

**THE AFRICAN  
GOVERNANCE REPORT  
(AGR): KEY FINDINGS AND  
THE AGR III**

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# Outline of Presentation

- ▣ The Context
- ▣ Objectives of AGR
- ▣ Products of the AGR
- ▣ Unique Methodology
- ▣ Major Findings of AGR II
- ▣ AGR III-Elections and Diversity Management
- ▣ Conclusion

# Context

- ❖ UNECA was established in 1958 as an Economic Commission mandated to facilitate socio-economic development of the continent;
- ❖ The lessons learned in first three decades of ECA's existence revealed that governance matters;
- ❖ Tremendous efforts dedicated to the design of economic policies and programmes yielded limited results due to the challenge of governance on the continent;
- ❖ Economic growth rate in Africa lagged behind those of other regions of the World in the first two decades of Africa's post-colonial period;

- ❖ ECA's intervention in governance and democracy was based on this premise;
- ❖ AGR project commenced in 1999 under the rubrics "Assessing and Monitoring the Progress Towards Good Governance in Africa".
- ❖ At inception, several consultations were held to determine the nature and direction of the project, its content and methodology;

- ▣ After six years of rigorous groundwork, the first AGR was produced in 2005;
- ▣ The report was a groundbreaking work in an effort by Africans to assess and monitor the progress African countries are making on good governance.

# Objectives of the AGR Project

- ▣ To monitor and assess the progress African countries are making on democracy and good governance;
- ▣ To identify and showcase good practices on governance as a means of promoting new governance norms and practices in Africa;
- ▣ To give voice and power to the African people in their perceptions and views on governance in their countries and the continent;

- ▣ **To improve the capacity of national institutions in conducting governance research and analyses;**
- ▣ **To identify capacity gaps in governance institutions in Africa;**
- ▣ **To make appropriate policy recommendations and interventions at improving governance in Africa**

# Products of the AGR Process

- ▣ There are three products from the AGR process:
- ▣ The AGR itself;
- ▣ The National Country reports;
- ▣ The National country profiles

# Unique Methodology

- ❖ The AGR has a unique methodology which combines three research instruments;
  - ▣ Expert Panel Survey (100 experts)
  - ▣ Household Survey (3,000 households)
  - ▣ Desk Research

# AGR Methodology

- ❖ **Uniqueness of the Production Process:**
  - ▣ **Involvement of national research institutions in the production of national country reports;**
  - ▣ **Independent national research institutions are selected on a competitive basis;**
  - ▣ **Stakeholders consultation in the production of national country reports- methodology and validations workshops organised;**

# Status

- ❖ AGR is a biennial report to be produced every two years;
- ❖ However, due to unforeseen circumstances the production of AGR II was delayed for 2 years;
- ❖ Two AGRs have been published (2005, and 2009); The 2009 AGR was published by Oxford Press for ECA.

- ❖ AGR I covered 27 African countries, while AGR II covered 35;
- ❖ 2005 Report (AGR I) has seven chapters;
- ❖ 2009 Report (AGR II) covers eight chapters with a new chapter on corruption added to it;

