



'AGI FRIDAY SESSION 'ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE EUROPEAN TOOL OF SUPPORT AND PROMOTION OF GOVERNANCE.

I- CONTEXT

In collaboration with IDEP and UNECA and within the framework of its activities of policy dialogue, advocacy and operational reflection for the implementation of the principles of developmental governance, the Africa Governance Institute will organise, **on 22-23 April 2011**, at its headquarters in Dakar, a special session of AGI's Fridays on the question of the assessment of the European tool for the support and promotion of governance.

II- JUSTIFICATION

In 2006, the European Commission (EC) launched the *Governance Initiative* (GI). According to EC policy documents, this innovative mechanism is based on an incentive-based approach that revolves around the principles of "ownership rather conditionality", "dialogue rather than sanctions" as well "participatory evaluations" that involve the partner country¹. The GI, which is funded from the 10th European Development Fund, has a dedicated financial envelop in the form of an incentive mechanism of €2.7 billion, otherwise known as the Governance Incentive Tranche (GIT). The GI has now been applied in many African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The size of the financial incentive to be allocated per country has been determined through an assessment process led by the EC.

In **2008** a **Support Study** was commissioned by the EC in order to make an **initial assessment** of the GI. It focused on the relevance of the overall GIT process (GITP) and related tools such as the Governance Profile (GP) and Governance Action Plan (GAP); the conformity with the key principles of the Paris Declaration as well as on emerging indicators of impact. The Support Study was used to elaborate a Commission Staff Working Paper² which was subsequently discussed by the Council.

In its Conclusions of 18 May 2009 the Council recognized the potential of the GI in terms of supporting governance reforms undertaken by partner countries. Yet it also stressed the need to further develop and fine-tune several key dimensions of the process and methodology. It invited the Commission and the Member States to explore ways and means to: enhance ownership; strengthen the political dialogue with national stakeholders, regional and supranational organizations (AU); improve linkages between the APRM and the GAP; monitor the implementation of the GAP and ensure a transparent and evidence-based allocation system.

The Council also requested the Commission to provide in early 2012 a comprehensive report on the implementation of the GI. In this context, five years after its launch, an evaluation of this initiative and the whole process that underlies it (GITP) is carried out by a consortium of two independent organisations namely the Africa Governance Institute (AGI) and the European Centre for

¹ COM (2006) 421 final of 30.08.2006: *Governance in the European Consensus on Development. Towards a harmonised approach within the European Union.*

² COM SEC (2009) 58 final: *Supporting democratic governance through the governance initiative. A review and the way forward.*

Development Policy Management (ECDPM). This consortium has the technical support of key African organizations mandated in supporting and promoting governance: IDEP, UNECA, APRM, and AfDB.

The special 'AGI Friday Session 'on the Assessment of the European tool of support and promotion of governance to be held on **22 and 23 April 2011** will allow **invited participants** to :

- 1/. Become familiar with the methodology used by the consortium AGI / ECDPM;
- 2/. Share on the first results of desk studies, field desk studies and the questionnaire feedback;
- 3/. Share information on European support to African processes of support and promotion of Governance;
- 4/. Share information on the vision of African Civil Societies Organizations on the European Governance Initiative;
- 5/. Commit on the preparation of the African workshop for the restitution of the GIT study results.

III- FORMAT

- 1/. Introduction by an AGI representative, 5 mn;
- 2/. Presentations and Round table moderated by a facilitator;
- 3/. Discussions;
- 4/. The text of the summary will be shared and published on AGI's website in French and English.