



**AFRICAN UNION AND INTEGRATION  
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA:**  
*STATEMENTS ON REGIONALISM AND DEVELOPMENT*

**BY**  
***THE AU REGIONAL DELEGATE TO SADC***  
***PROF. R. OMOTAYO OLANIYAN***

**Lilongwe, Malawi, 2008**





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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**





## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AADF</b>	<b>Africa Agricultural Development Fund</b>
<b>ADB</b>	<b>African Development Bank</b>
<b>AEC</b>	<b>African Economic Community</b>
<b>AIB</b>	<b>African Investment Bank</b>
<b>AIDS</b>	<b>Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome</b>
<b>APRM</b>	<b>African Peer Review Mechanism</b>
<b>ASBP</b>	<b>African Seed and Biotechnology Program</b>
<b>AU</b>	<b>African Union</b>
<b>AUC</b>	<b>African Union Commission</b>
<b>BTC</b>	<b>Belgium Technical Cooperation</b>
<b>CAADP</b>	<b>Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program</b>
<b>CBPP</b>	<b>Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia</b>
<b>CCGB</b>	<b>Committee of Central Bank Governors</b>
<b>CENSAD</b>	<b>Community of Sahel Saharan States</b>
<b>COMESA</b>	<b>Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa</b>
<b>CONGOMA</b>	<b>Council of Non-Governmental Organizations in Malawi</b>
<b>CSO</b>	<b>Civil Society Organizations</b>
<b>CTTBD</b>	<b>Centre for Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases</b>
<b>DFID</b>	<b>The British Department for International Development</b>
<b>DGDC</b>	<b>Directorate General of Development Cooperation</b>
<b>DRC</b>	<b>Democratic Republic of Congo</b>
<b>ECA</b>	<b>Economic Commission for Africa</b>
<b>ECCAS</b>	<b>Economic Community of Central African States</b>
<b>ECOSOC</b>	<b>Economic, Social and Cultural Council</b>
<b>ECOWAS</b>	<b>Economic Community of West African States</b>
<b>EWS</b>	<b>Early Warning Systems</b>
<b>Ex.CI/Dec</b>	<b>Executive Council Decision</b>

<b>FANRPAN</b>	<b>Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network</b>
<b>FAO</b>	<b>Food and Agricultural Organization</b>
<b>FARA</b>	<b>Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa</b>
<b>FMD</b>	<b>Food and Mouth Disease</b>
<b>GCYDCA</b>	<b>Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development Centre for Africa</b>
<b>GEF</b>	<b>Global Environment Facility</b>
<b>GMO</b>	<b>Genetically Modified Organisms</b>
<b>HIV</b>	<b>Human Immune Virus</b>
<b>IFAD</b>	<b>International Fund for Agricultural Development</b>
<b>JICA</b>	<b>Japan International Cooperation Agency</b>
<b>LMEs</b>	<b>Large Marine Ecosystems</b>
<b>MDGs</b>	<b>Millennium Development Goals</b>
<b>NAC</b>	<b>National AIDS Commission</b>
<b>NBCC</b>	<b>National Board of Certified Counselors</b>
<b>NEPAD</b>	<b>New Partnership for Africa's Development</b>
<b>OAU</b>	<b>Organization of African Unity</b>
<b>OIE</b>	<b>Office Internationale d'Epizootics</b>
<b>OVOP</b>	<b>One Village One Product</b>
<b>PRINT</b>	<b>Promotion of Regional Integration</b>
<b>RAC</b>	<b>Regional Advisory Committee</b>
<b>REC</b>	<b>Regional Economic Community</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>Southern African Development Community</b>
<b>SARPN</b>	<b>Southern African Regional Poverty Network</b>
<b>SPS</b>	<b>Sanitary and Phytosanitary</b>
<b>TCP</b>	<b>Technical Cooperation Project</b>
<b>UN</b>	<b>United Nations</b>
<b>UNAIDS</b>	<b>United Nations AIDS</b>
<b>UNDP</b>	<b>United Nations Development Program</b>
<b>UNDP-DDC</b>	<b>United Nations Development Program-Dry land Development Centre</b>
<b>UNECA</b>	<b>United Nations Economic Commission for Africa</b>
<b>UNESCO</b>	<b>United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization</b>
<b>UNFPA</b>	<b>United Nations Fund for Population Activities</b>
<b>WFS</b>	<b>World Food Summit</b>
<b>WTO</b>	<b>World Trade Organization</b>

## SOUTHERN AFRICA





# FOREWORD



## **PART ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**





# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The African Union Southern Africa Regional Office was established in 2000 to advance the principles of continental integration in the countries and regional economic communities in the region. For this reason, the mandate of the Office, inter alia, emphasizes, advocacy on African Union, the promotion of good relations, monitoring development processes in the countries and regional economic communities in the region and sensitizing governments to the decisions and declarations of the African Union.

The implementation of this mandate has also involved the cooperation of the Office with other stakeholders on integration and development in the region, especially other intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations agencies, funds and programs and non-governmental organizations that engaged in the promotion of economic growth, development and poverty alleviation. In addition, the Office further interacts with other development agencies that are located in the region whose objectives include the promotion of political stability and economic development in the region. These activities in recent years have assisted in the clarification and intensification of integration and development in the region.

This monograph is a collection of the statements made at by the AU Regional Delegate to Southern Africa Development Community which clarifies the positions of the AU in the various aspects of economic integration and development. It is divided into Five Parts, Part One deals with the introduction and background to regionalism. Part Two addresses issues on agriculture and socio-cultural development, explaining AU positions on critical

issues such as land policy, land redistribution, agricultural development and the role of women, accelerating HIV prevention in SADC region, epidemiology and development. Part Three highlights the position of continental organization on integration and development, it explains the meaning of continental integration, the impediments to integration including among others the dual membership in regional economic communities and macroeconomic policy and institutional convergence in SADC and good governance and sustainable management of petroleum and mineral resources, and the role of the civil society in the process of continental integration. Part Four illuminates the nature of emerging external relations of the AU in a changing international environment. Part Five provides conclusion to the various positions articulated in the statements.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **BACKGROUND TO REGIONALISM**

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is one of the strongly integrating integration arrangements in Africa. It focuses on development and eradication of poverty in Southern Africa. SADC emerged from an earlier 1980 loose initiative of Southern African Coordination Development Conference (SADCC) that was established to eradicate colonialism and apartheid systems from the region and to overcome poverty. SADC supplanted SADCC on the realization of the changing circumstances in the region to essentially address the question of integration for the promotion of political stability and socio-economic development of the region.

Accordingly, it has over the years attempted to develop appropriate mechanisms to effectively cope with regional integration and development priorities of the region. The region is one of the most stable regions in Africa. The region is at the same time endowed with abundant natural resources. Its integration process has inevitably resulted in greater interaction with other regional groupings in the region. It has also interacted with the international community independently and within the coordination arrangements of the African Union (AU). Although the progress of the Community remains commendable yet it is clear if this is satisfactory as one of the pillars for the advancement of AU integration and resources available to it. While the environment of integration continue to evolve, it has been difficult for regional integrators to cope with the diverse challenges of regionalism.



**PART TWO**

**AGRICULTURE**

**AND**

**SOCIO-CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**



## CHAPTER 3

# LAND POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Statement at the Regional Consultative Workshop on Land Policy in Southern Africa:  
29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> August 2007, Windhoek, Namibia

- Hon. Jerry Ekandjo, Minister for lands and Resettlement, Government of Namibia,
- Ms. Shapwa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of lands and Resettlement, Government of Namibia
- Mr. Ousmane Iyeye, Representative of the UN Economic Commission for Africa
- Dr. Esther Kasalu-Coffin, Representative of the African Development Bank
- Mrs. Margaret Nyirenda, Representative of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC),
- Mr. Simeon Nhongo, Representative of UNDP,
- Dr. Peter Matlon, Managing Director, Rockefeller Foundation
- Excellencies Distinguished Participants ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Commissioner Mrs. Rosebud Kurwijila, and my own behalf, it gives me great honor and pleasure to address you at this high level regional consultative workshop on land policy in Southern Africa aimed at gaining consensus on key region-specific issues that will enrich the continental land policy framework and exploring preliminary benchmarks and targets for assessing progress in land policy and administrative reform in the region.

Allow me to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for their leadership in facilitating the organization of this important and historical meeting. We are

particularly very grateful to the Government and People of the Republic of Namibia for hosting this very important event. I believe this demonstrates the importance that the Government of Namibia attaches to land issues in the development process within the southern Africa region. I would also like to thank the Government of Namibia and its people for the very warm welcome and hospitality accorded to us since our arrival.

Let me also thank the Development Partners in a special way for their continued support and commitment to Africa's Development Agenda. We would like to particularly recognize and thank the United Nations Development Program - Dry land Development Center (UNDP-DDC) who have supported us through financial contributions from DFID. Our special thanks go to the Rockefeller Foundation for their valuable support, both technical and financial. To all other development partners, we acknowledge your support and partnership. Your presence here with us today for the Regional Consultative Meeting is a true testimony of your commitment to this process.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me on behalf of the consortium thank the three consultants who have worked day and night to prepare the Report on Regional Assessment on Land Policy in Southern Africa. They have done a commendable job within a very short time period in identifying and analyzing the key land issues in the region that we will be discussing during this workshop. I would like therefore, to urge you to carefully and diligently examine these issues during this workshop and arrive at a consensus on the way forward on how they can contribute to the overall continental policy process. The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank are eagerly looking forward to the outcome of your discussions that will feed into the continental policy framework development process.

To all our member states, we salute your efforts in developing land policies and undertaking land reforms at the national level. We commend your decision to work with the consortium and the SADC Secretariat on the land policy initiative, recognizing that land is central to the economic development efforts of member states. We recognize that national governments are the driving force behind national land policies and reforms. We believe that this initiative will add value to the important and leading role that national governments have and will continue to play in developing land policy and reforms that address land issues in the region.



The role of the SADC Secretariat and in particular the SADC Regional Land Reform Technical Support Facility in complementing the efforts of member states in addressing national and regional land issues is highly commended. This demonstrates the important role of SADC as a Regional Economic Community (REC) in promoting regional development initiatives. The African Union Commission therefore commends the SADC Secretariat for establishing the Regional Land Reform Technical Support Facility and proactively engaging a process that would, among other things, support member states in developing and/or implementing their agrarian and land reform programs.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are meeting here today as part of a long term process to develop an Africa-wide Land Policy Framework and Guidelines that started with a Continental Consultative Workshop that was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 27-29 March 2006 to discuss major land policy issues in the continent. This first consultation was followed by an African Experts Task Force Meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2006 in which an earlier Issues Paper was revised and transformed into a draft background document titled - *Land Policy in Africa: A Framework to Strengthen Land Rights, Enhance Productivity and Secure Livelihoods*. This background document is currently being circulated to AU Member States for comments.

Recently however, an Expert Group Meeting was held in Addis Ababa to begin a process for the development of benchmarks and indicators for land policy and administration. I am happy to inform you that while the benchmarks and indicators will contribute to the overall framework development process, our discussions during this workshop will largely be informed by the contents of the regional assessment report on land policy in Southern Africa. As SADC Member States, you will be discussing the regional assessment report for Southern Africa in order to highlight issues specific to this region that need to be reflected in the final policy framework and guidelines. The outcomes of your discussion, I believe, will contribute to the draft framework and guidelines that will be tabled for consideration by African Ministers responsible for land issues. I urge you therefore to examine in more detail, the issues identified by the consultants.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this consultative workshop, which forms the fifth step in a program of action that will culminate in the adoption of the final Declaration by the Assembly of African Heads of State and Government, is the first in a series of regional consultations that will follow and therefore, poses a major challenge to us. Subsequent

regional consultations will draw inspiration and lessons from this pioneer regional workshop.

Let me point out that the land related issues on which we will attempt to reach consensus on are critical for the economic transformation and sustainable development in the Southern Africa region. We all are aware that land is the most vital asset for economic, political, social and cultural development and is central to prosperity, peace and security, stability and sustainable development of the southern African region. Land and agrarian reform pose significant development challenges not only to the SADC member states, but also to the rest of Africa, and have in many instances, fuelled the escalation of political tensions that have greatly undermined efforts to promote economic growth and development. The potential of the land question to disrupt regional peace and stability and the importance of land in achieving sustainable food security and poverty reduction cannot be overemphasized.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we all know that the economies of Southern African States are largely dependent on agriculture and land and natural resources are key assets for economic growth and development. With over 70% of the population residing in rural areas, agriculture, natural resource use and other land-based activities are key to livelihoods, income and employment for majority of the people in the SADC region. Land policy and land reforms are fundamental in addressing issues of poverty, food security, regional stability and broad-based regional economic growth.

To ensure that land policy and agrarian reforms address pertinent issues in the SADC region, we must recognize the need for a policy framework to address issues related to state sovereignty over land, the unequal distribution of land resources, the dualistic nature of property systems, land tenure security including urban and peri-urban land issues, gender biases in land relations, the impact of HIV/AIDS and land issues in post conflict reconstruction. A good policy framework must also not forget issues of sustainable management of the environment as well as protecting the commons, including pastoral land use. These issues are of relevance to the SADC region, notwithstanding the significant differences among individual countries in terms of size, population, levels of urbanization, culture and other variables affecting the Human Development Index.

Ladies and Gentlemen, an important challenge for this workshop, which brings together a wide-range of stakeholders on land issues in the region, including representatives of

national governments, civil society, private sector, centers of excellence and development partners, is to discuss and reach consensus among key stakeholders on the elements that will characterize the framework. In particular, the workshop will attempt to reach consensus on:

- The regional specificities, initiatives and lessons that should be included in the continental framework;
- The knowledge, institutional and resource gaps as well as lessons from on-going land initiatives in the southern Africa region, that are critical to identifying capacity needs and developing strategies for implementation; and
- Key elements necessary to the development of benchmarks and indicators, and mechanisms for assessing performance of land processes in the region.

The AUC, ECA and ADB consortium is eagerly looking forward to the outcomes of this multi-stakeholder regional consultation, which will be an enhanced regional background document whose elements will enrich the draft continental framework and guidelines, and inputs to the development of relevant benchmarks and indicators. We believe that consensus on and validation of issues of national and regional importance will add value to the process to secure land rights, increase productivity, improve livelihoods and enhance regional economic growth of the continent.

I am confident that at the end of our three-day workshop, we will be able to achieve the above objectives and come up with an enhanced regional background document.

I thank you.



## **CHAPTER 4**

# **LAND REDISTRIBUTION IN AFRICA: SOME BASIC ISSUES**

Statement at the Workshop on land Redistribution, organized by Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPN) and the World Bank, Pretoria South Africa 13 -17 March 2006

### **I. Introduction**

Excellencies, Mr. Chairman, Prof. Firmino Mucavele, Chief Executive of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honor for me to be here this evening to present a Keynote Address on Land Redistribution in Africa, which is one of the critical issues central to economic growth, sustainable development and alleviation of poverty in Africa.

The importance of land redistribution needs no emphasis in the development of African countries since the agricultural sector engages more than 80 per cent of the working population and represents a major area of source of income for most countries. Besides, it is also well known that appropriate private and community property rights are vital to urbanization and industrialization for the raising of the standard of living.

The Workshop is timely as there are efforts elsewhere currently directed towards the examination of the ways through which higher productivity and improvement of food security could be speedily achieved in the continent.

The African Union (AU) welcomes this Workshop, and I will like at this point to convey the warm greetings of HE Prof. Alpha Oumar, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, to the organizers, the Southern African Regional Poverty Network, the World Bank and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France. President Konare is a strong advocate for poverty reduction in Africa. He sees this as one of the elements leading to conflicts in some African countries.

At the same time one will like also to welcome all participants from other Southern Africa countries, Malawi, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and the host country South Africa, that made time available to be present in order to enrich their knowledge at this Workshop.

Moreover and more importantly, I will like to personally congratulate, Ms Sue Mbaya, the Director of Southern Africa Regional Poverty Network and the excellent staff of this organization for their strong commitment to the mitigation of poverty in Africa. I am convinced that outcome of the workshop will serve as input to other similar workshops on this subject and increase our understanding of the issues of land redistribution in Africa.

## **II. AU Initiative on land Policy**

I will like to underscore here that the African Union (AU) has viewed with concern the modest and lack luster progress so far made in the continent by a number of countries in land reform. Land reform in the continent has been constrained by a host of political, legal, institutional, economic, social and cultural impediments. For us in the AU, this performance is unacceptable in view of the fact that a number of developing countries in Asia and Latin America have made significant and commendable progress on this matter. It is therefore for this reason that the AU in collaboration with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) is planning, within the framework of NEPAD and its Strategic Plan on Africa's Development, for Consultative Workshop on Land Policy in Africa.

The Workshop will develop a land policy framework, the guidelines and the modalities for its implementation. The **First Phase** of the Workshop, scheduled for 27-29 March 2006, at the Economic Commission for Africa, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, will bring together representatives, at the regional level, from African Governments, Regional Economic Communities, Civil Societies, farmers organizations, centers of excellence, the private sector and development partners. The Workshop will, among other things, discuss and agree on the elements and thematic issues of the Framework and Guidelines of Land

Policy and Land Reform in Africa. The Workshop will define the process that will facilitate the development of the framework and guidelines and its implementation. Also, it will clarify the roles and responsibilities and expected contributions from the various institutions and key stakeholders that would be involved in the development of the framework of action and its implementation.

The **Second Phase** of the Workshop which would build on the results of the first phase would address the major challenges and opportunities in land policy; take stock of the best practices in land reform policies and prepare a draft Framework and Guidelines of Land Policy in Africa.

In the **Third Phase**, African Experts from 53 Member States of the AU will review the draft Framework and Guidelines of Land Policy in Africa and make relevant recommendations. Subsequently, a meeting of African Ministers for Land and Agriculture will consider the recommendations of the Experts. After this, the document would be forwarded to the Assembly of the Heads of State of Government of African countries for adoption. In other words, the objective is to prescribe a comprehensive framework to provide some guidance to member states while acknowledging the diversity in nature and approaches to this subject in African countries. Ultimately, the AU would like to see the release of the energies in the land sector for accelerated and sustainable economic growth and development of Africa.

### **III. Land Redistribution: The Salient Issues**

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I have no doubt we have all increased and deepen our understanding on the salient issues in land redistribution since the commencement of this Workshop on Monday. We have to a large extent, through in-depth analysis by land experts from the World Bank, Universities and Research Institutions, been able to learn that there are solutions and ways forward. There are **solutions** and **ways forward** if we employ appropriate political will to implement the relevant land redistribution policy, through sound institutions and mechanisms or appropriate models. Thus, we have come to appreciate more clearly that the key issues that we must come to full grip with on land redistribution would, among others, include efficiency, equity, growth and poverty alleviation as well as fairness.

**(a) Efficiency**

Land redistribution is intrinsically about efficiency. While acknowledging the importance and certain advantages associated with large scale mechanized farming, there are now growing consensus on the high efficiency of small farmers in the utilization of labor, land and capital in the agricultural sector. The efficiency of small farmers, as has been observed from various studies, in both developed and developing countries, derives from the fact that they operate their farms essentially using family labor and machinery that they could afford. The owner of the farm lives on the farm and manages the farm with the support of other family members. In other words, absentee farmers do not promote efficiency. The main disadvantages of small farmers are lack of access to credit, markets and information, in particular about new technologies. It therefore follows that governments should for all practical purposes create and implement policies that would enhance the financial capacities of small farmers and ensure their timely access to all aspects of agricultural information.

**(b) Equity, growth and poverty alleviation**

Land redistribution is about equity, economic growth and the reduction of poverty. Also, several studies on agriculture and economic growth have been concluded with recommendations that more equitable land distribution is beneficial for non-agricultural and non-rural growth. Access to land provides a good social safety net, which induces more farmers to move into non-farm business. When countries complement the promotion of small scale farming with substantial investments in rural infrastructure and light taxation in agricultural production, they create sustained agricultural growth that reduces rural poverty. In other words African countries should capitalize on the demonstration effects emanating from equitable farming that pays attention to the role of small farmers.

**(c) Fairness**

Land redistribution is about fairness. The idea of fairness implies that land should be distributed to as many people as possible. It is well recognized that history and culture, among other things, could mould what a community initially assumes is a fair use and ownership of land. But then this assumption would be subject to change as the community develops with changes in its character, especially in democratic configuration. Communities generally have strong feelings about how and who should use land because the overall area of land in any country is fixed. It is instructive at this point to flag that those countries that are beset by unresolved land problems are, in most cases,



subject to protracted periods of social upheavals and political instability. Hence fairness should be an important consideration to create the political environment for steady economic growth and sustainable development.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I will, in conclusion, reiterate that the AU is robustly committed to the development of a practical land reform policy for Africa as essential basis for development and poverty reduction. Africa is the only continent lagging behind in development in the unprecedented global development of our time generated through the advancements in science and technology. This has been vividly illustrated in the recent reports of the World Bank on the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The Millennium Development Goals require developing countries to have an annual growth rate of 7% in they are to half poverty by 2015. As it is today most African countries are far from the attainment of this target partly because of their failures to pull the levers of growth that would have rapid demonstration effects on other sectors of their economies.

As it is today, it is doubtful if Africa has the time for inaction. The development challenges in Africa's development are enormous, the time is now for African political leaders, bureaucrats and all stakeholders to summon political will to develop and implement appropriate policies on land redistribution to release the energies for economic growth and sustainable development. African countries could do it if China, Brazil, India, Mexico and Chile to mention a few could so.

Hence, as a matter of urgency, African countries should endeavor to build on the progress they have made in land redistribution. The cost of inaction now would be high vis-à-vis the cost of addressing political crisis of large proportions that could halt and reverse development and aggravate poverty.

I thank you for your attention.



## **CHAPTER 5**

# **AN OVERVIEW OF AU AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM**

Statement at the Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) Regional Stakeholders Meeting Johannesburg, South Africa 2-4 May 2007

### **I. Introduction**

Mr. Chairman, Prof. Haidari Kanji R. Amani, Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, all protocols observed; it is a great pleasure for me to be here today at this important meeting on food, agriculture and natural resources. I will like to congratulate the Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), which essentially is about advancing robust policies for food agriculture and natural resources in Southern Africa.

I bring you warm greetings from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare, a very strong advocate for improvement in African agriculture and food production which he firmly believes is at the heart of poverty reduction in the continent. The importance of agriculture needs no emphasis while it is the main sector for most African countries employing more than 80 percent of the working population and main sources of income for these countries. However, it is still the sector that is confronted with several unresolved issues that continue to undermine higher productivity and the food security concerns of the people.

As of today, the food insecurity situation in Africa remains at unacceptable high levels. Statistics show that 27 percent of the African population is undernourished and the continent spends US\$20 billion on agricultural imports annually. According to the FAO State of the Food Insecurity in the World 2006, Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 13 percent of the population and 25 percent of the undernourished people in the developing world. It is the region with one third of the people suffering from chronic hunger. The report noted further that East Africa and Southern Africa call for priority attention in view of their high prevalence of undernourishment. In both sub-regions, the number of hungry people has continued to increase in spite of the reduction in the prevalence of hunger.

