MEMORANDUM

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SUMMARY

AFRICA'S GOVERNANCE DETERIORATES IN PAST DECADE - MO IBRAHIM INDEX

The 2016 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), launched on Monday by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, reveals that improvement in overall governance in Africa over the past ten years has been held back by a widespread deterioration in the category of safety and rule of law.

The tenth edition of the IIAG, the most comprehensive analysis of African governance undertaken to date, brings together a decade of data to assess each of Africa's 54 countries against 95 indicators drawn from 34 independent sources.

This year, for the first time, the IIAG includes Public Attitude Survey data from Afrobarometer which captures Africans' own perceptions of governance, which provide fresh perspective on the results registered by other data such as expert assessment and official data.

This worrying trend has worsened recently, with almost half of the countries on the continent recording their worst score ever in this category within the last three years, said the survey.

"As our Index reveals, the decline in safety and rule of law is the biggest issue facing the continent today," Mo Ibrahim, Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation said in a statement copied to APA Nairobi.

This is driven by large deteriorations in the subcategories of personal safety and national security. Notably, accountability is now the lowest scoring subcategory of the whole Index, added the survey.

The survey noted that without exception, all countries that have deteriorated at the overall governance level have also deteriorated in safety and rule of law.

According to the Foundation, the improvement in the participation and human rights category, found in 37 countries across the continent, has been driven by progress in gender and in participation. (APA 03-10-2016)

DOES AFRICA REALLY NEED A NEW BRAND?

In recent years, the practice of nation branding has attracted growing interest from academic researchers and gained prominence among communications and marketing practitioners.

Branding consultants promise foreign governments that improving their reputation abroad will increase their competitiveness, leading to more foreign investment, trade and tourism. A better brand, they say, will enhance their soft power and influence on the international political and economic agenda.

Several African countries have jumped on the brandwagon and included nation branding in their national development program. The Brand Africa initiative, intergenerational movement to create a positive image of Africa, celebrate its diversity and drive its competitiveness, was launched in 2010.

While it is true that we need to correct misrepresentations of Africa, using the concepts of 'brand' and "branding" in the African context is misleading, dangerous and undesirable. A development strategy based on identity-building, public diplomacy and public affairs has a better chance to improve Africa's image abroad and competitiveness while also preserving its rich, complex and diverse nature.

Nation branding is premised on the idea that economic globalization has fundamentally transformed the role of states and the nature of world politics. Branding consultants joined the world of international development with claims that branding affects growth. The slow development of some parts of the world, such as Africa, they say, is partly a result of the unfavorable "brand" Africa has in the developed world. If this is the case, the solution is for poorer nations to retake control of their image.

African countries and the continent as a whole have been misrepresented for centuries. Nowadays, there are two dominant images of Africa: the wildlife and natural beauty promoted by the tourism industry and the poor, corrupted Africa riddled with wars and disease, used excessively by the international aid and charity sectors and reinforced by international media.

It is true that African countries need to monitor their international reputation and develop the right strategy to improve it. However, "branding" isn't the solution.

Countries are not for sale

A country image is the mental perception and association people hold about a country. It has yet to be proven that a country can directly manipulate this image using communications and marketing tools. Branding indexes show is that country images tend to be stable over time. The public generally does not think about other countries, falling back on clichés and stereotypes when they do.

Some governments might be tempted to use expensive media and advertising campaigns to whitewash a bad reputation without substantially changing their behaviours and policies. Numerous repressive regimes have turned to European and American PR firms to clean their reputation to attract investment, undermining the credibility of the PR industry as a whole. Ironically, when these relationships are revealed, they further tarnish the reputation of the countries.

For instance, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has retained the services of a French PR firm to help it secure and buy positive coverage in international and pan-African media.

Moreover, applying corporate branding principles subordinates a country's identity to market preferences. This has at least two worrying consequences. Countries are encouraged to reduce their culture, values, history and heritage into simplistic stereotypes that are easily understandable by the target audiences. This strategy also forces countries to adapt their identity to please the tastes of outsiders.

