

## A collage of various African images arranged within the outline of the African continent. The images include: the Great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx; a smiling woman in traditional Maasai attire; a man in a hat and uniform; a herd of cattle; a group of people; a city skyline; and a traditional African mask. The collage is set against a white background.



# Organizers

**Peace Islands Institute (PII)** is a 501(c) non-profit organization dedicated to promotion of unity, education, welfare, and progress worldwide. PII aims to develop original and alternative perspectives on the global and social phenomena, to present explanations and solutions and support successful practices in order to achieve world peace by creating the realms of peaceful coexistence, or “peace islands”.

Peace Islands Institute (PII) aspires to facilitate a forum of mutual respect and collaboration, both welcoming and accepting varied viewpoints and voices with the intent to develop original and alternative perspectives on vital issues that our society is facing, generate solutions to these issues, support successful practices, thus promoting education, friendship and harmony and acting as an island of peace for all peoples in a society of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. PII envisions a world becoming an island of peace in the ocean of our universe; a community in which people from all walks of life interact with each other and cooperate to serve their communities, thereby strengthening civil society and promoting the development of human values.

Peace Islands Institute is a US based institution headquartered in New York, with branches in New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Upstate New York.

**The Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF)** was established by a group of distinguished writers, scholars, and journalists in 1994 to contribute to peaceful coexistence and dialogue by bringing together intellectuals from all political spectrums with different cultural, religious, ethnic and ideological backgrounds that belong to the many diverse disciplines in science, religion, philosophy, politics, and art. Its mission is to look for ways of building a common living space based on reconciliation and mutual respect. Currently, there are five different platforms relied upon to organize the work of the Foundation; each platform specializes in different aspects of building dialogue. These include the Abant Platform, Dialogue Eurasia, the Medialog Platform, the Intercultural Dialogue Platform, the Women’s Platform and Research Center.

JWF holds UN ECOSOC General Consultative Status, being the first and only institution to achieve this status in Turkey. JWF is based in Istanbul, Turkey, with offices in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi and Seoul.

## **The AUC & JWF signed MoU**

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for strengthening cooperation between the two parties to facilitate the development and integration agenda of the African Union on February 24, 2015.

The AUC and JWF will cooperate to explore opportunities for cooperation and non-exclusive partnership in the following areas: fostering civil society participation in policy development; promotion of tolerance and Coexistence as principles of human rights promotion and protection; support the implementation of the AUC Human Rights Strategy for Africa; information generation and dissemination on issues related to human rights

The views expressed in the report do not necessarily represent the views of Peace Islands Institute and the Journalists and Writers Foundation. This issue of the publication contains reports given by the speakers at a series of panels on issues affecting the African continent, held between February 12, 2014 and June 18, 2014 in New York, U.S.A. The panels were co-organized by Peace Islands Institute and the Journalists and Writers Foundation, and had participants from Permanent Missions of several African countries to the United Nations and the African Union.

# African Solutions to African Problems

*"African problems are not only African problems.  
African problems are global problems.  
Therefore they need global solutions."*

Mehmet Kilic,  
Director, Center for Global Affairs, PII  
Main Representative of JWF to the UN





## Rising Economies



## Empowerment through Education



## Regional Cooperation



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In remembrance

# Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

18 July 1918 – 5 December 2013



A leader and a champion.

An African nationalist, dedicated freedom fighter and peace maker, whose selflessness, humility, intellect and spirit of forgiveness is a beacon of hope for the rest of the world. He dedicated much of his life - 27 years of which he spent in prison - to end apartheid, poverty and inequality.

An elder statesman who fostered racial reconciliation and is respected for his charitable work.

A Nobel Peace prize winner and recipient of over 250 global awards.

***We pay tribute to Nelson  
Rolihlahla Mandela***

*I dream of an Africa which is in peace with itself...*

*A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dreamt of...*

*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world...*



# Preface

## **Africa is a rising star!**

Statistics show that 27 out of 54 African states are currently middle-income countries and by 2030, all of them are expected to become middle and/or high-income countries. This unprecedented economic growth with young, educated, and talented people looking for business opportunities at local, regional and global markets is fostered by Africa's geographical advantage, rich entrepreneurial traditions and recent discovery of natural resources for its transformation.

Forward-looking African leadership and good governance also complement its socio-economic development by maintaining peace and security throughout the continent. Many states have undertaken intensive structural reforms to implement democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and freedom. All of these reforms and initiatives have paid off and made African economy more resilient to recent global economic recession, health crises like the Ebola Epidemic, severe effects of climate change, and security challenges due to global terrorism and extremism. Despite many challenges, some mentioned above, the economies of many African states expanded by 4 to 5 % in 2014; stronger growth prospects of 6 to 7 % are forecasted beyond 2015.

