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**Measuring and Monitoring Progress towards Good  
Governance in Africa: An Africa Governance Report (AGR)**

*by*  
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## **Project Title**

### **Measuring and Monitoring Progress towards Good Governance in Africa: An Africa Governance Report (AGR)**

**Project History:** Conceived in 1999 and implementation of project commenced in October 2001.

**Project output:** 28 National Country Reports and The Africa Governance Report (AGR)

#### **Key Objectives of the Project:**

- To develop a broad consensus on the key components of good governance and a list of qualitative and quantitative indicators and criteria to measure governance in Africa.
- To create a dynamic mechanism for periodic and regular cross-national assessment of the performance of African states in order to advance good governance on the continent.
- To build consensus on good governance among the various stakeholders, especially between civil society and the state, at the country, sub regional and continental levels,
- To build research capacity of African institutions in the area of governance.
- To identify institutional and capacity deficits for informed policymaking and recommend strategies for intervention.

#### **Methodology:**

A research instrument with three components was designed to measure the state of political governance, Institutional Effectiveness and Accountability and Economic Management and Corporate Governance in Africa. The three research components consist of:

- An opinion-based study of an Expert Panel representing a cross section of all social-economic, political and geographical strata
- A national sample survey using a probability sample ranging from some 1,300 to 3,000 households across Africa to represent a cross-section of the population to gauge perceptions of principal national problems and the accessibility, adequacy, and efficiency of government services.

- Desk-based research of factual information and hard data.

### **Validation and Ownership Exercises:**

- Project implemented by National research institutions in 28 countries.
- Two national workshops in each country to build and mobilize stakeholders before and after project implementation.
- Five sub regional workshops to mobilize and build consensus and ownership on good governance.
- Presentation of the Africa Governance Report (AGR) at the ADFIV in Addis Ababa, October 2004.

### **Key Research Questions:**

#### **Political Governance:**

#### **Key Questions/Issues:**

- How competitive, open and transparent is the electoral process?
- Is the electoral process equitable and inclusive of all social groups, especially, women?
- Do the electoral and political processes adhere strictly to constitutional provisions?
- Does the public at large consider the political framework legitimate?
- How regular, predictable and credible are the elections?

#### ***Economic Management and Corporate Governance***

##### ***Key Questions/Issues:***

- Is the government providing an enabling environment for the development of the private sector and Foreign Direct Investment?
- How equitable are the tax systems and public expenditure?
- How transparent is the fiscal, monetary and the procurement system?
- To what extent is the development of the private sector and corporate governance adhering to internationally accepted standards?
- Are there constitutional and provisions for the protection of property rights, patents and intellectual property rights?
  - Are there mechanisms for Public –Private partnerships in the development and implementation of Africa’s development agenda?

- How independent and credible are the regulatory and oversight bodies?

### **Institutional Effectiveness and Accountability:**

#### **Key Questions/Issues:**

- Is the political behavior of actors in the political process guided strictly by the constitution?
- How independent is the judiciary?
- Do the executive, the legislature, the judiciary and law enforcement organs have full respect for the rule of law and human rights?
- How effective are the legislative, judicial branches and the Non-state actors in checking and balancing executive powers and authority?
- How efficient and responsive is the government in delivering service to the poor?
- What is the degree of gender representation at all levels of decision making?
  - How strong are the institutional capacities of the state and non-state actors in effectively discharging their functions?
  - How transparent and accountable are public officials and institutions?

### **Capacity Deficits and Governance in Africa**

A major component of the study is to find out the degree to which Africa's governance deficits are, in large measure a function of very limited, inadequate human and material resources for the institutions of governance to carry out their prescribed functions. It creates a disconnect between legal formal provisions/stipulations and implementation / execution.

#### **The Way Forward**

- Studies to be conducted in more countries.
- Periodic research to monitor progress.
- Provide technical assistance and advisory services to member states to improve the state of governance in Africa.
- Provide workshops and training to member states to improve capacity of major institutions of governance.
- Assist in building consensus on good governance.
- National Country Reports and the AGR will provide an input into the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) process.