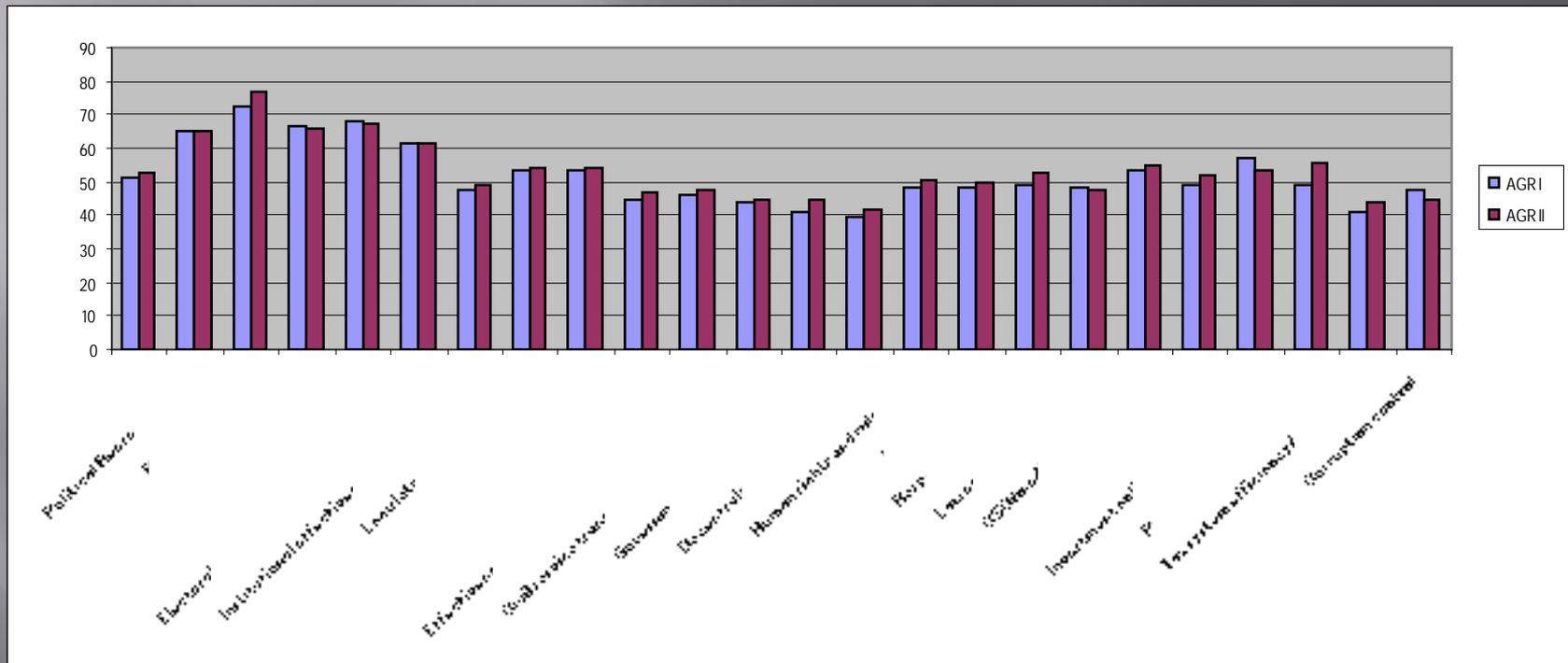
- ❖ Eight chapters in the AGR II report, namely;
  - Political governance
  - Economic Governance and Public Financial management;
  - Private sector dev. And corporate governance;
  - Institutional checks and balances;
  - Effectiveness and Accountability of the Executive;
  - Human Rights and the Rule of Law;
  - Corruption in Africa;
  - Capacity Development
- ▣

# Major Findings of AGR II

- ▣ Main Message: Margin Progress on governance in Africa, of 2<sup>0</sup>% improvement on the 2005 study (AGR I);
  - Progress on political governance is mixed;
  - Human rights and the rule slightly improve in Africa of 2<sup>0</sup>% and 3<sup>0</sup>% respectively;
  - African economies are better managed;

- 'Big man' syndrome gradually recedes in Africa;
- Corruption remains a major challenge in Africa;
- Capacity deficits continue to plague governance in Africa.

