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**FOUNDATION**

**'Leadership and Governance in Africa's  
Development Agenda'**

**Statement by**

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## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a real pleasure for me to address this meeting of Casa Africa, one of whose main objectives is, since its foundation, boost the relationships between Spain and Africa through awareness, creating strategic alliances and the development of long-term bilateral and multilateral relations.

Within this framework, our meeting is timely because it is taking place in a particular context characterized by the Adoption of the Agenda 2063 for socioeconomic transformation of Africa by the 24<sup>th</sup> ordinary assembly of the Head of States and governments held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) on January 31, 2015; and by the preparation of the Third Annual Conference on Financing Development scheduled in July 2015 in Addis Ababa.

Africa is therefore at a key turning point in its history, and our meeting offers a golden opportunity to think proactively about ways to



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support the continent's current momentum and position it resolutely as the new center for inclusive growth and sustainable development as envisaged in Agenda 2063.

The objective of the Agenda 2063 is to map, plan and organize for Africa's development trajectory for the next 50 years, benefitting from lessons learnt, building on current progress, and strategically leveraging opportunities to meet African aspirations and expectations, at the individual, national, and Pan-African levels. The Agenda 2063—which will be a rolling plan with short (up to 10 years), medium (10-25 years), and long-term (25-50 years) timeframes—identifies several different key drivers of change: human capital, natural resource endowment, state capacity, regional integration, leadership and Governance.

For me, Leadership and Governance are the most critical drivers of change in this New Africa development Agenda.



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In order to achieve the structural transformation of the continent, governments need to define a strategy built on an proactive and inclusive vision that assesses and priorities governance challenges and issues, make the best use of available human and natural resources, and closely monitors results and implementation. In this approach, leadership and governance are complementary and interactive.

Economic history teaches us that realizing a vision is not easy and the importance of visionary leadership in any economic and social transformation process.

Leadership is centered on setting priorities or making choices, and taking risks in implementation. Progressive leadership defines a clear and coherent vision that is inclusive, inspirational and innovative; requires courageous and forward-looking decision-making; delivers results. The quality of leadership determines directly the ability of any society to mobilize



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around a common vision and a common development strategy; the quality of leadership also determines the strength of social contract in order to achieve these objectives.

As we look to 2063, it is particularly important for us to emphasize on the role of a progressive leadership in the achievement of this New Africa's developmental Agenda, and for our leaders to recognize that it is possible to realize it.

Governance, as defined by us in the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, is considered from the viewpoint of the citizen. This definition is intentionally broad so as to capture all of the political, social and economic goods and services that any citizen has the right to expect from his or her government, and that any government has the responsibility to deliver to its citizens. Governance outcomes need to be evaluated by their results, which can only be done if accompanied by rigorous data



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In that regard, the Foundation has developed a key tool: the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), which provides an annual assessment of governance performance in Africa. Funded and led by an African institution, and consisting of 95 indicators drawn from 28 independent international data providers, the IIAG is the most comprehensive collection of data on African governance.

The four pillars that are assessed every year through IIAG are:

- safety and rule of law;
- participation and Human Rights;
- sustainable economic opportunity; and
- human development.

Our dialogue today offers us a major opportunity to conduct a retrospective and prospective reflection through these pillars, to see how



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governance can enable the realization of the Agenda 2063.

Africa has made great progress on governance in the last decade.

- At the political level, one notes, among other things, that elections have become the normal route for political transitions to power, as we saw in Ivory Coast, Tanzania, Senegal, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Madagascar, Egypt, Tunisia, Namibia, Zambia, and most recently in Nigeria.

- Progress is being seen every day in compliance with the rights of citizens. And their demands for accountability from leaders are on the rise. At the regional and continental levels, several legal instruments which have enshrined these shared values are now in force after ratification by the required number of signatories (15). Key among these is the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.



