



**Africa HDR**  
**Thematic focus and the process**

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## **Thematic Focus**

**“Building State Capability in Africa:  
Institutional Reforms for Stability,  
Economic Growth and Societal  
Transformation”**

# Purpose of the report

- HDRs are tools of policy advocacy and dialogue
- HDRs should be used to deepen analysis of HD and promote research on new areas
- The African Story told by Africans
- “African intellectuals and policy-makers must reassume responsibility for plotting the paths of development in their respective countries”

# HD Balance Sheet

- Review of Africa's Development Performance over time – HDI, MDGs, GDP per capita growth, Africa's share of global trade , **Governance indicators** , etc
- Mixed and varied performance
- In depth analysis of development trends so as to show the country and sub-regional variations

# Key Issues

**The role played by leadership and the institutional capacity of the state (or lack thereof) :**

- to drive Human Development ;
- to engage the citizenry ;
- to take full advantage of growth under regional arrangements and global competitiveness;
- to challenge the international community to rethink the aid architecture, technical cooperation etc

# Main Message

The premise of the AfrHDR is that the key driver of the radical reforms targeting the most critical development challenges is higher state institutional capability and effective political leadership.

- **Capacity to manage Africa's ethnic diversity in a manner conducive to long-term political stability and democratic governance.**
- **Building state capacity to maintain security, and to provide public goods and services more efficiently than African countries do at present.**
- **Capacity to promote Africa's competitiveness in regional and global markets in a pattern consistent with rapid, widely-shared growth.**

# Broad parameters of the AfrHDR

## Causes of institutional underdevelopment in Africa, and some counter-examples.

- ❑ Complex colonial heritage (history of state formation in Africa)
- ❑ Political Instability (both internally and externally induced) and bad governance
- ❑ Pursuit of economic policies that undermine growth and competitiveness
- ❑ Weak Institutional Frameworks

## Contd.

- Too much deference to externally determined policy prescriptions rather than home grown solutions
- Not all African Countries succumbed to dysfunctional politics and economic regress (Botswana, Mauritius)

# Policy Experiences

**This chapter will be policy-focused, demonstrating the variety in priorities in institution-building that African countries face. Countries that are conflicted affected and normal situations (MICS and LDCs)**

Issues to be addressed include: Peace , security and stability; effectiveness of the executive arm of government; decentralisation; leadership and the development policies pursued over time; democratic institutions; tackling corruption

# The Quest for Effective Developmental States

- How Proactive should the State be in promoting growth, competitiveness and sustainable development?
- What capacity is required for a Developmental State?
- What lessons can be learnt from the Asian Tigers? from Japan ?
- Can States be both Developmental and Democratic?

# Responding to Globalisation

- NEPAD is Africa's latest collective efforts to promote rapid growth and good governance – APRM, various regional developmental initiatives including trade related issues.
- Aid and the International development community – TA to Africa and the issues/problems of external support for institutional building in Africa. What has changed? Is there a need to further rethink technical cooperation?
- Policy Recommendations