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Good Governance Africa

Our Work | Africa in Fact | Annual Lecture | About Us



Africa's Girl Child Dialogues 2026, South Africa.

From research to action: Advancing accountability, empowering girls and strengthening democracy

Across Africa, the relationship between governance, accountability and opportunity remains central to the continent's development prospects. Stronger institutions, meaningful citizen participation and ethical leadership are essential, not only to protecting democratic gains, but also to creating societies in which people can thrive.

Over the past two months, Good Governance Africa (GGA) has contributed to these conversations through a major academic publication, our flagship Africa's Girl Child Dialogues initiative, and our Annual Lecture in Accra, Ghana. These initiatives share a common purpose – translating good governance principles into tangible outcomes for African citizens.

01 · RESEARCH & ACCOUNTABILITY

Rethinking corruption and accountability



On 14 September, the *Strategic Review for Southern Africa* published by ESI Press at the University of Pretoria, released a special issue titled “From the Political Economy of Corruption to Political Opportunity Analysis”, guest-edited by Associate Professor Firoz Khan from the School of Public Leadership at the University of Stellenbosch and GGA’s Group Executive Director of Governance Programmes, Dr Ruth Kolevsohn.

The edition challenges conventional approaches to understanding corruption, moving beyond an exclusive focus on institutional weaknesses and political incentives to examine the opportunities for meaningful reform.

Bringing together academic analysis, practitioner perspectives and interviews with leading voices in anti-corruption, the publication explores how political will, civic engagement, institutional accountability and international cooperation can contribute to more effective responses to corruption.

A particular focus is the proposed International Anti-Corruption Court, which seeks to address grand corruption where national institutions are unable or unwilling to act. The edition also considers the social norms and public expectations that shape how citizens understand corruption and the possibilities for collective action.

The central message is that tackling corruption requires more than identifying what has gone wrong. It demands a clearer understanding of the conditions under which accountability and reform become possible.

Explore the special issue →

02 · AFRICA'S GIRL CHILD DIALOGUES

Empowering Africa's next generation of women leaders

On 7 October, GGA hosted its flagship Africa's Girl Child Dialogues in Johannesburg, South Africa, with a parallel event in Lagos, Nigeria. Now in its sixth year, the initiative provides young girls with opportunities to explore leadership, education, career aspirations and the barriers that continue to limit their participation in society.

The dialogues recognise that empowering girls requires more than encouraging ambition. It means listening to their experiences, understanding the structural and social obstacles they encounter, and connecting them with the knowledge, mentorship and opportunities needed to realise their potential.



Boston bursary recipients at the South African dialogues.

Through participatory discussions and engagement with role models, the programme encourages girls to see themselves as active participants in shaping their communities and futures.

For GGA, investing in girls' leadership is also an investment in Africa's democratic and developmental future. Young women who are equipped to exercise agency, challenge inequality and participate in decision-making are essential to building more inclusive and accountable societies.



Celebrating the partners who made the dialogues possible.



Young participants and GGA representatives in Lagos, Nigeria.

To view the close-out report, visit the GGA website.

View the Girl Child close-out report →

03 · GGA ANNUAL LECTURE

Democracy under pressure: Reflections from Accra, Ghana



Keynote speaker Professor Yemi Osinbajo, Accra, 22 October 2026.

On 22 October, GGA convened its Third Annual Lecture in Accra, Ghana, under the theme “Democracy Under Pressure.”

The event brought together around 200 participants, including policymakers, academics, civil society representatives and governance practitioners, to reflect on the challenges confronting democratic governance across Africa.

Delivering the keynote address, former Nigerian Vice President Professor Yemi Osinbajo examined the pressures facing democratic institutions and the importance of leadership, accountability and public trust in sustaining democratic systems.

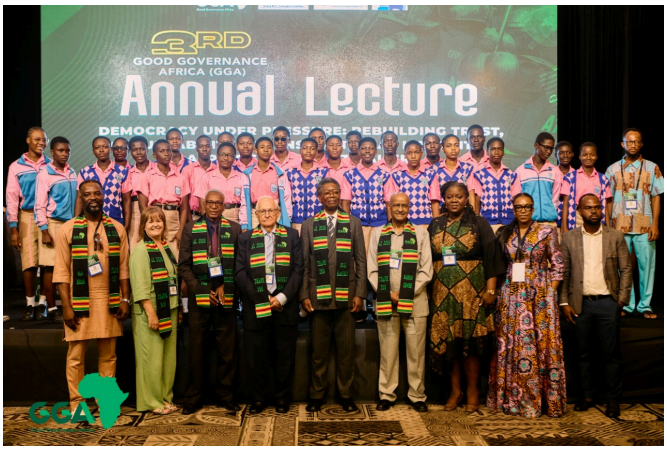


Panellists at the Third GGA Annual Lecture in Accra.

The lecture provided an opportunity to consider how African democracies can respond to declining public confidence, institutional fragility and growing demands for more responsive governance.

It also marked an important moment in GGA's institutional journey, with founder Robert Rose announcing his decision to step down as Global Chairman in 2027.

The occasion reinforced GGA's commitment to fostering informed public debate and strengthening the institutions and leadership on which Africa's democratic future depends.



GGA representatives and young attendees at the Third Annual Lecture.

Watch the Third Annual Lecture on the GGA website.

Watch the Annual Lecture videos →

Watch Part 1 · 51 min 33 sec

Watch Part 2 · 30 min 46 sec

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

Looking ahead

Whether through research that challenges established thinking, programmes that amplify young voices, or platforms for democratic dialogue, GGA remains committed to advancing governance that delivers meaningful change.

We invite you to explore these initiatives, engage with the ideas they raise, and join us in building a more accountable, inclusive and prosperous Africa.

Good Governance Africa

Better governance. A stronger Africa.

Support, contribute or partner with Good Governance Africa

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