# Main findings of AGR II

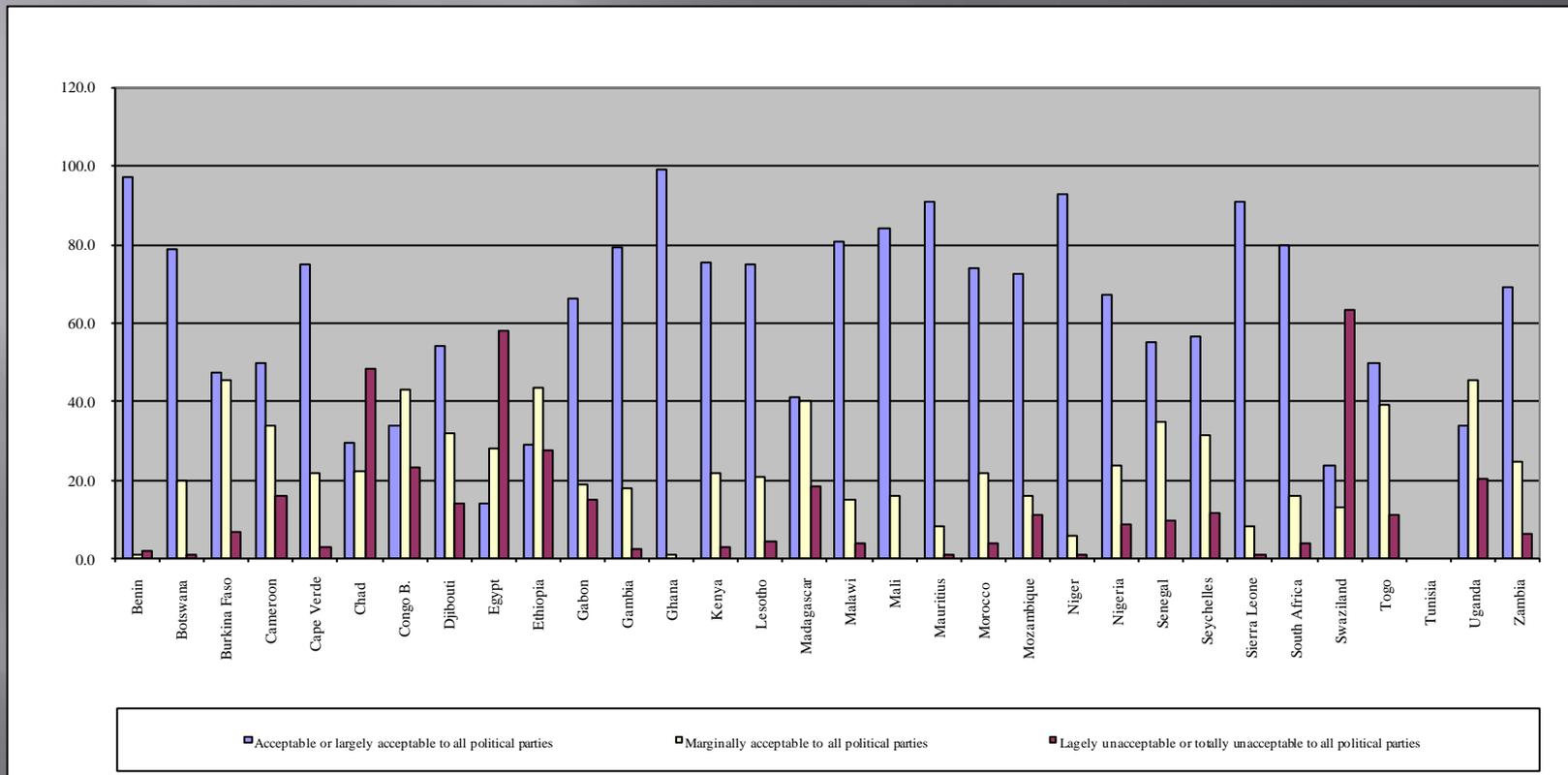


## Main findings of AGR II: Political Governance

- ▣ Multiparty system flourishes, but with poor institutionalisation;
- ▣ Opposition parties still muzzled in many African countries with unequal access to electoral resources;
- ▣ Elections are more regular (54 elections in 2005-2007), but badly flawed in some countries;
- ▣ Electoral commissions lack the requisite autonomy and resources in many African countries;

- ▣ **Respect for constitutionalism remains a major challenge in Africa as constitutions are amended and tenure of regimes elongated against popular wishes;**
- ▣ **Social inclusiveness on the increase as minorities and women are included in governance;**
- ▣ **Democracy is “work in progress” in Africa**

