

AGI Newsletter

Newsletter N°2
December 2009



Analysing, documenting and disseminating Knowledge on governance in Africa

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towards 2010

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News

The African Governance Institute launched its action plan on Tuesday 3 November in Dakar, with a workshop organised on the theme 'Rethinking Governance in Africa'. This was the time for institutional, technical and financial partners, experts, and civil society organisations and academics to reaffirm their support for the African Governance Institute.

The Senegalese Prime Minister, Souleymane Ndéné Ndiaye, chairman of the inaugural workshop felt that *'the challenges at the dawn of the third millennium are numerous and come in many guises. Thus, we must be much more vigilant in consolidating what we have gained and lay the foundations, based on democracy and good governance for solid embedding; essential conditions of development'*. For the Prime Minister, developing new modes of governance by Africans and for Africans, is the way to respond more effectively to the challenges of development. *'It is only in this way that we can confront the crises and obstacles that are holding back Africa's progress: poverty, food insecurity, environmental damages, political instability, ethno-political conflicts etc.'*

This declaration concurs perfectly with the AGI's point of view whose aim of being is to create and disseminate a specifically African vision of governance.

And so the African Governance Institute is launched. It is down to us, the African people to make it happen!

Enjoy your reading!

Pr. Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja
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Thanks to

AGI Team

Board meeting: steering towards 2010



Some members of AGI Board

The last AGI Board Meeting was held on 2 of November in order for Board members to approve the AGI 2010-2012 Two-year Business Plan and 2010 Work Plan. The latter includes political dialogue and advocacy in

support of governance for development in Africa; strategic research on the current issues and challenges of governance in Africa; as well as capacity strengthening of African governance institutions and stake-

holders; and the collection, dissemination and diffusion of leading information on governance in Africa.

Missions

Professor Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja went to Brussels on 24 November 2009. On this occasion the African Governance Institute and the ECDPM signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a strategic partnership designed to strengthen the work undertaken by the two organisations in support of an African architecture of governance, and action in favour of discussion and support for development by European partners in Africa.

[Access Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja's interview after the signing of the MOU by clicking here.](#)

On 4 October 2009, Professor Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja took part in a Mo Ibrahim Foundation meeting as a member of the Advisory Group together with Foundation Board members, to examine the 2009 Index and make suggestions on the next steps to be taken. The Ibrahim Index is a comprehensive ranking of African countries, based on the quality of their governance. Founded and led by an African institution, the Ibrahim Index aims to be the main tool for evaluating governance, which informs citizens and gives them the means to hold their governments and public institutions to account. In this way, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation hopes to stimulate constructive debate on this subject and develop a framework for quality governance on the continent.

[Find more information on the Ibrahim Index here.](#)

Ousmane SY, took part in the *Assemblée des Alliés* made up of all of Irenees' partners. Irenees, Institute of Resources for Peace, which brings together artisans of peace - individuals and organisations - who are working at the heart of current conflicts, to put into action joint initiatives in preparation for a fundamental reform in the ways of thinking and creating peace. The *Assemblée des Alliés* meeting takes place once every two years to assess the ground covered and to find directions and proposals for future work to be undertaken. The meeting took place in Costa Rica, in conjunction with the Arias Foundation for Peace and Progress and the United Nations University for Peace

Find more information on IRENEES [here](#).

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Members of AGI Board



ECDPM Picture:: AGI Acting Director Mr Georges Nzongola - Ntalaja et Mr Geert La-porte from ECDPM

Guests

On the occasion of the Fourth AGI Board meeting, the following were present: Mr Ousmane Sy, Chair of the AGI Board; Mrs Nouria Benghabrit-Remaoun, Vice-Chair of the Institute; Mrs Julia Dolly Joiner, Commissioner in Political Affairs the African Union; Mr Abdalla Hamdok, Director of governance ECA; Mr Mohamed H'Midouche representing ADB; Mr Jerzy Skuratowics and Mr Bourri Sanhouidi representing the UNDP; Mr Ebrima Sall from CODESRIA; and Mr Guy Alexandre, AGI Board member.

