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This leads straight to the issue of governance, and I am glad to welcome Nathalie Delapalme, who is the Executive Director, Research and Policy, of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation. Nathalie, as you listen to this, do you think governance is the number one issue which the Mo Ibrahim Foundation has been pointing out all the time, or do you feel that we can live with corruption to some extent?

Nathalie Delapalme, Executive Director, Research and Policy, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

I certainly would not say that we can live with corruption in any way, but maybe I can tell you about the main conclusions of our annual report, the Ibrahim Index on African Governance. This Ibrahim Index, which was created in 2006, is an annual assessment of the state of governance in all 54 African countries, with the exception of the two Sudans since the partition, because we do not have enough data available to do it properly. This index is 95 different indicators coming from 30 different sources ranging from the World Bank to the Berthelsmann Stiftung, Reporters sans frontières and Banque africaine de développement, and we built the Index with the Kennedy School of Governance of Harvard University.

It is not only about corruption, democracy or human rights; it is defined broadly as a basket of public goods and services that any government of the 21st century is due to deliver to its citizens. These 95 indicators are organised under four categories, which are safety and rule of law, participation in human rights, human development, and sustainable economic opportunity. Basically, it is a dashboard that allows anybody, be it the African governments, the partners of these governments, civil society or, more broadly, the private sector, to have a look at the state of governance in these African countries.

What does our most recent Index, published in October, tell us about the state of governance in Africa? Globally, the picture is rather positive. Looking at the global score for governance at continental level, it still continues to progress, even if it was at a lower level during the last five years, 2009 to 2013, than the five years before, 2003 to 2009. Secondly, this global picture masks a very large variety of situations, and the scope between countries and sub-regions, and within sub regions, is broadening.

The third point is that some countries that had been following a negative trend for the previous years have, remarkably, reversed this trend. For example, I am talking about Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Guinea, which gives hope that things are happening. The fourth interesting point is that, if, for the years 2005 to 2009, the main driver for this progress in governance was the sustainable economic opportunity category, this has changed, and the sustainable economic opportunity category is slightly weaker, which is interesting to note. The driver for the last five-year period is participation in human rights, mainly driven by very good results in participation.

Here let me pause, because the indicators we have, those which are available to measure democratic participation, are basically elections, which probably does not provide a complete picture of the democratic state of African countries. This is an important point, because in other indicators we also see a rise in domestic unrest, which is probably linked to some dissatisfaction with the results of these elections and the way democracy only works through elections.

Regarding the sustainable economic opportunity category, this slight weakening of the results is probably due to two fundamental weaknesses of this rise of Africa that everybody is talking about, namely that this economic growth is rather jobless, or, as ambassador Wu would say, not labour intensive enough, which is a real issue in a continent



where the majority of people are under 25 and looking for jobs. Secondly, this economic growth is leading to widening inequality, and this is an issue that needs to be tackled and to be looked at seriously.

Two indicators are not doing very well in the sustainable economic opportunity category: public management, especially the fiscal policy indicators, and secondly, which is interesting in these times of weakening commodity prices, economic diversification. The human development category is of course going well, as usual, but the fourth category, safety, has not shown very satisfactory results from the beginning. This is due to the following facts: even if we see a lessening of regional conflicts and border tensions, we see two types of tensions, the first being transversal, with the rise of terrorism and transversal criminality such as drugs, fake medicines and cybercrime, which needs to be watched carefully, and the second being domestic tensions, which arise due to what we were just talking about, increasing inequality and jobless growth, which leaves the young people of Africa hungry and angry.

Basically, when people are talking about stability, this does not fit with these young people, who are mainly looking for jobs and political change. There is no doubt about the narrative of the African rising, but I still think that the economy is not the only measurement; we should be careful not to be overly optimistic, but should take into account these early warning signs of insecurity, domestic unrest, inequality and jobless growth. We should also be aware that we should probably stop talking about Africa as a whole, because it is 54 different countries that are still a long way from integration.