The request from FANRPAN is that I should give "**An Overview of AU Agricultural and Food Security Program**". In doing this, I will begin first by reiterating that the AU programs on agriculture and food security are informed by the situation of agriculture and food production in the continent. The programs derive from strategic objectives of the AU Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture as articulated in the AU Strategic Plan of 2004-2007, which, inter alia, identified rural development and agriculture as key sector for African development and poverty reduction. The defined objectives of AU programs have further taken into full account global targets of the World Food Summit (WFS), and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as well as those in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP). Let us now look at some of these programs.

## **II. Main Elements in Agricultural and Food Security Program**

The Decisions and Declaration at AU Summits and Meetings of the Executive Council have provided guidance for initiating priority agricultural and food security programs in nine key areas in agriculture and food security namely, (a) agriculture development and finance, (b) early warning for food security, (c) food product market/African common market for food Products, (d) fisheries review and harmonized fisheries policies, (e) African seed and biotechnology program, (n genetically modified organisms in agriculture: an African position, (g) food safety and SPS, (h) centers of excellence and (i) African Agricultural Development Fund.

### **(a) Agriculture Development and Finance**

The AU perceives adequate financing as an important key to the achievement of set goals in agriculture and food security in Africa. Hence, at the Second Ordinary Assembly

of the AU in July 2003, Maputo, African Heads of State and Government endorsed the "Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa" [Assembly/AU/Decl. 7(11)] which among other things requested African countries to commit themselves to the allocation of at least 10 percent of national budgetary resources to agriculture and rural development policy implementation within five years. The Sirte Declaration on the "Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development In Agriculture and Water in Africa" in February 2004, Sirte, Libya further called on AU Member States to "expedite the implementation of the Declaration made in Maputo on the allocation of 10% of the national budgets to boost agricultural production".

As of today, the implementation of this remains modest among the Member States. So far, nineteen (19) countries have provided data on compliance. Three (3) countries are allocating above 10 percent, (Niger 20.15%, Ethiopia 13.6% and Chad 11.9%. Four (4) countries are allocating between 5 to 10 percent (Tunisia 8.2%, Zimbabwe 6.2%, Swaziland 5.5%, and Sudan 5.4%) with 12 countries allocating below 5%.

There are difficulties in the collection of data from the Member States. The AU, in this respect, is considering the decentralization of data collection, to make use of the RECs in the collection. The later would subsequently forward this to the AU. Thus, there is urgent need for the Member States to fulfill their commitment on the agreed budgetary allocation. Progress in agriculture and food security could spill around in the absence of the allocation of sufficient funds by the Member States themselves.

#### (b) Early Warning Systems for Food Security

In a continent prone to natural disaster, the Early Warning Systems (EWS) is vital to governments for the monitoring of the food situation throughout the continent. The effective performance of EWS is critical to improved decision making and timely and well-targeted interventions to alleviate food insecurity and improved crisis management.

It was for this reason that the Cairo Plan of Action of April 2000 identified EWS as an important priority area for cooperation with the EU in order to improve food security in Africa. This was further reinforced in the Sirte Declaration of February 2004 which emphasized the need to "Enhance Early Warning Systems at regional level and their establishment where they do not exist as well as their coordination at continental level in order to avert the negative impact of drought, desertification, floods, natural disaster and pests", Subsequently, the AU and EU agreed with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to conduct an assessment of existing EWS on food security

in the continent targeting, among other things, a clear understanding of the efficiency and effectiveness of existing EWS, and reviewing strengths and weaknesses, credibility, cost effectiveness and sustainability with respect to institutional, methodological, technical and resource use.

In May 2005, the EU made US\$450,000 available for the assessment of EWS in Africa. West Africa, Southern Africa and the Greater Horn of Africa were selected for the assessment. In West Africa, countries selected were Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger. In Southern Africa, the countries were Angola, Namibia and Zambia. For the Greater Horn of Africa, these were Kenya, Eritrea and Ethiopia. The assessment missions worked closely with main regional organizations in Early Warning including the CILSS, SADC, and IGAD. Reports for each country and region were prepared and fed into a continental synthesis report that was presented at the AU in April 2006 and to the Member States Experts in November 2006, in Libreville, Gabon.

One central recommendation from the assessment was that countries, regional organizations, development partners and the AU should focus their collaborative efforts on creating or strengthening institutional mechanisms that guide the development of the EWS and enable them to evolve in a dynamic and sustainable manner, responsive to their principal users. In other words synergies of all stakeholders must be brought to bear for the consolidation of EWS to enable them cope effectively with the challenges in climatic conditions the predictability of which are now becoming more difficult with the effects of El Nino.

#### (c) Food Product Market/African Common Market for Food Products

Rightly the AU has observed that despite the importance of agriculture in African economies; trade in agricultural products amongst the African countries remains at relatively low level. Since 1960, imports of agricultural products to the continent have risen steadily and faster than exports. Also, since 1980, Africa as a whole has become a net importer of agricultural products. As of now, small number of tradition~1 commodities and dependent of preferential access to few markets of industrially developed countries characterize agricultural export patterns in Africa.

It was for this reason that the African Heads of State and Government at the OAU Summit in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001 took the decision on "creation of an African Common Market for agricultural products". This decision was consolidated in the Sirte Declaration of 2004 that called for the immediate establishment of the "African Common

Market for agricultural products, according to the Lusaka Summit decision". In the same vein, the Food Security Summit held in Abuja, Nigeria, in December 2006 adopted similar decisions. The decisions among other things called for (a) increase in intra-African trade by promoting and protecting rice, maize, legumes, cotton, oil palm, beef dairy, poultry and fisheries products as strategic commodities at the continental level, and cassava, sorghum and millet at sub regional level without prejudice to focused attention being given also to products of particular national importance, (b) take urgent measures to accelerate the development of the strategic commodities by fast tracking the implementation of trade arrangements adopted in the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) through lowering tariff barriers and elimination of non tariff barriers both technical and non-technical by 2010. In other words, the idea of Common Market for agricultural products would entail removal of internal barriers to trade and at the same time harmonizes external protection.

I will like to stress here that in 2005, the AU and FAO developed a Technical Cooperation Project for feasibility study on the establishment of the Common Market for Basic Food Products. It is envisaged that the outcome of this study would lead to a high level workshop that would develop the "Strategy" and "Action Plan" for the establishment of a Common Market for African Food Products. The completion of this study and the successful implementation of its recommendation would go along way in addressing the availability of food at realistic prices in African countries and in effect remove the wind from the sails of food insecurity.

(d) Fisheries - Review and Harmonize Fisheries Policies in Africa

In response to the problems on fisheries the Sirte Declaration of 2004 mandates the AU Commission to "promote the development of fishery resources, develop fishing methods and equipment, improve facilities for their preservation, storage, distribution and processing, and encourage regional cooperation in the field of fishing, including the protection of fishery resources in our exclusive economic zones. On the basis of this declaration, the AU is working with African Regional Fisheries Organizations, RECs and Member States to harmonize policies especially in the area of negotiation of Fishing Access Agreements. Also, the AU is supporting Member States in Strategic Partnership for Fisheries Investment Fund in Large Marine Ecosystems in the continent.

Beginnings from March 2006, the AU in collaboration with the FAO have developed a TCP to assist Member States in the handling of fisheries access agreements. The project aims at the reinforcement of institutional capacities necessary for a qualitative

improvement of fishing agreements signed between the AU Member States and their foreign partners. The TCP will strengthen regional coordination in order to ascertain complementarity among countries, in particular with regard to the management of trans-boundary resources. It will promote learning and information sharing at the regional level to ensure that the lessons from successes and failures of countries are adequately disseminated. Consultants have visited several West, East and Southern African countries and their report expected this year (2007).

The Strategic Partnership for a Sustainable Fisheries Investment Fund in the Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) of Africa is a new initiative to make additional financing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other partners available to coastal countries in Africa to help support sustainable marine fisheries. This initiative consists of (i) the Sustainable Fisheries Investment Fund, which is a financing mechanism to make available US\$60 million in GEF grants over the next 10 years to co-finance country-level projects aimed at sustainable marine fisheries, and (ii) the Strategic Partnership of stakeholders, donors, regional organizations, the GEF-sponsored LME Programs, etc led by the AU to advice the Investment Fund and assist in exchange of experience as well as promote sustainable fisheries issues within the region. The World Bank is the GEF implementing agency in this initiative.

In order to implement this initiative, a Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) chaired by the AU and consisting of regional stakeholders including regional fisheries bodies, LMEs, CSOs and development partners was established in June 2005 at the consultative workshop held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

#### (e) African Seed and Biotechnology Program

The formulation of an African-wide seed and biotechnology program was recommended as a priority development area at the Fifth Ordinary Session of the AU in Sirte, Libya in July 2005. Upon this, the AU in collaboration with the FAO developed a concept document on African Seed and Biotechnology Program (ASBP) that was presented to the Twenty-fourth African Regional Conference of FAO in January 2006 in Bamako, Mali. The program concept that was approved at the meeting proposed an integrated approach and aims at the provision of a strategy for comprehensive development of the seed sector and appropriate technology techniques and products for Africa. The overall objective of the ASBP is to contribute to increased food security and nutrition and to poverty alleviation in the continent through the creation of effective and efficient seed



systems and enhanced application of biotechnologies and methodologies with the seed sector. There were two expert consultations in November 2006 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Libreville, Gabon, at stakeholders and national levels respectively to consider the program. Subsequently, the program was adopted at the AU Summit in Addis Ababa in January 2007. The program, *inter alia*, calls for the development of project profiles in various areas on the seed sector to develop the seed industry in the Member States. The plan is to organize a donors' conference to raise funds for the project profiles.

f) Genetically Modified Organisms in Agriculture: An African Position

It is well known that the advent of genetic engineering in agriculture had transformed the content and nature of the debate on how to respond to food insecurity and the attainment of long term agricultural growth and food security. However, the prevalence of divergent positions by African countries on the risks or non-risks that could be associated with Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), poses difficulties. But it is assumed that the benefits of GMOs should not be lost in the mist of the debate on the issue by the extreme pro- genetic engineering and the extreme anti-genetic engineering camps. It is for this reason that the AU in its decision EX.CL/Dec. 26 (III) called for an African common position on biotechnology. It is strongly felt that regional cooperation is necessary to address the range of issues associated with biotechnology and genetic modification.

Accordingly, the AU organized a consultative workshop of all stakeholders in October 2006 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Report of the workshop would be circulated to all Member State Ministries of Agriculture, Science and Technology and all stakeholders for comments.

(g) Food Safety and SPS

There are concerns on the negative impact on African trade of ineffective Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures. In addressing this issue, the AU is focusing on assistance to Member States and RECs to develop the capacity to implement SPS measures and improve their ability to effectively negotiate on these issues with other countries. Emphasis is placed on capacity development in technical, policy and institutional areas relating to phytosanitary and food safety measures. This includes the capacity to develop and comply with both continental and international norms and standards so that they could compete successfully in world market while protecting the health of consumers.

(h) Centers of Excellence

In this program, the Department of Rural Economy and Agricultural Development is working closely with the Department of Science and Technology and collaborating with NEPAD and various development partners. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with FARA as a Center of Excellence.

(i) AADF (African Agricultural Development Fund)

The Department of Rural Economy and Agricultural Development has initiated a concept note on the program of AADF and disseminated it to several development partners including the ADB, IFAD etc. The department is still expecting responses from these bodies. But in the meanwhile the Department of Rural Economy and Agricultural Development is working closely with the Department of Economic Affairs that is working on the establishment of an African Investment Bank (AIB) which would address the question of availability of funds for all sectors including the agricultural sector.

### **III. Issues in agriculture and food security**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, as we pursue the implementation of these programs, it is important to reiterate that the issues central that must be resolved relate to the provision adequate resources, capacity building, strong relevant institutions, more intensive research and sharing of results of research by countries and regions and the bouts of natural disasters. Many African countries are confronted with limited resources caused by stagnating export earnings and higher costs imports as a result of higher oil prices. However, this notwithstanding, adequate funding must be made available for food security to efficiently address other related issues such as poverty and HIV/AIDS, as well as capacity building for accelerated and sustainable economic growth.

Besides, other critical issues militating against food security, undernourishment and hunger in Africa include human-induced disasters, such as conflicts and the spread of HIV/AIDS. According to the FAO State of the Food Insecurity in the World 2006 report Sub-Saharan Africa increase in undernourishment was due to conflicts in number of countries, notably those in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and Liberia. It is gratifying to state that hostilities had ended in these countries and they are now in post-war rehabilitation, reconstruction and promotion of economic growth. However, attention should be paid to Sudan (the Darfur region) and Somalia where conflicts are undermining agriculture and food production and have procured thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons in both countries. There

is need for the immediate cessation of hostilities and appropriate political solutions found to the causes of the conflicts.

#### **IV. Conclusion.**

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen you will all agree with me that although Africa has made some progress on the questions of agriculture and food security however we are still a long way from providing satisfactory and enduring solutions. There is an urgent need to address our concerns in lack luster performances towards the attainment of the targets set in WFS and UN MDGs on food security.

The way forward has been reiterated in the Declarations and Resolution of the Abuja Food Security Summit of 7 December 2006. We must expand markets with attention to Africa's own demand and promote inter African trade in staple foods. We must mobilize resources for implementation of priority food and nutrition security interventions focusing on the selected strategic commodities.

We must ensure systemic integration of nutrition considerations into agricultural and food security interventions. We must identify African successes and support sharing of positive experiences with a view to their adaptation, replication and up-scaling.

More importantly, the programs of the AU along with NEPAD (CAADP) have impacted the breath of life to agriculture and food security in the continent. However, these programs at he embryonic stages would need to be well nurtured to growth and maturity.

Mr. Chairman, the achievement of this objective will imply the strong involvement and commitment of stakeholders, the AU Member States, development partners, the private sector and the civil society. There should be sufficient and predictable funding from all stakeholders for the implementation of these programs in order to achieve our goals in agriculture and food security, which are basic to poverty alleviation.

I thank you for your attention.



## **CHAPTER 6**

# **AFRICAN UNION AND OVOP**

Closing Remarks at the OVOP International Seminar Lilongwe, Malawi, 24 January 2008

- Hon. Dr. George Chaponda, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Rural Development
- Mr. Hirochi Mashindo, Deputy Ambassador of Japan to Malawi Mr. Seichi Nagatsuka, Vice President of JICA

It is a great pleasure to be here to make closing remarks on this important occasion of One Village One Product International Seminar on behalf of the African Union. I have no doubt that the statements, discussions and activities in the past two days have been rewarding. In addition, the debate that we have engaged in today has been particularly illuminating on the subject of One Village One Product.

I will like to warmly congratulate the governments of Japan and Malawi for organizing this seminar which is very timely as we in Africa are presently considering how we could achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals in our drive towards eradication of poverty.

Japan as we all know is an active partner in the economic development process in Africa. The partnership of Japan through the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This Agency has for many years been an important channel for technical assistance and foreign aid to African countries. Foreign aid and technical assistance from Japan has made immense contributions to social and infrastructural development in Africa in the last two decades.

Also, in response to the disappointing economic development in Africa in the 1980s, Japan came up with the Tokyo International Conference on Africa in 1993. The Conference came up with mutually agreed priority areas of cooperation for African development. Besides, we have also seen Japan, over the years, support as appropriate, the development programmes of Africa in many international fora, including those in the United Nations.

Following this exercise, we have been better informed about the concept of One Village One Product (OVOP). From concept understanding, we have also come into full grip with the operationalisation of OVOP in Oita and Malawi. We have learnt about what accounted for the successes in Oita and Malawi and of those issues that would need to be addressed in order that OVOP has more positive impact in the lives of people.

I will like to underscore that the African Union welcomes OVOP while acknowledging the fact that it has great potential for the promotion of economic growth and the alleviation of poverty in the rural areas of African countries. We in the African Union believe that meaningful economic growth and development in Africa would occur if the rural areas are targeted. This is the reason why we have in the institutional structure of the African Union Commission the Department of Agriculture and Rural Economy to articulate and facilitate the implementation of projects and programmes that would transform and increase productivity in the rural areas of African countries. More than 80 percent of the people live in the rural areas in most African countries.

Our understanding at this Seminar is that OVOP has proved useful in Oita and Malawi. The success has largely been due to the ownership and adequate support for the programme by the host government and the Japanese government. This among other things includes technical and financial support. We have equally been availed of the different variations of OVOP in different African countries, including Zambia, Ghana and Tunisia. We are here talking about empowerment value addition, increased production, marketing, branding etc. The beauty of this is that a number of other African countries as illustrated by Nigeria, Burkina Faso are embracing and working on the implementation of OVOP concept for economic growth and development.

However, given the experience acquired in Japan and elsewhere, we should be in a position to jump-start the OVOP in other countries in Africa that are now embarking on its

implementation. This implies we focus on leadership, policy and strategy, organization structure and government support for accelerated implementation.

Also, we consider other critical elements for success, including:-

- Exporting to African countries
- Process should be time bound and with a plan for regular evaluation
- Overcoming financial limitations through strong micro financing facilities
- Capacity building especially in education to enable transformation of villages into areas for import substitution industries, intermediate industries, etc
- Give OVOP a continental outlook for rapid integration into development plans of African countries
- Sustain ability of OVOP through in-build capacity and financial resources.

Thank you for your attention.





# **CHAPTER 7**

## **WOMEN AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: THE NEED FOR AN AFRICAN TRUST FUND**

Paper Presented at the Continental Conference on Empowerment of African Women within the Context of Integration Organized by African Union (AU) and the Republic of Malawi, Lilongwe, Malawi, 17 – 19 March 2008

### **I. Introduction**

Let us start by restating what we all know that agricultural development process is complex, embracing the following four key sub-systems; research, extension, support and client. All these are expected to work harmoniously to procure stable and sustained growth in agriculture.<sup>i</sup> It is well known that agriculture remains a critical sector for development in most African countries. These countries are endowed with substantial geographic and climatic conditions that favorably support agricultural production. Consequently, agricultural sector has accounted for significant part of gross national product and export earnings and remains the largest employer of labor force. Indeed for most rural African countries, women constitute the largest labor force. However, these notwithstanding, output in agriculture continues to fall below capacity largely for lack of enhancement of input. In effect, low output in cash crops had resulted in reduced foreign exchange earnings while those in food crops had raised questions on food security and necessitated import of food crops from the industrially developed countries. One important observation that is well known in this debacle is the under utilization and the disadvantages associated with role of women in this sector. All these derive from the nature of policies on agriculture and the method of production and marketing of output.

Regionalism in both its regional and continental dimensions had also emphasized agricultural development as critical to sustainable economic growth and development.

Consequently, efforts have been made to articulate and implement agricultural policies at both levels. Also, several multilateral organizations have acknowledged the importance of agriculture in the development of Africa and have provided varying support to African countries in order to ensure sustainable economic growth and development and alleviate poverty. In the same vein it would also be added that other bilateral cooperation efforts with African countries have similarly highlighted the promotion of agricultural development in their bilateral arrangements with African countries. But these efforts are yet to take most countries in the continent out of the woods in agricultural development. There are several reasons for the lack luster performance in agricultural development in regional integration arrangements in Africa. However, an important factor to note is the weak empowerment of women in the agricultural sector. This critical limitation requires immediate solution in order to increase productivity in agricultural sector and make economic development more meaningful.

Therefore, the main purpose of this paper is to shed more light on the role of women in agricultural development in Africa; to examine the nature of their contributions and the limitations to their optimum performance in this sector. The paper will in particular, pay attention to the obstacles in agricultural inputs and related human capacities. In doing this, we shall after the background situation analysis, provide a description of agricultural policies at national and regional levels, and the trends in agricultural development. Thereafter, this would be followed by the analysis of the critical issues in the role of women in agriculture, and the way forward with focus on the establishment of the African Trust Fund for Women.

## **II. SITUATION ANALYSIS**

In many developing countries, women are major contributors to food security. Rural women are the pillars in small scale agriculture. In Africa, it is estimated that women account for between 30% to 80% of the agricultural labor depending on area and socio-economic class. In most parts of the continent, women are traditionally responsible for the production of food crops and non-food cash crops. But then this division between food crops and cash crops is not clear cut as women often help men in cash crop production.

It is generally acknowledged that the number of women living in poverty had increased disproportionately to the number of men especially in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition.<sup>ii</sup> Women's vulnerability to poverty derives from a

number of factors notably, inequalities in access to productive resources, gender biases in property and inheritance laws, lack of access to education and support services, and minimal participation in decision-making, time constraints as a result of unequal sharing of family and work responsibilities and unequal distribution of resources within the family.

Development interventions to improve the economic roles of women have so far had limited success. The priorities of such interventions for rural women have generally been in the areas of welfare and home economics programs, in particular through women-specific projects or women's components in multipurpose projects. But these have not resulted in meaningful impact of women in development. Consequently, the current approach is to integrate women into mainstream development process. This approach focuses on gender differences primarily in the division of labor in production, or income-earning activities, and access to and control over resources and assets. The gender approach to integrate women into mainstream development has also been stimulated by the new directions that emanated from the Nairobi World Conference (1985) which reviewed the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women.

Regional integration has since the 1960s been taken by African countries as important strategy, a collective approach, to address the question of accelerated and sustainable economic growth and development for poverty alleviation in the continent. Several regional economic integration arrangements have since then been created at regional level to facilitate the promotion of agricultural, industrial, and infrastructural development. Also, regional economic integration has been seen as important instrument for cooperation on technological advancement of the integrating states for accelerated promotion of economic growth and development. Prominent among these arrangements are the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Economic Community for Central Africa States (ECCAS), and the Economic Community of the Sahelian States (CEN-SAD) to mention a few. In addition to these, continental integration has moved through different phases, from the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, through African Economic Community (AEC) in 1991 to African Union (AU) in 2002. While the main preoccupation of the OAU was decolonization, the liberation of African countries and promotion of political stability the focus of the AEC and AU has been more on economic development of the continent.

The performance and impact of these arrangements on development over the years have been mixed from one region to the other given the variations in capacity and strong commitment to integrate. Policy measures on agricultural, industrial and infrastructural issues have been articulated and adopted for implementation at national and regional levels. AU policies on agricultural development have been expressed in a number of declarations and decisions which clarified what should be done individually and collectively in the continent in order to accelerate agricultural output. Also, measures have been formulated on gender mainstreaming into economic integration and development process, including in particular the participation of women in decision-making process, in order to procure more robust and rapid economic growth and development in the member states. But economic integration is largely handicapped by slow ratification and implementation of adopted measures at national level and sufficient resources for program and project implementation at national and regional levels. In this process clear regional measures on multinational programs on rural women and development have not been sufficiently articulated by most of these arrangements. In effect, regionalism has not meaningfully resolved the core issues concerning women and development which are the basis for sustainable economic growth and development. If economic integration process have not sufficiently addressed the empowerment women we are therefore inclined to ask about the responses of agricultural policies to this important matter.

