

APPENDIX

Section I

As mentioned in the main text, we run a number of additional robustness checks to our results. As noted in Table 1 in the manuscript, we have data on bills in four of our African parliaments and data on laws in nine parliaments. Although analyzing each type of data separately severely reduces the observations that go into the models (42 and 151 observations, respectively), the results remain consistent to a large extent. The directions of influence are unchanged for laws and parts of bills, and the coefficients are statistically significant for most of the laws (Table A2), albeit not the bills (Table A1). Furthermore, our results largely hold up when using a standard random effects model (no separation of between and within effects; Table A3), random effects model with lagged democratic development (Table A4), or when including all of the control variables that we outline in Table 2 in the manuscript (Table A8). If we use a fixed effects model (which we advise against because it eliminates the between-variation; Table A5) or include a lagged dependent variable (which we also advise against because it is likely to bias our estimates due to the relatively short time-series; Table A6), the substantive conclusions remain intact but the level of statistical significance climbs above conventional levels. Finally, we arrive at the same substantive conclusions if we use the number of topics on the legislative agenda instead of the entropy score of diversity (Table A7), and we see an expected negative effect on the kurtosis score as an alternative measure of agenda diversity (Table A7).

Table A1. The influence of democratic development on the legislative agenda (bills) in Africa.

	Legislative agenda		
	(1) Size	(2) Diversity	(3) Stability
Democratic development			
Between (mean)	-12.52 (151.94)	-0.02 (1.79)	-13.41 (16.91)
Within (dev.)	880.56*** (98.15)	4.85*** (0.46)	-49.31*** (3.69)
Population (log)	62.17*** (12.85)	0.51*** (0.16)	-2.56* (1.44)
GDP growth	-1.29 (2.66)	-0.01 (0.01)	0.24 (0.19)
Life expectancy	-12.80*** (0.43)	-0.10*** (0.00)	1.18*** (0.05)
Constant	-	-	-
Observations	42	42	42
Laws			
Bills	+	+	+

Note: Includes year-dummies. Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$. This analysis of bills covers Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe (see also Table 1 in the manuscript).

Table A2. The influence of democratic development on the legislative agenda (laws) in Africa.

	Legislative agenda		
	(1) Size	(2) Diversity	(3) Stability
Democratic development			
Between (mean)	43.48* (23.84)	0.54* (0.32)	-2.93 (3.13)
Within (dev.)	-27.72* (14.87)	-0.39* (0.20)	3.97** (1.91)
Population (log)	2.25 (1.76)	0.03 (0.02)	-0.15 (0.23)
GDP growth	0.02 (0.12)	-0.00 (0.00)	-0.00 (0.02)
Life expectancy	-0.16 (0.38)	-0.00 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.05)
Constant	-	-0.48 (0.43)	102.28*** (4.34)
Observations	151	151	150
Laws	+	+	+
Bills			

Note: Includes year-dummies. Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$. This analysis of laws covers Cameroon, Ghana, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia (see also Table 1 in the manuscript).

Table A3. The influence of democratic development on the legislative agenda in Africa (random effects model).

	Legislative agenda		
	(1) Size	(2) Diversity	(3) Stability
Democratic development	233.76 [*] (130.23)	1.85 [*] (0.99)	-16.37 [*] (9.58)
Bill (0) or law (1)	-83.80 ^{**} (39.11)	-0.72 ^{**} (0.31)	7.37 ^{**} (3.06)
Population (log)	12.47 [*] (7.53)	0.11 [*] (0.06)	-0.86 (0.58)
GDP growth	-1.62 (1.03)	-0.01 [*] (0.01)	0.17 [*] (0.10)
Life expectancy	-3.98 (2.49)	-0.03 (0.02)	0.29 (0.19)
Constant	45.42 (96.81)	0.21 (0.74)	93.43 ^{***} (6.83)
Observations	193	193	192
Laws	+	+	+
Bills	+	+	+

Note: Includes year-dummies. Standard errors in parentheses. ^{*} $p < 0.10$, ^{**} $p < 0.05$, ^{***} $p < 0.01$.

Table A4. The influence of democratic development on the legislative agenda in Africa (random effects model with lagged democratic development).