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- We are also witnessing the institutionalization of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) – a unique and innovative governance assessment mechanism and the litmus test for Africa's commitment to enhanced developmental governance. Over 36 States have so far agreed to subject themselves to the APRM framework for participatory appraisal of the progress made on governance (including corporate governance), and the inclusive formulation of solutions for related challenges.
- Furthermore, the African Union Commission has launched the African Governance Architecture and begun to operationalize the African Governance Platform – to serve as mechanisms for enhancing coordination, information sharing, definition of common positions on governance, and the ability for Africa to speak with one voice.





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- African countries have also made great strides in economic and financial governance. The business climate is witnessing steady progress. Confirming this, most of African countries have reasonable legal frameworks, and that progress in business friendly practices and business creation opportunities has been seen in several countries.

While such progress has been made, Africa still has much to do in terms of governance.

- We note that because efforts to institutionalize a democratic culture are weak in places, there is still a tendency for unconstitutional changes of government, a fragility of institutions that leads to the breakdown of democratic order, and the persistence of corruption and a lack of transparency in public and private sectors of some African countries.

- By international standards most African countries still score poorly on the rule of law. Even if most of



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them have reasonable legal frameworks, the enforcement is weak.

- The governance of natural resources suffers from severe deficits in some countries and does not enable the local communities to improve their lives and create jobs. Moreover, the problem of illicit financial flows, which concerns many mining companies in particular, constitute a considerable loss of resources for financing Africa's development and fuel dependency on development aid in some States as evidenced by the recent Report on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa by former President Mbeki and the members of a panel he led.

The 2014 IIAG confirms this mixed picture in governance performance between African countries and within the four conceptual categories over the last five years.

- At the continental level, average overall governance performance has registered a slight



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improvement (+0,9 score point) over the last five years.

- However, progress appears slightly less than over the previous five years, during which the continental overall governance score increased by +1,2 score points.

- The recent five-year progression has been mainly driven by improvements in the categories of participation and human rights and Human Development, whereas for the previous five years, continental improvement was largely driven by sustainable economic opportunity.

- Weaknesses continue to appear among the front-runners. The top five performers in overall governance (Mauritius, Cabo Verde, Botswana, South Africa and Seychelles) are still susceptible to governance failings.

- More generally, the 2014 IIAG shows that even if 13 out of 52 African countries show wide-reaching gains - having improved in overall governance and



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in the political, social and economic governance dimensions over the past five years - the dramatic deteriorations or underperformance of some countries in the category security and rule of law hampers their socioeconomic transformation and are a cause for concern.

With this mixed picture, the challenge for us is not so much what to do, but how to implement actions to achieve rapid improvements in leadership and governance, and enable the implementation of the Agenda 2063.

For me, this will not be possible unless we implement our African Shared Values, which are central to any new global commitments put forward.

Our Heads of State and Government reaffirmed recently at the 21st Ordinary Summit of the African Union that what Africa needs to do to have an emerging, prosperous, growing economy and closer integration; and to witness development



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guided by its citizens in an environment of peace and security at a time of global uncertainty is to improve democratic processes; reform electoral systems and say no to unconstitutional changes of government; strengthen compliance with human rights, rule of law and accountability; enhance fight against corruption, political participation and inclusion of Non-State Actors; consolidate developmental governance in line with the provisions of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

These are the basis that will make it possible to reinforce the credibility of African States and governments, and to achieve the implementation of the Agenda 2063.

By putting Shared Values at the heart of this Africa's transformational project, we will ensure that effective, sustainable, inclusive, equitable and rights-based development characterizes the future of African people in an environment of peace and security.



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To conclude, let me confirm all my optimism in the ability of Africa, Africans and their institutions to quickly implement these improvements in order to achieve the realization of Agenda 2063.

The African Union - with the support of African States, regional institutions and development partners, is strongly committed to guide this transformative process. I know that we can count on the support and commitment of Spain and Casa Africa.