**Good Governance and Globalization**

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The concept of "governance" is not new. It is as old as human civilization. Simply put "governance" means: **the process of** **decision-making and the process by** **which decisions are implemented (or not** **implemented)**. Governance can be used in several contexts such as corporate governance, international governance, national governance and local governance.

Since governance is the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented, an analysis of governance focuses on the formal and informal actors involved in decision-making and implementing the decisions made and the formal and informal structures that have been set in place to arrive at and implement the decision.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Government is one of the actors in governance. Other actors involved in governance vary depending on the level of government that is under discussion. In rural areas, for example, other actors may include influential land lords, associations of peasant farmers, cooperatives, NGOs, research institutes, religious leaders, finance institutions political parties, the military etc. The situation in urban areas is much more complex.[[3]](#footnote-3)

All actors other than government and the military are grouped together as part of the "civil society." In some countries in addition to the civil society, organized crime syndicates also influence decision-making, particularly in urban areas and at the national level.[[4]](#footnote-4)

Similarly formal government structures are one means by which decisions are arrived at and implemented. At the national level, informal decision-making structures, such as "kitchen cabinets" or informal advisors may exist. In urban areas, organized crime syndicates such as the "land Mafia" may influence decision-making. In some rural areas locally powerful families may make or influence decision-making. Such, informal decision-making is often the result of corrupt practices or leads to corrupt practice.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Good governance is about the processes for making and implementing decisions. It’s not about making ‘correct’ decisions, but about the best possible process for making those decisions. Good decision-making processes, and therefore good governance, share several characteristics. All have a positive effect on various aspects of local government including consultation policies and practices, meeting procedures, service quality protocols, councillor and officer conduct, role clarification and good working relationships.[[6]](#footnote-6)

The meaning of the term governance has undergone significant changes and also has been differently applied to diverse cultural environments and to diverse scales of societal organization. The main stream of further scientific development went through a more detailed specification and value orientation. Thus the concept of good governance has emerged, with an emphasis placed on procedures. Put simply, good governance means that things are properly done.[[7]](#footnote-7)

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2. Holzer Marc & Kim Byong-Joon, *Building Good Governance: Reforms in Seoul* 324 (National Center for Public Productivity 2002) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Adel M. Abdellatif, *Good Governance and Its Relationship to Democracy and Economic Development*, Programme on Governance in the Arab Region ftp://pogar.org/LocalUser/pogarp/governance/aa/goodgov.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *What is Good Governance*, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/good-governance.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Chai-Anan Samudavanija, Chan Heng Chee and Alasdair Bowie, *Globalization: The Agent of Good Governance?,* http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/asiarpt\_098.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-7)