	Legislative agenda		
	(1) Size	(2) Diversity	(3) Stability
Democratic development $t-1$	238.09 [*] (135.89)	1.90 [*] (1.06)	-16.90 (10.82)
Bill (0) or law (1)	-85.09 ^{**} (40.94)	-0.72 ^{**} (0.33)	7.30 ^{**} (3.22)
Population (log)	12.35 (7.90)	0.11 [*] (0.07)	-0.80 (0.60)
GDP growth	-1.08 (0.96)	-0.01 (0.01)	0.13 (0.10)
Life expectancy	-4.31 (2.81)	-0.03 (0.02)	0.31 (0.23)
Constant	70.03 (103.09)	0.45 (0.78)	90.70 ^{***} (7.88)
Observations	180	180	180
Laws	+	+	+
Bills	+	+	+

Note: Includes year-dummies. Standard errors in parentheses. ^{*} $p < 0.10$, ^{**} $p < 0.05$, ^{***} $p < 0.01$.

Table A5. The influence of democratic development on the legislative agenda in Africa (fixed effects model).

	Legislative agenda		
	(1) Size	(2) Diversity	(3) Stability
Democratic development	131.63 (133.03)	0.73 (0.83)	-7.53 (8.06)
Bill (0) or law (1)	-	-	-
Population (log)	104.99 (93.65)	0.80 (0.68)	-8.90 (7.02)
GDP growth	-1.21 (1.09)	-0.01 (0.01)	0.13 (0.10)
Life expectancy	-1.70 (2.38)	-0.01 (0.02)	0.04 (0.17)
Constant	-1590.67 (1414.38)	-12.36 (10.37)	238.29** (105.78)
Observations	193	193	192
Laws	+	+	+
Bills	+	+	+

Note: Includes year-dummies. Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.

Table A6. The influence of democratic development on the legislative agenda in Africa (with a lagged dependent variable).

	Legislative agenda		
	(1) Size	(2) Diversity	(3) Stability
Democratic development			
Between (mean)	78.69 (60.34)	0.53 (0.33)	-4.96 (4.20)
Within (dev.)	53.73 (68.48)	0.20 (0.35)	-3.48 (5.20)
Bill (0) or law (1)	-22.75 (14.67)	-0.16** (0.07)	2.11* (1.14)
Population (log)	3.34 (3.37)	0.02 (0.02)	-0.17 (0.21)
GDP growth	-0.09 (0.39)	0.00 (0.00)	0.04 (0.06)
Life expectancy	-1.24 (1.02)	-0.01 (0.01)	0.09 (0.08)
Y _{t-1}	0.80*** (0.07)	0.83*** (0.03)	0.75*** (0.06)
Constant	6.06 (36.58)	0.05 (0.25)	22.53*** (5.33)
Observations	169	169	168
Laws	+	+	+
Bills	+	+	+

Note: Includes year-dummies. Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.

Table A7. The influence of democratic development on the legislative agenda in Africa (alternative measures of the legislative agenda).

	(1) Size (No. of topics)	(2) Diversity (Kurtosis)
Freedom of association		
Between (mean)	21.82*** (7.14)	-5.93 (9.46)
Within (dev.)	-8.80 (5.59)	14.22* (7.30)
Bill (0) or law (1)	-6.70*** (2.13)	-0.53 (3.97)
Population (log)	1.04** (0.49)	-0.75 (0.75)
GDP growth	-0.07 (0.07)	0.21*** (0.08)
Life expectancy	-0.20 (0.14)	0.19 (0.19)
Constant	-3.54 (10.34)	4.65 (15.95)
Observations	193	193
Laws	+	+
Bills	+	+

Note: Includes year-dummies. Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.