On 5 November 2009, the African Governance Institute hosted the presentation of the **Second ECA Report on Governance in Africa**, as well as the publication '*Le Mécanisme Africain d'Evaluation par les pairs: Leçons des pionniers*' (APRM: lessons from the pioneers) by SAIIA. On this occasion, the AGI welcomed Steven Grudz and Yarik Turiansky from [SAIIA](#), and Saïd Adejumbi from the [ECA](#).

On the occasion of the inaugural workshop, the African Governance Institute organised a visit to the Institute Headquarters. We were honoured by the presence of Mrs Fatou Danielle Diagne, Advisory Minister for Competitiveness and Good Governance for Senegal; Mr Jean Bossuyt and Mrs Claire Mandouze from [ECDPM](#); Mr Pierre Dandjinou, an international consultant; Mr Alfonso Pascual and Mrs Melis Alguadis from the DPDEV/EC; Mr Salim Latib, Governance Co-ordinator at the Department of Political Affairs, AU Commission; and Lionel Vignacq, representing the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

Scientific AGI workshops/meetings

The 5th '*AFRICITES*' Pan-African Local Government Day will be held in Marrakesh, Morocco from 16 - 20 December 2009. The theme chosen for the '*Africités*' Marrakesh Summit is: '*African local and regional government response to the global crisis: promoting sustainable local development and employment*'. The AGI will give a thematic session on '*Restoring trust among the people*'. This will take place on 16 December at 2.30pm.

During the thematic session '*Restoring trust among the people*', the African Governance Institute will explore this possible line of work in greater depth, starting with a basic hypothesis: *the importance of the local dimension*. Indeed, based on effective decentralisation, the local space emerges as the strategic level for restructuring governance and restoring trust among the people. Experience suggests that the local level can act as a 'laboratory' to invent new ways of managing public affairs and delivering public services; local development (economic) in terms of MDGs; international cooperation, prevention and resolution of conflicts.

Click [here](#) for further information.



Mrs Nouria Benghabrit-Remaoun, Mr Guy Alexandre, Mr Abdallah Hamdok, AGI Board members



The AGI team and Board members



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NEWS

Mr Ousmane SY will present his book *'Reconstruire l'Afrique. Vers une nouvelle gouvernance fondée sur les dynamiques locales* (Reconstructing Africa. Towards a new governance founded on local dynamics), published by Charles Léopold Mayer Publishers and Jamana, in conjunction with the IRG, on the occasion of *'Africités 2009'* in Marrakesh. In this book, Ousmane Sy constructs real alternatives: genuine decentralisation, a radical reform of the state, regional integration constructed by the people, and a restructuring of international aid.

Mr Sy puts forward a real vision for Mali and for Africa.

[You can find more information here](#)

The President of the African Union Commission, Mr Jean Ping is the author of a publication entitled *'Et l'Afrique brillera de mille feux'* ('And Africa will shine with a thousand lights'), published by L'Harmattan, as part of the *'Grandes figures d'Afrique'* collection. The work is meant to be a plea in favour of African integration, an absolute necessity if the continent is to 'shine again with a thousand lights'. The book begins in the early days of independence, which he jokingly calls a 'crayfish market'. It continues up until the renewal of Pan-Africanism, which marks the beginning of the millennium.

Foreword!

The Africa Governance Institute has been designed as a centre of high-level policy dialogue advanced study and training on governance in Africa. As such, it is destined to engage in advocacy for democratic governance and development in Africa; to develop leading research and innovative training methods, in order to find solutions to urgent challenges of governance identified during policy dialogues We are opening up our newsletter to those of you who would like to send us an article on related topic on governance in Africa. You can send us your text in French or English, preferably by e-mail.