Africa has become a major player in the international community in recent years. The U.S.–Africa Summit held in Washington D.C. in August 2014 highlighted the growing involvement of African States in international affairs. Peace Islands Institute and the Journalists and Writers Foundation participated in discussions in the historic event that hosted 50 Heads of States and more than 100 Ministers. We presented to African Heads of States and Ministers the outcomes of the “African Solutions to African Problems” forum that aims to build stronger socio-economic relations and support sustainable development in Africa.

In this context, we are dedicated to focus on the growing African involvement in international affairs and its influence at regional and global levels. African Solutions to African Problems is a forum organized by the joint efforts of Peace Islands Institute and the Journalists and Writers Foundation that has UN ECOSOC General Consultative Status at the United Nations.

In 2014, African Solutions to African Problems emphasized education, health, economy, culture, and peace & security reforms on the continent. The solutions proposed during this panel included the promotion of regional integration, public-private sector partnership (PPP), financing to sustain peacebuilding activities, encouragement of inter-African trade to grow the economy, and dialogue for the settlement of civil and transnational disputes. Twelve esteemed Ambassadors participated in the forum and shed light on the importance of education, health, economy, culture and peace and security in building sustainable development on the African Continent. Further, the forum facilitated an international effort to propose collaborative solutions to the challenges in the continent. Permanent representatives shared their ideas, experiences and insights of African progress in meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and paved the way for the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda (SDGs).

In 2015, the focus will be on agriculture and food security, industrialization, energy and realization of economic growth, business and public-private partnership and peace & security for sustainable development in Africa. The panel discussions will bring leaders from different sectors with Permanent Representatives from the United Nations for meaningful dialogues, informational sessions, and networking receptions. This is a unique opportunity to learn about Africa from multiple perspectives by meeting and engaging with Permanent Representatives, diplomats, private sector, experts, and the civil society.



We should acknowledge that African problems are not only African problems, but they are global problems. Africa has suffered from a lack of peace and security, which often negates much of the victories the continent has experienced since the post-colonial era. A continent afflicted by unstable and dangerous conditions cannot move forward to focus on other areas of development. Poverty, education, and youth unemployment continue to be challenges for Africa. These chronic problems are based on past grievances dating back to the countries' independence.

In today's political sphere, many countries have gravitated towards liberal democracies. Economically many African countries have embraced a free market economy. Major improvements have been made in health, education, and overall living conditions. Spending has targeted these areas and the positive effects can be seen. In particular, the example of Botswana's climb from its HIV epidemic that overran the country now provides medical aid to 95 percent of its citizens who require treatment. In addition to political and social reforms, financial aid also continues to be a hopeful area. The donor/recipient relationship has shifted to more of a partnership. This example of partnership can be seen among the public and private sector as well, known as PPP.

As a global citizen, I was so inspired by the content shared when I visited Ethiopia, Senegal, The Gambia and Uganda and discovered first-hand the richness of Africa. During these visits in Africa, I met with government officials, visited educational institutions and became acquainted with civil society, youth groups and local people. It is obvious that that there is a greater degree of global collaboration that is still needed to help improve current reforms and solidify them. Not only does the mindset need to change from the international perspective, but also from the African perspective.

Although Africa is open to collaboration, the potential lost by the brain drain of Africans in pursuit of education, health, and opportunity, is a challenge for the continent. An initiative has been set to reverse the brain drain to a brain gain and bring back the Diaspora to help Africa move forward. African Diaspora in the US and Europe is a sleeping giant, which has to be mobilized and be reminded of their role in defining Africa's priorities.

Mehmet Kilic

*Main Representative of JWF to the United Nations*

*Director of Center for Global Affairs, Peace Islands Institute*

PII Contact Info:

E-mail: [mkilic@peaceislands.org](mailto:mkilic@peaceislands.org)

Peace Islands Institute

535 Fifth Avenue 6th Floor

New York NY 10017

Tel: 1 (212) 510-8644

Fax: 1 (212) 409-8953

JWF Contact Info:

E-mail: [m.kilic@gyv.org.tr](mailto:m.kilic@gyv.org.tr)

Journalists and Writers Foundation

Tophanelioglu Cad. Aygun Sok. No: 4

Altunizade Plaza, Altunizade, Uskudar

Istanbul, TURKEY

Tel: 0 (216) 339-9196

Fax: 0 (216) 339-9149



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I also would like to thank the Ambassadors for participating in the program and providing excellent contributions on topics related to education, development, peace and security on the African continent.

Lastly, our special thanks go to our food sponsors, The Sea Fire Grill and Benjamin Steak House for providing the delicious luncheons for our distinguished guests.

Thank you for making our event a success!



