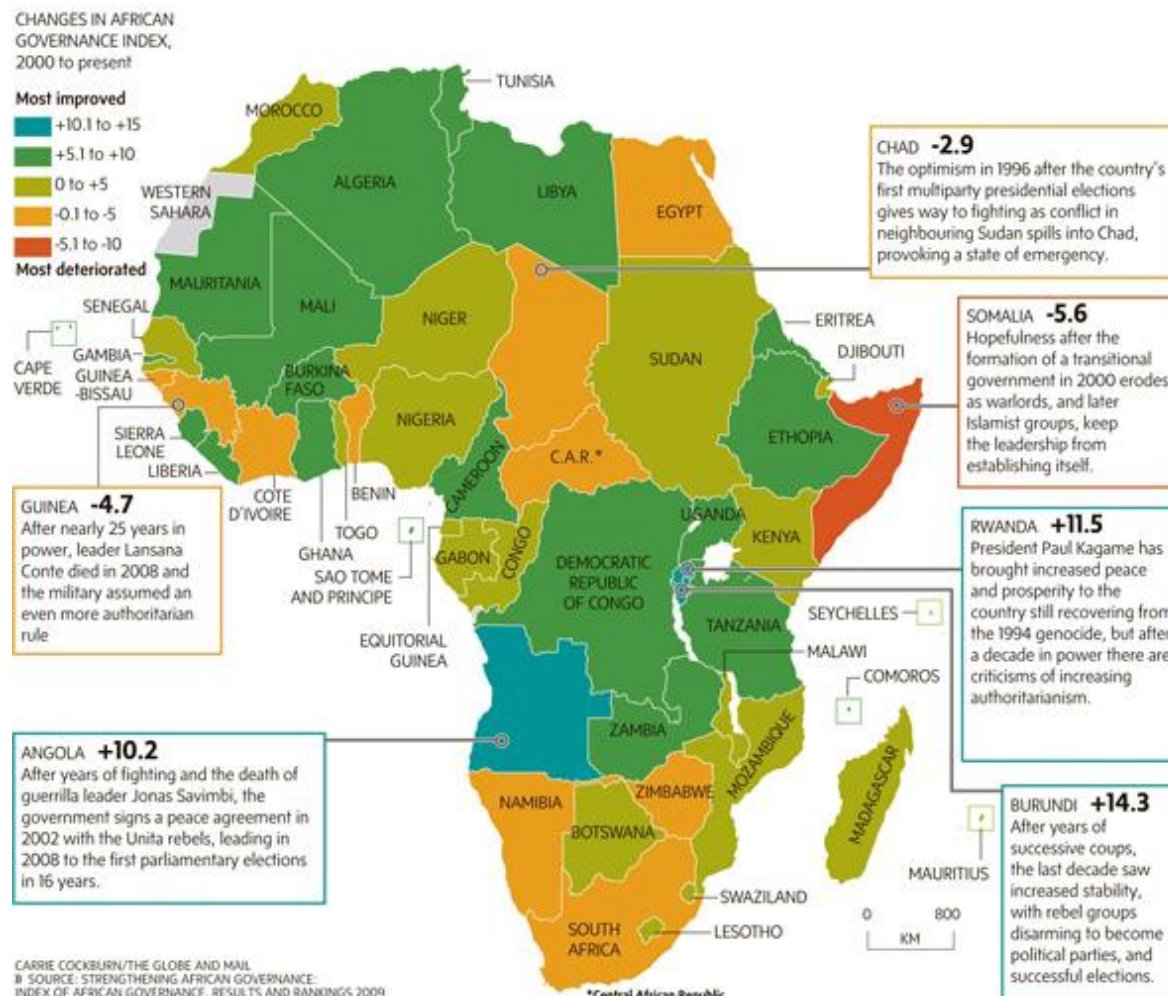
African countries are much more conscious of what they need to do to improve governance. The middle class is growing enormously, and it's putting pressure on governments to make things better...



Dr. Robert Rotberg, Harvard Political Scientist

## Triumphs and disappointments in African governance

Countries with the most improved, and most deteriorated score between 2000 and the latest index of African governance.



As featured in the [Globe and Mail](#)

Source: Strengthening African governance: Index of African Governance, Results and Ranking 2009

## Multilateral Organizations

### AfDB

[AfDB group commits \\$40m to an African Agriculture Fund to help address the food crisis facing the continent](#)

### AU

[AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture provides an overview of the AUC's efforts in the areas of coordination and engagement in the climate change negotiation process since COP15](#)

### EAC

[EAC to impose sanctions on member states that fail to eliminate non-tariff trade barriers](#)

### ECOWAS

[ECOWAS Ministers of Agriculture meet to review issues related to the food and nutritional crisis in the sub-region](#)

### EU

[The EU and the Republic of Congo sign a partnership agreement to fight against illegal timber exports](#)