Table A8. The Influence of Democratic Development on the Legislative Agenda in Africa. Additional controls added

	Bills			Diversity			Stability		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Democratic development									
Between (mean)	320.47** (138.74)	294.34** (148.72)	137.39*** (47.27)	2.74*** (1.06)	2.44** (1.14)	1.48** (0.58)	-25.40** (10.24)	-18.66* (10.56)	-9.71** (3.84)
Within (dev.)	74.09 (132.93)	120.32 (106.46)	26.04 (39.04)	0.26 (0.99)	0.55 (0.60)	-0.12 (0.33)	-1.57 (8.36)	-2.70 (4.79)	2.97 (2.82)
Executive constraints									
Executive constraints (Judicial)	-146.64 (111.85)			-1.26 (0.88)			14.86 (9.19)		
Executive constraints (Legislative)	189.58 (130.66)			1.33 (0.90)			-13.94 (9.77)		
Opposition parties autonomy	-5.39 (22.88)			0.01 (0.18)			0.12 (1.78)		
Executive oversight	-7.49 (9.24)			-0.08 (0.07)			0.51 (0.84)		
Lower chamber introduces bills	38.17 (42.89)			0.24 (0.29)			-3.10 (3.20)		
Resources of the legislature									
Legislature controls resources		-4.94 (13.80)			-0.04 (0.11)			0.35 (1.02)	
Lower chamber committees		-17.93* (10.23)			-0.15* (0.08)			1.75** (0.83)	
Lower chamber staff		4.58 (10.55)			0.04 (0.09)			-0.62 (0.83)	
Number of cabinet ministers		-2.74 (1.73)			-0.02 (0.01)			0.21 (0.16)	
Contentious legislation									
Public saliency of issue			4.34*** (0.41)			0.03*** (0.00)			-0.34*** (0.03)
Institutions									
Seats in lower chamber			-0.18*** (0.05)			-0.00** (0.00)			0.01* (0.01)
Legislative institution (ref. parliamentarianism)									

Mix of parl./pres.			3.42 (3.07)			0.01 (0.04)			0.13 (0.39)
Presidentialism			3.56 (4.43)			0.01 (0.07)			0.01 (0.61)
Unicameral vs bicameral			-6.17 (5.10)			-0.03 (0.05)			-0.07 (0.40)
Election years (lower chamber)			1.17 (2.82)			0.02 (0.03)			-0.78** (0.32)
Electoral system (lower chamber, ref. majoritarian)									
Proportional			-5.98 (6.53)			-0.06 (0.07)			1.39 (0.94)
Mixed			16.93 (10.42)			0.20 (0.12)			-3.52 (2.24)
Laws (1, 0 for bills)	-70.10*** (25.49)	-90.53** (37.60)	-33.71*** (9.27)	-0.62*** (0.21)	-0.77*** (0.28)	-0.38*** (0.14)	6.02*** (2.08)	7.24*** (2.70)	3.06*** (0.91)
Social characteristics									
Population (log)	-3.81 (2.37)	-3.47* (1.89)	11.94** (4.68)	-0.03 (0.02)	-0.03** (0.01)	0.13* (0.07)	0.25 (0.18)	0.22 (0.14)	-0.56 (0.53)
GDP growth	13.69 (9.17)	22.51* (12.85)	-0.33 (0.41)	0.13* (0.07)	0.19* (0.11)	-0.00 (0.00)	-1.12 (0.75)	-1.53 (1.00)	0.07 (0.07)
Life expectancy	-1.16 (1.22)	-0.78 (0.62)	-1.28** (0.62)	-0.01 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.00)	-0.01** (0.01)	0.12 (0.12)	0.10 (0.06)	0.11 (0.07)
Constant	-55.03 (227.32)	-114.54 (223.50)	-104.91 (73.04)	-0.73 (1.83)	-1.06 (1.89)	-1.17 (1.13)	107.15*** (18.72)	104.04*** (17.45)	99.65*** (9.72)
Observations	187	165	193	187	165	193	186	164	192
Laws	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Bills	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Note: Includes year dummies. Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$. Adding 'government seat share' as an additional control does not change the results although it reduces the number of observations drastically to 90.

Section II

In order to move closer to understanding the association between democratic development and the legislative agenda, we disaggregate the democratic development variable. First of all, we extend our democratic development index to also include the rule of law, judicial independence, and executive control. We replicate our findings when including this side of democratic development (Table A9). If we split up the democracy development index into its three components, all of our effects remain statistically significant for higher levels of election quality (Table A10), freedom of expression (Table A11), and freedom of association (Table A12). Hence, each of the components seems important to the legislative agenda. This stands true for all three dimensions of the legislative agenda that we look into.