Building your reputation from the inside out

The practice of nation branding is outward-looking and is ultimately about putting outsiders' interests and preferences ahead of a country's own. What African countries need is to build their reputation from the inside out. Here are the key aspects of what that could include:

1. Nation-building.

Countries should focus first and foremost on redefining and strengthening their identity using nation-building strategies targeted at national citizens and the diaspora. They should adopt visions that define where their countries stands today and what they want to become. The aim is to revive a sense of national pride and unity. Advertising campaigns can help take this image global, but the real work would be done through educational, cultural, political, social and economic policies that empower a country's people. Citizens and diasporas will always be a country's strongest advocates and ambassadors.

Take, for example, the social media campaign #TheAfricaTheMediaNeverShowsYou to share positive images and stories of Africa or the backlash CNN faced after describing Kenya as a hotbed of terror during U.S. President Barack Obama's visit last year.

2. Public diplomacy.

African countries can enhance their economic attractiveness and soft power by sharing their complex and unique identities with the rest of the world through public diplomacy. Unlike the rather simplistic ideas promoted by nation branding, public diplomacy aims to educate people abroad about a country's culture, people, values, history and heritage through art, fashion, sport, and cultural and educational exchanges. It is about creating mutual understanding between nations by building and maintaining durable relationships between key individuals and organizations. Only such an approach can help a country gain the respect, tolerance and trust of foreign audiences, that will in turn be more willing to invest in, visit and work in the country.

3. Public affairs.

African governments should invest more in developing their public affairs capabilities in order to influence the international agenda and push for new global norms, standards and values. The main source of Africa's underdevelopment is the way the global economy works. If African farmers are still struggling to compete on the international market, it is because European agricultural subsidies continue to distort global prices. What caused the de-industrialization of African countries was the uncontrolled open market policies imposed by the global trade system. These are the types of international rules that need to be vigorously challenged through advocacy and lobbying.

How the development community can help

Global development professionals can contribute to rebuilding Africa's image in at least two ways.

1. Update your photo database of Africa.

NGOs have been using stereotypical images of African countries for decades, because they help raise money quickly. If this comes at the price of people's dignity, however, it's not worth it. Development organizations must strike the right balance between showing the reality on the ground and respecting people's private lives. Besides, overusing these stereotypical images can be counterproductive; the Western public has grown desensitized to photos of hunger, poverty and diseases.

Instead, NGOs could use their prominent positions to educate constituents and donors about the real causes of poverty so that the international public understands that long-term structural change is needed more than short-term charity.

2. Adapt policy reforms to local cultural and societal norms.

Numerous development consultancies support policy reforms in developing countries. Unfortunately, most of these reforms are based on a neoliberal view of development. They legitimize the so-called Washington Consensus: that poorer countries must open up to the global markets without restrictions in order to develop.

Instead, these consultancies could leverage their expertise to challenge the conventional wisdom and offer more creative solutions that take into account the history, culture and societal norms of the countries they are trying to help.

Building a country's reputation and solving global inequalities are both long-term processes that require economic, social, political, cultural and educational reforms, as well as actions. By aligning their objectives, African governments and global development professionals have the power to not only bring meaningful changes to the lives of billions of people but also help them reclaim their dignity and respect. (Devex 15-09-2016)

MOROCCO TO IMPORT AROUND 4MN TONS OF SOFT WHEAT FROM US

Morocco should import some 4 million tons of soft wheat during the season after this year's bad grain harvest, the daily L'Economiste says here Monday.

The newspaper explains that four tenders have been launched to that effect in order to acquire wheat from the United States.

A total of nearly 1.2 million tons will be imported from the United States, under a preferential arrangement. This is as part of the free trade agreement allowing Morocco to benefit from advantageous rates whenever the local agricultural season is poor, the newspaper noted.

