

Good governance and Democracy

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Discussions

1. What is good governance?
2. What are the indicators for good governance?

Discussions

1. What is democracy?
2. Democracy is the fairest system of government
3. Democracy does not always lead to good governance.
4. What are some good characteristics of a democracy?
5. What are some bad characteristics of a democracy?
6. Why have democracies become a popular form of government?

Introduction

- A study of 23 countries concluded that that poor people in developing countries felt that the state was
 - Distant
 - Unaccountable
 - Corrupt

Introduction

- Many civil societies speak of people's self- development.
- Stressing the role of redistribution and recognition
- Develop people's 'abilities' to negotiate directly with the official decision makers.

Introduction

- Participation is central feature of good governance
- Across political spectrum
- Key challenge for the 21st century...

Introduction

- Construction of new relationships
- Between ordinary people and the institutions
 - especially those of governance
- Which affect their lives..

Definitions

Participatory

- Describes a process by which people, especially disadvantaged people, influence decisions that affect them'
[*World Bank, 1992: 177*]
- As opposed to one where decisions are imposed on them by hierarchical outside agencies.

Definitions

Participatory

- Weak participation involves 'consulting or informing'
- Strong participation means 'partnership or ceding control'.

Definitions

Governance

- Not new concept.
- **The process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented).**
- Can be used in several contexts
 - corporate governance,
 - International/national/local

Definitions

Governance

- Covers
 - Political, economic and administrative decisions made by the government,
 - Business and civil society sectors as they manage a country's resources and affairs.

Definitions

Governance

- Includes mechanisms, processes and institutions
- through which citizens and groups
- articulate their interests,
- exercise their legal rights,
- meet their obligations,
- and mediate their differences (UNDP, 1997)

Definitions

Governance

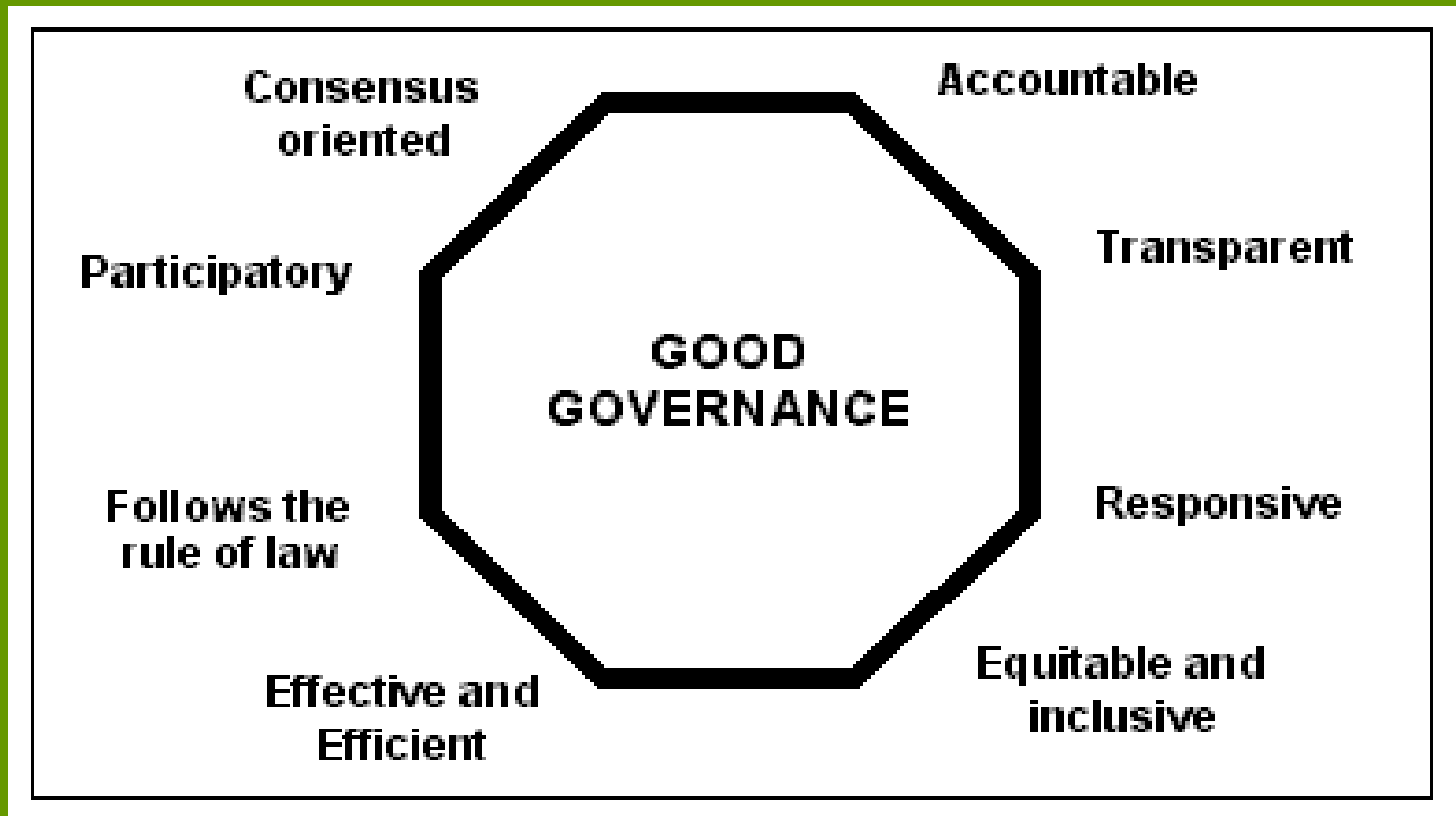
Mkutu (2008)

