

Democracy rules...

Elections have recently been held in several African countries. On the surface, this appears good news indeed. Even though postponed seven times, Cote d'Ivoire's first election since the civil war has seen most of the country turn out to vote. The first democratic election in Guinea is giving the country the chance to put its coup-ridden history behind it and start afresh. And in both Tanzania and the Comoros, the well-run elections are encouraging signs of democratic consolidation.

Questions, however, remain as to whether all this is emblematic of a broader trend on the continent, whether it says anything about the quality of governance in these countries, and lastly, whether it will lead to social progress and measurable development results.

At least judging from the number of presidential elections held this year already (8) and to be held next year (18), democracy is on a (third) wave. But disconcerting facts remain. There are still many leaders who have been clinging to power for decades and at least 18 countries have either removed or extended term limits for their presidents. [Gambian president Jammeh even stands accused of trying to get himself crowned king](#) so as to extend his rule indefinitely.

It is also clear that holding elections in and of itself does not equate to good governance, particularly if defined in terms of service delivery and developmental progress. [According to the 2010 Ibrahim Index](#), recent gains by many countries in human and economic development are increasingly overshadowed by "democratic recessions", most notably, declines in political rights, personal safety and the rule of law. Even in nominal democracies we still see too many instances of elite abuse of power, undue interferences with democratic principles, and manipulation of electoral processes to legitimize dubious power-sharing deals or re-elect the incumbent. All this is compounded by a hard-to-miss disconnect between many leaders and their people.

Hence elections are not enough. They need to be followed by the elected leaders turning their lofty campaign promises of progress and development into measurable results and then standing accountable for them. At least 18 leaders will have the opportunity to do so next year - let's hope they grasp it.

“History offers a clear verdict: governments that respect the will of their own people are more prosperous, more stable and more successful than governments that do not. This is about more than holding elections — it's also about what happens between them”

US President Obama in his speech to Ghana's Parliament.

News Overview

[Ivoirians voted peacefully in the first round of presidential elections](#) on October 31 with a turnout of over 80% with its runoff vote postponed to November 28, a week later than previously scheduled. [Analysts hope the election will bring lasting peace](#) and unity to the country.

For the first time after 52 years of independence and military regimes, [the Guinean people voted in free and fair democratic elections](#). However, a major challenge will be to prevent violence that could undermine the transition and the fragile stability of the country.

Last week, [Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete was sworn in for another five-year term](#). However, his closest rival Wilbrod Slaa of the Chadema party, who won close to 26%, has disputed the results, alleging that state intelligence operations were used to doctor results in some areas.

[Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf suspends all but one member of her cabinet](#), seeking a clear slate in government ahead of her re-election in 2011. She explains that her cabinet members had other ambitions which she wanted to give them a chance to pursue.

[Fighting between the army and a main Darfur rebel group is intensifying ahead of the referendum on southern independence](#) that could change the map of the country and balance of power between the warring factions. While most expect a vote for independence, [some believe it is in the best interest of Sudan, and indeed, all of Africa, for the southern Sudanese to vote for unity in the upcoming referendum](#) in January 2011. [The United States has offered to remove Sudan from the list of states sponsoring terrorism](#) if the referendum is conducted on time and transparently.

[Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed was sworn in as Somalia's new Prime Minister](#) last Monday. He now faces the difficult task to breathe new life into the Transitional Federal Government and turn round a country that has been in turmoil for almost two decades.

After a yes vote from 52% of the population for the referendum on the constitution in [Niger, the junta, working towards returning the power to civilian rule is now facing new challenges](#), one of them being that the [CEDEAO requested that the former President of Niger, Mamadou Tandja, be freed on the basis of illegally detention](#).



Source: The Independent, Uganda - featured in Foreign Policy Magazine

G20 Update

According to the Chairman of the Presidential Committee for the G20 Summit, [the Seoul Summit is a litmus test for the G20's future as the premier forum for international economic cooperation](#).