"This is the first time that Morocco will discharge the quota provided for under the free trade agreement that binds it to Washington," an official told L'Economiste.

The same source explains this craze for the American soft wheat over Europe's, by a "reasonable" price gap and especially by the sea freight costs which become more attractive due to the fall in oil prices in recent months.

The daily recalls that Morocco is linked to the United States and the European Union by agreements which provide the same amount of soft wheat at preferential prices. This varies between 400,000 and a little over one million tons, according to the local harvest.

However, unlike Europe which requires that these quantities are imported during the marketing year for cereals (between two successive harvests), the agreement with the United States allows Morocco to import its quota during a calendar year, reported L'Economiste.(APA 03-10-2016)

GHANA-CHINA TRADE VOLUME INCREASES TO US$6.6 BILLION

The Chinese ambassador to Ghana, Ms Sun Baohong, has disclosed that the financial trade volume between Ghana and the Asian giant has reached a historic US$6.6 billion, APA learns here Monday.

Ms Sun said China's direct financial investments in Ghana have reached US$174 million.

She said China's newly signed contracts in Ghana reached around US$1.3 billion, ranking among the highest in Africa.

Ms Sun mentioned some major projects her country funded which include the newly inaugurated Cape Coast Stadium and Sunon Asogli Power Projects, as well as some gas infrastructure development projects, among others.

The Daily Graphic quotes Ambassador Sun saying that the projects would further support Ghana to fulfill its economic transformation as well as benefit the peoples of the two countries.(APA 03-10-2016)

EGYPT: EU PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRICITY SECTOR

As part of efforts to develop the Egyptian electricity sector and with the support of the EU-funded Association Agreement Programme (SAAP), the Egyptian Electric Utility and Consumer Protection Regulatory Agency (EgyptERA) will launch an EU-funded Twinning project in partnership with the Regulatory Authority for Energy of the Hellenic Republic (RAE), and the Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity, Gas, and Water (AEEGSI).

The project, to be implemented over 23 months with a budget of EUR 1,225,000, aims to offer technical support for Egypt's electricity and power sector, through contributing to the institutional reform and modernization of the Egyptian public administration. It will also improve the business climate for investment in the electricity and energy sector in Egypt, which helps to improve the service provided to consumers.

The project is an essential step for Egypt's electricity sector to achieve its strategic objective of interconnecting the Egyptian power system with neighboring countries and ultimately with the European network. The Egyptian Electric Utility and Consumer Protection Regulatory Agency (EgyptERA) has received three previous stages of EU-funded technical support by the Ministry of International Cooperation's SAAP to support government agencies. This support resulted in a number of achievements, including the restructuring of the electricity tariff program and the development of its five-year plan, which was put into effect by the cabinet in July 2014 and runs until July 2019.

The twinning project comes as a fourth stage to help EgyptERA's efforts to create a competitive electricity market in accordance with the requirements of the Electricity Law. (EEAS 14-07-2016)

EGYPT, SOUTH AFRICA SIGN MOU ON INVESTMENT COOPERATION

The Egyptian General Authority of Investment and Free Zones (GAFI) on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Investment South Africa (ISA) on investment cooperation.

The MoU was signed in Cairo by the head of GAFI; Mohamed Khodair and the South African Ambassador to Egypt, Sadick Jaffer on behalf of ISA.

The MoU targets raising joint mutual investment and trade between Egypt and South Africa.

Ambassador Jaffer noted that the MoU would provide support and facilitate access to respective investment projects and opportunities.

“The MoU symbolises that the economic relationship between South Africa and Egypt [is ready] to be taken to the next level, which will be a more targeted approach and, which I believe, will lead to greater investment focus between the two countries,” he added.

Jaffer highlighted that a work plan for the next financial year has been drafted, including missions to the respective countries.

“The two economic powerhouses on the continent are keen to encourage two-way investment, while the two agencies will be focal points for business interaction on investment,” stated Jaffer.