# Main findings of AGR II: Expert Opinion on the credibility of the electoral system



## Main findings of AGR II: Economic Governance & Public Financial Management

- ▣ **Marked improvements in economic performance (from 3.4% in 1998-2002 to over 5.5% in 2006-2007)**
- ▣ **Notable improvements in public financial management**
- ▣ **Better revenue mobilisation to finance economic development agenda;**
- ▣ **Progress in creating macroeconomic environment conducive to private-sector development and investment promotion**

## ▣ Challenges;

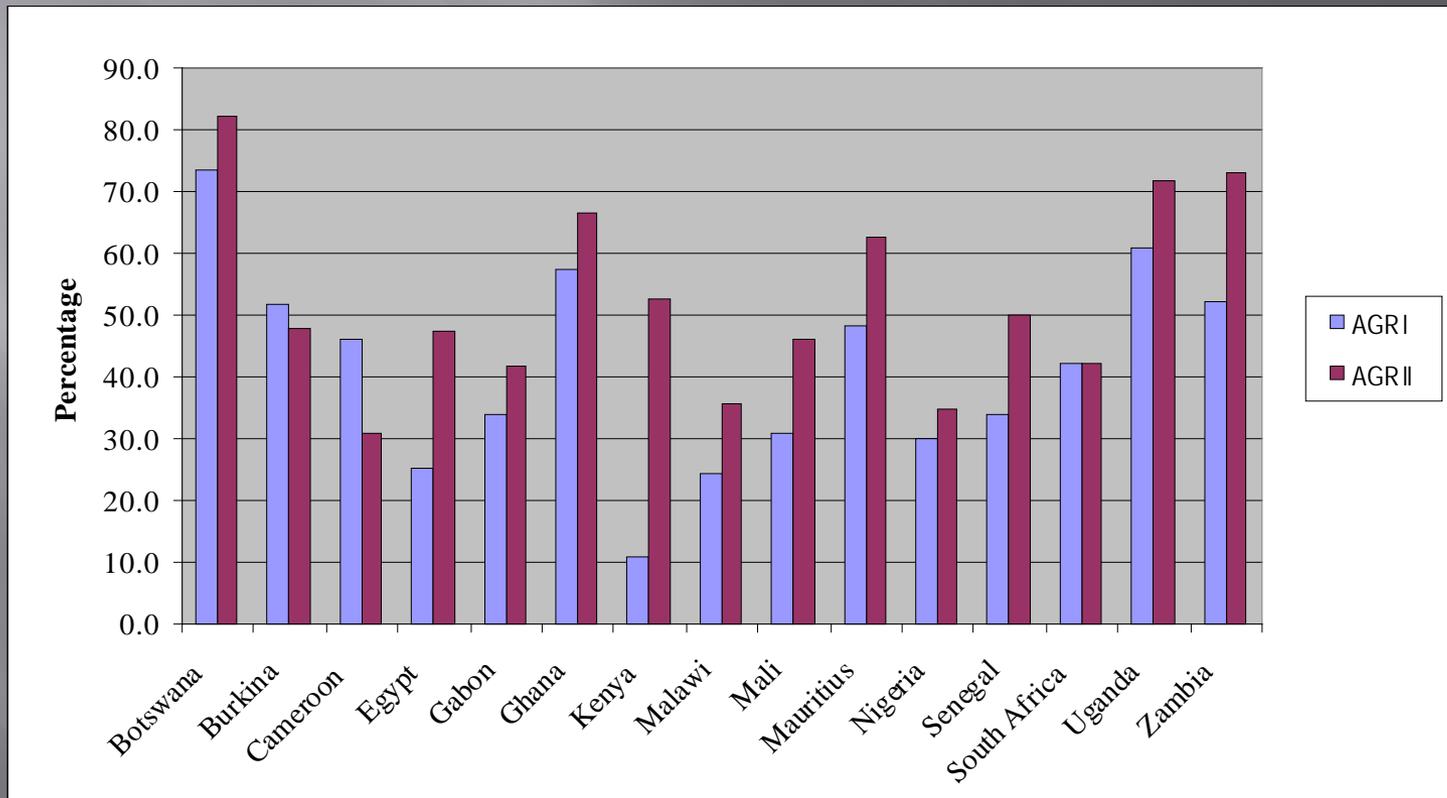
- Economic growth in Africa has not been broad-based and inclusive;
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, unemployment rates remain high, the number of people living in extreme poverty is on the increase and progress in reducing under-five infant mortality rates is slow;
- Transparency and accountability in public finance still a challenge