### **III. AGRICULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT: AN OVERVIEW OF POLICIES**

Generally the articulation of agricultural development policies has not been matched by implementation at all levels in the continent. The promotion of agriculture and development in Africa primarily emanated from national policy and legal frameworks that have been put in place to resolve the complex institutional, political, economic and socio-cultural issues relating to agriculture and development. National agricultural programs have in some cases assumed such names as “Green Revolution”, “Operation Feed the Nation” etc. Besides, national Millennium Development Goal reports and poverty reduction strategy papers are two instruments through which countries could address both the gender dimensions of poverty and women’s role in development. Sectoral policies and strategies, such as agriculture, education and labor, provide further opportunities to focus on poverty reduction, women’s vulnerability to poverty and their important role as agents of development. It has been generally observed that most national policies are not sufficiently gender sensitive while acknowledging the fact that women constitute substantial part of the labor force in agriculture. But, then the

implementation of these policies and programs in many countries has been constrained by inadequate funding, poor administration and shortage of trained manpower.

At the continental level, the Treaty of Abuja establishing the African Economic Community explicitly indicated that one of the principal objectives of the organization would be the promotion of agricultural development in the continent. This derived from the understanding of the importance of agriculture for sustainable economic development and the need to halt and reverse the trend in poverty. This was reemphasized in the Constitutive Act which established the AU, and assumed a preeminent position in the priority areas of development laid out in the agenda of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a program of the AU. NEPAD agricultural development has been articulated in the Common African Agricultural Development Policy (CAADP). In addition to this, the AU Strategic Plan 2004 – 2007 had in clear terms stressed agricultural development as a priority in the advancement of continental integration and development. Furthermore, the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa reemphasized the importance of women in the development process in Africa.

The international community has also been in the forefront of enhancing and mainstreaming the role of women in development process. Beginning with the United Nations Beijing Declaration in 1994, the international community in this declaration for the first time articulated clear policy guidelines for mainstreaming women into development process. This derived from the full understanding that women have a critical role to play in the promotion of sustainable economic growth and development in developing countries.

In the same vein, other UN agencies, programs and funds have been active in the promotion of women in development. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), among other things, is engaged in the reduction of gender inequalities in access to and control over productive resources and services and to strengthen women's property and inheritance rights as a means to reduce rural poverty, increase food security and reduce the transmission of HIV/AIDS. In 2006, IFAD included special provisions for support to women in all new loans it approved with the aim to produce a positive impact on poverty. Even then, continental, regional, and international policies have encountered difficulties due to their poor integration into national policies, insufficient funding, inadequate human capacity, and technical assistance to mention a few. Let us now look more closely into the salient issues on women in agriculture.

#### **IV. WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE: THE SALIENT ISSUES**

The various agricultural policies notwithstanding, it is clear that the performance and contribution of women to the development of agriculture in Africa is still fraught with several obstacles. Some of these obstacles derive from historical and cultural circumstances and some from the inadequacies of existing national and international policies to effectively mainstream women into agricultural production and marketing.

For example, in the area of capacity it has been recognized that illiteracy rates remain very high among women in many African countries, and this limits their access to various services. Their poor education relative to men, along with cultural barriers, also means that women are underrepresented in community decision-making structures. Capacity building is also urgent in extension services. Although women are recognized as specific extension clientele group in many African countries yet there are clear operational guidelines in relation to women farmers for the development and execution of extension program activities for women farmers.

Similarly, the land ownership questions remain largely unresolved in most countries in the continent. In some African countries, women's access to and control of land is constrained by various customary and patriarchal social relations. The key sources of this unequal land distribution and tenure problem is the dominance of patriarchy and customary land tenure systems and local authority structures.<sup>iii</sup> In the SADC region unequal gender relations in land control and use have aggravated over the years, with women effectively deprived of the quality of the land rights which they hold. The insecurity of women's land tenure limits the ability of women to make productive investments. Also, women are in most cases not reached by extension services and are rarely members of cooperatives, that distribute government subsidized inputs and vital market information to small farmers. This could be addressed by making extension service more gender-sensitive when organizing activities so that women farmers have full and appropriate access to extension meetings, demonstrations, field days and other activities. A proportion of women farmer participants should be targeted in each activity that could specially benefit them. In countries or places where there are no cultural barriers on joint men-women participation in extension activities, extension worker should strongly motivate women farmers to attend gender-neutral extension activities.

#### **V. Credit**

However, the most important limitation on women's contribution to agricultural development is the lack of credit. Most women, especially those in the rural areas, do not have the money and lack access to formal loans. Several other difficulties confronting women in agricultural production are anchored to the paucity of credit. In view of the gender-biased distribution in access to land, the productive potential of women's plots cannot be increased because women's access to inputs is constrained, mainly by a lack of financial resources. The availability of financial assets is a major support to productivity as it makes possible the purchase of inputs such as pesticides, fertilizer, seeds, tools and machinery and the employment of extra labor.

As independent farmers, women are particularly disadvantaged in their access to formal credit services for the following reasons, (a) they rarely have title to land, (b) they lack information on the availability of formal credit as a result of education and of mobility and (c) limitations arising from national legislation and customary law which do not allow them to share land property rights with their husbands, or because women heads of household are excluded from land entitlement schemes. This implies that fewer female farmers obtain credit from formal sources. Thus, informal sources such as moneylenders, relatives, and credit groups, provide the bulk of credit to women. Within the informal credit system, rotating savings and credit associations, and geographical and kinship groups, are very common among women in sub-Saharan Africa.

For example, in Nigeria, 40 percent of female heads of household, as against 36 percent of male heads of household, obtain credit from formal and informal sources, but only 3 percent of women receive credit from banks, against 15 percent for men. Another indicator that points to the existence of gender discrimination in the credit system is the amount of collateral provided for credit as a percentage of the loan. When the collateral is land, a future crop or a co-signature, the percentage of collateral required is regularly higher for women than for men. The average for women is 33 percent for the three items as against 25, 19, and 23 percent respectively for men.

In the area of informal credit, it has been noted that while informal financial institutions, including kinship networks, moneylenders and group-based arrangements, work reasonably well for women farmers by allowing the women through the use of their good reputation or kinship linkages, to surmount the barriers imposed by lack of collateral and by cultural barriers, they can only mobilize small amounts of financing, which are insufficient to satisfy the total credit needs of female farmers. This implies that an effort is

needed to identify credit systems to address the needs of women farmers. Also, it illustrates the gender bias of the present system which culminates in the undercapitalization of female agriculture. In Nigeria for example, it has been observed that female-headed households possess less than one-half of the total farming equipment owned by the male-headed households, while in Burkina Faso, most female-headed households must rely on hand tools only. This situation cannot be sustained if African countries are to increase agricultural production and reduce poverty. The way forward should therefore, among other things, include effectively taking women out of the informal sector borrowing to a formal sector, with predictable access to capital.

## **VI. THE WAY FORWARD**

In the web of difficulties confronting women in agricultural development it is clear that the most important factor at this moment of economic development of African countries is the paucity of finance. Most other difficulties encountered by women are linked to the lack of financial resources. The existing national and multilateral policies and arrangements relating to agricultural development in Africa have not adequately addressed this question. It is for this reason that this Conference should consider and lay out the roadmap for the implementation of the African Union decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.134-164 (VIII)] on African Trust Fund for Women. The Fund should effectively fill the gaps created in national and international financial support for women in agricultural development in Africa. The questions that readily come to our mind in this connection are what would be the value of the Fund, its characteristics and pattern of operation for sustainability. In addition to these and more importantly how do we ensure that women in remote rural areas know about its existence and how to access credit?

### **African Trust Fund for Women**

In the context of these questions, the features of an African Trust Fund for Women should, inter alia, embrace the following:

#### **(1) The Objectives**

- a) An important objective of the Fund should be to provide adequate financial resources to women in rural areas of African countries to facilitate inputs into agricultural production.
- b) Another vital objective should be provision of resources to facilitate marketing products both locally and internationally.



- c) The Fund must aim at empowering African women to enhance their contributions to agricultural and national development for the alleviation of poverty.
- d) The Fund should aim at transforming small scale women farming into large-scale mechanized farming for higher production in Africa. Mechanized large-scale farming on the basis of village cooperative arrangements among women would go along way at ensuring higher agricultural productivity.
- e) The Fund should support women in research and development which is the basis for increased productivity.

## **(2) Size of Resources**

In view of the enormous resource requirements of African women, the resources of the Fund should be large enough to meet the demands of African women. The actual minimum sum required for the takeoff of the Fund would be determined through appropriate study on the operation of the Fund. In this connection, the Member States of the African Union and development partners should be requested and encouraged to make substantial contributions to the Fund.

## **(3) Operations**

- (a) The operations of the Fund should take into full consideration the geographical size of the continent. There should be an appropriate continental, regional and national structure to facilitate smooth operations of the Fund.
- (b) The operations of the Fund should be based on sustained information about its existence and mode of operation. In other words, there should be continuous dissemination of information about the Fund by the media, television, radio, and print in local languages at the national level.
- (c) The operations should take into account the sustainability of the Fund. The sustainability of the Fund would depend not only on additional new resources from AU Member States and development partners but on the return of the loans made to African women in rural areas.
- (d) Disbursements of funds by the Fund should be demand driven and perceived needs of African women in the rural areas. This approach has an element of

ownership that is necessary for appropriate utility and of increased contribution to agricultural output.

- (e) Operations of the Fund should entail monitoring and evaluation to ensure effective utility of resources and higher agricultural output and better marketing.

These are indicative necessary features for the successful operationalisation of an African Trust Fund for Women.

## **VII. CONCLUSION**

The agricultural sector constitutes the key sector for sustainable economic growth and development of many African countries. Women are the major driving force in this sector, in production and marketing. In the myriads of factors dogging women's higher output, it is obvious that the lack of resources takes a pride of place. The lack of rapid advancement in the agricultural sector of many African countries as we convene here today represent a major factor for the failure to ameliorate and eradicate poverty in the continent. Hence, this is the moment for Africa to effectively lay out the time-table on the establishment and operationalisation of the African Trust Fund for Women. The failure to do so would tacitly amount to an erosion of our drive to the attainment the development goals laid out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration in 2000 and an endorsement of the menace of poverty in many countries in the continent.

**I thank you for your attention.**

## CHAPTER 8

# HANDS ON GIRLS AND SCIENCES

Statement at the Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development Center for Africa  
(Program on Hands on Girls and Sciences), Lilongwe 12 October 2007

- The Representative of UNESCO, Dar-es-Salaam Office
- Director of Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development Centre for Africa
- Facilitators
- Distinguished Participants
- Members of the Press
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me begin by expressing that it is a great pleasure for me to be with you this evening to mark the conclusion of your program. I will like, on behalf of the African Union (AU) and on my own behalf, to warmly congratulate all participants for the successful completion of the course. The Director of the Center intimated me on the intensity of the course as I exchanged views with him during my visit the Center during the week. It is therefore my pleasure to acknowledge your commitment to cope with the various component of the program in the limited time. Beyond this, I have been informed that you all collectively performed well.

I will like to bring to your attention that about a month ago, twelve (12) African countries completed training in Peer Health Education. Today we are gathered here to celebrate the conclusion of another exiting Training of Girls in Sciences. It is gratifying to note the high attendance for this training which is 100 percent. I will in this connection like to commend the Director and the staff of the Center for their excellent activities and commitment to the objectives of the Center. We would urge him and his entire staff not to relent their efforts but to continue with renewed energies to strive for higher levels.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to emphasize that the theme of the program “Hands on Girls Sciences” is very important in the contemporary development setting of Africa. However, for some years now, it has been noted that the proportion of girls in science education had declined significantly. This development is not acceptable given the fact that girls are vital to capacity building in science and technology that are the basis for the take-off and sustainable economic growth and development of African countries. Advanced knowledge in science and technology is necessary for the transformation of the agricultural, industrial, infrastructural and social sectors of our economies. It is on this basis that African countries and the entire continent could meaningfully be in the mainstream of world development.

I am delighted on the information that you substantially addressed certain problems during your program notably, (a) Reasons why girls are under represented in schools, (b) reasons for the low performance of girls in sciences, (c) developed a tool that will help in the understanding of schools’ gender responsiveness and (d) the efficient use of science kits.

I will at this point like to inform you that the AU is in the forefront of the promotion of girls’ education in the sciences. In the AU Pan African Youth Charter, emphasis was placed, among other things, on the encouragement of girls to take science and technical subjects at all levels of education in the continent. In the same vein, at the September 2007 Conference of the African Ministers of Education, in South Africa there were further declarations that flagged the need to strongly encourage girls increased involvement in science and technical subjects. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals also have among other things stressed girls’ education including the sciences. In this connection I will like to commend the Center and UNESCO for responding to these calls with appropriate strategies.

Distinguished participants, I understand that you have been exposed to various ways through which girls could be involved in sciences during this program, ranging from the kitchen gadgets to sophisticated laboratory equipment. In other words, you are already armed with some useful necessary knowledge. I will therefore challenge you to use this knowledge to develop appropriate strategies to ensure greater involvement of girls in science and technical subjects in your respective countries.

In addition to this, attempts should be made to improve the environment of learning of the girl child at home and at school. In the later for example, the unnecessary differentiation between boys and girls in mixed schools should be discouraged and eliminated.

In conclusion, I hope you enjoyed your stay in the Warm Heart of Africa. If you have not availed yourself of this opportunity this time, I hope you will come back again to enjoy the beautiful scenery of Lake Malawi, in Salima, Mangochi, etc to mention a few. I wish you safe journey back to your respective countries.

Thanks for your attention.



# CHAPTER 9

## MENTAL HEALTH FACILITATION

Statement at the Closing of Mental Health Facilitators Training Held at Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development Center for Africa (GCYDCA) on 22 February 2008, Lilongwe, Malawi

- The Director of the Center, Dr. Kenneth Hamwaka
- Director of National Board of Certified Counselors, Ms Wendi K. Schweiger,
- The Clinical Training Coordinator, Center for Credentialing and Education, Dr. J. Scott Hinkle,
- Dr. Dan Bush, Facilitator
- Participants from Member Countries
- Excellencies
- Members of the Press
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure to be here with you this morning at this momentous occasion. I will, on behalf of the African Union and on my own behalf, like to warmly congratulate you for being the first successful group to have this kind of training in the world.

More importantly, I will like to, on behalf of the African Union, to express deep appreciation to the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC), for the interest in African development and selection of Malawi for this first experiment. The African Union believes in capacity building and the effective mainstreaming of the youth into development process of Africa. This is the reason why the Summit of the AU in 2006 adopted the African Charter on Youth. The purpose of which is to create the conditions and enhance the evolvement of African youth in the economic growth and development of Africa.

In the present day environment, youths are inescapably exposed to varying challenges generated by the advancements in science and technology and insufficient attention from parents. The impact of mass media and parental preoccupation with the need for more robust living standards have left most youths with the difficulties of self-identification and challenges creating paths for the attainment of their goals in an increasingly complex political, economic and socio-cultural environment.

The contents of the course as we know, among other things consist of the definition of mental health, its character, and the form of result oriented interventions that are necessary to promote positive functionality and give youths the pride of place in the society.

I once again warmly congratulate the 22 facilitators from Botswana, Malawi, and Tanzania. I have no doubt, at the end of the one-week intensive course, that you are well equipped for the tasks ahead in your countries. The beauty of this training lies in your capacity to train other facilitators within your different countries. I have no illusion, given your commitment that you will effectively and with distinction carry out this assignment.

Of course one must acknowledge the indefatigable energy of the Director of this unique Center and his supporting staff for bringing this program to Africa. It is assumed that you will continue, with your strong commitment to improve the situation of African youth for the sustainable development of the continent Africa. It is assumed that you will continue, with your strong commitment to improve the situation of African youth for the sustainable development of the continent.

In conclusion allow me to remind our distinguished guests from the United States and the 22 eminent brothers and sisters, the facilitators, that Malawi is the Warm Heart of Africa. You are in the midst of very friendly Africans and to enjoin you if you have not done so to visit places on interests in this beautiful country before your departure for home. I wish a pleasant trip back.

Thank you for your attention.

Zikomo!







## CHAPTER 10

### PEAR HEALTH EDUCATION

Remarks at the Closing Ceremony on Regional Training on Peer Health Education organized by the Guidance, Counseling, and Youth Development Centre for Africa (GCYDCA) 17<sup>th</sup> August 2007 at the Koreana Garden, Lilongwe, Malawi

- Hon. Olive Masanza, M.P. Deputy Minister of Education responsible for Primary and Secondary Education
- Mr. Kenneth Hamwaka, Director of the Center
- Dr. Geoffrey Wango, Master of Ceremony
- Distinguished Guests
- Course Participants
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me to be here this evening at this closing ceremony, which concludes the course on the **Regional Training on Peer Health Education**. It is very pleasing for me to be part of this important event.

I will like to take this opportunity to commend the Director of the Center, Mr. Kenneth Hamwaka, for the laudable programs of the Center, which he has placed at the core of the Center's activities. These are unequivocally vital towards capacity building of African youths.

I need not reiterate the fact that, a course of this nature is important towards addressing the basic needs of our children and the diverse vibrant communities in Africa where the promotion of good health holds the key to robust development. This reflects our growing understanding that our youths must be adequately empowered to face the various economic and socio-cultural challenges of our time. It is gratifying to note that the

programs undertaken by the Center are informed by current main global thinking on our youths and development; they are derived essentially from global declarations, including in particular, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and the Declarations and Decisions of the African Union (AU) on development and youth. For example, the Peer Health Education Program is in line with the AU Health Strategy.

I have no doubt that the one-week course has significantly equipped the participants with renewed strategies on how to develop and implement Peer Health Education for young people in your respective countries.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Government of Malawi for its steady support for the Center since its inception; and the valuable presence of Hon. Masanza, M.P., Deputy Minister of Education, here with us this evening in spite of her various engagements, especially the on-going meeting of the Parliament.

Once again on behalf of the African Union, I will like to congratulate all participants on their individual and collective hard work towards the conclusion of the course, and wish you all safe journey back home.

Thank you for your attention.

## CHAPTER 11

# ACCELERATING HIV PREVENTION IN SADC REGION: THE WAY FORWARD

Statement at the Third Annual Forum for the National AIDS Authorities in SADC, held in Blantyre, Malawi, 12 -14 December 2006

### **I. Introduction**

- Honorable Minister of Health, Mrs. Marjorie Ngaunje, MP
- Executive Director, NAC, Malawi, Dr. B. Mwale
- Executive Director, NAC, Lesotho, Mr. K. Sefeanee
- Secretary for Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, OPC, Dr. Mary Shawa
- Director, Social and Human Development and Special Programs, SADC Secretariat, Mr. S. Sianga
- Distinguished participants
- Ladies and gentlemen.

I bring you warm greetings from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare. I sincerely commend the SADC Secretariat and all National AIDS Authorities in the SADC region for this important Forum, which has since its inception in 2004 made significant contribution to the understanding and articulation of ways towards the stemming down the spread of HIV/AIDS in the region.

However, as we gather here this morning, it is a well known fact that we are not yet winning the war against HIV/AIDS, despite the fact that the whole international community remain seized of this matter, with political commitments and policy measures. It has in the last 25 years been a major cause of death in many countries and major menace to mankind.

Given the fact that HIV/AIDS has had more devastating impact on the continent than elsewhere in the world, the AU had been in the forefront of its challenges; developing continental policies to guide regional and national efforts to halt and reverse its onslaught. The AU Summit of April 2001 in Abuja, Nigeria, adopted the Declaration and Framework of Action that spelt out a comprehensive and an integrated approach to address the questions on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases.

Subsequently in June 2001, the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS of the Twenty-Sixth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly articulated a set of political actions on prevention, treatment, care and cure at the regional and national levels.

These declarations notwithstanding, the five-year review in 2006 of implementation of both the AU Declaration and Framework of Action and the United Nations Declaration of Commitment came to similar conclusion on lackluster implementation. Progress in implementation has been constrained by several factors which, among other things include deficiencies in institutions, legislation, human rights to mention a few. Thus, according to the 2006 Report of the UNAIDS, Sub-Saharan Africa continues to bear the brunt of the global epidemic. Adults and children newly infected with HIV rose to 2.8 million in 2006 from 2.4 million in 2004. Two-thirds or 63 percent of all adults and children with HIV globally live in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the epicenter in southern Africa. One third or 32 percent of all people with HIV globally live in southern Africa and 34 percent of all deaths arising from AIDS in 2006 occurred in the region. You will agree with me that these are not acceptable developments.

However, the good news is that HIV/AIDS remain high in the agenda of discussions of the international community. There is renewed commitment to tackle this problem. This was aptly illustrated in the **2005 World Summit Outcome** in which world leaders committed themselves to the scaling up of HIV prevention, treatment and care with the lofty and appropriate goal of universal access to treatment by 2010 for all who need it. The Millennium Development Goal in the same vein envisages the halting and reversing of the spread of HIV by 2015.

This was accorded further impetus in the **Declaration on Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Services by a United Africa**, by the Special

Summit of the AU, in May 2006. While the three areas of tackling HIV/AIDS, prevention, treatment and care, and cure, remain important, it has been rightly recognized that major actions are needed in the area of HIV prevention in order to effectively defeat the pandemic.

The African Ministers of Health could not agree more on this at the Fifty Fifth Session of the World Health Organization (WHO) held on 26 August 2005 when they declared 2006 as the **Year for the Acceleration of HIV Prevention in Africa**. The AU and WHO simultaneously launched this initiative on 11 April 2006 in Addis Ababa, Ouagadougou, Khartoum and Pretoria, and subsequently further launching took place in Abuja on 16 May 2006. This is the very reason why this meeting is convened today. To, in the context of this declaration, review the measures that we taken in the region learn from our successes and failures and to articulate more result oriented policies and actions in this vital area of HIV prevention. That is more imaginative policies and actions that are well informed by the political, economic, legal, and socio-cultural environment and practices of our region.

## **II. Problems in the Prevention of HIV**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen the questions then are what and what are our main concerns on the prevention of HIV our societies? Those issues impeding the curtailment of the spread of HIV among other things include, the fear fed by widespread stigma and discrimination, violence against women, homophobia and other HIV related human right abuses that discourage people from seeking the information and services that will protect them from HIV infection or determine whether they are already carrying the virus.

More importantly, stigma and discrimination often prevent people living with HIV from adopting safe behaviors and seeking access to HIV treatment and care programs.

In addition, the lack of human rights protection, poverty and marginalization allow HIV to take root in society's most vulnerable populations. We are handicapped in this issue by poor provision of services for, sex workers, men having sex with men, and injecting drug users, because of discrimination and political and social taboos. Furthermore, young people and women are particularly vulnerable to infection due to their lack of economic and social power and autonomy in their sexual lives. These are at the heart of the acceleration of the spread of HIV. These positions cannot be fully justified in the present circumstances of HIV impingement in our lives and dangers it poses to future generation.