- The sum of many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, manage their common affairs.
- A continuing process through which conflicting or diverse interests may be accommodated and co-operative action may be taken.
- Includes the implementation, evaluation and monitoring of policies and directives.

Good governance

- Eight major characteristics suggested.
- What would you suggest?

Characteristics for good governance



Good governance

- It assures that corruption is minimized,
- Views of minorities
- Voices of the most vulnerable heard in decision-making.
- Responsive to the present and future needs of society.

Minimum conditions for good governance

- Effective and efficient administration
- Capable of preventing conflicts
- Functioning institutions
- Participation
- Transparency
- Responsiveness.
- Rule of law

Problems with achieving participation and good governance

- Existing decentralized governance system
- Often falls short of including citizens in participation
- Even provision of services is limited
- Many countries techno-bureaucratic administration
- Led to exclusion and alienation

More about what governance should do

- Maintain law and order (provide security)
- Defend and enhance individual liberties
- Maintain checks and balances
- Foster a growing economy.
- Provide basic services
- Involve citizens in issues that directly affect them (social contract).

Democracy and good governance

- Democracy is widely regarded as the most effective and fairest system of government
- Least open to abuse
- Effective democracy has:
 - Good institutions
 - Active and informed citizens
 - Citizens able to exercise their political and civil rights and to push for reforms which otherwise may not take place.

Democracy and good governance

- Some characteristics of a democracy can impede good governance.
- How?

Democracy and good governance

- Governments may sacrifice sound policy for popularity in the polls
- Short time frames make it difficult to implement long-term plans.

Good governance and human rights

- Good governance guarantees
 - Civil, political, social and economic rights.
 - Citizens are able to freely express views and influence the government for change
 - Without the fear of being arrested, tortured or discriminated against.
 - Citizens are legally protected in relation to their property, personal security and liberty.