## Main findings of AGR II: Private Sector Development & Corporate Governance

- ▣ Significant reduction in administrative burdens on businesses, but the cost of doing business is still high compared with other regions of the world;
- ▣ More countries are adopting regulations and institutions to enforce contracts and protect property rights;
- ▣ More incentives to attract foreign direct investment (FDI), but less for domestic investments

- ▣ Lack of access to finance, land and quality infrastructure impedes private sector development;
- ▣ Corporate governance has not advanced much in Africa, except for countries in Southern Africa

# Main findings of AGR II: Expert Opinion on Impact of Tax Incentives on Foreign Investment

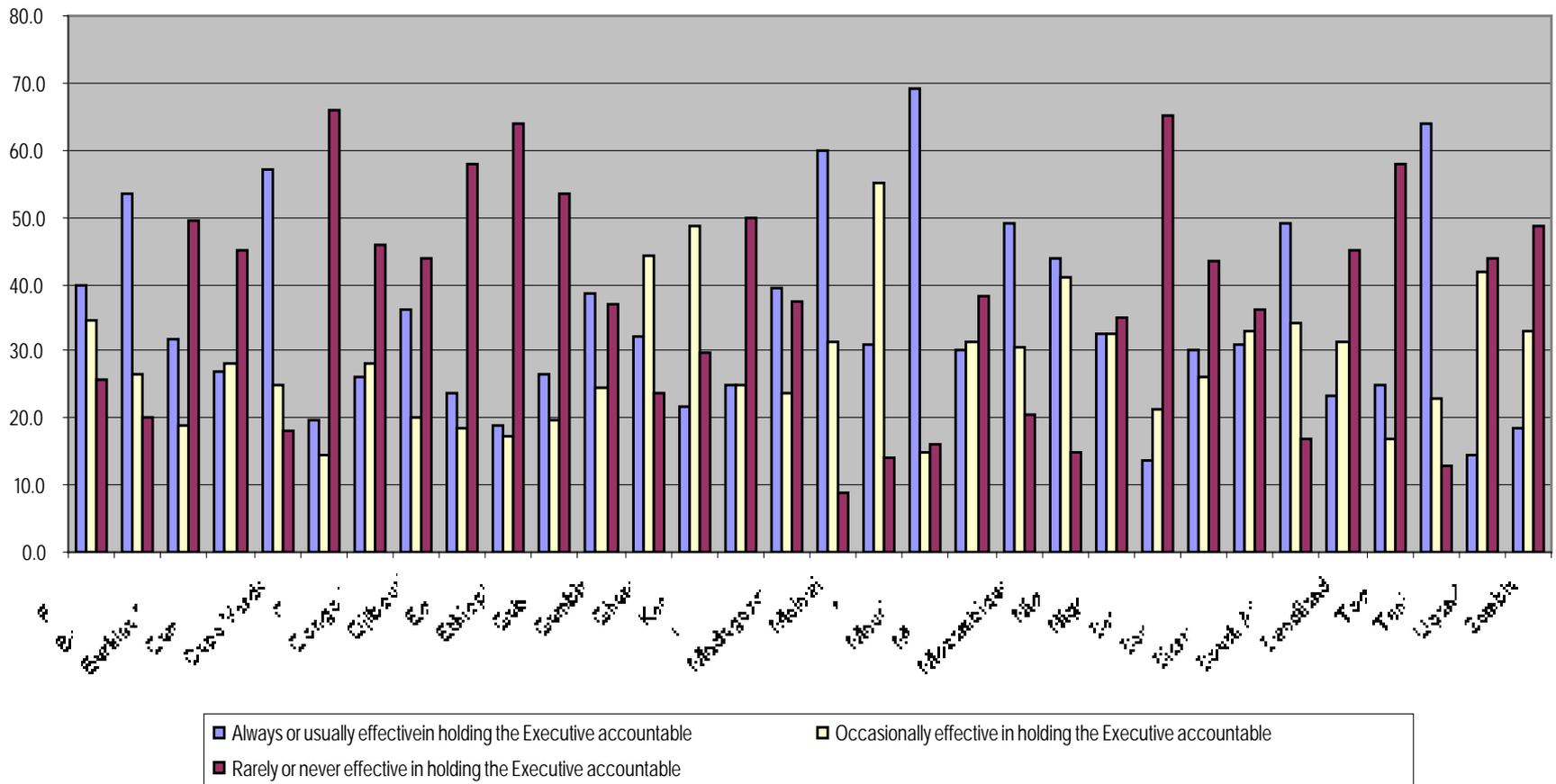


## Main findings of AGR II: Checks and Balances

- ▣ Separation of powers gradually takes root in Africa;
- ▣ Phenomenon of “Big man” recedes in Africa, although executive dominance still persists;
- ▣ Non-state actors (CSOs and the Media) increasingly check the powers of the executive and government in many countries;

- ▣ The parliament remains weak in many African countries;
- ▣ People's empowerment and vigilance constitute the most effective check on state power