The signing ceremony was preceded by an Investment Business Seminar hosted by the Egyptian Business Association as an initial outcome of the second Joint Working Group on Investment held in March 2015.(APA 03-10-2016)

IMF EXPECTS 4% GROWTH FOR EGYPT IN 2017 COMPARED TO 5.2% FORECAST

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects a 4% growth for Egypt in the fiscal year (FY) of 2016/2017, according to the World Economic Outlook for October 2016 entitled “Subdued Demand Symptoms and Remedies” on Tuesday.

The IMF said that Egypt’s real GDP growth for FY 2014/2015 reached 4.2%, while it expects a 3.8% growth in FY 2015/2016, and 6% in FY 2020/2021
In the meantime, the Egyptian government forecasts a 5.2% growth in FY 2016/2017, while it expected 4.4% in FY 2015/2016, according to state budget for FY 2016/2017.

Cairo-based senior economist at Arqaam Capital, Reham El-Desoki, said that the rise in Egypt’s GDP growth forecast is due to the government’s expectations that the reforms being implemented in FY 2016/2017 could reflect positively on the private sector, leading to higher economic growth in the second half of the current fiscal year.

In addition, the government increased investment spending for the budget for this fiscal year, especially on infrastructure projects.

The IMF’s expectations are lower, however, as it awaits evidence of the outcome of these reforms and could then amend its growth forecast.

El-Desoki expects that growth could reach 4-4.5% this fiscal year and could increase to 5% when the US dollar shortage problem is resolved in the second half of FY 2016/2017.

Meanwhile, in the World Economic Forum Outlook, the IMF projected that global growth will slow to 3.1% in 2016 before recovering to 3.4% in 2017.

The Outlook said that the forecast, revised down by 1% for 2016 and 2017 relative to April, reflects a more subdued outlook for advanced economies following the UK’s vote to leave the European Union and weaker than expected growth in the United States.

Further, the IMF expects the consumer price (inflation) in Egypt will decrease to 10.2% in FY 2015/2016 compared to 11% in FY 2014/2015, while predicting that inflation will increase to reach 18.2% in FY 2016/2017. However, it forecasts a large decrease in inflation for FY 2020/2021—down to 7.1%.

Nevertheless, the Egyptian government has cited different expectations in its state budget for current FY 2016/2017, with inflation forecast to reach 9.7% in FY 2015/2016 and 11.5% in FY 2016/2017.

Commenting on the higher IMF inflation projection in FY 2016/2017, El-Desoki said that inflation is expected to average 14-15% in FY 2016/2017 and may reach 18% by the end of 2016 or early 2017 if fuel prices increase.(APA 04-10-2016)

ENPARD SUPPORTS ALGERIA IMPROVE MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS

In the framework of the EU-funded ENPARD South Support Programme, a workshop on “Marketing of agricultural products, organisation of actors and market access” was held in Algeria to initiate a wide reflection on this issue based on an assessment report of the sector’s situation, an analysis of the measures and tools available to stakeholders as well as the difficulties they are facing in order to submit later on solid proposals.

The Algerian Ministry of Agriculture, Rural development and Fishery, had identified with the support of the ENPARD South Support Programme several priority issues including the improvement of the marketing of agricultural products, highlighting product quality and access to domestic and international markets for producers, as issues that the agricultural sector in Algeria has to face.

Among the proposed recommendations approved by the participants:

- Adoption of a coherent multi-sectoral strategy at the national level;
- Synchronisation of regulations and reduction of administrative procedures and formalities;
- Reduction of the imbalance of information flow between actors;
- Improving support for companies to develop their activities on the international level.

ENPARD has been designed to support the EU’s Southern Neighbourhood countries in their agricultural and rural development. The initiative aims to support the formulation and implementation of renewed public policies in order to meet the challenges of food security, diversification of rural economies and governance in agriculture and management of rural areas. (ENPARD South 22-06-2016)

EGYPT'S EXPORTS TO TURKEY HIKE BY 9.3 PERCENT IN SIX MONTHS

Egyptian exports to Turkey reached EGP 5.2 billion ($585.5 million) during the first half of 2016 versus EGP 4.7 billion a year earlier, making a 9.3 percent rise.