[EU commits to provide €6.5 billion to fund a programme of aid for trade and economic integration in West Africa](#)

### ICA

[Participants of the 6<sup>th</sup> Infrastructure Consortium for Africa meeting agree on a roadmap for infrastructure development in Africa](#)

### IFAD

[IFAD co-finances an "Africa-Brazil Agricultural Innovation Marketplace," a program designed to share knowledge between the two regions](#)

### IMF

[Guinea-Bissau may have three quarters of its debt canceled, says IMF official](#)

### OECD

[The 2010 edition of the African Economic Outlook \(AEO\) to be launched on 24 May](#)

### UN

[UN Deputy SG to visit Rwanda to take part in the Government's International Forum on the role of leadership in promoting gender equality](#)

[New UN report calls for 'green revolution' by Africa's small farmers](#)

[UN Launches a new economic report on Africa 2010](#)

### WB

[World Bank Approves \\$100m for municipal reforms in Kenya](#)

[World Bank restores financial assistance to Niger after its suspension following a coup in February](#)

### WHO

[New WHO report states nearly half of the deaths of all children aged 5 or younger occur in five countries](#)

## News Overview

[14 countries sign a new agreement that overturns the historic water sharing arrangements of River Nile](#), establishing principles that govern the use, management, development and conservation of the Nile water resources and details the rights and obligations of Basin states. [Tanzania rejects the insistence by Egypt and Sudan that the new agreement should recognize the two countries' current Nile water uses and rights.](#)

[Nigeria's main militant group dismisses government pledges to revive a post-amnesty programme in the Niger Delta](#), saying it failed to address their demands for greater control of the region's oil resources. [Some politicians are raising eyebrows and calling for street protests against the President's choice of Vice President](#), arguing that it looks like a ploy by former President Olusegun Obasanjo to tele-guide President Goodluck Jonathan to "impose" a Christian governor on the state.

As naval activity in the Horn of Africa becomes increasingly secure, pirates are moving south, attacking yachts, fishing vessels and other ships based in or operating around Seychelles. In response to this, [Seychelles will set up a regional centre to prosecute pirates as part of an international push to stem costly attacks of ships off the Somali coast.](#)

Despite war and shattered economy, [Somali telecom entrepreneurs are providing inexpensive mobile-phone services where users can conduct money transfers via mobile phones and gain internet access](#), wireless functions not widely available in many other parts of Africa. As telecommunications companies have stepped in to provide missing infrastructure in countries with shaky economic foundations, such as Afghanistan and the DRC, experts say that this isn't all that unusual for a war-shattered economy.

After months of negotiations with lawmakers and interest groups, [Senators John Kerry and Joseph Lieberman introduced the American Power Act, a comprehensive climate and energy bill](#) that tries to limit climate altering emissions, reduce oil imports and create millions of new energy-related jobs.

On 6 May, [the Commission for Africa launched a review of progress against its recommendations at the Africa World Economic Forum meetings](#) in Dar es Salaam. The Commission will publish a final report in September.

[A coalition of civil society groups condemn UNESCO for planning to award a prize for life sciences financed by the leader of Equatorial Guinea](#), a move considered to be outrageous as the government is widely accused of corruption and human right abuses and the money could be used to improve the living standards of the people.

## Opinions

[Business Day \(Nigeria\): 'Black colonialists: the root of the trouble with Africa', 20 May 2010](#)- Author outlines some questions in which he states Nigerians must ask themselves in order to address the challenges of political and social reconstruction in line with their ideals and dreams.

[The Globe and Mail \(Canada\): G8/G20 Africa, 10 May 2010](#)- The special Africa edition of the Globe and Mail edited by Bono and Bob Geldof focuses on the future of Africa and its importance for the continent, Canadians and the rest of the West.

[This is Africa \(UK\): Africa can learn from Asia's success, 5 May 2010](#)-Kofi Annan writes that African countries have a lot to learn from Asia's success. He calls on Asia to not only reap benefits from its relationship with Africa, but for it to help champion the needs of the world's least developed countries.



Source: © Chappatte - [www.globecartoon.com](http://www.globecartoon.com)

## Calendar

23 May	Ethiopia: Parliamentary Elections
24-27 May	<a href="#">2nd All Africa Environmental Health Congress</a> : Lilongwe, Malawi
25 May	Africa Day/ Launch of Africa Progress Report 2010: Johannesburg, South Africa
26-27 May	<a href="#">Annual OECD Forum</a> : Paris, France
26-28 May	IPU Regional Conference on combating trafficking of children for purposes of labour exploitation in West and Central Africa: Cotonu, Benin
27-28 May	<a href="#">The 2010 Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the AfDB</a> : Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
28-30 May	Tokyo International Conference on African Development: Yokohama, Japan
31 May – 1 June	<a href="#">Nigeria International Investor's Forum: Abuja, Nigeria</a>

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