### **III. The Way Forward**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, what then should be the way forward? The way forward should encapsulate the diverse problems in HIV prevention namely.

#### **(a) Institutions**

Effective prevention in HIV spread implies the availability of appropriate institutions at the national level. As of today, it is gratifying to note that most African countries have established national authorities for the coordination of HIV/AIDS programs. We would urge those countries that have not done so to do so that they could coordinate with this Forum or other forums of this nature in the sharing of experiences. Also, these authorities along with regional Forum should efficiently coordinate and harmonize strategies with all relevant external partners in order to effectively halt the spread of HIV. The success in the arrest of the spread of HIV would largely hinge on the availability of well structured institutions that would facilitate rapid implementation of relevant policies.

#### **(b) Resources**

Effective prevention in HIV spread will hinge on the availability of sufficient and predictable resources. The Abuja and Maputo Declarations among other things stipulated the allocation of 15 percent of national budget as basic requirement to address the problems of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases. It is pleasing again to note -that Botswana has reached this target while a number of other countries have attained 10 to 12 percent in their allocations. But several countries are still lagging behind. It is critical for all countries to reach the target to make resources available for HIV prevention. Besides, other innovative funding methods should be devised to increase resources for HIV prevention. Also, incoming external funds, including those from the Global Fund should be timely and effectively utilized, reaching the poor in order to halt and reverse the spread of HIV. Sufficient and predictable resources are fundamental to bringing about the halting and reversing of the spread of HIV.

#### **(c) Health System and Capacity Building**

Authentic prevention of the spread of HIV would depend on the availability of skilled personnel to execute the programs on preventive measures. The inadequacies in human resources in terms of numbers, mix of skills, motivation and retention constitute key obstacles to HIV prevention. The challenges of the People Living with HIV/AIDS should be fully and adequately met with adequate human resources. The health systems should



more imaginatively address the question of mother-to-child transmission as a critical factor to halt the spread of HIV.

(d) Affordable Commodities

The availability of commodities at affordable prices is key to the success of preventive measures. The prevailing poverty levels in most countries make most commodities on the prevention of HIV not easily accessible. In this connection, it is vital for countries to strengthen procurement and supply of essential medicines and commodities including, ARVs and condoms and remove the transportation difficulties associated with assessing them. These are basic to the halting of the spread of HIV.

(e) Stigma, discrimination, gender and human rights

The prevention of the spread of HIV is about appropriate measures to address the outstanding elusive issue of stigma, discrimination, gender and human rights. Most countries have not adopted policies and legislation protecting human rights of People Living with HIV/AIDS. It is important for those countries that have not done so to, as matter of urgency, enact legislation that will minimize stigmatization and discrimination of People Living with HIV/AIDS, in order to remove the key setback to the halting of the spread of HIV.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I will reiterate that challenges of HIV/AIDS remain an enormous task for all us in our time. The distinguished experts in the days ahead at this meeting would be confronted with task of coming up with more result oriented ways to effectively halt the acceleration of HIV in the region. This objective is right within framework of our overall broadly accepted goal of universal access to treatment by 2010, and of halting and reversing the spread of HIV by 2015. We are convinced that the key to success in this objective requires HIV programs that greatly reduce the number of new infections.

Finally, I will emphasize the need for optimism that with appropriate programs on the prevention of HIV, the dynamics and the winds in the sails of HIV/AIDS would be removed. The epidemic would be defeated just as mankind had, in history, in the past conquered other troubling pandemics. The action is now.

I wish you successful deliberations and thank you for your attention.



## CHAPTER 12

# LEADERSHIP, STOP AIDS AND KEEP THE PROMISE

Statement at the World AIDS. Day 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007 at the Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development Center for Africa (GCYDCA) Area 43, M1, Lilongwe

Theme: Leadership

Slogan: Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise.

- Minister of Health, Hon. Marjorie Ngaunje, M.P.
- Chief Executive, Lilongwe City Assembly, Prof. Donton Mkandawire
- High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa H.E. Ms. N Martha Tsheole
- Excellencies
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps
- Resident Representative of UNFPA Ms Esperance Fundira
- Resident Representative of African Development Bank Mr. Frank S. Kufakwandi
- Representatives of Intergovernmental Organizations
- Director of Guidance, Counseling & Youth Development Center for Africa, Dr. Kenneth Hamwaka
- Students
- Members of the Media, All protocols observed

Today represents an important day for humanity in our fight against HIV/AIDS epidemic that has caused unacceptable high level of deaths worldwide, and we are still counting. On this day every year, we renew our collective solidarity for support for those infected and affected by the epidemic. We gather together to reassure them that we profoundly share in their difficulties, and that we shall not concede in the struggle to overcome the epidemic.

It is also the day, in which we examine what actions have been taken, evaluate our successes, identify the bottlenecks and chart the road map to effectively contain the spread of the pandemic. The theme "Leadership" for this commemoration as globally agreed remains vital at this point of our fight against this epidemic. Renewed commitment of leadership at all levels is desirable in order to consolidate success stories and meaningfully reduce the spread of the pandemic.

The importance of leadership was emphasized in the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, 2001 which concluded the Special African Summit on this subject. Leadership has also been underscored in other Declarations, the Maputo 2003, Gaborone 2005, Commitment Brazzaville 2006 and Decisions Abuja 2006. Broadly, these outcomes, all in the framework of the global approach to the subject, for example the United Nations Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS 2001, are shared by African development partners. It is therefore important to state that the AU Commission has worked -closely with the United Nations Agencies, funds and programs, such UNAIDS, World Health Organization, UNFPA to mention a few in the implementation of these outcomes at regional and national levels. The AU commends the substantial progress made in containing new infections by leadership in Malawi and looks forward to the sustenance and improvement on this progress.

However, as we mark this day we all know that the situation in Africa remains unsatisfactory. It is estimated that in Sub-Saharan Africa, 22.5 million of people are living with HIV, which is approximately 68 percent of the global total. The challenges of the epidemic in Africa still consist in access to prevention, treatment, care and support. We are concerned the impact of the epidemic remains high on the youth, adolescent and women as well as of its linkage to poverty aggravation and the potential to reverse economic growth in the continent.

Honorable Minister, Excellencies, Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen, the attainment of the development targets by African countries, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), may depend, to a large extent, on the progress we make in the arrest of the spread of the epidemic.

Hence, we therefore like to passionately sensitize ourselves to the slogan STOP AIDS. KEEP THE PROMISE, to refocus our attention, and to urge for an extraordinary leadership at all levels in the complex issues of this epidemic.

Here we are talking about more robust leadership at the global level to ensure adequate resources for the Global Fund and universal access. At the regional level, leadership should continue to ascertain comprehensive implementation of regional programs on the various aspects of the epidemic. Leadership at this level should also come up with innovative approaches derived from given experiences.

At the national level, leadership should clearly mean leadership in both the public and the private sectors. It should imply a recommitment by both to comprehensively resolve the unresolved problems that account for the spread of the epidemic. The civil society organizations should also be more empowered to take more leadership role. The leadership role could entail innovative approaches, programs and projects, to tackle more effectively the diverse problems in prevention, treatment, care and support. An integrated leadership role in prevention, treatment, care and support would go a long way in taken the steam out of the sail of the epidemic.

Honorable Minister, Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, leadership role strongly suggests and unequivocally implies that we should effectively STOP AIDS AND KEEP THE PROMISE.

I thank you for your attention.



# **CHAPTER 13**

## **TSETSE AND TRYPANOSOMOSIS AND DEVELOPMENT**

Statement at the Closing of the Course in Epidemiology with Particular Reference to Tsetse and Trypanosomosis at the AU Center for Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases, Lilongwe. 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007 - 26<sup>th</sup> October 2007

- The Representative of the Director for the Centre for Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases
- The Director for Animal Health and Industry
- Distinguished Guests
- Course Participants
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honor for me to be here this evening to witness the closing of the course in Epidemiology with special emphasis in Tsetse and Trypanosomosis. I bring you warm greetings from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Alpha Oumar Konare. I will like to at this point emphasize that the eradication of tsetse and trypanosomosis is high on the agenda of development priorities of the African Union. Currently, the AU has engaged consultants to work out the modalities for rapid eradication in Southern Africa region. Malawi is one of the pilot countries in this project.

This course as we all know was specifically requested by the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC, and designed for its staff working in the Department of Veterinary Services in that country. I have been made to understand that

this is the third group from DRC to attend the Epidemiology courses at the Centre since 2005. So far all the participants have been DRC nationals working for the Veterinary Department.

However in addition to the three Epidemiology courses, another group of six participants from the same country attended a 4-weeks course in Laboratory Diagnostics during mid 2005. This reflects the cordial relationship between the Centre and the government of the DRC and more importantly the trust the DRC government has in the Centre. These courses are a result of the agreement between the Directorate General of Development Cooperation (DGDC) office in Kinshasa, the Belgium Technical Cooperation (BTC) office in Kinshasa and the Centre for Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases, CTTBD, for the latter to carry out the training.

The current course, Epidemiology with particular reference to Tsetse and Trypanosomosis, was requested by the DRC government noting the enormous impact tsetse and trypanosomosis has on the livestock industry in the country. It is a well known fact that the disease is an important constraint to livestock productivity especially in sub-Saharan Africa where about 35 million head of cattle in an area of approximately 10 million square kilometers are under threat. Unfortunately the adverse effects of this disease are felt mostly in the rural areas where development is thus retarded even further not to mention the suffering brought by the disease to humans through Sleeping Sickness.

The objectives of the course were therefore targeted at equipping senior staff in the veterinary department with the necessary knowledge and skills to enable them to handle and analyze animal health and production data. They should be able to interpret data of clinical experiments, surveillance, diagnosis of diseases and control and eradication of economically important I am confident that after 8 weeks the participants have a good understanding of the ecology and epidemiology of diseases and can confidently predict future patterns of diseases, with trypanosomosis at the core and receiving special attention.

It is hoped that the course will contribute to the monitoring of the extent of the spread and risk posed by animal diseases especially trypanosomosis and other trans-boundary diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Anthrax and Rinderpest which are rampant in the region. As senior personnel



you will also be expected to impart the knowledge and skills you have gained from here to other staff at your various work stations. The long term effects will be better and efficient disease control strategies and improved productivity of the livestock. May I therefore urge all participants to seek to preserve and add to the knowledge gained from this refresher course if any impact is to be felt in the DRC, the SADC region and the African continent as a whole.

On behalf of the African Union, let me also take this opportunity to thank the Government of Belgium, in particular the Belgium Technical Cooperation, BTC, who sponsored this course and also for the support they have given to the Centre for so many years.

In conclusion, I assume that the eight weeks you have been in Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa, have been a memorable experience which will stay with you for the rest of your life. I wish you a safe trip back to DRC and request that you keep in touch with the Director and staff of the Centre.

Thanks for your attention.



## CHAPTER 14

# EPIDEMIOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT

Statement at the Opening of the Course in Applied Epidemiology for Veterinarians at the Center for Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases Lilongwe, 8th June 2007

- The Director for the Centre for Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases
- The Representative of the Director for Animal Health and Industry
- Distinguished Guests
- Course Participants
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure to welcome you all to the opening of this course in Applied Epidemiology for Veterinarians from the SADC countries. I will begin this statement by reiterating that Epidemiology was the first and has been the core course at the Centre for Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases since 1999. It has also been the course which has been in high demand by veterinarians in the region and other parts of the continent.

The major reason for this is that prevention of diseases has become more important globally thus monitoring, planning and regulating are now becoming the major tasks of a veterinarian, particularly those in the public sector.

Consequently, veterinarians need to have basic skills to handle and analyze animal health and production data. Also, they must be able to interpret data of clinical experiments, surveillance, diagnosis of diseases and control and eradication of economically important diseases. In addition, they need to understand the ecology and epidemiology of diseases and have the capacity to predict future patterns of diseases.

We believe a number of the participants have already gone through the initial 8-weeks course in Epidemiology which focused mainly on Statistics, Epidemiology, GIS and management. I am sure you have gained important principles that can help to handle, analyze and interpret data of various kinds.

However, we all know that basic knowledge and skills on their own may not be adequate. They could only be appreciated if they are applied to real and practical situations. This course, Applied Epidemiology, is therefore aimed at imparting skills that would enable participants apply principles of Epidemiology to animal health situations on the ground. It is assumed that at the end of the two weeks participants would be able to critically analyze epidemiological data and aspects of animal health management in the SADC Region. Specifically participants would be expected, inter alia, to be able to:

1. Collect, analyze and interpret animal health and production data
2. Assess productivity and health of livestock populations
3. Monitor specific livestock diseases
4. Carry out disease outbreak investigations
5. Support disease control and production programs

The ultimate goal would be better and efficient disease control strategies and improved productivity of livestock. May I therefore urge all participants to take this refresher course seriously if any impact is to be felt in the region.

On behalf of the African Union, let me take this opportunity to thank the SADC PRINT Project and the European Union who are sponsoring this course. Without their support this course may not have materialized.

Finally I would like to welcome you all to Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa, and wish you a good stay. I am sure you will take advantage of your presence in Malawi to travel and see existing places of interest across the country.

I thank you for your attention.





# **CHAPTER 15**

## **DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT**

Statement at the Opening of the Laboratory Technicians Course at the Centre for Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases, Lilongwe, Malawi, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006

- The Director for the Centre for Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases
- The Director of Animal Health and Industry
- Distinguished Guests
- Course Participants
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure to be with you this morning. I bring you warm greetings from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare. I welcome you all to this important event; the opening of the Laboratory Technicians course to be conducted here, at this eminent Centre for Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases, CTTBD. In the current global dispensation, this course is timely as it is essentially designed to enhance the capacities of veterinary laboratory technicians on veterinary diagnostic services.

Let me reiterate from the outset that veterinary diagnostic services are the key to accurate and timely livestock disease detection, control and prevention. They are the cornerstone of meaningful international trade as well as any disease intervention strategy. However, this notwithstanding, it is common knowledge that these services are yet to receive sufficient attention and funding from governments in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, hence these services had diminished in most of SADC member states.

It is instructive to underscore at this point that the World Trade Organization (WTO), Office International d'Epizootics (OIE), and other international trade organizations have put in place international veterinary policies that demand high quality veterinary certification of animals and animal products. This has been carried out with the aim of stemming the free circulation of animals and animal products in international trade that can lead to an increased risk of disease spread. Besides, it is also an international requirement for veterinary diagnostic laboratories to put in place Total Quality Management/Assurance Systems to ensure the credibility of laboratory outputs that meet customer expectations and international recognition.

Furthermore, I will emphasize that the international recognition that the SADC veterinary diagnostic services wish to enjoy is based on qualitative and reliable diagnostic results, produced by highly sensitive and specific diagnostic tests. These can only be produced if the management of the testing laboratory is, among other things, sufficiently updated on the new techniques and developments in the field. Should this not be the case, SADC could lose its regional and international trade partners in animal and animal products if qualitative veterinary diagnostic services are not re-established, implemented and maintained. Laboratory technicians are the front line personnel in this field but most of them have not been able to update their skills and knowledge. In other words, the expansion of external trade of SADC countries in animal and animal products would depend on rapid internalization of new techniques and developments in qualitative veterinary diagnostic services.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the importance of qualitative veterinary diagnostic services cannot be more emphasized in our contemporary world in which we are confronted with the possible out break of bird flu the H5N 1 virus and the foot and mouth cow diseases that could have devastating impact on human lives and economy especially in African developing economies. The outbreak of the former; that is the mutation of the virus from birds to human and human-to- if human, could result in millions of death in African countries and major reversal in economic growth and development. Most African countries do not have the medical delivery system and resources to cope with such out break. Also, it would result in major destruction of poultry industry, the loss



of employment and income for substantial part of the population. In effect, there could be unprecedented aggravation of poverty.

I will like to inform you that the African Union has taken note of this development and alerted African leaders with appropriate decision passed at its Summit in Sirte in Libya in July 2005. It was proposed that African countries should take appropriate individual and collective actions to combat the possible out break of the bird flu in Africa. In this, Africa also anticipates the cooperation of the international community to support the individual and collective actions of African countries. Indeed, in recent days, the international community. has been more sensitized to the possibilities of this outbreak with the reports of bird flu with the H5N 1 category virus in chickens in Nigeria and Egypt in Africa and in Germany, France, India and Iran.

It is against this background that the proposal to train this level of personnel was made; that is, the desire to keep pace with changes and developments in this field, especially in the basic good laboratory management practice. This will go a long way towards contributing to the main objective of this programme which is to ensure food security and improve farmer's income, through improved animal health, increased animal production, as well as increased intra and international trade in animal and animal products through better, accurate and timely diagnosis and prevention of livestock diseases in the small scale and commercial farming sectors of the SADC region.

It is my hope, and indeed those of the organizers of the workshop, that you will avail yourself of the unique opportunities offered by this two-week course, to enhance your capacity to perform your day-to-day professional activities more efficiently and effectively when you return to your work stations.

In conclusion, I will take this opportunity on behalf of the Director for CTTBD, to thank the SADC Secretariat, in particular PRINT Project for the robust support that they provided to the Centre to make this course a reality. Finally, I wish all participants from Zambia and the host country, Malawi, pleasant and comfortable stay at the Centre during the duration of the course.

Thank you for your attention.



## CHAPTER 16

# AFRICA WATER VISION 2025: THE RELEVANCE OF RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN WATER AND SANITATION IN SADC

**Keynote Address** By Prof. R. Omotayo Olaniyan, AU Regional Delegate To SADC at the Seminar on Water And Sanitation in SADC: Innovative Approaches to the Mobilization Of Resources and Policy Implementation Organized by AU-SARO and ECA-SA from 10 – 11 December 2008 in Lusaka, Zambia.

- Director of Planning and Information, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, Mr. Benny Chundu
- Excellencies
- Director Economic Commission for Africa-Southern Africa, Ms. Jennifer Kargbo
- Chief Water Operations Officer, African Development Bank, Mr. Tefera Woudeneh,
- Senior Water and Sanitation Expert, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Mr. Obonetse Alfred Masedi,
- Food Security and Nutrition Advisor, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Dr. Angel Elias Daka
- Representatives of Intergovernmental Organizations
- Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations
- Members of the media
- Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

In this Keynote Address, I will speak on the theme “Africa Water Vision 2025: The Relevance of Resource Mobilisation and Policy Implementation in Water and Sanitation in SADC”.

I will like to commence this address by conveying the warm greetings of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Dr. Jean Ping to all delegates and participants from the various specialized institutions in the region. It is a great honor to convene this important Seminar in the beautiful city of Lusaka.

I take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the African Union (AU), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and African Development Bank (AfDB) to the government and peoples of Zambia for the tremendous support that has been rendered towards the convening this meeting.

In the same vein we highly appreciate the support of Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) by availing us the use of this beautiful hall and the facilities therein. Also, we acknowledge the cooperation and presence of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), several specialized institutions on water in the region, and the University of Zambia. This is an important demonstration of our shared view on the importance of water and sanitation in development process.

The African Union, as we all know, perceives water and sanitation as vital driver of sustainable economic growth and development and poverty alleviation in the continent. At this critical moment in Africa’s development it is convinced that this is the time to take necessary action to robustly made advancements in water and sanitation. It is for this reason that the last Summit of the African Union held from 24 June to 1 July 2008 in Sharm-El-Sheik, Egypt, was devoted to “Meeting the Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation”. The aim was to refocus attention to the challenges and recommit ourselves to the attainment of the goals on water and sanitation.

As we all know, the path towards the attainment of these goals has been collectively articulated in a number of related documents, including, inter alia, the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water in Africa and the Declaration on Climate Change in Africa”. Also, important arrangements such as the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW)

has been put in place to guide and provide necessary oversight on water matters. It is a platform for political leadership, policy direction and advocacy on the use and management of water resources. But **“Africa Water Vision for 2025”** represents the most vital the landmark document for the consummation of African objectives in water and sanitation. This was in 2005 effectively complemented with “SADC Regional Water Policy”, a policy framework that embodies the specific strategies for the specific situation on water resources and management in Southern Africa.

### **Distinguished ladies and gentlemen**

The African Water Vision for 2025 derives from the clear understanding that water will play a crucial role in our drive to accomplish sound socio-economic development in Africa. It derives from our understanding that the sustainability of water resources cannot be taken for granted since it is threatened by certain natural phenomena and human factors. These are threats that pose challenges to the management of water resources and to the satisfaction of competing demands for basic water supply and sanitation, food security, economic development and the environment.

Thus, it is envisaged that the achievement of the Africa Water Vision would, among other things, require water governance, wisdom, financing, transparency, accountability, information and knowledge sharing, inter-country cooperation and grass root support to mention a few. More importantly, the investment required for the long-term African Water Vision target was calculated to be US\$ 20 billion per annum. An initial investment target of US\$ 10 billion per year was suggested to address urgent needs in the continent.

In this connection the African Water Facility (AWF) was established at the AfDB. As a grant-based facility it is expected to accelerate investments and coordinate as well as target aid flows to water sector in Africa. In this context the African Water Facility should be very helpful in coordinating resources from bilateral and multilateral sources, especially including those from the Global Environmental Facility, and the G-8.

However, as has been noted in the Africa Water Development Report 2006, the level of water application in the general socio-economic development efforts of African countries still remain very low. This suggests there are still bottlenecks in several areas including the mobilization of resources and policy implementation. It has not been easy to meet the financial targets articulated in the Africa Water Vision and there are concerns on the utility

of available resources. These are outcomes largely dictated by the situations in national and international environments.

At the domestic level, resource mobilization has two dimensions, both vital to achieving the goals in water and sanitation. The first is building the domestic financial system (the banking and insurance sector as well as the market for equities and public private debt). The second is increasing government revenue mobilization. While savings performance varies between countries, African countries have lower savings and investment rates than other less developed countries. Thus, policies to promote savings have a central role to play in driving growth via investment, especially in water and sanitation, and reducing dependence on foreign financial assistance in the face of anticipated reduction in foreign aid.

At the international level, it is important to underscore that an equitable trade system offers the first important area for significant external resource mobilization. An equitable trade system could result in substantial increases in foreign exchange earnings and enhance the capacities of SADC countries to more meaningfully address the issues in the processes towards attaining the targets in water and sanitation. This has generally not occurred as developing countries including from the region continue to negotiate for a fair system in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Round.

Other areas in which external resources could be released for water and sanitation are in the substantial external debt cancellation and increases in foreign direct investment and foreign aid. Some countries in the region, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia have to a large extent benefited from this. But increases in foreign direct investment and foreign aid to the continent remain low compared with other regions in the world. In both, there is a hiatus between pronouncements and performance by development partners. In other words we are yet to see substantial contributions from the G-8 and the full implementation of the United Nations Monterrey Consensus on financial cooperation with developing countries that could assist in the attainment of US\$ 20 billion target in the Africa Water Vision 2025.

