Sustainable Governance Development for Fighting Poverty In Africa

By Dr Milad ELHARATHI

elharathimilad@yahoo.com

Benghazi University

Introductory Note:

African legitimate governance has different means that societies feel they are well governed: constraints imposed on individuals in the name of the common good should refer to clear needs of the society in sustainable development governance. However, Management of sustainable governance modes conform to the way the African society thinks agreements should be reached and conflicts dealt with.

In addition, African leaders should be trustworthy. African institutions and public services should be efficient, relevant and implemented by competent civil servants devoted to the African public interest. Moreover, modern law and customary values are an important part of Sustainable Development Governance in Africa today. African societies and leaders should provide an illustration of this properly functioning society. With the arrival of colonialism and then the post-colonial Created State, most African societies retained the two judicial orders: one customary, the other contemporary, one oral, the other written. Far too often these systems work separately, are juxtaposed or compete with each other, as the African traditional political thought suggested.

Instead of having one system prevail over the other, instead of exalting an idealistic tradition or banishing it in the name of modernity, what Africa needs to be done to create an African sustainable development project of governance is to look for the best in both systems and draft principles for pluralism of governance. These two systems of governance in Africa are the main source of establishing any futuristic initiatives for sustainable governance for development, mainly to fight the African poverty system.

Poverty Dilemma Challenge

Over the past generation , Africa has still lack a remarkable success in reducing the number of people living on less than US$ 1.25 per day. According to recent World Bank estimates, the first ***Millennium Development Goal (MDG***) for halving extreme poverty was reached globally by 2010. In 1990, (55%) of the developing African continent lived in extreme poverty. Today, the figure has not dropped only, to roughly (5%).

Nonetheless, more than 500 million people still live on less than (US$ 1.25) per day, so there is still a major challenge in sustainably tackling the "second half" of extreme poverty in Africa. It is a matter of recommending a vision of "getting to zero" by 2030. The task remains especially important among the fast-growing populations of Africa and Asia, where more than one in three people still live in extreme poverty, and in sub-Saharan Africa, where the ratio is nearly one in two.

But the coming African generation must also raise its sights beyond finishing the job on extreme poverty. Today, roughly (55%) of lives under the poverty line of (US$ 2/ day), i.e. the same proportion that lived below US$ 1.25 in 1990. The updated global task through to 2020 is therefore double-barreled: first, to eliminate extreme poverty and, second, to cut (US$ 2/day) poverty by at least half.

The MDG' projects which adopted by the UN' organization group, should Africa create its own copy of it, and implemented in Africa through the African Union, based in Addis Abba. It's the obligation of African leaders to initiate **the African Sustainable Governance Development Goals** projects (ASGDG's). It should form its own central reference point for African human social security development efforts.

The African Sustainable Development Governance Goals (ASGDG') is new generation of development goals which will soon be needed. Like the (ASGDG') they will need to address much more than boosting incomes. A broad framework of (Getting to Zero) entails ending chronic hunger, ensuring universal access to secondary education, ensuring universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation, reducing child and maternal deaths to current upper middle-income country levels, and tackling key environmental priorities that will underpin development success. Achieving this suite of goals will in turn reinforce further progress in economic growth in the African people.

The pursuit of new goals will need to surmount a crucial tension. On one side stands the need for simplicity and consistency. Lengthening the list of goals or adding a perceived "grab bag" of targets is likely to diminish a framework's political traction for implementation. On the other side stands the need for adaptation to new realities. The entire world is developing a shared sense of a sustainability imperative alongside the risks of inequality. A large (and growing) share of the extreme poor is now located in middle-income African countries and fragile states. Issues like energy, education, new generations' demands, climate change, food prices and African population growth will interact to produce new social, leader change and unpredictable challenges.

In short, the African countries are often described as "developing" while the First World, industrialized nations are often "developed". What does it mean to describe a nation as "developing"? A lack of material wealth does not necessarily mean that one is deprived. A strong economy in a developed African nation doesn't mean much when a significant percentage (even a majority) of the population is struggling to survive.

Successful development can imply many things, such as an improvement in living standards, development governance and access to all basic needs such that a person has enough food, water, shelter, clothing, health, education, etc. In addition, a stable political, social and economic environment, with associated political, social and economic freedoms, such as (though not limited to) equitable ownership of land and property. Moreover, the ability to make free and informed choices that are not coerced; and the ability to participate in a democratic environment with the ability to have a say in one's own future.