Governance indicators

- Most extensive data on quality of governance is provided by
 - Citizens
 - Expert surveys from developing and industrial world.
- Data gathered from
 - Institutions
 - Think tanks
 - NGO's and INGO's

KK Dataset

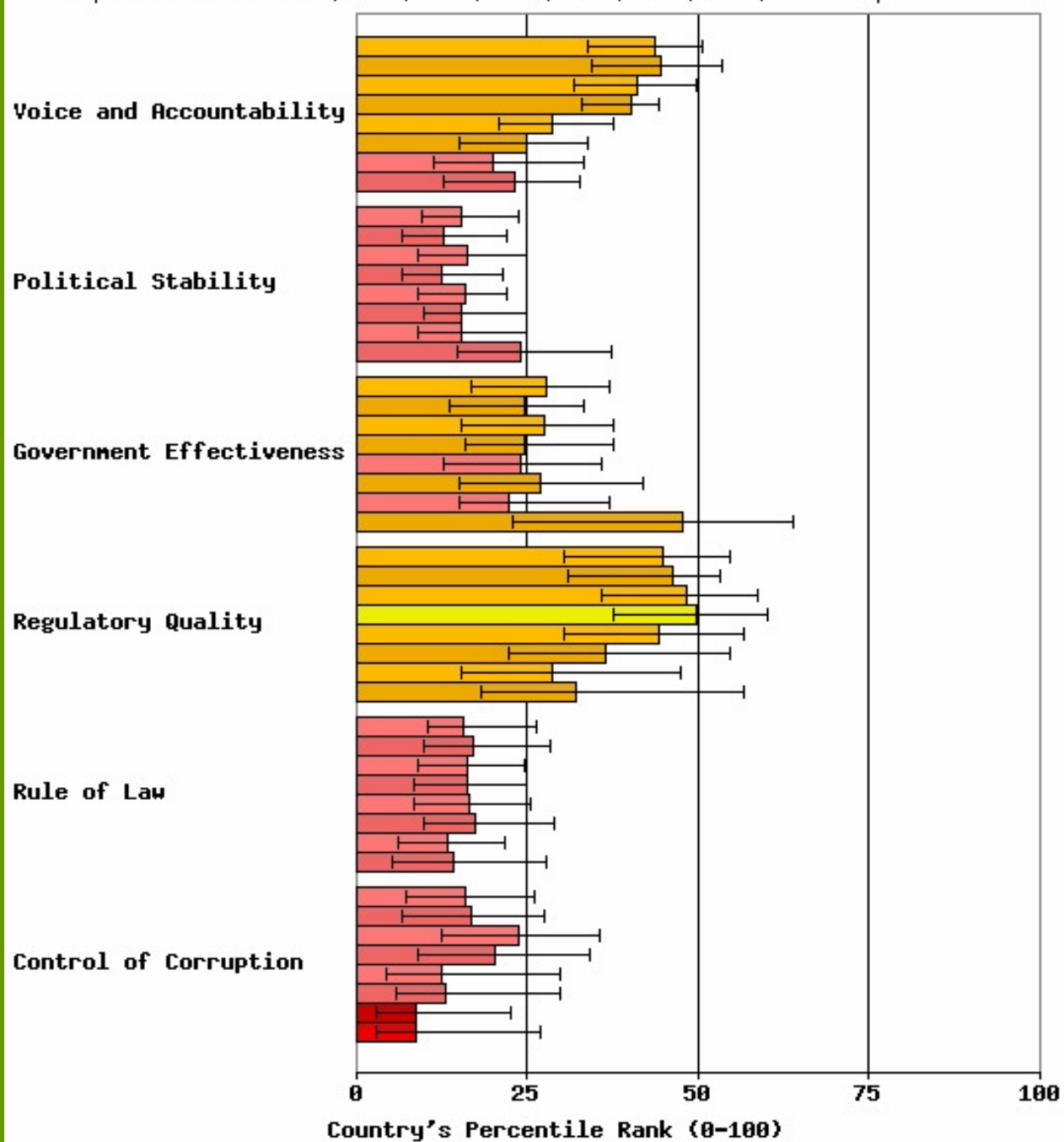
- Captures three dimensions
 - The process by which governments are selected
 - Capacity of government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies
 - **Respect by the states for the citizens and for institutions that govern the economic and interactions among them.**