It is not an overemphasis to restate that efficient **policy implementation** is critical to the attainment of the goals in water and sanitation and socio-economic development. But such efficiency derives from certain conditions. First, there should be strong institutional structure to provide the framework for action on policy within the country and with the

external world. It is not clear if most countries in the sub-region have adequately addressed this issue. In other words there is need for those countries that have not done so to take necessary measures to create these structures and for those that have done so to strengthen them. In doing this they should effectively avail themselves the opportunities that is offered by the African Water Facility.

Secondly, there would be need for adequate human resource capacity; that is of full compliment of skilled labor force to efficiently coordinate, interpret and operationalize the policies on water and sanitation. Many countries in the region remain weak in this aspect. Again the opportunities offered by African Water Facility for capacity building should be utilized together with technical cooperation opportunities provided by developed countries with advanced developments in water and sanitation.

#### **Distinguished ladies and gentlemen**

In **conclusion**, I will reemphasize that the Africa Water Vision for 2025 offers great hope for Africa in its effort to address comprehensive the water issues in the continent. Water has a vital role to play in our individual and collective efforts to overcome the socio-economic crisis confronting Africa. But 2025 is just around the corner. As we shall be discussing here in the next three days we would like to remind ourselves that substantial percentage of our population do not have access to drinkable water that is necessary for healthy living. In other words there is an urgent need to find solutions to the several problems militating against the attainment of the goals in water and sanitation especially in resource mobilization and policy implementation.

The good news here this morning is that we are blessed with the presence of high caliber of experts from the region. Hence, we are in position to add values to our understanding of the problems in resource mobilization and policy implementation on water and sanitation in SADC, and that we that we shall come forth with robust recommendations to advance resource mobilization and policy implementation that would be useful all stakeholders in our sub-region.

I wish you successful deliberation.

**I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.**





# **CHAPTER 17**

## **STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIONS TOWARDS AFRICA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 5<sup>TH</sup> WORLDWATER FORUM**

**Statement of the African Union Commission (AUC) at the Meeting of the Stakeholders Consultations towards Africa's Participation in the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum: 12 – 13 December 2008, Lusaka, Zambia**

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Water and Sanitation Expert Mr. Obonetse Masedi

- United Nations Economic Commission Southern Africa Office (ECA-SA) Director, Ms. Jennifer Kargbo
- African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) South Africa, Department of Water Affairs, Deputy Director General, Ms. Thande Mbassa.
- African Development Bank (AfDB), Chief Water Operations Officer, Mr. Tefera Woudeneh
- Distinguished Participants
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure and honour for me, on behalf of the Commission of the African Union, to address this august gathering of eminent personalities in the SADC region which will deliberate on Africa's position as we prepare for the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum scheduled for Istanbul, Turkey from 16 – 23 March 2009.

This deliberation is part of the regional consultations which the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), African Development Bank (AfDB) will undertake in all regions of our continent, with all stakeholders, in its effort to ensure that we have a strong input into the outcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

I will in this connection therefore like to congratulate the AfDB for taking the important initiative to convene this meeting back-to-back to the seminar on "Water and Sanitation in SADC: Innovative Approaches to the Mobilization of Resources and Policy Implementation" that was concluded yesterday. Also, we would like to appreciate the support of the host country, Zambia for this meeting.

Also, I will like to take this opportunity to convey the warm greetings of His Excellency, Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, who is deeply committed to the solutions on the issues on water and sanitation which are critical factors to sustainable socio-economic development in Africa.

Mr. Chairman, as we all anticipate, the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum will deliberate and proffer solutions that will facilitate the global achievement of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) in Water and Sanitation as we approach 2015. This derives from the observation of mixed progress so far in the attainment of MDGs in Water and Sanitation in different regions worldwide. There are concerns that the targets set in the goals are not likely to be attained by many countries particularly those in African region.

It therefore follows that Africa should make meaningful contributions that will advance global efforts for the achievement of the goals in water and sanitation especially in our continent.

I will like at this point to restate that there are still many unresolved issues in our drive to achieve MDGs targets on Water and Sanitation in Africa. The recent Report of the Joint Monitoring Programme of UNICEF and WHO, in 2006, succinctly concluded that eight years after the 2000 Millennium Summit, "the world has not made significant progress" to achieve key MDG targets for 2015. The report further stressed that based on current trends, sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, could miss all the MDG targets.

In the same vein, the Fourth Assessment Report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007 stated, with high confidence, that 'Africa is one of the

most vulnerable continents to Climate Change and Climate Variability. This situation is aggravated by the interaction of 'multiple stresses', occurring at various levels. Yet another crucial factor is the low adaptive capacity of the continent.

Besides, this vulnerability is exacerbated by existing developmental challenges such as endemic poverty, complex governance and institutional dimensions; limited access to capital, including markets, infrastructure and technology; ecosystem degradation; and complex disasters and conflicts'.

In addition, the IPCC Report further emphasized that, 'Climate Change will aggravate the water stress currently faced by some countries in Africa, while some countries that currently do not experience water stress will be prone to risk of water stress'.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, these are not encouraging news for us. However, I need not reiterate how much we have paid attention to Water and Sanitation issues at all levels, regional and sub-regional in continent. Political declarations have been well complemented with the articulation of action-oriented policies at the regional and sub-regional levels. The most important among these include, Sharm El-Sheik Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa", the Tunis Ministerial Declaration on accelerating water security for Africa's development, the eThekweni Ministerial Declaration on Sanitation, the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water in Africa, and the "Africa Water Vision for 2025".

At the sub-regional level, these have been well complemented with the "SADC Regional Water Policy", conceived in the framework of the Regional Indicative Development Plan. All these have assisted in our understanding of the critical and specific water and sanitation issues in our region. Besides, the Seminar that was concluded yesterday has enabled us more to come into greater grip with the fundamental issues in water and sanitation in SADC.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen going beyond these it is important to acknowledge that we have in our region embarked on a number of projects in water and sanitation where we have gain some experiences. Achievements in some areas have indicated the influence of certain positive factors while failures in others have suggested the preponderance of negative factors. In other words our experience so far in our region would enable us to articulate better ways towards the attainment of the goals on water

and sanitation as we shall be considering our input into Africa's position vis-à-vis the Istanbul Forum.

In **conclusion** Mr. Chairman, I have no illusions, with the high level of water experts present here we shall at the end of this meeting make sound recommendations as inputs for Africa's position for the Forum. In doing this we must effectively underscore all internal and external factors that will facilitate the attainment of MDGs on water and sanitation.

I wish successful deliberations.

Thank you for your attention.

## **PART THREE**

# **INTEGRATION, GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT**



## **CHAPTER 18**

# **MALAWI'S DUAL MEMBERSHIP IN SADC AND COMESA**

Statement at the Stakeholders' Workshop on the Study of Malawi's Dual Membership in SADC And COMESA, Capital Hotel, Lilongwe, Malawi, 26 - 27 April 2007

- The Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Private Sector Development, Hon. Rashid Gaffar, M.P.,
- Dr. Alfred Latigo of the UNECA,
- Distinguished participants,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

I consider it a great honor to be invited to this important meeting which will deliberate on the question of Malawi's membership of both the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). I bring you warm greetings from the Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare, who we all know has high enthusiasm on the rapid advancement of African integration and development.

I will like to warmly commend the efforts of the Malawi government for this prompt initiative which we all know derives from the decision of the AU Ministers of Integration Meeting in 2006 and the subsequent decision of the AU Summit in Banjul Gambia in the same year.

As we all know, both decisions have put a cap on the formation of new regional integration in the continent and encouraged Member States belonging to more than one regional integration arrangement to carry out studies and consider the relevance of belonging to one. The aim here was to consolidate the AU identified regional integration arrangements that would serve as the building blocks for the African Union as well articulated in the Abuja Treaty of 1991 on African Economic Community (AEC).

One would like to commend the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) for the pointed preliminary studies that it has carried out through consultations with the stakeholders in Malawi. The result of these consultations has provided us with very useful information on the current thinking on this subject and would be helpful during the discussions at this workshop.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished participants allow me to reiterate two important facts that are relevant to the outcome of this workshop. First, the advancement consolidation of the integration of the AU depends on the strengthening and the deepening of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) identified as the building blocs. The rapid attainment, for example, of customs union by these RECs would facilitate the creation of customs union at the level of the AU.

Second, continental integration is critical for Africa to have proper leverage in global negotiations, especially in World Trade Organization (WTO), where powerful industrially developed countries and other regional blocks have strong influences on the nature and principles for international trade. Individual African countries or RECs will not pull tangible leverage in these bodies, but collectively African countries in the context of the AU could do so as already demonstrated some negotiations.

Mr. Chairman, I have no illusions that the task ahead of the Workshop is a difficult one. But the time has come for more dispassionate examination of the concept of regionalism, the rationale for participation in integration process, including in particular the long-term benefits. I do believe, as many of us here today do, that the promotion of national economic growth and development still constitutes the primary reason for African countries' engagement in regionalism. Certainly, there are other complementary reasons which include political influence, security and political stability. These could not be contested since these are intricately linked to economic growth and development



process. However, as we engage in regional integration we also acknowledge that there are costs associated with membership; costs are naturally and inevitably associated with the membership of any intergovernmental organization.

Historical ties are undoubtedly important factors in the building of relationships. However, these notwithstanding let us engage in the vision of long-term benefits, which regionalism is all about. In other words, what integration arrangement would offer the optimum economic benefits, trade expansion, investment etc in the long run with its advancement and consolidation? We are also equally convinced that as we struggle to reduce poverty levels in different African countries, these are key issues that must be targeted. Regional integration offers us the best hope, complementing national development economic policies, in the direction of sustainable economic growth and development for an authentic poverty reduction.

At the same time, it would be appropriate if we do not lose sight of the bigger picture as we deliberate on this matter. We should take into consideration that successful integration of the AU at the level of customs union would offer the whole market of Africa to all 53 African countries, large and small, irrespective of which RECs a country belongs to. The trade and investment opportunities would be tremendous for all countries with the availability of sound infrastructure network across the continent. In other words, as we debate this matter, it is always important that we keep the bigger picture of continental integration in view in order to generate robust recommendations for an enduring decision.

I thank you for your attention.



## **CHAPTER 19**

# **MACROECONOMIC POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL CONVERGENCE ON SADC: SOME CRITICAL ISSUES**

Statement at the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Assessment of Macroeconomic Policy and Institutional Convergence in Member States of Southern African Development Community, 4-5 September 2007 Johannesburg, South Africa

- Mr. Chairman Dr. Robert Okello, Director, NEPAD and Regional Integration Division, UNECA, Southern Africa Office.
- Mr. N. Murangi, Director, Industry, Finance and Investment TIFI SADC.
- Mr. Tito T. Mboweni, Chair, Committee of Central Bank Governors (CCGB) and Governor, South Africa Reserve Bank.
- Dr. Keith Jefferis, Managing director. Econsult Botswana
- Dr. A. Latigo, Senior Economic Affairs Officer - UNECA
- Distinguished Participants, Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me first to express that I take it as a great honor to be here this morning at the commencement of this important meeting and to convey to you the warm greetings of the Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare. As we all know, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is one of the important RECs that is in the forefront of the consolidation of regional integration in the continent.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the SADC member states and the commitment of the technocrats at the SADC Secretariat as well the strong support of regional institutions, especially the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). They have all continuously acknowledged the importance of regionalism for the sustainable economic

growth and development of the countries in our region in our contemporary world economic situation. That the full integration of the markets of the fourteen countries in the region is a precondition for their individual and collective economic growth and development.

As we engage in the debate in the Union Government at the continental level, the AU, as stipulated in Abuja Treaty and the Constitutive Act, counts on the rapid consolidation of the RECs, including SADC, as the pillars for the attainment of African Economic Community. This is the reason why this meeting on the review of macroeconomic policy and institutional convergence in SADC member states is very important not just for SADC but for the also for the ultimate goal of robust African Economic Community.

As we all know, macroeconomic policy convergence represents an essential step in market integration. If successfully carried out, it would enable the community to take a leading role in the establishment of financial, macroeconomic and price stability and therefore of employment creation, which are principal preconditions for sustained economic growth and development. Also, it would enable the integrating member states harmoniously address economic shocks that are inevitable in the process of economic growth. It is highly commendable that SADC had set this process in motion in 2002.

However, so far the achievements at best remain mixed and very modest. Some countries have made some progress in a number of targets while some have not. It is important to, at this point; acclaim the efforts of those countries that have taken appropriate steps to attain the set targets. And at the same time to encourage those countries that have made modest progress on the targets or have failed to do so for various reasons. There could be militating obstacles that are often beyond states. In this respect, one could stress the impact of the changes in the world economy and others could include the structural rigidities in national economies, in particular institutional limitations.

The objective of this meeting is essentially on how to take this process forward in the region as an essential aspect of regional economic integration. The Report before us has shed light on a number of issues that need to be reexamined. Also, the presentations on the different experience in different countries would further provide more insight into specific issues that the Community should pay more attention to in order to advance macroeconomic policy and institutional convergence.

There are important fundamental issues that we need to fine-tune and calibrate. We would need to prescribe some bold solutions in order to strengthen the macroeconomic policy and institutional convergence process. In this vein, the meeting would, among other things, like to advice on the way forward on the following:

(1) Methodological and statistical issues

To in particular address how we could increase the comparability of indicators, the strengthening of the harmonization of national statistics and building sustainable capacities in the member states.

(2) Regional integration Issues

External shocks originating from prolonged asymmetric terms of trade naturally prompts member states to take fiscal and exchange rate measures that are in the interest of national economic growth and stability, but this often would be disruptive of regional macroeconomic convergence. It is therefore important that the meeting should look into ways through which the member states could cope with this problem without eroding the convergence process.

(3) Institutional issues

We would also like to direct attention to institutional issues; as of now, both the Macroeconomic Sub-Committees of SADC and the Committee of the Central Bank Governor (CGGB) have been very useful in the management of the macroeconomic policy and institutional convergence, it is albeit important to, as appropriate, consider their consolidation and or consider other appropriate measures for institutional structure that could strongly and more meaningfully sustain the macroeconomic convergence process.

(4) Political issues

Admittedly regional integration is still essentially driven by the Heads of State and Government; however macroeconomic convergence issues are matters affecting the whole gamut of national economy. It is therefore important that the meeting should endeavor, inter alia, come up with advocacy program that would create greater awareness for all stakeholders to ensure their ownership and support for the process.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, these are some strategic issues. Besides these however, the meetings should not loose sight on the need for firm agreement on the primary and secondary macroeconomic convergence targets as well as on the approach

to resolve the related outstanding theoretical and conceptual issues. The later is very important if we are to come into full grip with the dynamics of macroeconomic convergence.

In conclusion, given the high caliber of experts at this meeting we have no illusion that the conclusions of our debate would lead to the opening of a new chapter in the macroeconomic convergence process in our region.

Your positive and bold recommendations are essential for the deepening of SADC economic integration process. Your robust recommendations could also serve as useful emulative examples for other RECs in Africa that are yet to embark on or are already engaged in macroeconomic convergence process. Besides and more importantly your unassailable recommendations would amount to incremental movement towards the realization of the African Economic Community and ultimately the African Union Government.

Thank you for your attention

Merci.

Obligado

# **CHAPTER 20**

  

## **GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF PETROLEUM AND MINERAL RESOURCES**

Statement at the Workshop on Good Governance and Sustainable Management of Petroleum and Mineral Resources organized by the World Bank, African Development Bank and African Union in Lusaka, Zambia, 10-11 December 2007

### **I. Introduction**

- Deputy Minister of Mines of Zambia, Hon. Maxwell Mwale,
- Vice President, World Bank African Region, Ms. Oby Ezewesili,
- Director, African Development Bank, Charles Lufumpa,
- Distinguished Participants,
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me at the beginning of this statement to convey to you the warm greetings of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare. The African Union, I will like to reiterate, pays significant attention to the mining and utility of mineral resources in the continent while they are relevant for the economic advancement of the countries that have them. The African Union would like to express its satisfaction on the interest of other co-sponsors of this Workshop, the African development Bank and the World Bank on this important subject.

This Workshop as we all observed is timely given the current global development on the issues of petroleum and mineral resources. Africa as we all know has vast mineral resources, petroleum, diamond, gold, bauxite, uranium, etc to mention a few. They are abundant in the continent even though unevenly distributed among African countries. The fact remains that petroleum and mineral resources are exhaustible resources. But what is more important is their potential positive contribution to sustainable economic growth and development if effectively managed.

However, our gathering here this morning derives from the fact that there are still a number of unresolved issues relating to the attainment of maximum positive contribution of petroleum and other minerals to the economic growth and development. In other words, the questions we shall be attempting to answer would among others include what type of governance and management are in place? Also, are there adequate mechanisms in place for the sustainable use of these resources?

## **II. Recent Developments in Petroleum and Mineral Resources**

In recent years, the world has witnessed major developments in the extractive industry following the advent of globalization and rapid economic growth in a number of countries. There have been unprecedented increases in price and demand. Following these the revenue by oil and mineral producing countries had tremendously increased to high levels. For example, the price per barrel of petroleum rose from \$18 in December 2001 to \$95 in November 2007 and is still rising. Sub-Saharan Africa is deemed the fastest-growing oil-producing region in the world. Production has risen by more than 36 percent in the last ten years compared with 16 percent worldwide. In 2005 it was estimated that eight largest oil producing countries in Sub-Saharan Africa earned about \$35 billion over a ten-year period. Production in the region has responded to increase in demand worldwide, especially the rapidly industrializing countries China and India. However, against this development economic growth and development in most of the oil producing countries in the continent remain at best very modest. Besides, there are concerns on inequitable growth within countries and the utility of the windfall in the productive sectors of the economy. Thus, given the current rate of economic growth, it is projected most of these oil producing countries may not attain the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially the goal number 1, to halve poverty by 2015.

This development in huge earnings and unacceptable economic growth and development in African countries have elicited concerns worldwide by the observers of African



development. Apparently, the production of petroleum and other minerals during this period continued to be characterized by questionable quantity of outputs with weak sensitivity to the implications for future sustainable development of the oil and mineral producing countries. Also, the questions on environmental degradation in the oil producing countries continued unabated.

There were doubts and concerns about effective management of the resources. Other important issues include the nature of the agreements of the host countries with the multinational mining corporations and their contributions to the economic growth and development. Inadequately conceived agreements have resulted in loss of revenue to the host countries while the capital intensive nature of the extractive industry, especially of the petroleum industry implied low labor employment and therefore of reduced income earnings.

Besides, it is important to underscore that the development in the petroleum sector have had implications for the non-oil countries in the continent which cannot be ignored in our movement towards continental integration and development. While the high price and increase in supply of petroleum had, on one hand, brought high income to petroleum producing African countries, the non-oil producing countries had on the other hand experienced major difficulties; increased cost in oil import and of other imports from developed countries. This development implies that external financial resources have been increasingly sought by the non-oil producing countries to meet budgetary development requirements increasingly sought by the non-oil producing countries to meet budgetary development requirements.

### **III. African Union and Mineral Resources**

Hon. Minister, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, this is the reason why the African Union is evolving continental policy that could broadly address sustainable management of petroleum and mineral resources. Articles 13, 14 and 5 of the Constitutive Act establishing the African Union stipulate that the Executive Council shall coordinate policies in areas of common interest, particularly energy, industry and mineral resources, in view of their special importance for the development of Africa. One important step in this direction culminated in the **'Cairo Declaration on African Cooperation and Solidarity in the Area of Hydrocarbons'** of 14 December 2006, which addressed the sustainable management of these resources.

Also, beginning from the early 1990s, African countries have accepted the principles of good governance in the agenda for the promotion of sustainable economic development. These have been well stated in a number of AU Declarations, and in the Declarations as well as Resolutions with the United Nations dealing with cooperation and partnership for the development of the continent. In the same vein, the AU has embarked on the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to promote good political and economic governance. Furthermore, the African Union is currently promoting the ratification of its **Convention on Corruption** by its Member States. These have, in varying ways, provided complementary guidance to Member States as they address the questions of good governance and sustainable management of petroleum and mineral resources at national level. However, notwithstanding current efforts at both continental and national there remain a number of issues to be resolved on petroleum and mineral resources in the continent.

#### **IV. The Way Forward**

Hon. Minister, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen we need not reiterate that oil and mineral resources are exhaustible assets. African petroleum and mineral producing countries have not maximized their exploitation for sustainable economic growth and development. There is a disconnection between production and economic growth and development as a result of the poor comprehension of the symbiotic relations between good governance and sustainable management of petroleum and mineral resources. Good governance should be well conceived in the context of political governance, economic management, corporate governance and institutional checks and balances and their relations to sustainable management of petroleum and mineral resources.

- 1) Good governance for sustainable management of petroleum and mineral resources should imply better policy framework with strong linkage to equitable, comprehensive and sustainable national economic growth and development.
- 2) Good governance for sustainable management of petroleum and mineral resources should be one that articulates legal and fiscal arrangements that ensures appropriate revenue to host country.
- 3) Good governance for sustainable management of petroleum and mineral resources should be a governance framework that fully addresses the

problems of corruption, transparency and mismanagement to ensure that revenue resources are fully utilized for economic growth and development.

- 4) Good governance for sustainable management of petroleum and mineral resources should also encapsulate efficiency at the political level, the separation of powers in the three arms of government, the presidency, judiciary and legislature.

## **V. Conclusion**

Hon. Minister, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, our task today in the course of this workshop is to reexamine the critical unresolved issues in good governance and sustainable management of petroleum and mineral resources and to propose enduring recommendations. With the category of experts on this subject assembled here this morning, I have no illusions that we would at the end of the day, come up with proposals that would redefine and enhance good governance for sustainable management of petroleum and mineral resources in Africa. Our proposals should be more, informed by our present experience, experience elsewhere in other continents, actionable, and underscore the sense of urgency for economic growth and development in our continent. I wish you very fruitful deliberations.

I thank you for your attention.



# **CHAPTER 21**

## **CIVIL SOCIETY AND AU ECOSOCC**

Statement at the National Consultation Meeting of CSOs on ECOSOCC Membership election organized by CONGOMA Lilongwe, Malawi 13 April 2007

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honor to be here with you this morning, on this important occasion, to commence the consultative process, in Malawi, towards the election of the members for the African Union (AU) Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC). In this connection, I will like to warmly commend CONGOMA for its efficient coordinating role in this difficult task and its strong interest in the operationalisation of the ECOSOCC.

As we all know, the Interim Standing Committee of the ECOSOCC announced and requested, on 12 March 2007, that all AU Member States to hold elections between June and December 2007, to elect one hundred and thirty (130) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) into its General Assembly, as the initial process towards the election of the 150 full member of the Assembly. This is in accordance with the Statutes of the ECOSOCC. Other elections to complement this process would include those at the regional, continental and Africans in Diaspora.