Steps for Action for Fighting Poverty in Africa

Amid the complex and multi-layered discussions on the need for "***African Sustainable Governance Development Goals"*** to fight and guide a post-2015 African agenda, its recommend that establishes guiding principles to ensure goals for Getting to Zero are consolidated as at least one primary component of any overarching framework through to 2020. And while African governments surely maintain primary responsibility to address the needs of their people, the successful implementation of any such framework will require broad inputs from – and perhaps corresponding targets for – non-governmental stakeholders, including the African civil society, the private sector and academia.

At a more practical and immediate level, we underscore two categories of innovations that can be launched more immediately to support poverty reduction over the coming five to 10 years. Each will require a coalition of entrepreneurs spanning both public and private sectors in Africa.

- *Missing Rural Middle" Guarantee Fund for African Poor Countries*:

Much of sub-Saharan Africa's poverty is constrained by low productivity subsistence agriculture and the lack of a Green Revolution. Throughout the region, smallholder farmers have almost no access to market-based credit that is adequate in scale, risk-adjusted to account for Africa's unique climate and pest risks, and structured over extended maturities to allow for season-to-season experimentation as young farmers introduce new crops. Recognizing the very limited asset base available for collateral, farmers also need to pool efforts in order to access inputs and market connections at manageable cost. This implies private cooperatives or farmers' associations.

A financing vehicle is therefore needed to provide these youth farmer groups with access to "patient capital" loans of perhaps (US$ 15,000-US$ 50,000) at a time. The mechanism should launch in the context of a broader ecosystem of business support and agricultural extension services that help youth farmers identify market opportunities, develop business plans, introduce new farming techniques and implement marketing programmes.

The financing facility would focus on the risk-adjustment component of private capital. To reach 1 million smallholders over five years (roughly one-quarter of the total), annual public financing on the order of (US$ 1 billion) would be required to backstop US$ 2 billion of annual private lending. Institutionally, the vehicle could be framed as the African Smallholder equivalent of the International Finance Corporation.

- *Modern Access to the African Banks Accounts and Smart Cards:*

More than two-thirds of adults in the developing Africa are estimated to be without a bank account. And the poorest-of-the-poor typically lack any means to claim or assert access to public services. This is increasingly anachronistic in a world that is fast approaching universal access to cheap broadband mobile telephony.

Following the early regulatory and entrepreneurial lessons of mobile banking in the African countries, there is no reason why the African governments and African financial banks cannot partner with technology providers to establish programmes by which every adult in Africa has access to a low-cost savings account, a major enabler for escaping from poverty. Depending on the evolution of cost curves, these accounts could be accessed, in African Countries, either through their mobile phone or smart phone, or through a "smart card" that can interact with someone else's phone. The same system of smart cards could serve as an interface for accessing government services and programmes, ranging from emergency health services to farmer input vouchers to conditional cash transfers.

<All figures and estimated percentages are estimations based on the UN' International Statistics, 2011.

:References

- The State of the World's Children, 1999, UNICEF
- State of the World, Issue 287 - Feb 1997, New Internationalist
- 2006 United Nations Human Development Report, pp.6, 7, 35
-Holding Transnational Accountable, IPS, August 11, 1998
-Top 200: The Rise of Corporate Global Power, by Sarah Anderson and John Cavanaugh, Institute for Policy Studies, November 2000
- Log cabin to White House? Not any more, The Observer, April 28, 2002
- Debt - The facts, Issue 312 - May 1999, New Internationalist
- 1999 Human Development Report, United Nations Development Programme
- World Resources Institute Pilot Analysis of Global Ecosystems, February 2001, (in the Food Feed and Fiber section). Note, that despite the food production rate being better than population growth rate, there is still so much hunger around the world.
- The Scorecard on Globalization 1980-2000: Twenty Years of Diminished Progress, by Mark Weisbrot, Dean Baker, Egor Kraev and Judy Chen, Center for Economic Policy and Research, August 2001.
- Maude Barlow, Water as Commodity - The Wrong Prescription, the Institute for Food and Development Policy, Backgrounder, summer 2001, Vol. 7, No. 3
- The state of human development, United Nations Human Development Report 1998, Chapter 1, p.37)