# Speakers



**H.E. António Tete**  
*Ambassador, Permanent Observer of the  
African Union to the UN*



**H.E. Maged Abdelaziz**  
*United Nations Special Adviser  
to the Secretary-General on Africa*



**H.E. Dr. Mamadou Tangara**  
*Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of the  
Republic of The Gambia to the UN*



**H.E. Dr. Richard Nduhuura**  
*Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of the  
Republic of Uganda to the UN*



**Dr. T.A Elias-Fatile**  
*Senior Counselor  
Permanent Mission of the  
Federal Republic of Nigeria to the UN*



**H.E. Kingsley Mamabolo**  
*Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of the  
Republic of South Africa to the UN*



**H.E. Anatolio Ndong**  
*Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of the  
Republic of Equatorial Guinea to the UN*



**H.E. Osama Abdelkhalek**  
*Ambassador, Deputy Permanent  
Representative Permanent Mission of the  
Arab Republic of Egypt to the UN*



**H.E. Cherif Mahamat Zene**  
*Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of the  
Republic of Chad to the UN*



**H.E. Charles Thembani Ntwaagae**  
*Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of the  
Republic of Botswana to the UN*



**H.E. Hermenegilde Niyonzima**  
*Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of the  
Republic of Burundi to the UN*



**H.E. Abdou Salam Diallo**  
*Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of the  
Republic of Senegal to the UN*



# Biographies

## **H.E. António Tete**

*Ambassador, Permanent Observer of the  
African Union to the UN*

Mr. António Tete is the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations. Prior to this position, he was the diplomatic adviser to the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union. Between December 2002 and April 2009, he served as Deputy Permanent Representative and Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations Mission. In 2005, Mr. António served as adviser to the President of the fifty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. From 1999 to 2002, he was the Director at the Office of the Deputy Minister of External Relations in Luanda. Between 1997 and 1999, he was an observer for the African Union to United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), and served in his country's embassy in Addis Ababa from 1993 to 1997. He began his diplomatic career in 1990. Mr. António holds a master's degree in International Economic Relations from the University of Kiev, in Ukraine (1988). He studied at the Faculty of Economics, University of Agostinho Neto, in Luanda (1979-1982), and has studied conflict management and prevention through the Carter Center (1996) and preventive diplomacy at Columbia University (2005).

## **H.E. Maged Abdelaziz**

*United Nations Special Adviser  
to the Secretary-General on Africa/African Union to the UN*

Mr. Maged Adbelaziz is the Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General. From 2005 until his appointment as Special Advisor in 2012, he served as the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Egypt to the United Nations in New York. Mr. Abdelaziz has more than 33 years of diplomatic experience with particular focus on development, security and disarmament issues. He has been on the bureau of major UN organs and conferences, as well as held high positions with the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) bloc of nations. He co-chaired the Financing for Development Review Conference in 2008 and represented Africa at the Conference on the Economic and Financial Crisis and Its Impact on Development in 2009. He represents Africa in the United Nations Economic and Social Council as its Vice President and in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. As Special Adviser on Africa to the UN Secretary-General, his focus is on revitalizing the agenda of the special needs of Africa, including through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

**H.E. Dr. Mamadou Tangara**

*Ambassador, Permanent Representative*

*Permanent Mission of the Republic of The Gambia to the UN*

Ambassador Dr. Mamadou Tangara is the Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of The Gambia to the United Nations. He held various positions within the Government of the Gambia from 2010 to 2013, serving as Minister for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, as well as Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad. He also served as the Minister for Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters. Previously, he was Coordinator of the National Authorizing Office Support Unit for European Union-funded programs and projects in the Gambia, a position he held from 2008 to 2010. Mr. Tangara holds a Doctor of Philosophy in social sciences from the Université de Limoges in France and two master's degrees from the same university and the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium.

**H.E Dr. Richard Nduhuura**

*Ambassador, Permanent Representative*

*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uganda to the UN*

Ambassador Dr. Richard Nduhuura is the Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations. Until his appointment in 2013, Dr. Nduhuura was Minister of State for Health since 2006. Prior to that, he served as Minister of State for Local Government from 2005 to 2006. Between 2003 and 2005, he was Minister of State for Trade, prior to which he served as Minister of State for Industry since 2001. Between 1989 and 1998, Mr. Nduhuura was a self-employed veterinarian and farmer, having served as a Veterinary Officer in the Ministry of Animal Industry and Fisheries from 1979 to 1989.

**Dr. T.A Elias-Fatile**

*Senior Counselor*

*Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the UN*

Dr. Tiwatope Adeleye Elias-Fatile is a Senior Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations, New York, working on the 'General Assembly', 'Sixth Committee', 'Peacebuilding Commission' and 'Responsibility to Protect' Desks. He also serves on the Mission's Security Council Team. Prior to his posting to New York, he worked at the State House, Abuja, Nigeria, as Special Assistant (Foreign Affairs), having previously served as Special Assistant (Economics) and as Special Assistant (Energy and Infrastructure), respectively. As a career diplomat, he worked in different Departments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja; attended international conferences in different parts of the world; served at the Pilgrims Department at the Embassy of Nigeria, Tel-Aviv, Israel; served at the Embassy of Nigeria, Paris, France.