# Main findings of AGR II: Expert Opinion on legislative control of the executive

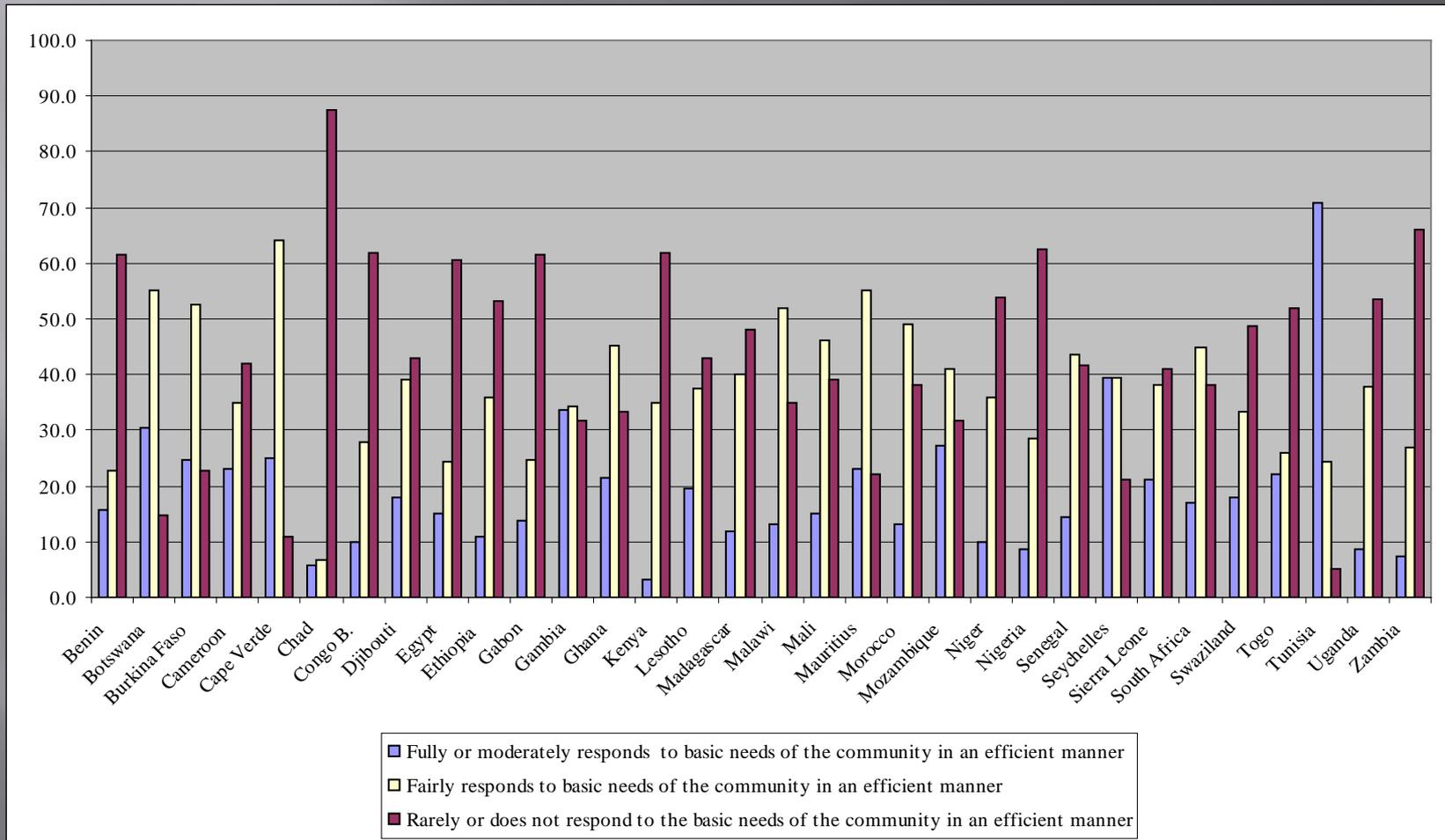


## Main findings of AGR II: Institutional Effectiveness & Accountability of the Executive

- ▣ Quality of the executive still low in many African countries;
- ▣ Institutional capacity of the public bureaucracy remains weak;
- ▣ Decentralisation brings little gains in service delivery at the local level in Africa;

- ▣ Access to basic services of quality education, health and water supply remains a major challenge in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- ▣ Need to improve the transparency and accountability of the Executive;
- ▣ Progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, but scaled up efforts required

# Main findings of AGR II: Adequateness of government services to the needs of the people



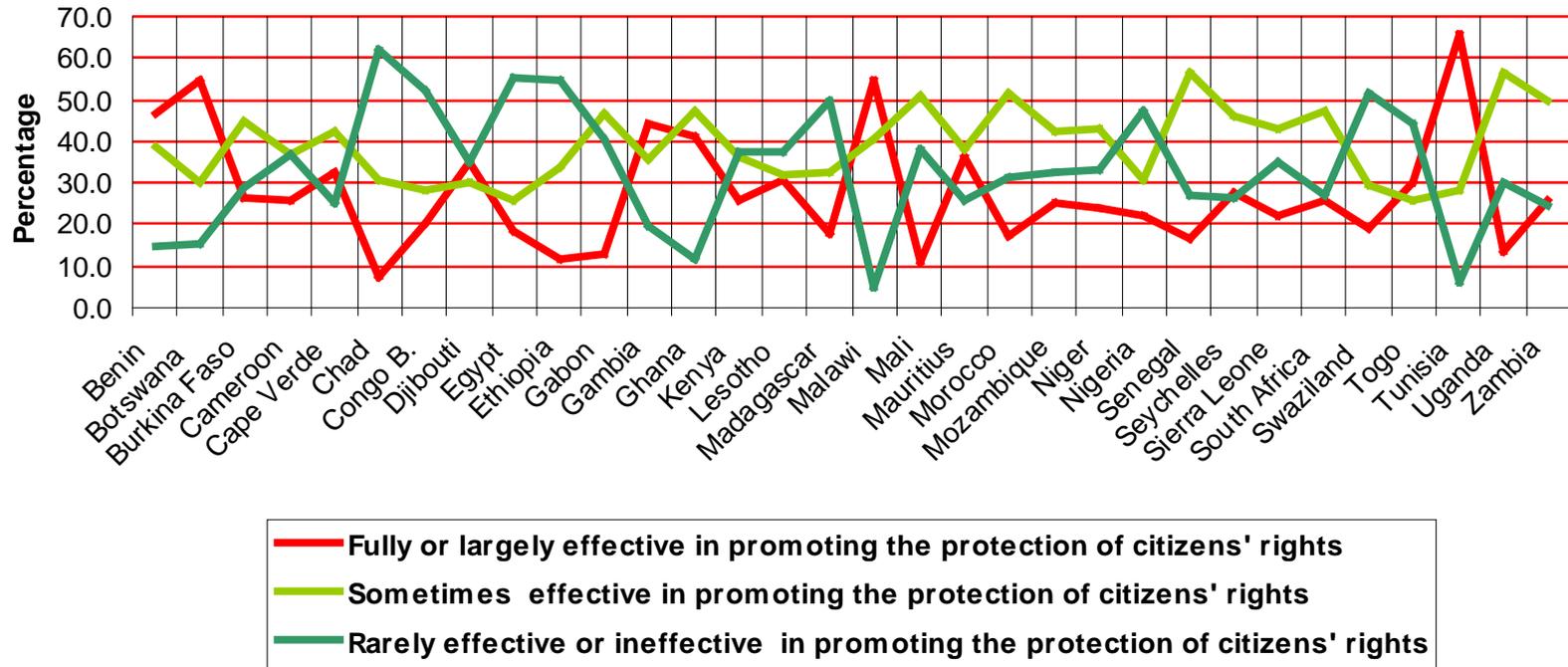
## Main findings of AGR II: Human Rights & the Rule of Law