Governance indicators

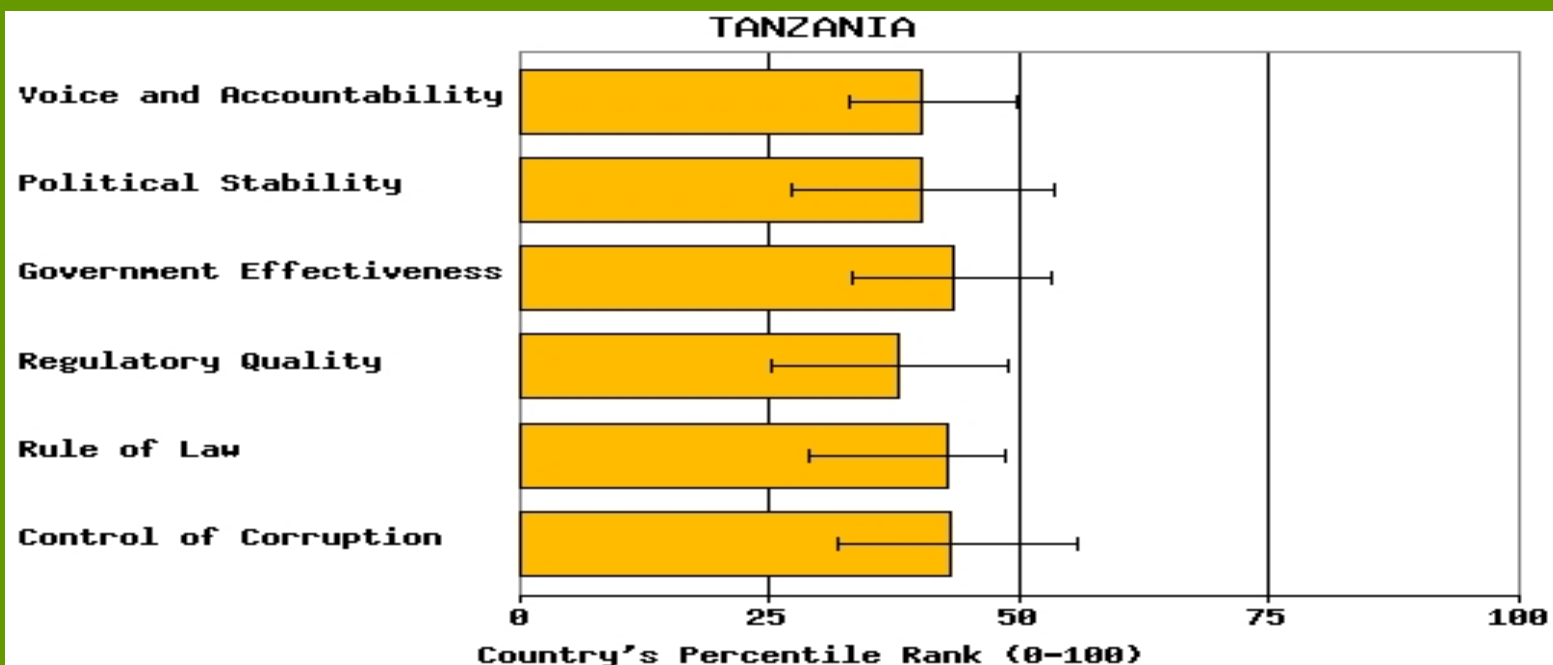
Kenya

KENYA

Comparison between 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2000, 1998, 1996 (top-bottom order)