Many observers predict that this week's G20 Summit will be remembered mainly as a dance of high diplomacy aimed at persuading members to refrain from competitive devaluation of currencies and to reign in excessive current account imbalances. [If most headlines from Seoul are about spats over currencies and whose deficit or surplus is most harmful, then leaders will have missed the "Seoul of the Matter."](#)

The G20 Seoul Summit is taking place amidst renewed tensions in the global economy. [A South Centre paper argues that the G20 agenda misses some of the key issues for reform of the International Monetary System](#).

[Prof. Ncube, vice-President and Chief Economist at the AfDB sets out his views on Africa's agenda at the G20 summit](#). He calls for an "African consensus" on ways to make Africa the next growth pole for the global economy.

[In the draft communiqué seen by the Financial Times, the G20 agrees that "there is no single formula for development success"](#) and stresses rich and poor countries should work as "partners" to foster enduring growth.

Professor of Political Science at Waterloo University, [Ramesh Thakur highlights the comparative advantage of the G20 as opposed to the other string of Gs and argues that the UN and G20 remain indispensable](#) if kept mutually supportive.

As G-20 leaders prepare to debate a development action plan at the Seoul Summit today, the Center for Global Development's [2010 Commitment to Development Index](#) rates rich-country governments based on their dedication to policies that benefit poorer nations.

[G20 states are continuing to carry out protectionist policies in contrast to repeated pledges to keep markets open](#) and developing countries have been among the main victims, according to a study by independent economists. [The report by Global Trade Alert \(GTA\) finds that G20 countries have implemented 111 measures that harm foreign commercial interests since their last summit in June this year.](#)

Multilateral Organizations

AfDB

[Voices at Aid Effective Conference say Africa's future lies in self-reliance](#), and that [mutual accountability is essential for successful development](#)

[AfDB launches an African Carbon Support Project to assist the continent in accessing carbon finance](#)

Infrastructure Consortium for Africa

[Expert says lack of transport infrastructure is the single-biggest issue hampering development in Africa](#)

[ICA's annual report reviews the financial commitments and disbursements for infrastructure in Africa](#)

ILO

[ILO has adopted a new Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Agriculture to improve working conditions for the 1 billion agricultural workers worldwide](#)

OECD

[OECD launches World Energy Outlook 2010 showing what must be done and spent to achieve the renewable energy goal stated in the Copenhagen Accord](#)

UN

[UN Sec-Gen High Level Panel releases its first report on how to reach the \\$100 billion for climate finance under the Copenhagen Accord](#)

[UNICEF Executive Director launches innovative approach to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission in Kenya](#)

[UNDP supported Tanzania's election process by helping to register up to 20 million Tanzanians for the election](#)

[UNDP sets out to strengthen its cooperation with China in order to boost poverty reduction efforts in Africa](#)

[African countries, China and other emerging economies explore the most successful development experiences in the South-South cooperation and poverty reduction strategies](#)

World Bank

[A Global Food Fund totalling \\$97m has been set up to help the world's poor developing countries tackle hunger](#)

[A knowledge partnership has been created by Brazil and Africa to boost sub-Saharan agriculture using Brazil's successful farming models](#)

WHO

[WHO announces a campaign that will allow 72 million children in Africa receive immunization against Polio](#)

WTO

[Experts say, the finalization of the Doha Rounds on market access and agricultural subsidies could add between \\$121-202 billion to the world economy](#)