- ▣ African countries sign up to Human rights treaties and conventions, but implementation and enforcement remain a challenge;
- ▣ Poor civil society monitoring and reporting of human rights violations in Africa;
- ▣ Rights of the child and women still not adequately protected;
- ▣

- ▣ **Greater institutionalisation of human rights machineries needed;**
- ▣ **Need for deepening human rights culture in Africa**

# Main findings of AGR II: Expert Opinion on the Effectiveness of Watchdog Organisations

Expert opinion on effectiveness of watchdog organisations

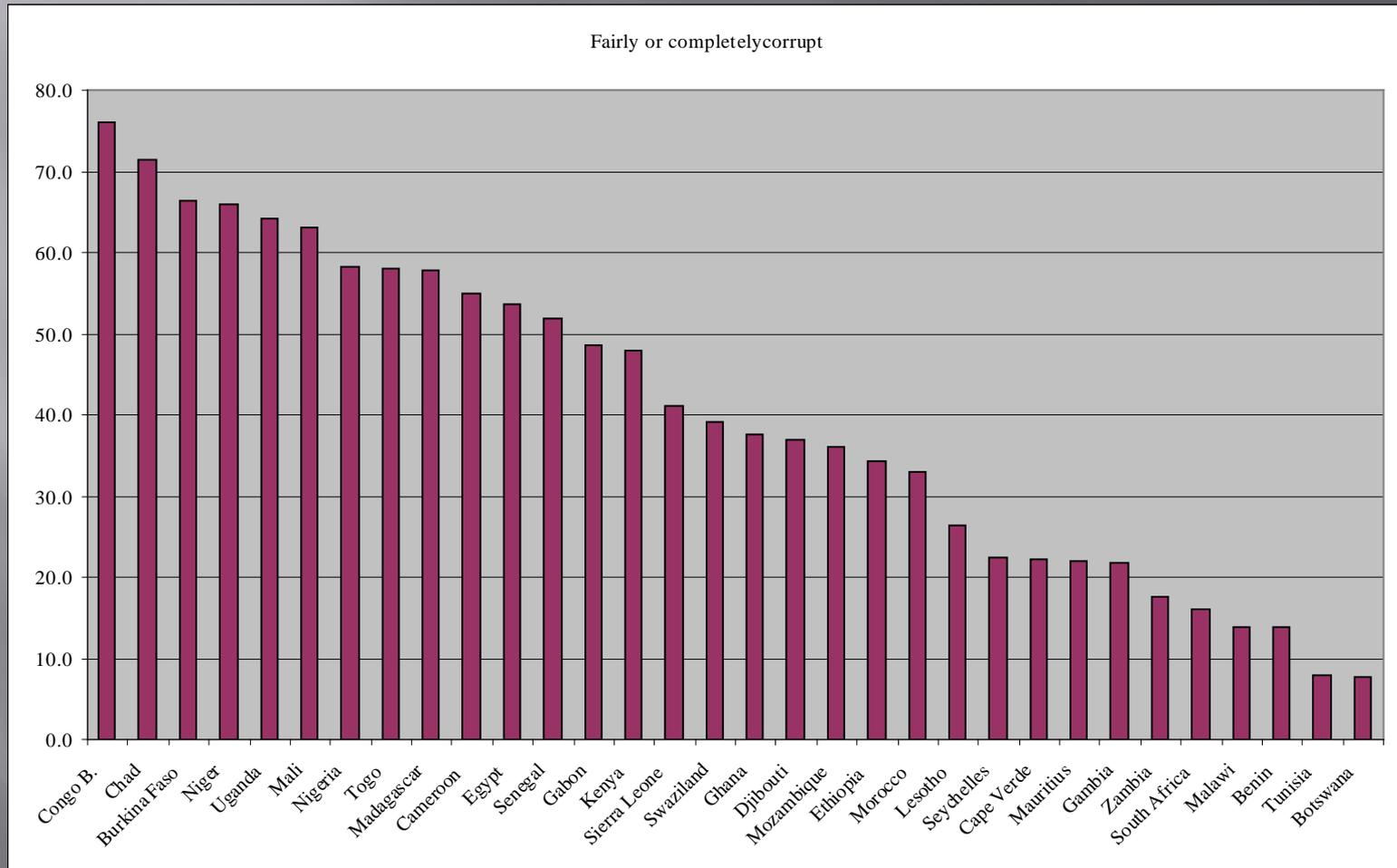


## Main findings of AGR II: Corruption in Africa

- ▣ Corruption constitutes the single most important challenge to development in Africa;
- ▣ The general perception of the people from the survey is that all governance institutions are corrupt in Africa-executive, parliament, judiciary, civil service, and even civil society, although in varying degrees;
- ▣ Many African countries have mounted remarkable anti-corruption efforts;