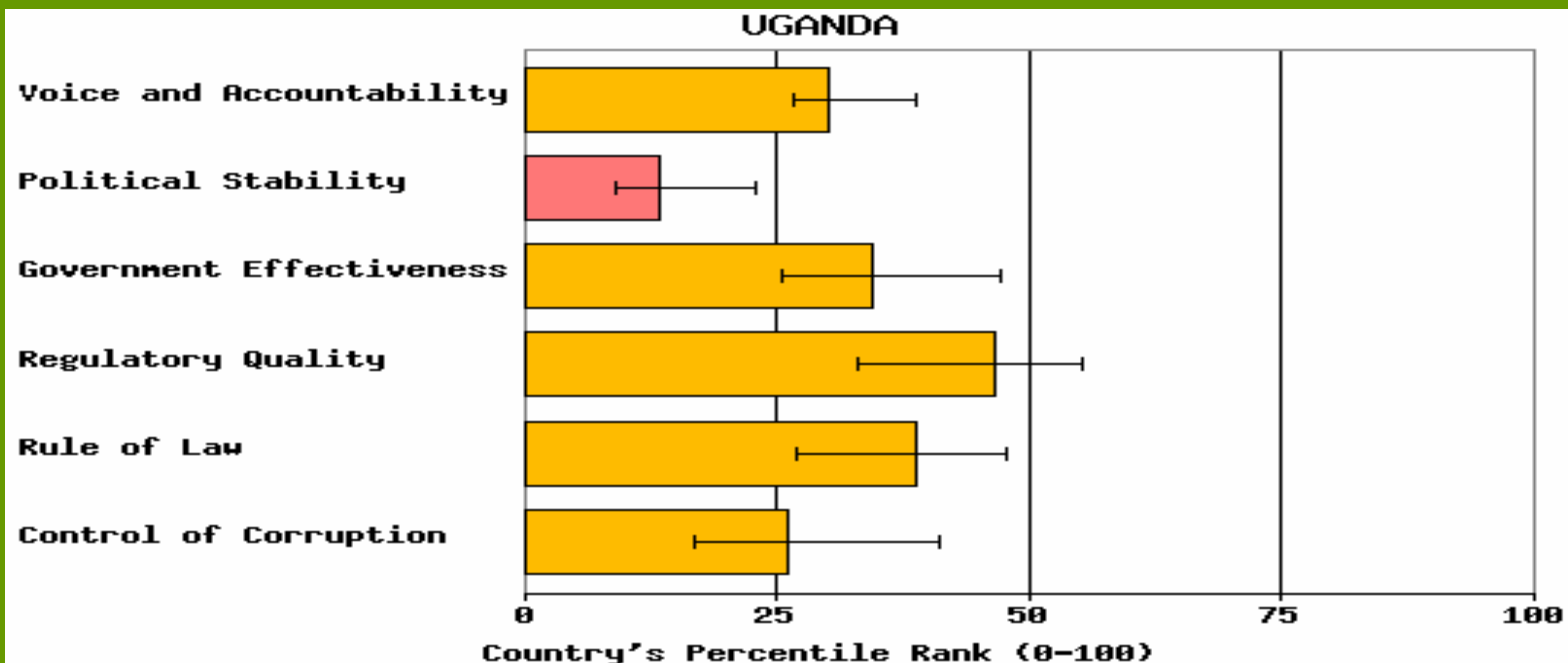
Tanzania



Source: Kaufmann D., A. Kraay, and M. Mastruzzi 2007: Governance Matters VI: Governance Indicators for 1996-2006

Note: The governance indicators presented here aggregate the views on the quality of governance provided by a large number of enterprise, citizen and expert survey respondents in industrial and developing countries. These data are gathered from a number of survey institutes, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations. The aggregate indicators do not reflect the official views of the World Bank, its Executive Directors, or the countries they represent. Countries' relative positions on these indicators are subject to indicated margins of error that should be taken into consideration when making comparisons across countries and over time.

Uganda



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Advantages of good governance

- Promotes gender equality
- Enables citizens to exercise personal freedoms
- Provides tools to reduce poverty
- Sustains the environment

Critical factors

Why Africa is in such state

- Administrative inheritance
- Capacity to manage diversity
- Kenya with 31 million people and 42 ethnic groups
- Demonstrates the result of failure to manage diversity.
- Ethnic diversity is therefore a challenge.
- Political leadership very important in defining success of good governance and participation.

Conclusions

- Governance is not just about how a government and social organizations interact, and how they relate to citizens [Graham, Amos, Plumptre 2003],
- Also state's ability to serve citizens and other actors,
- And the manner in which public functions are carried out.
- And how public resources are managed and public regulatory powers are exercised [European Commission 2003].