The monthly bulletin of Egypt's Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) about foreign trade showed on Monday that state's exports to Turkey rose by 8.1 percent in June 2016 to EGP 965.2 million from EGP 892.5 million in June 2015.

During the first six months of 2016, Egyptian fertilizers exports to Istanbul registered EGP 496.5 million opposed to EGP 53.5 million, marking a 828.4 percent leap.

In June 2016, fertilizers exports to Turkey increased by 910.9 percent to EGP 121.9 million from EGP 12.1 million in June 2015.

The bulletin also stated that Egyptian exports of cotton to Turkey jumped in January-June 2016 by 7.5 percent.

The total volume of Egypt's cotton exports to Turkey hit EGP 521.8 million versus EGP 485.5 million during the first half of 2015.(APA 03-10-2016)

KABILA ANNOUNCES POSTPONEMENT OF DRC'S ELECTIONS

President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), on Tuesday announced during a trip to Tanzania, the postponement of his country's elections originally scheduled for November 2016, according to France 24 monitored by APA.

However, Mr. Kabila gave no new date for the polls.

Explaining that it was better to get the country ready for the elections, Kabila insisted that up to ten million voters were not registered to vote and could resort to violence if they could not participate in the ballot.

Dozens of people were killed in several cities in DR Congo during demonstrations staged by the opposition to demand Kabila's departure at the end of his second term in November 2016. (APA 04-10-2016)

LIBYA: EU RENEWS SANCTIONS FOR SIX MONTHS

In view of the gravity of the situation, the EU Council on 30 September 2016 prolonged the sanctions against Libya targeting three persons for six months.

On 1 April 2016, the Council added three persons to the list of people subject to EU restrictive measures against Libya. Agila Saleh, president of the Libyan Council of Deputies in the House of Representatives; Khalifa Ghweil, prime minister and defence minister of the internationally unrecognised General National Congress; and Nuri Abu Sahmain, president of the internationally unrecognised General National Congress, are viewed as obstructing the implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement of 17 December 2015 and the formation of a Government of National Accord in Libya.

The Council stressed that it remains concerned about the situation in Libya, and in particular about acts that threaten the peace, security or stability of the country, and that impede or undermine the successful completion of Libya's political transition. (Council 03-10-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE'S TRADE MINISTER BANKS ON INCREASED GAS SALES TO SOLVE DEBT BURDEN

Mozambique's Deputy Industry and Trade Minister Rajendra de Sousa says the country can solve its current debt crisis through increased sales of its natural gas, APA can report on Tuesday.

Mr. de Sousa is quoted by state-controlled Radio Mozambique as saying that the national debt problem is structural, but it becomes worse due to the public debt.

The national obligation rose by some 20 percent after the government approved more than $2 billion worth of loans that were not disclosed to the country's global financial partners such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, who in turn suspended aid to the country.

The money, without approval of the parliament, went to three parastatals; the Mozambique Tuna Company (Ematum) as well as the security-linked Proindicus and Mozambique Asset Management.

Minister de Sousa however said he was confident that the debt can be swiftly cleared by sales in advance of the huge gas reserves discovered in the Rovuma Basin, off the coast of the northern province of Cabo Delgado.

The gas deposits have been divided into blocks where the operators are the Texas-based company Anadarko and the Italian energy company, ENI, although all the gas remains at the bottom of the sea so far.

Neither Anadarko nor ENI have yet made their final investment decisions, on which will depend on the billions of US dollars required to build factories to make liquefied natural gas.

The Deputy Minister says the loans contracted by the three parastatals should be renegotiated on terms and conditions the national economy can support, because Mozambique is a sovereign nation, and not a failed state. (APA 04-10-2016)

UGANDA'S ENERGY SECTOR RECEIVES 75M EURO GERMAN FUNDING

The governments of Uganda and Germany have signed a bilateral financial cooperation agreement worth 75 million Euros to fund two projects in Uganda's energy sector.

