



AGI's Fridays: "Assessment of the European Tool of Support and Promotion of Governance"

Within the framework of its activities of policy dialogue, advocacy and operational reflection for the implementation of developmental governance principles, the Africa Governance Institute has, in collaboration with UNECA and IDEP, organized a **special session of its AGI's Fridays Programme devoted to the "assessment of the European tool of support and promotion of governance"**. This special session was held on **April 22-23, 2011** at the AGI Headquarters in Dakar.

It brought together participants from international organizations (UNECA, APRM, AfDB, IDEP, UNDP), think-tanks and research centres (ECDPM, LAREG), academics (UCAD), civil society (AFRIMAP, Platform of Non-State Actors for the Monitoring of the Cotonou Accord in Senegal) and resource-persons. The meeting met four objectives:

- 1] To present the methodology used by the AGI/ECDPM Consortium in undertaking the ongoing support study on the evaluation of the European instrument of governance support and promotion.;
- 2] To share the first results of the desk study, field missions and sample questionnaire;
- 3] To circulate the information available on the European support to African governance promotion processes;
- 4] To collect the first elements on the outlook of African civil society on the European instrument of governance support and promotion.

The AGI/ECDPM Consortium specifically benefitted from the great knowledge of the participants in terms of methodology for assessing the instruments and political processes. As main lesson, the participants retained the need to apply plural methodologies to optimize the collection of evidence-based data that will enable a fine analysis and support the coming recommendations.

The first results of the study and the interventions of civil society representatives during this session highlighted the uneven efficiency and effectiveness of the European governance promotion instrument and led the participants to ask two questions:

- should not the process be reversed— *i.e.* start with demand rather than supply — to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of such public action? In other words, "how can Africans use extraneous (*i.e.* Europeans) tools and processes of governance promotion to serve their own governance objectives?"
- what modalities of these instruments and processes (particularly the European Union's one) can be reformed in order to reply to the needs of African States and societies?



In response to these questions, the participants agreed on the **absolute requirement that any support to the promotion of governance must be inspired by the “Tunis Consensus” - which institutionalizes African Ownership ; while being coherent with regional instruments and processes (in particular the African Peer Review Mechanism, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the AfDB Country Governance Profiles) as these are vehicles and catalysts of the implementation of the larger African Agenda for development effectiveness.**

This special session of the AGI’s Fridays ended on the commitment of participants to continue the reflection during the regional workshop on the same theme scheduled to be held on June 7-8 in Dakar.

See more on www.iag-agi.org/spip/-Thematics-.html