### **H.E Kingsley Mamabolo**

*Ambassador, Permanent Representative*

*Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the UN*

Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo is the Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations. Until his appointment in 2013, Mr. Mamabolo was High Commissioner to the Federal republic of Nigeria since 2009. He was appointed Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region in 2006, and subsequently named Deputy Facilitator of the Burundi peace process. In 2002, Mr. Mamabolo was appointed Special Envoy of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to Sierra Leone and the Mano River Basin, a position he held for two years. Also in 2002, he served as Deputy Director-General for African Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for the overall coordination and management of bilateral and multilateral relations in Africa. Upon returning from exile in 1994, Mr. Mamabolo joined the Ministry and was immediately appointed democratic South Africa's first High Commissioner to Zimbabwe, completing his term in 1999. He was then appointed Permanent Representative to the Organization of African Unity and to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), both headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he was concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Ethiopia, Sudan and Djibouti.

### **H.E Anatolio Ndong**

*Ambassador, Permanent Representative*

*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to the UN*

Ambassador Anatolio Ndong Mba is the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations. Prior to his appointment in 2010, Mr. Ndong Mba was a consultant with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), serving as the agency's representative in Djibouti from November 2008 to February 2009. Between 2004 and 2008, he served as FAO representative in Angola and Sao Tome and Principe, resident in Luanda, serving also as Acting United Nations Resident Coordinator from March 2007 to July 2008, when he retired from the agency. From 2001 to 2004, Mr. Ndong Mba was Deputy Regional Representative of FAO for Africa and Representative in Ghana, having previously served as Representative in Guinea-Bissau between 1997 and 2001.

### **H.E. Osama Abdelkhalek**

*Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative*

*Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the UN*

Ambassador Osama Abdel Khalek has been in his current role as Deputy Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations since July 2011. Prior to that, he held the position of Counsellor in the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He has served in the Egyptian embassies in Muscat, Oman; Madrid, Spain and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he held the position of the Deputy Permanent Representative of Egypt to the African Union. At the Headquarters, Mr. Abdel Khalek has worked in the Department of International Cooperation, in the Office of Egypt's Permanent Representative to the League of Arab States, as well as in the Human Resources Department. He holds a Bachelors Degree of Science in Architecture from Cairo University, and speaks Arabic, English and Spanish.

**H.E Cherif Mahamat Zene**

*Ambassador, Permanent Representative*

*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Chad to the UN*

Ambassador Cherif Mahamet Zene is the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Chad to the United Nations. From February 2007 to July 2013, Mr. Zene served as Chad's Ambassador to Ethiopia and as Permanent Representative of the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), with jurisdiction over Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. For a number of months in 2009, 2010 and 2011, he was President of the African Union's Peace and Security Council. In other Government posts, Mr. Zene served as Diplomatic Affairs Advisor for the Prime Minister from 2005 to 2007. From 2004 to 2005, he was Deputy Director of Legal Affairs of Documentation and Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Integration.

**H.E Charles Thembani Ntwaagae**

*Ambassador, Permanent Representative*

*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the UN*

Ambassador Charles Ntwaagae was appointed to his current post in 2008. Prior to this appointment, he served as Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva, with simultaneous accreditation to Austria and the World Trade Organization, the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency and several other UN agencies. He is also a fellow of the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund.

**H.E Hermenegilde Niyonzima**

*Ambassador, Permanent Representative*

*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Burundi to the UN*

Ambassador Herménégilde Niyonzima is the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Burundi to the United Nations. Before his appointment in 2011, Mr. Niyonzima served as Burundi's Ambassador to Libya since October 2009. He served from 2004 to 2008 in the Executive Secretariat of the National Council for the Demobilization, Return and Reintegration of Former Fighters in Burundi; for two years, through 2006, as Chief of the Demobilization Unit; and also as Director of Special Projects (for people with disabilities and child soldiers) until March 2008. He was Assistant to the Executive Secretary through the end of that year.

**H.E. Abdou Salam Diallo**

*Ambassador, Permanent Representative*

*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Senegal to the UN*

Ambasador Abdou Salam Diallo is the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Senegal to the United Nations. Previously, he served as Ambassador and Diplomatic Counselor to the Prime Minister, a position he had held since 2002. From 1998 to 2001, he was the Deputy Director of International Organizations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with prior experience as Counselor in the Permanent Mission of Senegal in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, from 1992 to 1998, and as Chief of the United Nations Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from 1990 to 1992. He has represented Senegal at various international forums, including the United Nations General Assembly, from 1999 to 2009. He was a member of the Senegalese delegation to several sessions of the Human Rights Commission and the 2002 session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

# Introduction

*“...Africa has taken control of its destiny and risen to the challenges of globalization....most African countries have embarked on genuine political and economic reforms. They have embraced liberal democracy and free market economies. There has been public investment in infrastructure development; including roads and telecommunications as well as in social services such as health and education.”*

**H.E Charles Thembani Ntwaagae**

*Ambassador, Permanent Representative*

*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the UN*

The “African Solutions to African Problems” forum was organized by the Peace Islands Institute in collaboration with the Journalists and Writers Foundation. It featured speeches by Ambassadors of several African countries to the United Nations, who shared their experiences and insights into African progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

The following reports were presented by diplomats from twelve African countries: Gambia, Uganda, Nigeria, South Africa, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt, Botswana, Chad, Burundi and Senegal. These reports focus on the progress made in Africa since the last two decades in the areas of education, health, economy, culture, peace and security.