Allow me at this point to reiterate that the decision of the AU to establish the ECOSOCC as one of its organ was unique in the history of continental integration, beginning with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963 and consolidated with the African Economic Community (AEC) in 1991. The ECOSOCC idea derived from the assumption that continental integration process should be more people oriented. Thus, Articles 5 and 22 of the Constitutive Act stipulate that the ECOSOCC shall be the vehicle for building a strong partnership between governments and all segments of African civil society. In other words, the CSOs are indispensable partners in the development process in Africa.

It is also useful to further add that the AU since its establishment in 2002 has taken a number of steps towards the attainment of sustainable development of the continent. It has created more organs, consolidated existing institutions and recommitted itself to promoting economic development, peace and stability and resolving conflicts in the continent.

The ECOSOCC should not lag behind in the integration and development process of the continent. It will be recalled that the ECOSOCC was launched on 30 2005. The ECOSOCC is expected to formulate opinion and provide inputs into the policies and programs of the AU, in peace and security, political affairs, economic affairs, social affairs and women and gender to mention a few. However, its operationalisation would, inter alia, depend on the election of all its members for which we are all gathered here today to address.

There is therefore an urgent need to complete the elections within the time frame stipulated by the Interim Standing Committee of the ECOSOCC, so that the ECOSOCC General Assembly could make its vital contributions to the development process of the continent. Africa now at a critical period in its development history needs the input from all stakeholders for an enduring sustainable development.

In this endeavor, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I will urge for flexibility in consultations. It is assumed that this meeting would appropriately avail itself of the procedures stipulated in the "Template for Elections into the ECOSOCC General Assembly" to facilitate its consultations towards the election of the two CSOs from the Republic of Malawi.

I wish you successful deliberations.

Thank you for your attention.

# **CHAPTER 22**

  

## **CIVIL SOCIETY AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

Statement at the Inaugural Southern Africa Regional Civil Society Poverty Conference  
Organized by Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPN) Johannesburg,  
South Africa, 13 -14 June 2007

### **I Introduction**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen; it is a great pleasure for me to be here this morning at this important inaugural Southern Africa Regional Civil Society Poverty Conference. I bring you warm greetings from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission; H.E. Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare, who himself has put the eradication of poverty high in the AU development agenda.

It needs no emphasis to restate that the conference is timely. It is timely while poverty continues to constitute an intolerable menace in our region. But an important comfort is that the alleviation of poverty in the developing countries is receiving attention at the global, regional and national levels and there is full acknowledgement of the involvement of all stakeholders, including the private sector and the civil society organizations.

While this has been a good development in recent years we are still confronted with enormous task in Africa, especially our region. In other words, there are still a number of questions to be resolved on how all stakeholders operate' on this issue, individually or collectively. It will not have to be business as usual if we are to meaningfully address the poverty alleviation in Southern Africa. Let us first look at the state of poverty in SADC.

## **II State of Poverty in SADC**

As of now, despite considerable efforts by SADC Member States to reduce poverty and improve human development in the region, its challenges remain enormous. It has been observed that the reduction in poverty achieved so far through poverty reduction strategies is not consistent with the minimum targets indicated in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. For example, the region's growth rate is far below the target of 7 percent required for developing countries to halve poverty by 2015. The incursion of HIV/AIDS pandemic into the social and economic systems has inflicted the single greatest reversal in human development.

There is an urgent need to address such issues as the resource and capacity constraints if SADC is to meet the MDG of halving poverty by 2015 as majority of people live below the poverty Datum Line. Poverty in the region is aggravated by the cycles of drought, debilitating effects of HIV/AIDS pandemic, outbreak of malaria and other communicable diseases.

## **III. The Role of SARP**

It is important at this point to commend the role of the Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARP) since its inception in 2001. In particular, its role in the creation of greater awareness on the nature of poverty in Southern Africa. Its efforts to bring together all stakeholders to share experiences in best practices, and facilitating the articulation of more enduring policies, and strategies to effectively cope with poverty reduction in the region. In all these, SARP has worked closely with SADC, AU, NEPAD, and the World Bank, in the dissemination of information to deepen comprehension of poverty problems and improvement of policy and practice.

## **IV. The Actions taken by the African Union (AU)**

I will like to restate that the AU has been in the forefront in the efforts to find lasting solutions to poverty reduction in the continent. The AU has taken the position that poverty eradication is intricately linked to peace, security, political stability and sustainable development of the continent. The eradication of poverty in the continent is the main objective of the AU as stipulated in the Constitutive Act. It was further articulated in the AU Strategic Plan of AU of 2004 and New Partnership for the Development of Africa (NEPAD) as the ultimate objective of Africa's collective endeavor. In addition to these, the AU Summits have, through Declarations and Decisions, articulated political and policy



frameworks to assist regional economic integration arrangements and AU Member States to develop appropriate strategies to address the question of poverty reduction. In this connection, the Third Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU on Employment and Poverty Alleviation, held from 8 to 9 September 2004 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso was very significant on the way forward in this matter in the concluding Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa. The Action Plan stipulated the objectives and strategies for all stakeholders at global, continental, regional and national levels.

#### **V. The Role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are critical stakeholders in the fight against poverty in our region. Our region is still a long way to achieving the targets in the United Nation Millennium Development Goals, those stipulated in AU Decisions and those stated in SADC Strategic Plan.

As we go into discussions in this Conference, we should be in the position to take stock of our activities and achievements in poverty reduction in the region. There are areas where we have made some progress; equally there are those areas where we have lagged behind. This could be in the areas of sufficient and predictable funding. It could be in policy deficiency, institutional capacity or flawed cohesion and coordination of priorities and strategies among stakeholders.

At this point, it is important to flag that Civil Society Organizations were partners in the establishment of SARP. They have over the years emerged as vital development partners at national, regional and continental levels. It is however, not clear if the full capacities of the CSOs in our region have been adequately deployed in the task of poverty alleviation at the critical levels of economic growth and development.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, allow me to reiterate, as stipulated in the Declaration of the Ouagadougou, that poverty alleviation is about job creation, employment, increased income, empowerment of women, access to resources, provision of shelter, and access to health services to mention a few. On the basis of our experiences, we must identify critical priorities in poverty alleviation, which will result in huge demonstration effects in other areas of poverty issues.

This conference, I believe, will seek to identify the strength and weaknesses of the CSOs. In particular, of CSOs human and financial resources limitations, and capacity to act. But more importantly, that the conference will also endeavor to facilitate clearer strategies through which the contributions of CSOs could be more meaningful and result oriented on the issues of poverty alleviation in Southern Africa.

## **VI. Conclusion**

In conclusion it is important to remind ourselves that Africa is yet to be in the main stream of globalization. The marginalization of the continent and its confinement to the periphery is real as responsible partnership with development partners remains elusive. In other words, it is imperative that we should tackle poverty alleviation in the continent with greater sense of urgency.

Finally, allow me once more to express the satisfaction of the African Union on the inaugural Southern Africa Regional Civil Society Conference and to commend the exemplary role of the Southern African Regional Poverty Network. Given the excellent categories of eminent experts at this conference, I am convinced that robust recommendations would be proposed and important foundation laid for an enduring participation of the CSOs in poverty reduction in the region.

I thank you for your attention.

## **CHAPTER 23**

# **AFRICAN UNION: A VITAL STRATEGY FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT IN A CHANGING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT**

Public Lecture at Mzuzu University, Mzuzu on 2 May 2008

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Peter N. Mwanza

Distinguished Invited Guests

Distinguished Professors and Lecturers

Members of Staff of the University

Distinguished Students, Ladies and Gentlemen

All protocols observed

### **I. Introduction**

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today once more at the Mzuzu University, a great institution of higher learning, in the beautiful city of Mzuzu. I should at the outset state that I was privileged to be one of the guests during the graduation ceremony of 14 November 2007 which was a remarkable event at the University. It was a joyous occasion not only for the graduating students from different faculties and their parents but also for the entire University body as it witnessed important moment in its history. A historic event marking a major contribution of the University to capacity building in the Republic of Malawi, the warm heart of Africa.

I will like to express appreciation to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Peter N. Mwanza for extending an invitation to the African Union (AU) to speak to the students and important dignitaries in the City of Mzuzu. The government, students, and Malawi people as a

whole are appreciative of your leadership and the immense contributions you have made to the advancement of this University.

I bring you warm greetings from the new Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), H.E. Jean Ping, who assumed duties on 28 April 2008, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He is an outstanding African and diplomat. He has a strong sense of urgency for Africa's development with a strong determination to take the AU to higher levels on integration in order to achieve this objective.

While I have been covertly given the liberty to decide on the subject of this lecture, I have on the basis of recent development worldwide and my own bias decided to speak on the importance of the AU to accelerated and sustainable development of Africa. The main reasons for this choice are the need to explain the AU and its critical role in Africa's development in our contemporary world.

## **II. Background to AU**

The AU as we all know was established in Durban, South Africa, in 2002, through the adoption of the Constitutive Act. The AU supplanted the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which was the first continental organization established by African nationalists in 1963 at the dawn of independence of a number of African countries, to promote African development, unity and assist in decolonization and the eradication of apartheid. The major driving force for the establishment of the AU was the desire of African political leaders to promote economic growth and development and alleviate poverty in African continent.

The objectives of the AU as stipulated in Article 3 of the Constitutive Act were primarily, inter alia, to promote sustainable development at economic, social and cultural levels as well as the integration of African economies. The AU will seek to promote peace, security and stability, democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance. It will also encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The economic objectives of the Constitutive Act were a reaffirmation of the economic goals stipulated in the Abuja Treaty on African Economic Community.

The Constitutive Act also stipulated a number of principles; for example, there is the principle of sovereign equality and interdependence among Member States, peaceful

resolution of conflicts among Member States and the prohibition of the use of force or threat to use force among Member States. There is the principle of non-interference by any Member State in the internal affairs of another, but there is the right of the Union to intervene in a Member State pursuant to a decision of the Assembly in respect of grave circumstances, namely war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.

Many African countries did not benefit from the dividends of the cessation of the Cold War and the advancements in science and technology. The later in particular had resulted in the 1980s and 1990s, in the intensification of globalization, with major economic growth in several countries in South East Asia, Latin America and some East European countries. Most African countries have failed to benefit from the inertia of world development because of the smallness of their economies or the lack of the capacity to take advantage of the benefits that the process offered. The 1980s was generally described as the lost decade for Africa. Thus, it was assumed that the deepening of continental integration would afford African countries the necessary leverage they needed in global fora and enhance their capacity to take advantage of the opportunities in globalization.

**The Vice Chancellor, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

### **III. AU: An Overview**

The operations of the AU since its inception have derived from the establishment and interface of a number of organs prescribed by the Constitutive Act. The following organs for example have been functional in the execution of the objectives of the AU namely, (a) the Assembly of the Union, (b) the Executive Council, (c) Pan-African Parliament, (d) Commission, (e) Permanent Representative Committee. The Assembly is the supreme organ of the Union and is composed of the Heads of State and Government or their duly accredited representatives. The Executive Council is composed of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs or such other Ministers or Authorities as are designated by the Governments of Member States. The objective of the Pan-African Parliament is to ensure the full participation of African peoples in the development process and economic integration of the continent. The Commission sees to the day-to-day operation of the African Union. The Permanent Representative Committee is composed of the Permanent Representatives to the Union and other Plenipotentiaries of Member States. Other important organs include (a) the Court of Justice, (b) the Specialized Technical Committees, (c) the Economic, Social and Cultural Council and (d) Financial Institutions.

All these are at different stages of establishment towards the deepening of the integration of the continent.

While it is early to assess the progress of the Union one could with some degree of comfort state certain actions that have already been taken that are shaping integration process and could have positive contributions to the directions of continental integration in the future. First, it is vital to state that the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), adopted in 2002, is a program of the African Union. This offered development program in various aspects of economic development. In addition to this, the African Union Commission (AUC) further adopted in 2004, the AU Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan 2004-2007, which articulated the mission, vision and strategic plan on Africa's development and its relations to the external world. The later has in particular led to efforts at the consolidation of the AUC through the capacity building. The AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) has been established to deal with conflict prevention, management and resolution. The AU has within this framework assisted in restoring peace or maintaining peace and security in some countries. In addition to this, the Panel of the Wise and the Continental Early Warning Systems and African Stand-By Force are being established to complement the work of the Peace and Security Council.

It will also be recalled that the AU took an important step in the direction of the consolidation of the Union at its July 2007 Summit in Accra, Ghana. The theme of the Summit was the African Union Government. The theme was well debated by the Heads of State and Government present. The political leaders accepted in principle the need for a union government for the continent which was a reaffirmation of the ideals of the founding fathers of the OAU. The consensus was that more work is necessary on the clarification of the form of union government, how to get there and when to get there.

Furthermore, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) was established in 2002 with the objective of promoting policies, standards and practices that would lead to political stability, high economic growth, and sustainable development and accelerate sub-regional and continental economic integration through the sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful and best practices. Twenty-seven AU Member States, including Malawi, have so far acceded to be peer reviewed. Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, and Benin, among others, have been peer reviewed while the review process is at different stages in others.

The Summits of the Heads of State and Government have resulted in the adoption of additional useful policies in the form of declaration and decisions for continental political stability, development and integration. In this development, other continental organizations such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and African Development Bank (AfDB), among others, have been particularly useful in the articulation and implementation of declarations, decisions and programs.

Besides, continental integration has been energized with the proliferation of a number of regional economic communities (RECs). Several RECs have been established in the five regions of the continent as national leaders were eager to promote economic growth and development or ensure national security and peace. In this event some countries are members of more than one REC. In Southern Africa for an example, there is the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). Some countries belong to both. In Eastern Africa, we have the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The membership of COMESA includes countries from North Africa and East and Southern Africa. Other examples abound in West, North and Central Africa regions. While the AU is making efforts through harmonization and or rationalization to ensure coherence among the RECs, it well recognized that these bodies are making contributions to development process in their respective regions. The expansion of regional trade is occurring within them. Foreign direct investments is increasing in many countries in some of the RECs. Agricultural development has been given the pride of place in regional cooperation and integration. There are improvements in infrastructure, road networks, railways, air transportation and telecommunications. But the potentials of the RECs are yet to be fully applied to development. All other regional actors especially the private sector and the civil society would need to be more active in regional integration as they are the levers of economic development process.

**The Vice Chancellor, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,** let us now look at the...

#### **IV. AU and International Community**

The recent development in the international economy, globalization, has present major challenges and opportunities to the AU and the Member States. Globalization has led to the emergence of new economic powers seeking and engaging in new forms of economic cooperation in natural resource transfers. Globalization has been further given

new dimensions with the emerging economic recession in the United States that could have far reaching consequences for countries worldwide.

The unprecedented increase in the price of petroleum has been a blessing for the petroleum producing countries but a disaster for the non-oil producing countries. This crisis has again been aggravated by rising price of food partly emanating from the diversion of grains to the production of bio-fuel. However, the African continent as we all know is well endowed with variety of natural resources; bauxite, diamond, gold, uranium, coal etc to mention a few. The continent account for substantial world reserve in these resources. Individually, most African countries cannot position themselves well in multilateral negotiations on trade, capital and technology transfer.

The AU has within the framework of the Constitutive Act coordinated the negotiations of the Member States and the RECs in major multilateral negotiations notably, the World Trade Organizations (WTO) Doha Development Round and the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with European Union (EU). The AU has also coordinated Member State negotiations with major industrially developed countries, including the United States of America (USA), the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), Japan, the Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development (TICAD) and more recently with China and India. While acknowledging the fact that these negotiations have been difficult because African countries are at different levels of economic development and are generally weak vis-à-vis economically stronger development partners, nevertheless the collective approach had in most cases individual exploitations that were inevitable in bilateral negotiations.

Besides, the AU has coordinated the position of the Member States at the United Nations and its global conferences on peace and security and international development issues. In these negotiations, AU has worked closely with other regional groups such as the G-77 in the negotiation of Resolutions, Decisions and the Outcome of global United Nations conferences. Coordination by the AU had in most cases resulted in the effective articulation of the development concerns of Africa and support of the development partners for their solutions.

### **The Vice Chancellor, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen**

The on-going process of globalization as we all know is irreversible. The integration of the world economy in the form of a global village would be intensified with continued advancement in science and technology which has been the driving forces in the last



forty years. Africa will not only need to catch up with the rest of the world in science and technology also needs to reposition itself in international economic relations.

As of now, it is clear that Africa's share in international trade and foreign direct investment flows remain very low compared with those of other continents of the world. International trade and foreign direct investment as well as portfolio investment are critical to authentic and sustainable economic growth and development in Africa. In 2005 for example, the share of Africa in world exports was 2.9 percent a decline from 3.1 percent in 1990. Whereas, during the same period, the share of Asia rose to 29 percent, from 27 percent in 2001. China's share rose to 7.3 percent from 4.3 percent during this period.

The share of Africa in world investment increased from 0.6 percent in 2000 to 3.4 percent in 2005. But this does not compare favorably well with other regions. The share of Latin America during this period was an average of 10 percent. Asia doubled, from 10 percent in 2000 to 22 percent in 2005. The hope that Africa's external debt would be significantly reduced under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) and economic development stimulated, has not materialized. Official Development Assistance (ODA) has to some extent increased in 2005 but it is not clear if this was sufficient for the capital needs of most of the economically weak countries in Africa. Generally, aid disbursements remain below the 0.7 percent of gross national income (GNI) target donors set themselves to achieve. In 2004, the average ratio for Development Assistance Committee members was 0.26 percent. But a handful of countries have attained this target.

This implies that the continent must do more in its collective international negotiations. The AU authority and capacity on negotiations should be strengthened to ensure more qualitative results for Africa's development. In the WTO the deadlock in the disagreement with the levels of demand and offers on agriculture, especially the elimination of cotton subsidies by the developed countries should be resolved. The standstill in WTO negotiations has also complicated the EPA process in terms of adjustment costs. With improvements in the investment policy and environment more foreign direct investment should be encouraged to flow to African countries, especially the non-oil producing countries. Also, the developed countries that have not done so should be urged to meet the aid target of 0.7 percent of GNI as ODA.

## **v. Conclusion**

**The Vice Chancellor, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen**

I will in conclusion emphasize that regionalism is a global phenomenon. In Europe, for example the European Union and European Free Trade Association are well known. In Latin America and the Caribbean we have the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Andean Pact and MECOSUR, In North America, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and in Asia, the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). All these have been but in place specifically for the economic growth and security of the integrating countries.

Regional integration has gone a long way in the last four and half decades in the promotion of unity and development in Africa. In contrast to the immediate post colonial years of the early years of the 1960s, it has promoted good relations among African political leaders.

It has provided forum where peace, security and economic development issues have been discussed with considerable success. Regionalism has at the same time offered us platform where we have with some degree of success collectively addressed our economic issues in a globalizing world economy. But the rapidly changing situation and weak position in international affairs suggest that we must solidly enhance our collective approach in international relations.

It cannot be business as usual if Africa is to attain the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. In this regard the AU should be strengthened with well defined accepted external policy framework to guarantee increased benefits for Africa in our contemporary competitive world.

In other words, we, the governments, private sector, academics, students, labor unions, civil society, faith based organization and peoples of Africa need to renew their belief and commitment to continental integration. Every one of us has an important role to play in the emergence of a robust united states of Africa.

Long Live Africa!

Long Live African Union!

I thank You for Your Attention!

## **CHAPTER 24**

# **CHALLENGES IN ACHIEVING REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN AFRICA**

**Keynote Address at the Southern Africa Development Forum on Progress and Prospects in the Implementation of Protocols in Southern Africa organized by UNECA-SA in Lusaka, Zambia from 29-31 May 2008**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Distinguished Experts and Technocrats,**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**All Protocols Observed**

### **(I) Introduction**

It is a great honor and my pleasure to be here this morning, at this important Forum which will examine the progress and prospects in the implementation of protocols in key Southern Africa regional economic communities (RECs). I bring you warm greetings from the new Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), H.E. Dr. Jean Ping, who has assumed duty with a strong sense of urgency for the promotion of accelerated integration and sustainable development in Africa.

This Forum, as we all know, is very timely, since the outcome of would feed into the forthcoming SADC 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts to be convened here, in Lusaka, from 2 to 4 June 2008. Also, the outcome of this Forum is expected to enrich the forthcoming meetings of COMESA that would be addressing the deepening of economic integration in that Community. One would therefore like to commend the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Southern Africa (UNECA-SA) for its organization of this Forum which is a clear demonstration of its commitment to provision of technical support for the deepening of regionalism in the region.

In addressing the theme of this Keynote I will first like to restate that the enthusiasm for regional economic integration has not diminished in Africa in the last thirty years. While the initial rationale for economic is the promotion of economic growth and development. The need for it has been reinforced by the recent development in the world economy. The disillusionment in the lack-luster progress in multilateralism, in international trade, illustrated in the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, in the Doha Round, had promoted regionalism world-wide as an alternative, to serve the international trade interests of regional countries. Also, as we negotiated in international trade and other international fora, it became obvious that Africa countries performed well, if they did so collectively. However, these developments notwithstanding, economic integration arrangements in Africa, including those in Southern Africa, have not advanced rapidly as anticipated in the continent. Thus, the search for the levers of regional integration continues to be a priority in our development strategy.

## **(II) Progress in Regional Integration in Africa**

Mr. Chairman, it is well known that there are several economic integration arrangements in the continent. Prominent among these are the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern African (COMESA), Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU), East African Community (EAC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), West Africa Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) Economic Community of Central African States, (ECCAS), Economic Community of Sahelian Countries (CEN-SAD), Arab Maghreb Union, to mention a few. Besides, the Africa Union (AU), which emerged from the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 2002, is the continental economic integration arrangement for full integration of African countries and peoples. Eight of these (RECs) have been identified as the building blocs for the AU which aims at the Union Government and the United States of Africa.

Also, as we all understand, the main purposes of these arrangements are to facilitate the economic growth and development of the integrating states; to promote agricultural, industrial, infrastructural and technological development. But since economic integration is not occurring in a vacuum they have, at the same time, emerged as instruments for the promotion of political stability and international cooperation, with other regions of the world.

The formation and operation of the RECs are initially based on the establishing Treaties, most of which are flexible and would require additional Protocols. These Protocols define in detail the character of some integrative measures or institutions and the mode of their implementation. They are instrument for the consolidation of economic integration. Thus, in the spirit of their Treaties integration processes in SADC and COMESA have generated protocols on trade, transport, communications, meteorology and movement of persons, among others, for the advancement of integration.

Furthermore, it is important to add that integration arrangements are in addition guided by "Strategic Plans" designed to prioritize integrative and development measures for accelerated economic development and universal goals which African countries have committed themselves to, individually or collectively; for example, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Given all these, then the questions are why they have not performed excellently, and what should be done to overcome their challenges?

### **(III) Critical Issues in Regionalism**

To begin with, it is important to highlight the good news on the RECs and AU. They have, over the years, promoted good relations among African countries; the political leaders and experts like we are today, are meeting regularly to lay the foundation for the advancement of political, economic and socio-cultural development. But if they have not progressed as rapidly as expected then we should seek explanation in the framework of the opportunities and challenges in the environment of their operation. Integration processes in the continent are hindered not only by the remnants of the political and socio-economic hangovers from colonial past but also from the deficiencies in the political, economic, social, administrative and cultural systems of African countries as well as unforeseen developments in the international economy.