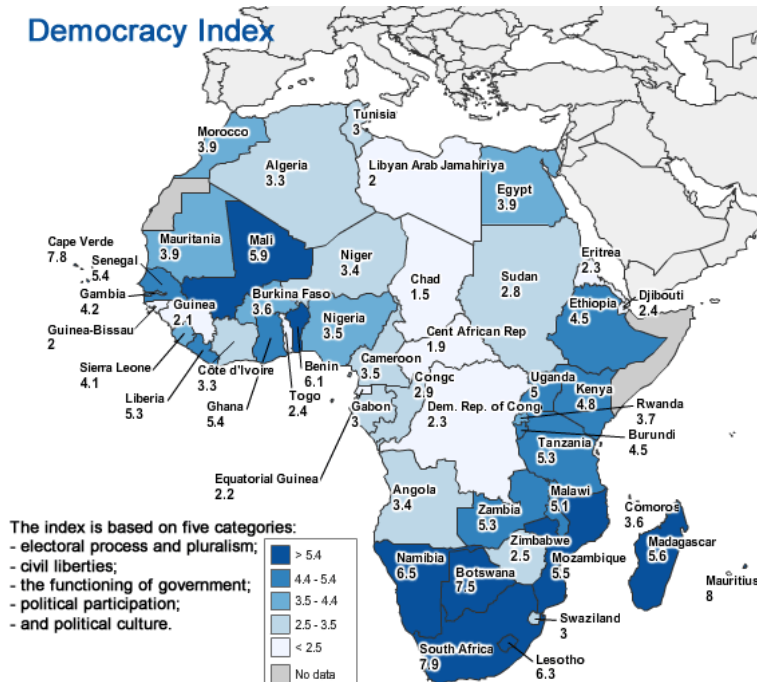
Opinions

[All Africa: Why Africa is the next destination](#) - Eugene Nyambal, Head of Global Performance Management Inc., talks about how Africa could be part of the emerging world shaping the 21st century and points out areas in which radical changes are needed for Africa to win the 21st century.

[Huffington Post: G20 leaders must renew their commitment to global development](#) - Kofi Annan writes that G20 states both individually and collectively, are the natural drivers of development and have the capacity, resources, influence and thus moral obligation to help those less fortunate.

[The Hindu: Make or break time for G-20](#) – The author argues that the gap between advanced and emerging economies needs to be addressed for the G20 to be effective.

Democracy Index



The index is based on five categories:
 - electoral process and pluralism;
 - civil liberties;
 - the functioning of government;
 - political participation;
 - and political culture.

In the blogs...

[The New Yorker Blog: Africa's Election Week](#) - While Americans have been trying to figure out what the midterms mean, two long-awaited elections which many African observers had begun to think would never happen, were held in Africa in the past two weeks. One in Ivory Coast and the other in Guinea.

[Blog- Owen Abroad: The BBC sexed up a report about aid to Ethiopia](#) - BBC apology over reports claiming millions of Pounds raised by Band Aid being used to buy arms will hopefully repair some of the appalling damage caused.

[Guardian Poverty matters Blog: We need to change the image of agriculture in Africa](#) - President of AGRA writes that agriculture needs to be seen as a business opportunity and not simply a means of survival by the young people who will be future leaders and policy makers.

Reports

The [2010 Human Development Report](#) shows that many of the poorest countries have had the greatest gains in health, education and basic living standards in recent decades. However, patterns of achievement vary greatly with wide inequalities within and among countries. Norway, Australia and New Zealand lead in HDI achievement while Niger, DRC and Zimbabwe at the bottom of the annual rankings.

An independent assessment by the Massachusetts Institute for Technology ["What the Women Say: Participation and UNSCR 1325,"](#) found that governments fail to take the necessary steps to boost women's participation at crucial stages in a country's rebuilding. The report further assesses efforts by key actors to address women's participation in peace processes.

World business environment has improved, according to the World Bank [Doing Business Report 2011](#). "Globally, doing business remains easiest in the high-income economies of the OECD and most difficult in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia."

Calendar

- 12 November** [2nd Maritime Security & Anti-Piracy Conference](#): London, United Kingdom
- 15 November** International Conference: Joint Africa-EU Strategy three years after Lisbon: Berlin, Germany
- 15-21 November** African ICT Week: "ICT for Peace and Security in Africa"
- 16 November** International Day of Tolerance
- 18 November** [Prince's Rainforests Project's](#) meeting on REDD+ Finance and Agriculture: London, United Kingdom
- 18-21 November** [Wilton Park Conference](#) on "The Future of the UN Development System:" London, UK
- 20 November** Universal Children's Day
- 21-25 November** [2nd session of the AU conference of ministers in charge of social development](#): Khartoum, Sudan
- 22-26 November** Global South-South Development Expo 2010: Geneva, Switzerland
- 26-28 November** 4th EU-Africa Business Forum: Libya, Tripoli

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