## Economy

Economic growth in Africa has accelerated over the last decade. There has been immense growth, particularly in the consumer-facing industries such as media and telecommunications, retail and consumer products, and financial services. This has improved investor perceptions and foreign direct investment (FDI) in the continent. Africa has become the second-most attractive investment destinations in the world, tied with Asia<sup>1</sup>. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, FDI flows to Africa reached US\$56.3 billion in 2013, the highest since 2008<sup>2</sup>. Africa has a comparative advantage to position itself as the world’s next manufacturing center. It has abundant natural resources and labor costs are low. Today, 6 out of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world are in Africa. The gross domestic product of the continent

has grown steadily at more than 5 percent a year for the past decade<sup>3</sup> (Fig. 1). This fast growth is attributed to the spread of new technologies, the rising productivity in agriculture, the expanding manufacturing sector, and the development of skilled workforce. African governments have adopted various initiatives that facilitate development in the priority areas of agriculture, infrastructure, human development, economic governance and regional integration. Much of the investments, especially in banking and finance, telecommunications and retail services are driven by regional players. South Africa is emerging as a leading investor on the continent, followed by Kenya and Nigeria<sup>4</sup>. Developmental projects sponsored by regional corporations such as the African Development Bank and partnerships with the international community continue to be instrumental in mitigating challenges in the continent.





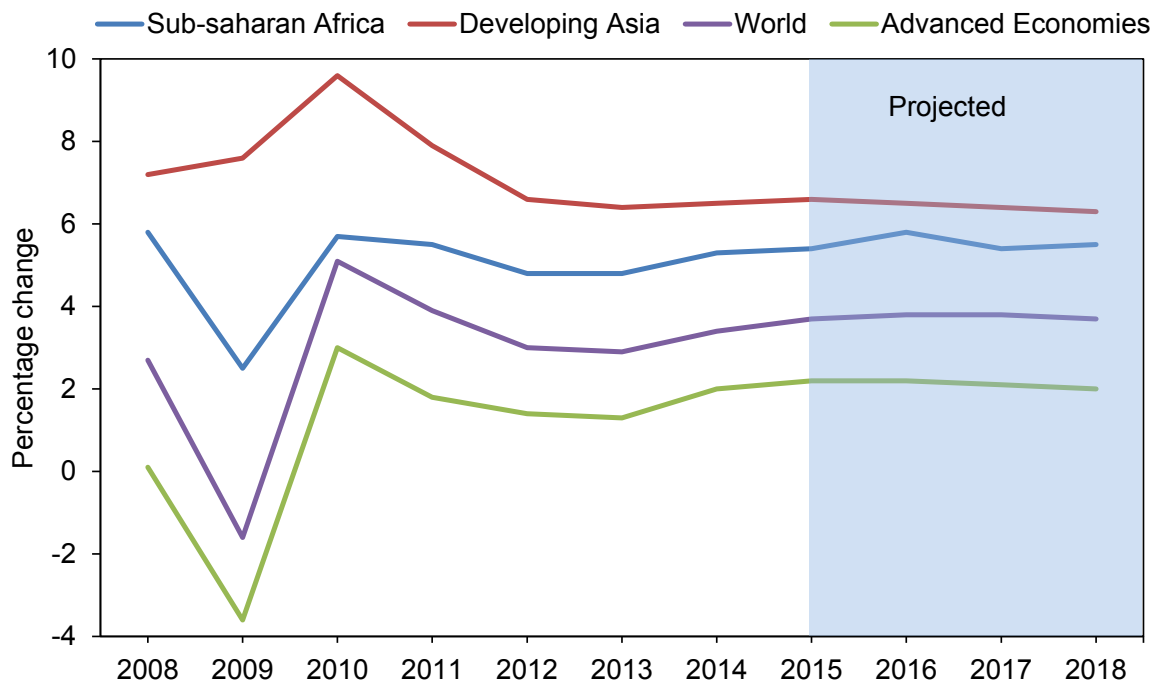


Fig. 1 Global economic growth rates (Source: IMF, World Economic and Financial Surveys, 2014)

