



FOCUS GROUP ON THE 'SUPPORT STUDY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION GOVERNANCE FACILITY AND RELATED INCENTIVE TRANCHE (2006-2011)'.

Hotel Fleur de Lys, Dakar, June 7-8, 2011

I- CONTEXT

In collaboration with ECDPM and IDEP and within the framework of its 2011 advanced policy research programme, the Africa Governance Institute (AGI) will organize, **on 7 and 8 June 2011, at the Hotel Fleur de Lys in Dakar**, a Focus Group on the Support Study on the European Commission's Governance Initiative and its related Governance Incentive Tranche (2006-2011)'.

II- JUSTIFICATION

In 2006, the European Commission (EC) launched the *Governance Initiative* (GI). According to EC policy documents, this innovative mechanism is based on an incentive-based approach that revolves around the principles of "ownership rather conditionality", "dialogue rather than sanctions" as well "participatory evaluations" that involve the partner country¹. The GI, which is funded from the 10th European Development Fund (EDF), has a dedicated financial envelop in the form of an incentive mechanism of €2.7 billion, otherwise known as the Governance Incentive Tranche (GIT). The GI has now been applied in most African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The amount of the financial incentive to be allocated per country has been determined through an assessment process led by the EC Headquarters in Brussels.

In **2008** a **Support Study** was commissioned by the EC in order to make an **initial assessment** of the GI. It focused on the relevance of the overall GIT process (GITP) and related tools such as the Governance Profile (GP) and Governance Action Plan (GAP); the conformity with the key principles of the Paris Declaration as well as on emerging indicators of impact. The Support Study was used to elaborate a Commission Staff Working Paper², which was subsequently discussed by the Council in 2009.

In its Conclusions of 18 May 2009 the Council recognized the potential of the GI in terms of supporting governance reforms undertaken by partner countries. Yet it also stressed the need to

¹ COM (2006) 421 final of 30.08.2006: *Governance in the European Consensus on Development. Towards a harmonised approach within the European Union.*

² COM SEC (2009) 58 final: *Supporting democratic governance through the governance initiative. A review and the way forward.*

further develop and fine-tune several key dimensions of the process and methodology. It invited the Commission and the Member States to explore ways and means to: **enhance ownership; strengthen the political dialogue with national stakeholders, regional and supranational organizations (AU); improve linkages between the APRM and the GAP; monitor the implementation** of the GAP and ensure a **transparent and evidence-based allocation system**.

The Council also requested the Commission to present a comprehensive report on the implementation of the GI in 2012. It is in this context, five years after its launch, a Support Study of this initiative and the whole process that underlies it (GITP) has been entrusted to a consortium of two independent organisations namely the Africa Governance Institute (AGI) and the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM). This consortium has the technical support of key African organizations mandated in supporting and promoting governance: IDEP, UNECA, APRM, and AfDB.

III- SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The Focus Group on the ‘Support Study related to the Commission’s Governance Facility and Related Incentive Tranche (2006-2011)’ to be held on **7 and 8 June 2011** has the following objectives:

- 1/. Share the initial results of desk studies, field desk studies and the questionnaires in order to allow participants to critically review the evidence collected and for the Study Team to Triangulate the information on the level of articulation of the GITP with various African instruments/organizations involved in the promotion of governance (e.g. Afdb’s governance profiles; APRM ; African Charter On Democracy, Elections and Governance, etc....);
- 2/. Collect additional information of relevant African and Non African actors to better support the ownership of governance reform programmes in Africa, ensure stronger linkage with regional processes/organizations and elaborate a reinforced European support scheme;
- 3/. Examine possibilities and modalities of linkage between the future European tool and the ‘Tunis consensus on Development Effectiveness’. The reports from the Focus Group would be distributed both in hard copy and electronically to relevant policy communities across the African continent; they will also be posted online on the AGI website to allow for a continuing conversation around the issues covered.

IV- METHODOLOGY

The Focus Group will be organized in four sessions, facilitated by AGI and ECDPM.

Provisional Agenda.

Opening ceremony, 7 June morning:

Welcome addresses by AGI Executive Director, the Head of the EU Delegation in Senegal, the Representative of the AUC Department of Political Affairs, the Representative of DGDEV/CE, the Representative of Senegal;

Session 1, 7 June 2011 morning restricted to African Participants:

- Presentation of the methodology and the first results of the study by AGI and ECDPM;
- Round Table for African participants on key findings and key issues they want to further discuss with EC.

Session 2, 7 June 2011 afternoon:

- Detailed presentation findings by AGI and ECDPM;
- Round table African/European key actors on lessons learnt over past 5 years (retrospective session).

Session 3, 8 June 2011 morning:

- What next? Brainstorming for key African/European actors on alternative ways to work together on governance in close alignment with African processes (prospective session)
- closure of the official Workshop between key African-European Actors

Session 4, 8 June 2011 afternoon:

- INFORMATIVE session for broader group of local actors on GI and debate we had over last 1,5 day (Dissemination-oriented session to broader set of stakeholders)
- Closure of the African Workshop.

V- PARTICIPANTS

Participants (around 40 persons) to the Seminar include the following:

The Director of Political Affairs/AUC;
The Representative of the Director of Governance and Public Administration/ECA;
The Representatives of DGDEV;
The Representative of the Director of Governance of AfDB;
The Representative of the APRM Secretariat;
The Representative of the ECOSOCC;
The Representative of UNDP/RBA
Accredited Diplomatic Representatives in Senegal;
Civil society organizations and policy research institutes;
Independent resource persons.

VI- PRESS CONTACTS

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