There are some common challenges to regional economic integration arrangements in Africa; the RECs and AU inclusive. Economic integration in Africa differs from those of the more developed countries because the latter enjoys political stability, and have advanced economies with requisite institutions and infrastructure, but these are lacking in Africa. In other words, certain fundamentals in economic growth and development that are required for rapid regionalism in Africa are absent. Let us now look at some of the critical challenges.

### **Political Stability and Integration**

The first important challenge in the economic integration process in Africa is political stability. Not all countries enjoy an enduring political stability. Political instability in its subtle form has been expressed in stresses and strains in the political system and at the other extreme in civil disorder and war. Political instability often emerges from poor governance, weak development of national unity and inequitable economic development. Regional economic integration has been severely disrupted in regions where Member States experienced civil wars, such as in the ECOWAS.

### **Sovereignty and Nationalism**

The concept of sovereignty represents a major challenge in regional economic integration process in Africa. The idea of sovereignty is associated with the preservation of national identity. Adherence to sovereign is very strong given the fact that integrating states are young; most acquired independence in the 1960s after the end of the Second World War. There is the resilient tendency for the countries to assert themselves individually in international relations. They operate collectively in international relations largely from the premises of preservation of national sovereignty and interest. The loyalties of Member States have not totally shifted to the ideals of supranational authority and the long term benefits of integration.

### **Non-State Actors and Integration**

As of now, the principal actors in regional economic integration are the governments of the Member States. Governments initiate the establishment of the Communities and are by and large responsible for the implementation of integrative measures and development programs. Other national actors that are stakeholders are currently been encouraged to participate in economic integration process. There is a hiatus in the mobilization of non-state actors to the understanding of the importance of regionalism and mainstreaming them in the process. In addition, most of the non-state actors are institutionally and operationally weak.

### **Weak Infrastructures**

Most countries are characterized by deficiencies and poor infrastructures. Inadequate infrastructures in both, within and among countries in Africa, have posed considerable challenges to integration and development process. The network of roads, railways, waterways, ports, airways, telecommunications are poorly maintained and inadequate. The infrastructures inherited at independence were inadequate and many countries have

failed to bring about substantial improvements because of sufficient resources or the failure to accord them adequate priorities they deserve.

### **Weak Institutions**

The institutions of most of the regional economic integration arrangements are weak. Human resource capacity is inadequate for efficient running of the institutions. The institutions do not have the manpower for technical studies and implementation of measures on integration and development. They also lack sufficient financial resources for the implementation of regional integration and development programs. In effect there is reliance on development partners for the implementation of regional integration and development programs and projects. The good news here is the recognition of this challenge and that there are actions underway for some solutions. For example, SADC is at this moment undertaking the strengthening of its Secretariat. Also, the on-going process of consolidating the AUC and continental integration could be further strengthened through adoption of some of the recommendations in the Audit Report on the AUC.

### **Weak Implementation of Protocols**

The important challenge which is the focus of our discussion here is the lack-luster implementation of Protocols. Regional economic integration arrangements adopt a number of protocols to address specific integrative measures and deepen integration. However, the experience in most Member States is that these protocols are not effectively implemented. One of the reasons for this failure is the delay emanating from the process for legislative approval within Member States which is cumbersome and time consuming. Legislative approval could be delayed if there are perceived detriments in the protocols. Secondly, implementation is delayed or frustrate in Member States without specific institution to articulate and disseminate information on the protocols to all stakeholders in the government establishments, private sector, civil society etc. Besides, where Protocols have been adopted implementation runs into difficulties for lack of capacity and resources to implement them

### **Multiplicity of RECs and Integration**

The multiplicity of RECs in the regions, with attendant overlapping membership by countries, is an important issue affecting the pace of regional and continental integration. The reasons motivating countries to belong to more than one REC are to be found in historical, political, strategic and economic imperatives. Political and strategic

consideration derive from national security needs while economic imperatives are based on perceived economic, trade, investments etc that could rapidly accrue to the country in an integration arrangement.

#### **(IV) Recommendations**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen. The next logical questions are what specific actions should be taken on the most critical issues in order to release the energies for rapid integration in the continent? I will in response to these questions like to flag the following:

- (a) Political Stability:** This should be accorded the pride of place by Member States. Regional economic integration could only be promoted in a politically stable environment which would allow Member States to promote national economic development and implement integration measures. Political instability such as civil war normally diverts attention from regional integration and its consolidation as regional efforts would be towards ending the war and preventing it from spilling over to neighboring countries. Thus, support should be given to Member States to enhance democratic process, good governance, accountability, and the promotion of human rights and the rule of law that are the ingredients of political stability.
- (b) Sovereignty:** Regional economic integration entails the integration of the markets of the integrating states. It in this context involves the coordination and harmonization of national economic policies towards the formation of regional economic policies. This process thus, inevitably implies the surrender of national policies to the supranational authority for the consolidation of regional economic integration. It is therefore necessary that Member States should yield to gradual surrender of sovereignty to strengthen integration process which would ensure long term benefits for integrating states.
- (c) Actors:** Regional economic integration is a political, economic, social and cultural process. The leadership of governments is vital as they are the authorities in Member States. RECs are presently taking measures to engage the private sector, labor unions, academics and the civil society. This process should be expedited. They should be effectively involved in the articulation and implementation of declarations, decisions and protocols as the ultimate goal of



integration is the promotion of economic growth and development. These are important actors in national development process. The more the private sector, labor unions, academics and civil society are involved the faster would be the pace of regional integration.

**(d) Infrastructure:** Regional economic integration will not be beneficial in the context of inadequate regional infrastructure. Most of the RECs have elaborate studies on regional infrastructure but which are not implemented for lack of funds. The Member States should allocate more budgetary resources to infrastructure and attract foreign direct investments to complement their efforts. Regional economic integration is about free movement of goods, capital and labor. The trade and investment benefits of regional economic integration to Member States would be minimal as long as the infrastructures are inadequate both with and among them.

**(e) Institutions:** The Secretariats of the RECs represent the moving force in regional economic integration. It is imperative that excellent coterie of technocrats should be recruited to ensure their day-to-day operations. Secretariat technocrats should be in the position to assist in the articulation and preparation of protocols. The Secretariats should play leading role in advising Ministers and Summits of integration as stipulated in their Treaties in order to deepen regional economic integration. The more the expert advice and leadership role of the Secretariats the faster would be the movement of the RECs in the attainment of its objectives. At the national level, efforts should be made by Member States that have not done so, to create sound Ministry as focal point for the coordination of regional integration activities; its articulation and dissemination to all stakeholders for effective implementation. Regional integration will stagnate if there are no strong national institutions for coordination, implementation and oversight at the national level.

**(f) Protocols:** Protocols are important instruments for the intensification of regional economic integration. Member States should expedite the ratification of protocols and provide adequate institutional arrangements, improve capacities and provide adequate resources for their effective implementation, by all stakeholders, at national level. Regional economic integration would spill around if protocols are not promptly implemented. There could be frustration and unwillingness by

Member States to embark on the adoption of further protocols that are necessary for the amplification of integration.

**(g) Membership in RECs:** Membership in more than one REC poses challenges especially when RECs are in the phase of Customs Union when they erect common tariffs against third countries. The AU is engaging the RECs at the Expert and Ministerial levels to address this challenge. One important outcome of the Ministerial Meetings was the Declaration at the Ouagadougou Meeting to recognize eight RECs as the building blocs of the AU. The Declaration also, placed a moratorium on the creation of new RECs. The discussions are still ongoing on the harmonization and/or rationalization of the RECs. Another Ministerial Meeting was held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on this subject from 19 to 23 May 2008. The solution to this problem seems more in the political realm; that is a political decision encapsulated in some economic benefits justification. It is envisaged that these processes would in due course result in mutually acceptable formula on this subject.

**(h) Finance:** Like any organization, finance is an important determinant of the process of regional integration. Thus far, regional integration arrangements in the continent rely essentially on the assessed contributions from the Member States for operational and program activities. But the contributions of many Member States are irregular and in arrears. This implies that the operational and program activities of these bodies have been compromised. The tendency as a result has been the questionable increased reliance on the support of development partners. It is doubtful if this is the route to proceed in the RECs. The paucity of funds should be resolved through innovative sources, including part investment of available resources in high-interest yielding portfolios. Integration and development would stagnate with irregular contributions and or unpredictable financial support from development partners.

## **(V) Conclusion**

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, allow me, on behalf of the AUC, to once again warmly commend, the UNECA-SA for convening this important forum. The challenges in regional integration, as we know, require immediate solutions as the continent, like other regions, is confronted with uncertainties about future economic growth and development, in wake of the unprecedented third world oil price

shock in our life time. High oil and food prices could reverse the recent gains in economic growth in most of the non-oil producing countries in Africa.

But I have no illusions that the experts and technocrats assembled here this morning will at the end of this forum come up with robust recommendations on the way forward. Also, your recommendations would ultimately assist in the movement to full continental integration and the dream of Union Government for Africa.

I wish you successful deliberations.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.



## **CHAPTER 25**

# **ACHIEVING FREE TRADE AREA (FTA) AND CUSTOMS UNION (CU): EMERGING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**Statement at the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa (ICE) organized by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa: Southern Africa in Lusaka, Zambia from 2 to 4 June 2008**

**Our Guest of Honor, Honorable J. Shakafuswa, Deputy Minister of Finance and National Planning, Republic of Zambia**

**The United Nations Res. Coordinator,**

**Ms Jennifer Kargbo, Director, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Southern Africa  
Excellencies**

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

**All Protocols Observed**

### **I. Introduction**

I take it as a great honour to be invited to the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa (ICE) which is to deliberate on Free Trade Area (FTA) and Customs Union in our region. I would like to commend the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Southern Africa; the Director, Ms Jennifer Kargbo, and the entire staff, for their commitment to the provision of robust technical support for the integration process in our region. I bring you warm greetings from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Dr. Jean Ping and his wishes for successful

deliberations at this meeting. I would also add that this meeting is vital to the African Union (AU) since the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) are two of the eight regional economic communities (RECs) serving as the pillars for continental integration. The deepening of integration in both is essential rapid integration of the AU.

## **II. Progress in FTA ,CU and Macroeconomic Convergence**

The political and economic situations in our region in recent years have been encouraging. The average economic growth rate for the continent as whole for 2007 was 5.7 percent; a slight decline from 6.0 percent for 2006. This has been helpful to the progress that has been made in our integration process; in the movement to Free Trade Area, Customs Union and in macroeconomic convergence. However, while the achievements in these areas have led to incremental consolidation of integration, we are still concerned about some issues that are bottlenecks to rapid integration in the region. These bottlenecks would need to be speedily removed in order to put integration on faster track for the attainment of development objectives in the region.

## **III. Critical Issues**

Mr. Chairman, the critical bottlenecks are well known. The preceding *Forum on Progress and Prospects in the Implementation of Protocols in Southern Africa* held here, in Lusaka, from 29 – 31 May 2008, reviewed some of these issues and came up with some useful recommendations. We are concerned, among other things, with weak implementation of protocols, multiple membership of RECs, loss of tariff revenue, lack of sufficient progress in the harmonization of customs regulations and procedures, lack of progress in the free movement of persons, inadequate human resources capacity, failure at the harmonization of Information Technology (IT) systems, and inadequate resources to support regional economic integration process. Also, the consolidation of macroeconomic convergence is among other things confronted with the challenge of reliable statistics for accurate and comparative measure of progress. Furthermore, there are also challenges in the area of strong and sustained political will as a driving force in integration process.

I will like to bring to our attention at this point that the AU is currently paying more attention to the implementation of its agreements, the Constitutive Act, Conventions, Charters and Protocols, most of which are in the political, economic, socio-cultural and human rights areas and aim at the consolidation of AU integration for full continental integration and Union Government. There are still a number of these yet to be ratified and

come into force. The issue is constantly brought to the attention of Member States through communications from the AUC at the AU Summits. Those that have not ratified are encouraged to do and implement in order to consolidate integration process. Also, the AUC has just been audited and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs have in May completed, in Arusha, Tanzania, the review of the recommendations in this report with a view to strengthening the AUC and make it more focused on continental economic integration in the premises of successful consolidating RECs. In addition, the Summit of the Heads of State in Arusha had also in May completed its consideration of the nature of Union Government and how and when to get there.

#### **IV. Way Forward**

Mr. Chairman, I need not emphasize the importance of FTA and CU to SADC and COMESA as well as to the AU. This is about the deepening of regional and ultimately of continental integration, AU; it is, inter alia, about freeing trade among integrating states and of stabilizing common external tariffs to third countries. Successful FTA implementation with better infrastructure would lead to an increase in intra-regional trade expansion. Also, the full implementation of CU would lead to increases in investments, industrialization, economic growth, promotion of employment opportunities and development. Thus, this meeting should be concerned with the authentic way forward in our common and shared agenda of integration for sustainable development.

- (1) To move forward, we must effectively address the bottlenecks in the ratification of protocols and put in place adequate mechanisms for implementation and monitoring.
- (2) In the way forward, we must adequately address the simplification of customs and immigration procedures.
- (3) To move forward we must deal effectively with the harmonization and integration of ITC for trade facilitation.
- (4) In the way forward there should be sound solution to the questions of human resources deficiencies at regional and national institutions, to enhance their absorptive capacities.
- (5) In the way forward, we must, without delay, resolve the difficulties posed by the paucity and unreliability of statistics.
- (6) In the way forward we should ensure that adequate funding is available for the running of the RECs and related institutions at national level.

- (7) In the way forward, we must also consider the collective regional strategies to address the global rising oil and food prices in order to avert the loss of the gains made in economic growth, especially by the non-oil producing Member States.

**(VI) Conclusion**

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, allow me to reiterate that the trade and development benefits of integration arrangements are generally in the long-term. It will require the sustenance of strong political will, and increase understanding of the necessity for progressive surrender of sovereignty towards a shared destiny.

Regional economic integration is a complex process. It will require more imagination and bold approaches and instruments for it to succeed. I believe we are up to the task at this meeting. The SADC, COMESA and AU leaderships are waiting for your contributions for the advancement of regionalism in Africa.

Thank you for your attention.



## CHAPTER 26

# GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

Paper presented at an International Colloquium on Debate and Proposals on Governance in Africa: Southern Africa Perspectives organized by the Institute for Research and Debate on Governance, French Institute of South Africa, South African Institute for International Affairs, University of Limpopo, University of South Africa, Alliance for Refoundation of Governance in Africa, and Modus Operandi held in Polokwane and Pretoria, South Africa, from 17 to 20 June 2008

### **I. Introduction**

As development process in Africa came under more intensive scrutiny in the late 1990s, the attention of observers was shifted to the relevance of governance. Governance was perceived as a critical factor in accelerated and sustainable economic growth and development. The divorce from the old pattern of governance was considered necessary for the advancement of economic development. Some countries were deemed to be operating under critical circumstances including doubtful political legitimacy and flawed economic management. Many African countries continued to rely on centralized and highly personalized forms of government and some have also fallen into unacceptable pattern of corruption, ethnically based decisions and human rights abuses. It was clear that there was need for more progress in majority of countries to provide an environment in which individuals are protected, the civil society is able to flourish, and Government execute its responsibilities efficiently and transparently, through adequate institutional mechanisms that would ascertain accountability. These assumptions led to the convening of the 2005 Governance Forum which attempted to define the character of governance and the related fundamental issues. Thus, this paper will first examine the

outcome of the Forum. Subsequently, it will look into the progress that has been made before shedding light on some of the critical obstacles. In the last section, the way forward, attempts would be made on some recommendations on the key challenges to governance.

## **II. The Governance 2005 Forum**

The 2005 Governance Forum was jointly organized by the AUC and the Alliance in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 26 November 2005. The Forum was informed by current initiatives and convened against the background of the urgent need to adequately address the development problems in the continent. Following extensive debate, the Forum concluded with a Declaration which among other things, underscored that governance was central to the difficulties militating against rapid development of African countries. The Declaration associated governance with societal ills, persistent poverty and the political crisis as well as the prevalence of conflicts in some countries. For this reason, the Declaration stated that Africa would need to adopt a system of governance in which the various actors would recognize themselves and that system should also respond to their aspirations.

The Declaration further clarified that the process of renewing governance would occur at the local, national, regional and continental levels, and should entail linkages with existing initiatives. It was noted that the local level should be the vital strategic level for the renewal of governance in Africa. Decentralization, at the local level affords a suitable environment to invent and apply innovative methods in the management of public affairs and promoting local development. According to the Declaration, the local level is fundamental for the improvement of the living conditions of the people and the prevention of conflicts. In this connection, it was recommended that there should be representation of local government associations at the level of the AU through relevant mechanism, and to integrate local governance in the Draft Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

At the national level, the Declaration flagged that the major challenges confronting States essentially relate to principles of respect for human rights, democracy and governance, including effective public action, which are the pillars for the legitimacy of government. In other words, the capacity of the State should be enhanced to regulate, to ensure social dialogue, and to create an enabling environment for economic growth and for the informal sector, on which many people depend.

At the regional level, the Declaration stipulated that the renewal of governance could be promoted by ensuring that the integration process rests firmly on local actors and spatial dynamics and through targeted delegation of responsibilities to regional organizations, which should be reinforced at the institutional level. Furthermore, at the continental level, the Declaration stressed that the renewal of governance in the AU would, inter alia, entail the consolidation of its institutions. It would involve the strengthening of its financial basis and the reinforcement of its implementation, monitoring and evaluation capacity. These were deemed essential for the advancement of continental integration and meaningful development of Africa. In effect, the Declaration provided additional understanding and framework for the promotion of governance in Africa.

### **III. Progress in Governance**

While it is too early to evaluate the progress made in governance based on the 2005 Declarations and recommendations, it is not out of place to note some of the cumulative actions that have been taken in the overall desire for sound governance in the continent in recent years. The Declarations had to a large extent provided dynamics to the on-going efforts on governance in the continent. To begin with, it is relevant to state and acknowledge that African countries have, at the national level, in recent years, initiated certain national governance programs to address specific governance issues. But then, there are some challenges in the various areas in which actions have been taken. Generally, there were interventions to review management systems, processes, and mechanisms targeting the strengthening of institutions, including leadership and human resources capacity building as well as effective operation of the State and the improvement of service delivery. Besides, these interventions also, were designed to promote the implementation of resolutions emanating from international bodies. Also, many initiatives have been undertaken in the areas of conflict management and prevention, reduction of corruption and increasing transparency, promoting economic growth and reduction of poverty, unloading of debt burden and public aid for development, and in the issue of HIV/AIDS. Generally, these interventions and initiatives have been handicapped by poor institutional support, inadequate human resources and paucity of funding. In effect, there is an urgent need to resolve these critical limitations in order to have sound governance system in these countries. All these have provided the premises for the implementation of the Declaration of 2005 Forum.

Also, governance was an important feature of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and has been accorded priority by the African Union (AU) which replaced it in 2002. In

this context, there is a culture of progressive developments on governance at the continental level. During the second half of the 1990s, the bases of renewal of governance were to be found in a number of instruments namely: (1) the Cairo Agenda for Action (1995): a program for re-launching Africa's political, economic and social development which aimed at comprehensive solution to the deterioration of development problems of the continent in the first half of the 1990s; and (2) African Common Position on Africa's External Debt Crisis (1997): a strategy for addressing the Continents External Debt Crisis, through which the continent sought to unload the external debt burden in order to release resources for economic development.

In 2002, the Constitutive Act articulated the guidelines on governance for the continent. It defined the parameters of political, economic and institutional governance of the continent. Further elaborations were made in the Durban Declaration on Elections, Democracy, Governance and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance. In the same vein, the Protocol on the Rights of Women and the Algiers Decision on Unconstitutional Changes of Government (1999) addressed the rights of women and their integration to development process and the promotion of democratic governance in the continent respectively. The Lomé Declaration on the framework for an OAU Response to Unconstitutional Changes in Government (2000) dealt with unconstitutional changes and the need to adhere to the electoral process in governance. The 2000 Solemn Declaration on the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation, elaborated the fundamental principles for the promotion of democracy and good governance in the continent. The African Common Position on the review of the MDGs articulated Africa's approach for the successful implementation of the eight issues in MDGs. The Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) that aims at effective mainstreaming of women into development process in Africa was adopted at the Summit of the AU.

Other measures on governance involved the establishment of organs of the AU, the Peace and Security Council that deals with conflict prevention, management and resolution; the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) that engages the participation of the civil society, trade unions and academics in the governance process of the African Union. The Pan-African Parliament is providing the forum for the input of African Parliamentarians into AU processes. In addition, the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is an important system for the renewal of governance at the continental level; it is an arrangement facilitating the sharing of experience in development by African leaders. Furthermore, the protocol on the relations of the AU with

the RECs was signed in January 2008 at the Summit of the AU. The protocol has articulated the relations and method of coordination with the RECs in the pursuit of continental integration.

In addition, it is important to add that the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has also been at the forefront of the governance debate in the continent. It has repeatedly pointed out the centrality of governance factors and stressing the current African predicament and the interrelationship between good governance and sustained economic development. UNECA has stressed the relevance of proactive, democratic States vis-à-vis the prospects for Africa's development and recovery. It advocated that a reversal of the economic decline would require proactive Governments with improved capacity to effectively formulate policies, manage essential services, and show evidence of transparency and accountability. Also, in its efforts to promote African development, and in its capacity as the lead agency of the "governance" component of NEPAD, it has committed itself to assist in the enhancement of government capabilities in the area of governance and to consolidate institutions and good governance practices in the continent.

#### **IV. Challenges in Governance**

##### **National Level**

*Decentralization:* At the national level, the policy of devolution of power and authority to sub-national governments is perceived as a method of re-establishing the African State and rebuilding its legitimacy from bottom up. This process, although increasingly being implemented in Africa, is fraught with some constraints, which include the paucity of capacity of local administrations and voicing of population needs towards legitimate local governance. Other limitations are the low level of accountability of local government institutions and the necessity to improve the quality of service delivered.

*Rule of law and Human Rights:* The lack of respect by leaders and citizens for the rule of law and human rights often poses a great challenge to stability. The judiciary in many States is handicapped by structural difficulties and inadequate funding. The independence, integrity and performance of the judiciary would only be guaranteed through adequate funding, remuneration, modernization, professional staff and regular training.

*Public Administration:* In this area, there are challenges in the reform initiatives undertaken by African countries. There is an urgent need to enhance public service

capacity, the provision of adequate incentives to public servants to retain highly qualified and motivated staff, increase performance and accountability, as well as, reduction of corruption. The utility of ICT in government requires further encouragement and service delivery improved.