## Education

Despite an increase in primary and secondary school enrollment rates, Africa still faces serious truancy and retention issues (Fig. 2). United Nations statistics show that only 61 percent of people over the age of 15 are literate in Africa, while the global average is around 82 percent<sup>5</sup>. About 22 percent of the region's primary school age population is not in school and only one-third will complete primary school with basic literacy and numeracy skills. The number of students enrolled in higher education has increased from 200,000 in 1970 to 4.15 million in 2010, but gender disparities still exist. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 23 percent of girls in rural areas complete primary school while only 4.8 percent of African women have access to higher learning compared to 7.3 percent of men. Such data demonstrate the

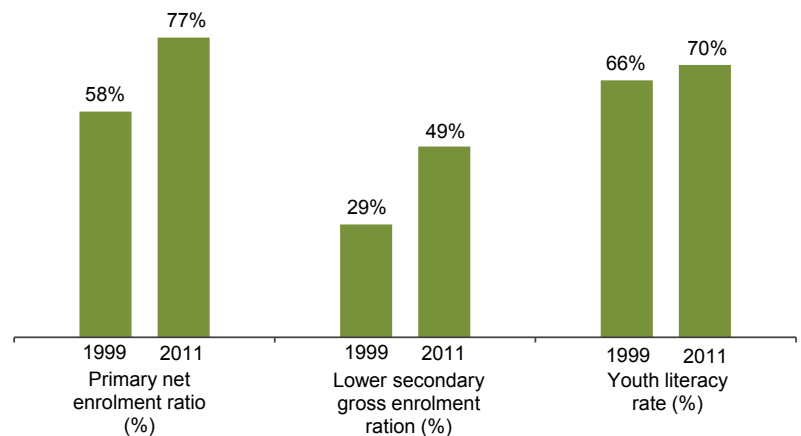


Fig. 2 Education in Africa (Source: UNESCO)

magnitude of the challenges that Africa continues to face in the field of education. Education is an essential tool for development and many African governments have devised action plans to build more schools, update amenities, improve teacher training and evenly allocate resources in order to improve access to education.

## Health

Due to decreased poverty levels and improved healthcare, life expectancy on the continent has increased by 7 years over the past decade. Access to better sanitation, prenatal and health care contributes substantially to reduce premature deaths from communicable diseases, nutritional and maternal causes<sup>6</sup>. Despite these gains, infectious and parasitic diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria still account for 72 percent of deaths on the continent (Fig. 3). Additionally, the World Health Organization predicts that heart disease, cancer, diabetes and other non-communicable will pose greater health challenges by 2030<sup>7</sup>.

The recent outbreak of Ebola in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea highlights the fragile health system in most African countries. A report by International Finance Corporation estimates that \$25 to \$30 billion is needed to strengthen Africa's health care infrastructure and increase the number of trained medical personnel<sup>8</sup>. African states should shift their focus from curing diseases to preventing infection. In order to prevent infections, local communities should be given more control over healthcare resources and the use of mobile technologies to access healthcare should be encouraged. Also, control over medicines and medical distribution should be increased and reliance on international aid organizations be reduced while more local supplies are developed<sup>6</sup>.

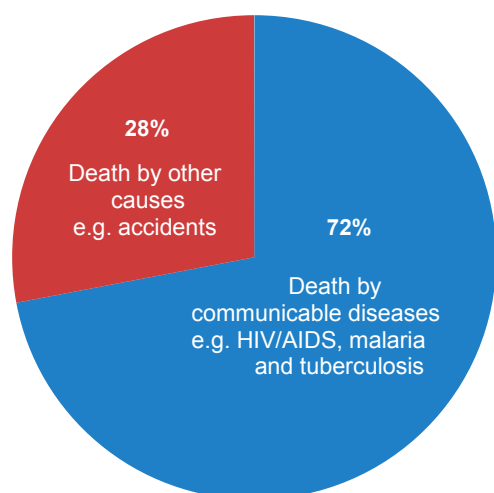


Fig. 4 Causes of deaths in Africa  
(Source: The World Health Organization, Atlas of African Health Statistics, 2014)

## Peace and Security

To ensure that peace and security are maintained in the continent, African-led policies that promote democracy, good governance, political participation and equitable distribution of resources should be supported. For example, the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) provides an institutional framework for the prevention and response to crisis situations<sup>4</sup>. Additionally the African Union, in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities and the United Nations successfully led peacekeeping operations on the continent. In the following pages, African diplomats discuss the threats to security and ways of combating the multifaceted and changing nature of conflicts on the continent. Topics cited include the persistent crises in Somalia, Sudan, Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and terrorist activities by groups such as Boko-Haram in Nigeria and Al-shabab in Somalia.

## Culture

Africa is the birthplace of humanity and civilizations. It is a melting pot of diverse cultures, ethnicities, languages and religions. There are over three thousand distinct ethnic groups and more than two thousand languages spoken on the continent of 1 billion<sup>9</sup>. Different ethnic groups have different rituals and ceremonies, food, music and art. Oral communication plays an important role in education and entertainment. Cultural norms and identities are preserved and passed on to younger generations through narratives and songs that explain everyday life and struggles. Many communities practice either subsistence farming or nomadism. In general, dishes mainly comprise locally available cereal grains such as maize and millet, starchy food such as cassava, meat, fruits and vegetables.