- ▣ **Global initiatives reinforce Africa's fight against corruption**
- ▣ **Little progress made in asset repatriation from Western countries;**
- ▣ **Anti-corruption agenda needs to be scaled up**

# Main findings of AGR II: Expert Opinion on Corruption in the Executive



## Main findings of AGR II: Institutional Capacity Building for Governance

- ▣ Capacity building is more than a technical exercise, but should be a people driven agenda;
- ▣ Most governance institutions in Africa have serious capacity deficits;
- ▣ A congenial political and economic environment is central to capacity development in Africa;

- ▣ Investment in quality education including tertiary education is germane to human capacity development in Africa;
- ▣ Arrest of brain drain and human capital retention is central to a prosperous future for Africa.

# The Thematic Approach

- ▣ Internal and External consultations and rigorous research led to reshaping the AGR;
- ▣ AGR now has two dimensions- Thematic report every two years, and a general report every six years.
- ▣ Thematic report informed by the need to respond in details to Africa's core governance challenges, align AGR with other governance initiatives like the APRM and streamline the cost implications of a general report.

- ❖ The thematic report will have two sections, first is the section on the theme and second, with updating key indicators on governance with a view to continue to monitor governance trends in Africa;

# Selection of Theme for AGR III

- ▣ The selection of the theme of AGR III: *Elections and the Management of Diversity in Africa* was based on the following considerations:
- ▣ The major findings of AGR I and AGR II as a key governance challenge in Africa;
- ▣ A cross-cutting issue identified by the APRM as major challenge to Africa;

- ▣ Contemporary governance dilemma to the continent;
- ▣ Product of several expert consultations in Africa.

# Concerns with Elections in Africa

- ▣ There is the regularity of elections in Africa but the quality of elections remain very low;
- ▣ Elections are fast becoming more of political rituals, what some refer to as 'electoralism' rather than effective instrument of political change and accountability;
- ▣ Political conflicts increasingly characterize elections in Africa;

- ▣ Elections, rather than promote inclusiveness and social harmony is doing the opposite- promoting exclusion and disempowerment- what Claude Ake calls “voting without choosing” or Thandika Mkandawire calls, “choiceless democracy”;
- ▣ Ethnic divisiveness and antagonism characterize elections splintering people and communities;
- ▣ There is the marginalization of key sections of society in the electoral process in Africa- women, youth, physically challenged.

- ▣ Electoral authorities remain mostly weak and poorly equipped for electoral responsibilities;
- ▣ The legitimacy and credibility of elections are being questioned in many countries in Africa.

# Objectives of AGR III

- ▣ To assess the progress that African countries are making on elections especially in relation to diversity management;
- ▣ To identify the core challenges to the conduct of free, fair and credible elections in plural societies in Africa;
- ▣ To explore how the problem of electoral violence can be addressed in Africa;

- ▣ To tease out key constitutional, political and electoral reforms necessary for promoting electoral transparency, credibility and stability in Africa;
- ▣ To proffer policy recommendations on consolidating electoral democracy and good governance in Africa.

# Scope, Methodology and Partnership

- ▣ AGR III to cover between 40-45 countries;
- ▣ Methodology:

Three research instruments to be used;

- Expert Panel Survey;
- Focused Group Discussion;
- Desk Research.

Partnership: ECA is working with UNDP on the project especially in the production of the national country reports.

- ▣ Countries to be covered in AGR III include:
  - Benin;
  - Burkina Faso;
  - Cameroon;
  - Comoros;
  - Gabon;
  - Ghana;
  - Kenya;
  - Lesotho;

- ▣ Liberia;
- ▣ Malawi;
- ▣ Mali;
- ▣ Mauritania;
- ▣ Mozambique;
- ▣ Namibia;
- ▣ Nigeria;
- ▣ Rwanda
- ▣ Sao Tome and Principe;

- ▣ Sierra Leone;
- ▣ Togo;
- ▣ Uganda;
- ▣ Ethiopia;
- ▣ Cape Verde;
- ▣ Seychelles
- ▣ Congo Brazzaville

- ▣ Tanzania
- ▣ Madagascar
- ▣ Angola
- ▣ Mauritius
- ▣ Swaziland
- ▣ Zimbabwe
- ▣ Morocco
- ▣ Algeria

- ▣ Egypt
- ▣ Tunisia
- ▣ Djibouti
- ▣ Senegal
- ▣ Botswana
- ▣ Gambia
- ▣ Chad
- ▣ South Africa

- ▣ Guinea Bissau
- ▣ Guinea Conakry
- ▣ Zambia
- ▣ Equatorial Guinea

# Timelines

- ▣ Country reports to be completed by June 2011;
- ▣ AGR III to be completed by July- August 2011;
- ▣ Reports (country reports and AGR III) to be published by September/October 2011

**Conclusion:**  
In spite of current challenges, the  
future looks bright for Africa!