The cooperation agreement covers two electricity transmission lines; one in eastern Uganda valued at

40 million Euros and another in western Uganda at 35 million Euros.

The State Minister for Finance David Bahati signed on behalf of Uganda while the Germany government was represented by the German Ambassador to Uganda Peter Glomeyers at the signing ceremony in Kampala ton Tuesday morning.

Speaking at the ceremony, Bahati said the funding will help to expand the electricity transmission lines to evacuate power from generation plants as per Uganda's National Development Plan phase 2. He also extended gratitude to Germany for the continued assistance it has extended to Uganda and assured all that the commitments made shall be pursued to conclusion. (APA 04-10-2016)

SAFETY AND RULE OF LAW IN AFRICA DETERIORATING, SAYS MO IBRAHIM FOUNDATION

Almost two-thirds of African citizens live in a country in which safety and rule of law deteriorated in the last ten years.

This is according to the 2016 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), launched on Monday by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

Over the last decade, overall governance has improved by one score point at the continental average level, with

37 countries — home to 70% of African citizens — registering progress. This overall positive trend has been led mainly by improvement in Human Development and Participation & Human Rights. Sustainable Economic

Opportunity also registered an improvement, but at a slower pace.

"However, these positive trends stand in contrast to a pronounced and concerning drop in Safety & Rule of Law, for which 33 out of the 54 African countries — home to almost two-thirds of the continent's population — have experienced a decline since 2006, 15 of them quite substantially," the index states.

"This worrying trend has worsened recently, with almost half of the countries on the continent recording their worst score ever in this category within the last three years. This is driven by large deteriorations in the subcategories of Personal Safety and National Security."

Notably, 'Accountability' is now the lowest scoring subcategory of the whole Index.

Without exception, all countries that have deteriorated at the Overall Governance level have also deteriorated in Safety & Rule of Law.

At the Overall Governance level, the three highest scoring countries in 2015 are Mauritius, Botswana and

Cabo Verde, and the three most improved over the decade are Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Zimbabwe.

While SA and Ghana featured in the top ten performing countries in Overall Governance in 2015, they are also the eighth and tenth most deteriorated over the decade.

The index also noted that an improvement in the Participation & Human Rights category, found in 37 countries across the continent, has been driven by progress in Gender and in Participation. However, a marginal deterioration appears in the subcategory Rights, "with some worrying trends in indicators relating to the civil society space".

Sustainable Economic Opportunity is the index's lowest scoring and slowest improving category. However, 38 countries — together accounting for 73% of continental GDP — have recorded an improvement over the last decade.

The largest progress has been achieved in the sub-category Infrastructure, driven by a massive improvement in the indicator Digital & IT Infrastructure, the most improved of all 95 indicators. However, the average score for Infrastructure still remains low, with the indicator Electricity Infrastructure registering a particularly worrying decline in 19 countries, home to 40% of Africa's population.

Human Development is the best performing category over the last decade, with 43 countries — home to 87% of

African citizens — registering progress. All dimensions — Education, Health and Welfare — have improved.

Mo Ibrahim, Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, said: "The improvement in overall governance in Africa over the last decade reflects a positive trend in a majority of countries and for over two-thirds of the continent's citizens. No success, no progress can be sustained without constant commitment and effort. As our Index reveals, the decline in safety and rule of law is the biggest issue facing the continent today. Sound governance and wise leadership are fundamental to tackling this challenge, sustaining recent progress and ensuring that Africa's future is bright."

IN BRIEF: Key findings of the 2016 IIAG include:

• Over the past decade, the continental average score in Overall Governance has improved by one point.

• Safety & Rule of Law is the only category of the Index to register a negative trend over the decade, falling by -2.8 score points in the past ten years.

• Accountability is the lowest scoring (35.1) of the 14 sub-categories in 2015.