Africa has a rich history. The ancient Egyptian pyramids, the rock-hewn churches of Ethiopia and the Fes medina are examples of some of the acclaimed African monuments. Past empires exemplify the rich culture on the continent. They include the Kingdom of Zimbabwe that controlled

ivory and gold trade in the southeastern coast of Africa during the 13<sup>th</sup> century<sup>10</sup>, the Mali empire that was formed in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and where Timbuktu, an important scholarly and trade city was found; and the Ashanti Kingdom, formed in the 16<sup>th</sup> century in Ghana and known for its military prowess, wealth and sophisticated architecture and culture.

Africa's rich history, culture, art and music have been a major source of inspiration to the world. Identity in most, if not all African cultures are linked to ethnicity and religion<sup>4</sup>. The diverse demographic makeup of the continent has been a source of disagreements at local, national and regional levels - often times results to wars and conflicts. Although the issue of identity crisis within Africa has often been linked to colonialism that impetuously divided the continent into colonies, improved education, governance and policies would encourage social awareness and interactions.



Source: The New Journal & Guide, Norfolk Public Library, Virginia





# Evolution of the African Continent

**The Gambia River**  
(wordpress.com)



**Dr. Mamadou Tangara**

Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative of the  
Republic of The Gambia  
to the United Nations

Coming from the academia, I sometimes tend to be very iconoclastic, and not speak from a perspective of a diplomat. Our moderator mentioned the initiatives undertaken so far at the continental level to move Africa forward.

When you examine all the programs and projects being implemented in Africa, you notice huge misconceptions about Africa. And that is not only particular to people outside of Africa. Even we Africans do not know ourselves, and this is unfortunately very sad. A few years ago I had the opportunity to visit South Korea and saw a video

highlighting that in the 1960s South Korea was at the same level with Ghana. Kenya at that time was also ahead of South Korea. But look at the gulf that separates South Korea with these two countries today. And with all the resources that these African countries are endowed with, you ask yourself this question: What is the problem with Africa and Africans?

Some participants asked me: “What are your feelings about the disparity between South Korea and these two countries?” I responded: “a feeling of admiration, anger and frustration”. I admire South Korea, but I was angry about Africa, and frustrated because with all the resources that we have, the continent still lags far behind South Korea. My President, the Head of State of The Gambia always says that ‘the worst type of virus we are suffering from in Africa is: Ignorance’. Africans still continue to live in abject poverty despite the abundant natural wealth on the continent. This is indeed unacceptable!



When you look at the conflicts in Africa, the things that are fueling this conflict are natural resources. Those who are coming to help us solve problems cannot love African more than Africans themselves. They have vested interests at stake. We have to be aware of their main motivations. Remember the conflict in Liberia and Sierra Leone. When they were killing each other, there was a group called “Executive Outcomes”, protecting the diamond fields, looting and taking the precious stones elsewhere. The ‘blood diamonds’ scandal is an open secret today. While others were plundering their resources, Africans were left killing each other in the name of some irrational ideological beliefs. All these problems stem from a very long history where Africans fail to see themselves with their own eyes. Koreans are able to make giant strides in their development and achieve these great things because they believed in themselves. Although they placed a lot of emphasis on science and technology, culture did indeed play a pivotal

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*Africans still continue to live in abject poverty despite the abundant natural wealth on the continent.*

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role in moving their country forward. Unfortunately in Africa, we tend to see ourselves through the distorting prism of others. Others who are only interested in what Joseph Conrad would term as the tearing of treasures out of the bowels of our motherland land.

For example, when you look at the education system in most African countries objectively, it always proves challenging for us to even come up with a proper curriculum devoid of foreign influence. We have to get the support of others to fund this vital sector. Of course, if anyone gives you his/her money, he/she will want you to put in your curriculum what he/she wishes. There is a saying in one of our local languages, “if you borrow someone’s eyes, you’ll look in the direction he/she directs your eyes.” One symptomatic manifestation of our alienation is when we hasten to define ourselves as Anglophones, Francophones, Lusophones and the like, forgetting that the fundamental thing is that

we are Africans. We need to look inward and come up with our own solutions to problems and crises plaguing Africa. But first and foremost we have to put emphasis on things that will bring us together than superfluous problems that are keeping us apart.

We can, therefore, notice that part of the problem stems from the education system itself. We have universities and schools. But are they really dealing with our development needs? Not really.

Three years ago, I attended a summit in my capacity as Foreign Minister in Addis Ababa, and we were working on our shared values. But which values are we sharing, if we don’t know our own values? I take my own case. It was during my days as a PhD student that I re-discovered myself and I learned a great deal about Africa as well.