Table A9. The influence of democratic development (incl. rule of law etc.) on the legislative agenda in Africa.

	Legislative agenda		
	(1) Size	(2) Diversity	(3) Stability
Democratic development (incl. rule of law etc.)			
Between (mean)	276.05* (151.83)	2.33* (1.21)	-19.55* (11.82)
Within (dev.)	114.68 (136.18)	0.50 (0.91)	-4.79 (8.70)
Bill (0) or law (1)	-82.58** (37.95)	-0.72** (0.31)	7.25** (3.05)
Population (log)	9.82 (7.05)	0.09 (0.06)	-0.67 (0.55)
GDP growth	-1.16 (1.11)	-0.01 (0.01)	0.13 (0.11)
Life expectancy	-5.64* (3.39)	-0.04* (0.03)	0.40 (0.27)
Constant	175.90 (139.79)	1.29 (1.12)	84.33*** (10.72)
Observations	193	193	192
Laws	+	+	+
Bills	+	+	+

Note: Includes year-dummies. Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.

Table A10. The influence of democratic development (election quality) on the legislative agenda in Africa.

	Legislative agenda		
	(1) Size	(2) Diversity	(3) Stability
Democratic development (Election quality)			
Between (mean)	259.55** (117.00)	2.23** (0.93)	-19.49** (9.08)
Within (dev.)	79.27 (78.15)	0.42 (0.50)	-5.10 (5.65)
Bill (0) or law (1)	-120.38*** (45.40)	-1.05*** (0.36)	10.29*** (3.56)
Population (log)	10.39* (5.96)	0.09** (0.05)	-0.70 (0.46)
GDP growth	-0.77 (0.81)	-0.01 (0.01)	0.10 (0.09)
Life expectancy	-5.21** (2.42)	-0.04** (0.02)	0.39** (0.19)
Constant	153.46 (100.00)	1.19 (0.79)	84.33*** (8.23)
Observations	193	193	192
Laws	+	+	+
Bills	+	+	+

Note: Includes year-dummies. Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.

Table A11. The influence of democratic development (freedom of expression) on the legislative agenda in Africa.

	Legislative agenda		
	(1) Size	(2) Diversity	(3) Stability
Democratic development (Freedom of expression)			
Between (mean)	190.42* (109.28)	1.61* (0.91)	-12.08 (9.14)
Within (dev.)	65.85 (79.71)	0.33 (0.58)	-3.95 (5.21)
Bill (0) or law (1)	-66.35* (39.23)	-0.59* (0.33)	6.00* (3.31)
Population (log)	9.33 (5.80)	0.09* (0.05)	-0.66 (0.48)
GDP growth	-1.80 (1.50)	-0.01 (0.01)	0.18 (0.14)
Life expectancy	-2.32 (1.91)	-0.02 (0.02)	0.16 (0.15)
Constant	-67.58 (90.61)	-0.73 (0.73)	100.31*** (7.43)
Observations	193	193	192
Laws	+	+	+
Bills	+	+	+

Note: Includes year-dummies. Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.

Table A12. The influence of democratic development (freedom of association) on the legislative agenda in Africa.

	Legislative agenda		
	(1) Size	(2) Diversity	(3) Stability
Democratic development (Freedom of association)			
Between (mean)	368.52** (172.37)	3.08** (1.41)	-26.80* (14.03)
Within (dev.)	38.57 (61.55)	0.12 (0.45)	-3.11 (4.61)
Bill (0) or law (1)	-86.65** (36.41)	-0.75** (0.30)	7.69*** (2.89)
Population (log)	10.99 (6.95)	0.10* (0.06)	-0.75 (0.57)
GDP growth	-1.23 (1.17)	-0.01 (0.01)	0.14 (0.12)
Life expectancy	-3.21 (2.03)	-0.02 (0.02)	0.24 (0.17)
Constant	-179.87 (114.65)	-1.65* (0.92)	108.71*** (8.47)
Observations	193	193	192
Laws	+	+	+
Bills	+	+	+

Note: Includes year-dummies. Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.