• The continental average score for the Corruption & Bureaucracy indicator has declined by -8.7 points over the last decade, with 33 countries registering deterioration, 24 of them falling to their worst ever score in 2015.

• Two-thirds of the countries on the continent, representing 67% of the African population, have shown deterioration in Freedom of Expression over the past ten years. Eleven countries, covering over a quarter (27%) of the continent's population, have declined across all three civil society measures — Civil Society Participation, Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Association & Assembly — over the decade.

The Poverty Reduction Priorities indicator has registered an average decline of -1.3 points, with 23 countries, hosting 45% of Africa's population, declining.

THE GOOD NEWS:

• Since 2006, 37 countries, hosting 70% of African citizens, have improved in Overall Governance.

• In 2015 more than two-thirds of African citizens (70%) live in countries where Sustainable Economic Opportunity has improved in the last ten years.

• Digital & IT Infrastructure is the most improved indicator (out of 95) of the IIAG over the decade.

• Niger, Rwanda, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Kenya have progressed by more than +10.0 points in Business Environment over the decade.

• 43 countries, hosting more than four-fifths (87%) of the African population, have registered improvement in Human Development over the decade. Rwanda, Ethiopia, Angola, and Togo have increased by more than +10.0 points in Human Development over the decade.

• All 54 countries have registered progress in Child Mortality over the decade.

• Over the last ten years, the Poverty indicator has registered improvement (+7.2 points), with 29 countries, accounting for 67% of Africa's population and 76% of Africa's GDP, improving.

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation was established in 2006 with a focus on the critical importance of leadership and governance in Africa, by providing tools to assess and support progress in leadership and governance.

The tenth edition of the index brings together a decade of data to assess each of Africa's 54 countries against 95 indicators drawn from 34 independent sources. This year, for the first time, the IIAG includes Public Attitude Survey data from Afrobarometer, which captures Africans' own perceptions of governance, which provide fresh perspective on the results registered by other data such expert assessment and official data. (TMG Digital 03-10-2016)

NIGERIA DEMANDS REFUND OF $406M FROM SHELL PETROLEUM

The Nigerian government is demanding $406.75 million from Shell Petroleum Development Company and its surrogate Shell Western Supply & Trading Limited, representing the shortfall of the money paid by the multinational oil firm in the government's account with the Central Bank of Nigeria, for crude oil lifted in 2014.

Arguing the matter in court, the government lawyer, Professor Fabian Ajogwu, accused the Anglo-Dutch company of not declaring or under-declaring crude oil shipments during the period.

According to forensic analysis of the bill of lading and shipping documents, Ajogwu, swore to affidavits claiming that Shell cheated.

The Nigerian government had earlier sued Total and Agip on similar charges.

The Nigerian government established this consortium of experts (both foreign and local) for the intelligence-based tracking of the global movements of the country's hydrocarbons including crude oil and gas with the main purposes of identifying the companies engaged in the practices that led to missing revenues from crude oil and gas exports sales to different parts of the world.

Nigeria arrived on the conclusion after reconciling the export record in Nigeria with the import records from respective ports of entry in the United States in the case of these two companies and others.

The data on shipment of the companies, including its bills of lading, oil vessels used for the shipment, date of arrival at the destination ports, and ports of origin, were used to identify the buyers of the undeclared Nigerian crude oil.

The sellers thereof as well as quantity of crude oil exported from Nigeria, and the same data for the same shipment imported into the United States were compared wherefore the comparison showed differences of crude oil on the one hand showed that some of the crude oil shipments declared to have been exported from Nigeria, were less than what was declared.(APA 04-10-2016)

DRC LEADER ASSURES TANZANIA OF ITS CONTINUOUS USE OF DAR ES SALAAM PORT

The President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Joseph Kabila has promised Tanzania that DRC will continue to use the port of Dar es Salaam where currently 50 percent of its total exports are going through.