*Peace and Stability:* At the national level, wars, civil strife and proliferation of light weapons militate against the efforts of some countries in the establishment of sustainable development. Some countries are still handicapped following current conflicts and others in the challenges of recovery following the termination of conflicts. The challenges following these include the consolidation of national capacities for the prevention of governance crises, conflict and natural emergencies and taking initiatives on peace-building. Furthermore, relating to national security, there are challenges in the capacity to manage cross-border population movement and coping with drug and small arms trafficking, epidemics and human trafficking to mention a few.

*Other challenges:* Other important challenges at the national level include, lack of civic education among citizens and civil society leading to low participation in the political process at both national and local levels, low gender participation especially in the legislature, weak exploitation of the potential of traditional rulers in governance process, lack of credibility of the electoral system, especially of the Electoral Commissions.

### **Continental Level**

*Institutional Capacity:* The transformation from OAU into AU in 2002 redefined the objectives of the continental organization with priority accorded to the complex problems of economic development. There are still challenges in institutional capacity in spite of the institutional reforms that were carried out over the last one decade. There are challenges in attracting the best African brains to work in the organization. The limitations are to a large extent emanating from inadequate funding and the non-competitive professional staff remuneration but there is an on-going process to resolve.

*Supranational Authority and Transfer of Sovereignty:* There is the challenge of the transfer of sovereignty to the supranational authority. Regional economic integration ultimately implies the creation of a unified political state following its process of market integration. As of now, market integration is gradually occurring at the regional level in the regional economic communities (RECs), eight of which are designated as the pillars of continental economic integration. In effect, the transfer of sovereignty may be deemed to

be made partially only to the RECs. As of now, there is no transfer of authority to the African Union Commission. But an Audit Report on the AUC is currently being considered by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs. It is envisaged that the Ministers would, in their recommendations, pay attention to this concern

*Financial Resources:* There are also the challenges of inadequate financial resources for the operation of the organization. The assessed contributions from some Member States are not paid up regularly to ensure smooth operation of the institution and the implementation of programs and projects. Governance of the organization is weakened and compromised as a result of unpredictable resources.

*Other challenges:* Other important governance challenges are to be found in the development of infrastructure, including the harmonization of commercial and transport laws and regulations. Progress in the development of continental infrastructure, network of roads, railways and air transportation are constrained by inadequate political commitment, human resources and capital. In some cases, where agreements have been reached in regional road transport development, implementation projects run into delay difficulties as a result of mismanagement and corruption.

## **V. The Way Forward**

African countries have taken a number of necessary and bold initiatives on governance as one of the essential factors for sustainable economic growth and development for the alleviation of poverty. But these initiatives are still constrained by a number of critical challenges that should be surmounted to enhance the prospects of governance and if development objectives are to be attained.

### **National Level**

1. In the way forward there would be a need for further improvement in public sector management and deliveries. The financial, human resource and ICT limitations in these areas should be removed to ensure meaningful progress.
2. There are also, financial, human resource, ICT, and capital limitations in the process of decentralization. These should be removed in order to enhance the functioning of local authorities.
3. The private sector is critical to accelerated economic growth and development but this sector still suffers major constraints in its full operation; mismanagement and corruption are some of the hindrances in governance in the private sector that should be eliminated to ensure sound governance.

4. The three arms of government still suffer from linkages and influences of one arm on the other. Stronger application of the principles of separation of powers among the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary to guarantee excellent and effective governance.
5. There are legal and judicial reforms underway in many countries but progress has been slow as a result of lack of adequate experts, ICT and financial resources. The strengthening of legal and judicial reforms are preconditions for the monitoring of human rights and robust governance.
6. Parliamentarians are representatives of their constituencies and are obliged to be responsible to them and serving their interests. There should, in this context, be consistent forward and backward linkages between constituents and their parliamentarians. There is a hiatus between parliamentarians and their constituencies deriving from poor communications arrangements and or lack of interests on both sides. The communications linkages with parliamentarians should be improved and built where they do not exist. There should be an increase in information to the public on the responsibilities of parliamentarians to their constituencies. Also, efforts should be made to elevate the caliber of parliamentarians representing constituencies. Parliament is a law making body, those to operate as parliamentarians should comprehend the art of government and the processes of law making for sound governance.
7. There continues to be improvements in the Electoral Bodies in many countries but they still operate under some constraints deriving from inadequate skilled personnel, funding and technology. It is therefore vital that the capacity of electoral bodies should be enhanced to guarantee better governance during elections and ensure smooth transition from one government to the other.
8. The management of post-election crisis needs to be improved. Post-election crisis emerge either from perceived and real flaws, including rigging and manipulation of voting results, in election processes. There should be strict adherence to the stipulations of the constitution and electoral laws on elections. The announcement of the results should be effected as stipulated by the Constitution and Electoral Laws and not be unduly delayed in order to avoid negative speculations and in the extreme of political crisis and social violence.
9. The emerging democratic systems in many African countries are leading to the creation of several political parties within countries. This, to a large extent, is a good development for emerging democracies. But the presence of several political parties with similar objectives, policies and manifestos could be



frustrating to electorates. Also, the organizational and operational structures of most of them are weak for reasons of lack of adequate human and financial resources. Thus, there is need to streamline and strengthen multi-party system for effective democratic governance.

10. African countries have taken varying measures following the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa to increase the participation of women in politics and national economic development. They are increasingly involved in policy formulation and implementation. But there still substantive difficulties in the mainstreaming of women into development process. In some cases, the difficulties include, lack of information, weak capacity to take up positions, limitations imposed by culture, and insufficient legislative procedures to enhance the mainstreaming of women. These difficulties should be resolved to ensure effective participation of women in development and an unassailable governance in the continent.
11. Several African countries have taken measures in the fight against corruption and graft in the public and private sectors. The degree of success in this initiative varies from country to country. But it is clear that the institutions established for this purpose in many countries suffer from several limitations that, *inter alia*, include requisite experts, inadequate remuneration, and weak funding for the operation of these bodies to mention a few. Thus, it is important to strengthen the institutions established to combat corruption in both public and private sectors in order to promote reliable governance.
12. In spite of the efforts made in the system of tax collection in many countries, there is still a wide gap between the potential and actual tax collection as a result of the persistence of fraud, corruption, mismanagement, insufficient human resources, and lack of ICT etc. Solutions to these problems would improve the system of tax collection and raise the volume of revenue available for development.
13. The emerging Public Private Partnerships is still fraught with problems of adequate policies, management, etc. It is necessary to put in place more innovative measures to improve governance of Public Private Partnerships in order to advance economic growth and development.
14. There are several international Charters, Conventions, Declarations, Agreements and Decisions which African countries struggle to implement. In this endeavor, they are confronted with several limitations in human and financial resources.

The capacities of these countries should be strengthened to enable them carry out their obligations to the international community.

15. In the way forward, there would be need for predictable external resources to support all processes of governance for its sustainability. Additional new resources would be required from development partners to complement national resources for meaningful consolidation of governance.

#### **Continental Level**

1. There are still significant institutional challenges. The operational capacity of continental organization should be strengthened through further employment of adequate human resources at the AUC.
2. There is a need for additional efforts in the orientation of the organization in governance to enhance the program and project implementation of the continental organization.
3. Studies are underway to consider alternative sources of funding the AUC for sustainable operationalization. This is a good development, however in the meantime Member States should be encouraged to commit themselves to prompt payments of their assessed contributions. Sound governance of the organization would ultimately depend on predictable internal resources.
4. The Member States have shown increasing awareness on the authority and goal of AUC. It is expected that the Ministerial and Summit considerations in Arusha, Tanzania would lead to acceptable solutions. An improvement in the authority of the AUC and well defined goals are essential for governance and successful continental integration.
5. Measures on compliance on the implementation of Charters, Conventions, Declarations and Decisions should be devised for effectiveness in the process of governance. It is important that the organization should establish relevant mechanism to address dysfunctional behaviors.
6. Ensuring and strengthening the operation of AU ECOSOCC is necessary for more vigorous continental governance. This organ should ensure effective contributions of the civil society, the private sector, trade unions, academics etc to AU processes. There should be sufficient resources to ascertain the participation of these bodies in the Assembly of the ECOSOCC.
7. Strengthen the operations of African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights through adequate funding and additional human resources. Effective guarantee of human rights are vital for the consolidation of democracy.

8. The AUC has already started on the development of the policy framework for the involvement of the local government input into AU processes. This process should be accelerated for the participation of the local governments in AU processes.
9. More consideration should be accorded to the strengthening and empowering the Pan African Parliament in legislative areas. The Summit of the AU may need to consider ceding some areas to Pan African Parliament as a legislative body. But then, the mode of composition of the Parliament may need to be reconsidered.
10. With the RECs as the building blocks for African integration, the deepening of their integration should be further encouraged and supported as appropriate by the AU.
11. The discussion on harmonization and rationalization are already on-going at Ministerial level in the AU. Rationalization of the RECs should, in particular, be encouraged to prevent overlapping of membership, allow the consolidation of RECs and speed up continental integration.
12. The Protocol on Relations with the RECs was adopted in January 2008. This would be the framework for better working relations with them for better coordination for continental integration.
13. The APRM has been a useful exercise in the continent. As of now about five countries have been reviewed and 27 countries have enlisted to be reviewed. But rapid review is hampered by paucity of finance, weak and poor preparatory processes in African countries. There is need to strengthen the funding process and improve on the national processes of the APRM to make it more beneficial governance to learning process for African countries.

## **VI. Conclusion**

African countries are paying attention to the significance of governance in their development process. They have, over the years, taken a number of vital initiatives that are gradually transforming the pattern of governance. But the progress made thus far, though some what commendable, is not sufficient for accelerated and sustainable economic growth and development. There is an urgent need to consolidate the achievement made in order to sustain economic growth and development process. African countries will need to increase political will to support the process. They need also to continue to mobilize internal resources to support the process. But in addition,

there would be a need for predictable financial and technical support of the development partners for a robust governance system in the continent.

Thank you for your attention.

## **PART FOUR**

# **EXTERNAL COOPERATION**



## **CHAPTER 27**

# **SOLVING AFRICA'S PROBLEMS: THE ROLE OF AU AND OTHER REGIONAL BODIES**

Statement at the Public Debate on Africa Day Organized by the Lilongwe Press Club  
Lilongwe, Malawi, 24 May 2007

### **Introduction**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it a great pleasure and honor for me to be with you at this important debate on "The Role of the AU and other Regional bodies in Solving Africa's Problems" as part of the commemoration of the 44th anniversary of the Africa Day which is 25 May 2007. Forty-four years ago African leaders expressed determination to take necessary actions to procure economic emancipation of the continent after the successful battle on political freedom. I will like to commend the Lilongwe Press Club for organizing this debate which I am convinced has emerged out of concern for the future of Africa in a changing international environment. I cannot agree more with the Lilongwe Press Club that this is a moment at which we should reflect on our achievements and failures and to map out new strategies on the basis of our experience.

### **The Unresolved Issues in Africa**

First it is important to recall that as African countries emerged into independence as from the late 1950s, starting with Ghana in 1957, they were confronted with enormous development problems as they inherited disarticulated economies as designed by former colonial powers. Most economies were agricultural with the export of one or two primary commodities. This have prompted African political leaders to embark in the 1960s in economic policies ranging from capitalism, mixed economies to socialism or centrally

planned economic system. But these gave way to market economic system in the 1980s as propounded by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in the framework of the of structural adjustment programs. But then the results of this have not been very encouraging and with little effect on economic growth and development.

Thus, at the commencement of the millennium, it was clear that most African countries were lagging behind other developing countries in the world despite the advantages of globalization that many countries benefited from at the close of last century. Many countries in the continent were still confronted with finding solutions to the fundamental problems of economic growth and development. These among other things include the development of the agricultural sector to address the question of food security, better nutrition, and increased production of cash crops, industrial development, especially moving from import substitution to intermediate, heavy industry and high tech industries. Also, infrastructural developments in many countries were such that could not substantively support industrial development, if these countries were to embark on industrial development and diversification of their economies. The network of roads railways and telecommunications both internally and externally were inadequate to facilitate the free movement of goods and services within and among African countries. Social and economic infrastructures were also inadequate in many countries to support capacity building and the promotion of economic growth and development to address the question of poverty. There was need for more hospitals, schools, universities and vocational schools to fully address the deficiencies in human capacity that is fundamental to sustainable economic growth and development. In addition to these, the close of the last century also was one of heightened impact of the pandemic HIV/AIDS on the development process in the continent. Furthermore, there also exists the questions on peace and security, the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts some few countries where they constitute major impediments to development.

It is important to underscore that African countries have themselves engaged economic policies to address these issues. Along with these have also been the supporting efforts from the international community and continental organizations. For example, at the turn of the century in 2000, the United Nations came up with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with stated targets in key areas of development in order to ameliorate poverty in developing countries by 2015.

### **African Union (AU)**



The AU has traditionally been in the forefront of the development process in the continent. As we all know it was established in 2002 in Durban, South Africa, through the Constitutive Act. It replaced the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Economic Community (AEC) that were established in 1963 and 1991 for the development of the continent. The former emerging in the immediate years of independence of African countries focused more on decolonization, eradication of apartheid, peace security and development. The AEC set the agenda for African economic integration. It identified the key areas in economic integration and development and stated the target dates for the deepening of integration. The areas on development identified include those in agriculture, industry, infrastructure and social and cultural integration. The integration process was to move from the African free trade area to customs union, common market and community. In this process the regional economic communities (RECs) would in this context serve as the building blocs. The creation of the AU in 2002 jump started the process stipulated in Abuja Treaty establishing the AEC in the effort to address more fully the issues on development while not losing sight of the need for political stability and resolution of conflicts where they exist in the continent.

### **Other Regional Integration Arrangements**

The recognition of the role of integration arrangements for the promotion of economic growth and development by African leaders had led to the emergence several regional economic integration arrangements in different regions of the continent. The oldest been the East African Community that was in place in East Africa for cooperation for Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. In West Africa we have the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); in Central Africa, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); in North Africa, the Arab Maghreb Union and CEN-SAD; in South Africa, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and in East Africa, the Economic Community of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). It is important to state here that the objectives of these arrangements are essentially the same as those of the AU, agricultural development, industrial development, infrastructural development, social and cultural integration and the promotion of peace and security.

### **The Relevance AU and RECs to Africa's Development**

From the foregoing it is clear that the AU and the RECs are very relevant to the development processes of African countries. These constitute collective approach to development processes in African countries. All are focusing on economic growth and development, in agriculture, industry, infrastructure and the promotion of science and

technology as well as social and cultural cooperation. The relevance of the AU and the RECs begins with declarations decisions and policy articulations in political, economic, social, cultural and scientific issues. The AU provides the general pronouncements on these matters that are taken up by the RECs and subsequently guiding the actions at national levels where such policies do not exist or are weak.

*(To be completed)*

## **CHAPTER 28**

# **AFRICA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD THROUGH STRATEGIC, BALANCE AND RESPONSIBLE RELATIONSHIPS**

Statement at the 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Africa Day, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

- Hon. Joyce Banda, MP. Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Our Guest of Honor
- Hon. Louis Chimango, MP Speaker of the National Assembly
- The First and Second Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly
- Honorable Ministers and Deputy Ministers
- Honorable J.Z.U .Tembo, The Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly.
- The Chief Justice,
- The Attorney General
- Honorable Members of Parliament
- The Chief Executive of the Lilongwe City Assembly
- Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners
- Distinguished Heads of International Organizations
- Principal Secretaries present here tonight
- Army Commander and Inspector General of Police
- Members of the Academia, Media, Civil Society and Trade Union
- The African Women Association
- Distinguished Invited Guests
- All Protocol s Observed

It is my honor and great pleasure to welcome you to this important occasion, the 44th Anniversary of the Africa Day. I bring you warm greetings from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission H.E. Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare. Forty-four years ago African leaders declared this day as the day of freedom and a new beginning for Africa, to advance the development of the continent, and make it a force to reckon with in the international community.

From that day, African leaders against the background of historical experience and events in the world, embarked on collective approach to the consolidation of independence, the promotion of democracy and economic development in the continent. The first collective approach adopted was crystallized in the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, and subsequently in the African Economic Community (AEC) in 1991. However, with the realization of the urgent need to address the development problems of the continent African and the vision of global development, African leaders, in 2002 in Durban, South Africa, established the African Union (AU) with the view to utilize this as the instrument to essentially facilitate the economic growth and development of the continent in a globalized and an increasingly competitive world economy.

I will like to stress on this important occasion, that the AU has vigorously pursued its agenda on development and made significant impact in the process of development in the continent, and doing so, without losing sight on the issue of peace, security and political stability. The organization has been able to do this through the commitment of the regional communities, the Member States of the AU, and the support of our development partners. In our region for example, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and COMESA have engaged themselves, as building blocs for the AU, in beneficial integrative measures on development and taking action on the deepening of integration process. They are harmonizing strategies in integration and development. In this connection I am pleased to state that one of the important conclusions of the COMESA Summit on 23 May 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya, was a decision to establish a common external tariff beginning from December 2008.

AU Member States have continuously shown commitments by supporting the various activities of the organization in the continent. In this connection we would like to acknowledge the commitment of the government and people of Malawi to this process; the participation of the country in the Peace and Security Council of the AU, and contributions to peace keeping operations and support for integration and development agenda have been very vital to the AU. We are grateful for the exemplary leadership that

the President, H.E. Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika has demonstrated in the promotion of African Integration.

At this point I will like to reiterate here Africa acknowledges with deep appreciation the support it has received from our friends and the development partners over the years. But the development tasks ahead of many African countries are still enormous and will require increased and robust partnership from our development partners. African countries have committed themselves to global and regional, and national development targets, in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in AU Declarations, Decisions and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) that must be met in order to reduce poverty and raise the standard of living.

Honorable Ministers, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, on this occasion, the 44th Anniversary of Africa Day, and in the context of current global dispensation, it is important to reiterate that the Africa values multilateralism and international cooperation as critical to success in the internal efforts taken on development. It therefore follows that we would urge for engagement in balanced partnership on those strategic issues vital to accelerated and sustainable development of the continent. In other words:

- 1) Strategic balanced partnership in the context of partnership in the consolidation of continental and regional integration arrangements for accelerated and sustainable economic growth and development.
- 2) Strategic balanced partnership to resolve meaningfully the outstanding issues in the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, especially removal of trade barriers on the products from African countries.
- 3) Strategic balanced partnership that would entail predictable and sufficient financial and technical assistance for capacity building, to alleviate the impact of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.
- 4) Strategic balanced partnership to facilitate access to and transfer of appropriate technology to Africa for development.

In conclusion, allow me to express the appreciation of the AU Office for the support of the entire African Group in Lilongwe for this occasion, especially of the financial contributions

of the South African High Commission. Also, I will like to express appreciation to the African Women Association in Lilongwe, the Association is always there to provide appropriate support and grace the events of the AU.

I thank you for your attention

Toast

I assume our glasses are still charged.

It is now my honor to propose a toast to the President, H.E. Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, and the peoples of the Republic of Malawi.

## CHAPTER 29

# MADAGASCAR'S PARTNERS ROUND TABLE MEETING

Statement at the Madagascar's Partners Round Table Meeting in Antananarivo, Madagascar from 9 to 10 June 2008 .

- H.E. Marc Ravalomanana, President of the Republic of Madagascar
- H.E. the Prime Minister of the Republic of Madagascar H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Madagascar
- H.E. the Minister of Finance and Budget of the Republic of Madagascar
- H.E. the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Madagascar Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations
- United Nations System Resident Coordinator
- Excellencies
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen All Protocols Observed

### I. Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to be here today on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), H.E. Dr. Jean Ping, who inadvertently is unable to be here as he had wished given his profound interest in the development process in Madagascar. He had personally asked me to convey his warm greetings to Your Excellencies and distinguished participants, and wished you successful deliberations at the Round Table discussions. The discussions, in the framework of the Madagascar Action Plan (MAP), that would lead to new pathway to consolidate the development process in Madagascar. Personally, it is a delight for me to be in the beautiful city of Antananarivo, and I will like to acclaim the government and the people of Madagascar for the warm reception I have

received since my arrival. Also, I will like to extol the government and the Development Partners for convening this Round Table which largely reflects their determination to advance development process in Madagascar.

## II. Recent Development in Madagascar

Mr. Chairman, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we have observed with great interest and admiration the recent positive economic developments in Madagascar. The sound implementation of economic policy by the government had brought about an average growth rate of 5 percent per year in the past few years and this had resulted in significant improvements in social, economic and governance areas. In effect, as has been generally noted, poverty level had fallen to about 69 percent today from a peak of 80 percent in 2002. We perceive this as an important accomplishment by the government and the peoples of Madagascar.

We are pleased that this is consistent with Africa's aspirations to attain the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including the target growth rate of 7.5 percent per annum by 2015, which is a precondition to lead to the halving of poverty in the least developed countries. The average annual growth rate of the continent in the last four years is about 5.7 percent. This is reflecting the implementation of sound macroeconomic policies by many African countries in recent years. The implementation of sound macroeconomic policies had been supported by high commodity prices and improvements in governance and political stability in many countries.

However, I must add that we are concerned about the developments in the world economy; the United States of America's sub-prime mortgage crisis, and the rising energy and food prices that could negatively impact on economic development process in the continent if solutions are not found to them in the near future. We have no illusions that the non-oil producing countries would be hardest hit if these crises continue. We welcome the recently concluded United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Conference in Rome on the food crisis which mapped out the strategy to resolve this crisis. It is hoped that there would be full commitment by all to the implementation of its recommendations. It is assumed that these developments will also inform the discussions at the Round Table today and tomorrow.



### III. Action Areas for Further Development

Mr. Chairman, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I will reiterate that the MAP, a second generation of poverty reduction strategy, which would be considered at the discussions, is a well articulated and bold 5-year development plan. It has pungently benefited from inputs from the 22 regions of Madagascar. The eight areas of commitments and the six "breakthrough initiatives" are vital to the sustenance of economic development. All these should provide guidance to our development partners on the way forward. What is clear as we gather here today is that the government and the peoples of Madagascar are eager to take the country to higher levels of economic growth and development. They are irrevocably looking forward to consolidating the gains that have been made in recent years. What is more important is the commitment of the government to be at the driver's seat in the implementation of the MAP almost half of the estimated cost over the plan period would be met through internal resource mobilization.

Admittedly, development process remains a complex issue in any developing countries. It is even more complex for island countries that are often confronted with the uncertainties of climatic conditions. Thus, progress in economic development inevitably entails taking actions in some key areas.

### IV. Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I will in conclusion, again commend the government and Africa's development partners for convening this Round Table. In particular, we commend the development partners for their continued support for the development efforts in Africa. At the close of the Round Table, I believe that sound recommendations would be made on the way forward at the end of the discussions. We must go beyond this, based strong political will, to effectively support implementation, through adequate and predictable internal and external financial resources. Successful economic growth and development in Madagascar is intricately linked to overall Africa's economic integration and development.

I thank you for your attention.



## **PART FIVE**

## **CONCLUSION**



## **CHAPTER 30**

## **CONCLUSION**



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