

DRIVING RESEARCH | SHAPING POLICY | FOSTERING KNOWLEDGE | BUILDING CAPACITY

IPPG STRATEGIC STATEMENT

KEY ISSUES IN AFRICA FOR 2024

As we begin to navigate through 2024, the International Perspective for Policy & Governance (IPPG) is keenly aware of several pressing issues that require immediate and sustained attention across the African continent. The following statement highlights our position on these critical matters, emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts and international support. These matters will also inform and shape our ongoing research and policy work.

- **Debt Burden and Economic Stability**

Africa is grappling with significant debt burdens, exacerbated by high interest rates and a stronger dollar, which make it more expensive for many countries to service their debts. Currently, several African nations are experiencing debt distress. Specifically, nine African states are in debt distress, an additional 15 are at high risk, and 14 are at moderate risk. Zambia and Ghana have defaulted on their debts, with Ethiopia recently joining them.

This financial strain is reversing decades of progress in poverty reduction and economic stability. The International Policy and Practice Group (IPPG) calls for urgent international financial support and the restructuring of debt to alleviate the economic pressures on these vulnerable nations and promote sustainable development.

- **Climate Change and Environmental Challenges**

Africa faces severe environmental challenges, including deforestation, air and water pollution, and the impacts of climate change. These issues are not only degrading the environment but also posing significant health risks and hindering economic growth. With millions lacking access to clean water and sanitation, and deforestation accelerating soil erosion and flooding, IPPG urges immediate and comprehensive action to address these environmental crises. Strengthening climate finance commitments and ensuring these funds are accessible and effectively used is critical.

- **Political Instability and Conflict**

Political instability and conflict remain major hurdles to progress in Africa, with multiple regions experiencing military coups and ongoing conflicts. These issues are compounded by internal conflicts and governance challenges,

which undermine economic development and social cohesion. IPPG advocates for robust diplomatic efforts and international cooperation to promote peace and stability in these regions, ensuring that political transitions are peaceful and democratic.

- **Elections and Governance**

The year 2024 is pivotal for Africa, with several key elections scheduled, including in South Africa, Ghana, and Algeria. These elections are crucial for shaping the future governance and development of these nations. IPPG emphasizes the importance of free, fair, and transparent elections and calls on all stakeholders to support democratic processes that will lead to stable and accountable governance.

- **Mobilizing for Change**

In the face of these challenges, it is imperative that African nations and the international community mobilize for change. This includes leveraging innovative financing mechanisms, enhancing regional cooperation, and ensuring that development initiatives are inclusive and sustainable. IPPG is committed to advocating for policies that address these critical issues and support the resilience and growth of African nations.

In conclusion, the year 2024 presents both significant challenges and opportunities for Africa. Addressing the debt burden, environmental crises, political instability, and ensuring fair elections are paramount to the continent's progress. IPPG remains committed to advocating for comprehensive and sustainable solutions to these issues. Through our research, policy advocacy, and capacity-building efforts, we aim to support Africa's journey towards stability, growth, and resilience. We call on the international community to join us in these endeavors, fostering collaboration and providing the necessary resources to create a brighter future for all Africans.

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