President Kabila made the assurance Tuesday when he officially opened East and Central Africa's tallest building in Dar es Salaam after he arrived in Tanzania on Monday for a three day state visit.

"DRC will continue to use the Dar port, as things have improved in recent days" he said.

According to him, DRC copper production has increased from 100,000 tonnes to around 1.2 million tonnes in the last ten years and therefore if the infrastructure was improved it will enable smooth transportation of cargo.

The just launched 35-floor building is expected to house the headquarters of the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA), as well as several other institutions.

Meanwhile, Tanzanian President John Magufuli in his turn assured President Kabila of close business cooperation between Dar es Salaam and Kinshasa.(APA 04-10-2016)

S&P LOWERS MTN'S LONG-TERM CREDIT RATING TO JUNK STATUS

MTN Group has had its long-term credit rating cut to junk status by S&P Global Ratings, the cellphone network announced on Monday.

The credit ratings agency cut MTN's rating from BBB-— the lowest investment grade rating — to BB+ following its cut of the sovereign credit rating of MTN's largest market, Nigeria, to B from B+.

"In our view, Nigeria's economy has weakened due to a marked contraction in oil production, a restrictive foreign exchange regime, and delayed stimulus. MTN has material exposure to Nigeria and SA (which represent 37% and 25%, respectively, of group revenues as of June 30, 2016)," S&P said in its statement.

S&P said that it took into account the Nigerian Communications Commission's cutting of the fine it gave MTN for failing to identify its customers to $1.6bn from $5.2bn.

S&P said that MTN's stand-alone credit profile remained unchanged at BBB.

"This cap is in line with peers and reflects our view of MTN's exposure to potential legal and regulatory risks. We also consider MTN's ability to maintain sufficient liquidity in a sovereign default scenario," S&P said.

The move to lower the credit rating comes a week after lawmakers in Nigeria's parliament agreed to probe allegations that MTN illegally transferred almost $14bn out of the West African country (BD 03-10-2016)

MTN SAID TO BE MULLING ABANDONING ACQUISITION OF VISAFONE IN NIGERIA

MTN is considering abandoning the acquisition of Nigerian internet provider Visafone Communications, after the country's industry regulator ruled that broadband spectrum should not be included in the deal, according to two people familiar with the matter.

Africa's biggest wireless carrier by sales was deciding whether acquiring the closely held company was worth it without the spectrum, said one of the people, who asked not to be identified as the deliberations were private. The deal valued Lagos-based Visafone at about $220m, according to both people.

MTN did not immediately respond on a request for comment.

The Nigerian Communications Commission ruled last week that taking control of the spectrum would increase MTN's dominance in the country, its biggest market. MTN and competitors including Bharti Airtel's local unit are seeking to expand their internet coverage in Nigeria as growth in voice services slows. MTN agreed to pay almost $59m for spectrum as part of a government auction in June.

The Nigerian Communications Commission ruled in favour of MTN's purchase of Visafone in December, according to an agreement seen by Bloomberg and signed by the regulator's legal head, Yetunde Akinloye.

S&P Global Ratings downgraded MTN to junk status on Friday to reflect increased risk in Nigeria, where the phone company agreed to pay a 330-billion naira fine earlier this year for missing a deadline to disconnect unregistered subscribers.

Last week, Nigerian legislators raised new allegations about the wireless carrier, accusing the company of illegally moving almost $14bn out of the country. MTN denied the claims.

MTN's share price fell 0.8% to R116.53 in afternoon trade on the JSE on Monday, valuing the company at R215bn. The stock has declined 39% since the Nigeria fine was first reported a year ago, compared with a 2.8% gain at crosstown rival Vodacom. (Bloomberg 03-10-2016)

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The Memorandum is also made available by AHEAD-GLOBAL, BCA, Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), CCA - Canadian Council on Africa, CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), ELO,HTTC ,NABA,NABC (by posting selected news) and SwissCham-Africa to their Members.

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Fernando Matos Rosa

fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt
fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be