You know they will tell you that Africans don’t have a written history, and as such, we have forgotten many things. That’s not true. When they say “*Verba volant, scripta manent!*” “Spoken words fly away, written words remain!” This is a hypothesis that does not hold water in an African context. We devise ways and means where knowledge is hidden. In Africa to get knowledge, you have to deserve it. And we have what we call the “*griots*”. Even when they are playing their instruments, the kora for example, there are a lot of messages hidden in the instruments and tunes. Léopold Sédar Senghor, the former president of Senegal and a great poet, used to say that “these are high oral monuments surrounded by a wall of silence. Silence that will not allow you to talk of things that fuel conflicts.”

We used to have our own mechanisms of solving problems.

Finding African solutions to African problems is where elders play a key role in appeasing a situation and here you have the griots playing a vital role as a medium of communication. In traditional Africa, leaders will not just come and speak directly to the public. They will have a griot, who will play the role of a spin doctor. We know about a spin doctor well before Mr. Alastair Campbell. Authorities will speak in a low voice, and the griot will transmit

the message in his own way to preserve the *modus vivendi* in society. We were talking about shared values, but which values are we going to share? We even fail to know that some of the first texts dealing with human rights emanated from Africa. The Fetha Nagast of Ethiopia, which was the foundation of the Ethiopian constitution and the Charter of Kurukan Fuga during the reign of Soundjata in Mali. The current Prime Minister of Ethiopia undertook to get this important document translated into English for the benefit of Africa's children.

The Charter of Kurukan Fuga in its 43<sup>rd</sup> article has made the griot the custodian of the spoken word. He has the responsibility to safeguard the word against improper use that can generate conflict.

When one writes the history of a people or institution, like if we are to write the history of Peace Islands, there is no way you can alter it or add negative or positive things once it is imbedded in a book. It might affect the reputation of the Peace Islands, but when you say the history of Peace Islands, you have the opportunity to correct some of the misconceptions and some of your subjective judgments along the way depending on the audience you have in front of you. Therefore, you can easily have a dynamic discourse about the Peace Islands Institute. And that's why in Africa it is preferable to use "orality/orature" to transmit knowledge.

UNESCO Constitution declares: "That since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed".

There is an old adage in The Gambia which stresses that, "even one bites his or her own tongue". In a sense, this is to say that conflict must occur between people who live together. It is a fact of life and therefore becomes inevitable. One of the ways to deal with this crude fact of life is to devise strategies enabling people to resolve conflicts and maintain peaceful coexistence. As an example we will cite one strategy: the "joking relationship".

When you have a conflict, intra-ethnic or inter-ethnic, you have people with different surnames, where for example if Ms. Louise (Bailey) happens to be a Krubally, she can say whatever she wants

to a Tangara and gets away scot free. She can also successfully mediate any conflict affecting a Tangara and vice versa.

This "joking kinship/relationship is an unwritten agreement that does not only promote peaceful coexistence but it also creates a strong bond of solidarity and mutual respect among the people who have agreed to comply with the terms of this "informal" agreement. It's widely accepted that: "honoring one's word is noble". Unfortunately, we fail to use those kinds of traditional ways of dealing with issues. I was discussing with the Ambassador from Nigeria. She was telling me that if there is a conflict in our part, just ask the women to solve the conflicts and they will solve it. Because in Africa we fear the fact that our mothers will stand naked in front of us. People will drop their guns and run. And that will be the end of the conflict. So these are the kind of things we need to explore and endeavor to know more about ourselves.

I was mediating in a conflict and all the parties involved were emphasizing their readiness to die for their country, thinking that they are fighting the right cause. I reminded them of the words of the late Archbishop of Warsaw, Józef Glemp, who said "it's more patriotic to live for your country, than die for your country." So let's try to work and live



Arch 22 Memorial in Banjul, The Gambia  
(Source: nationsonline.org)

for Africa, rather than to die for the Motherland. It is worthy to recognize that the evolution of the African continent has shown that African leadership on African issues is the key to finding lasting solutions to the problems that continue to plague the continent. Therefore, satisfaction must be registered at the peace dividends that are being reaped across Africa, thanks to the commitment of African leaders at finding solutions to African conflicts and disputes.

However, Africa's readiness to chart its own destiny with dignity must be manifested by proactive decisions and actions. Africa's commitment to peace and stability across the continent has been manifested in not only peacekeeping troop contributions, but also her readiness at all times to find peaceful solutions to conflicts plaguing the African continent within the framework of the principles of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, under the aegis of the AU.

It is also important to note that there are no readymade solutions to crises in Africa. If we fail to take into consideration and develop a better understanding of deep rooted cultures, more fuel will be added to the fire to benefit those who are only interested in reaping the gloomy spoils of wars on the continent. Africans have to occupy the driver's seat in finding lasting solutions to problems plaguing Africa.

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*...evolution of the African continent has shown that African leadership on African issues is the key to finding lasting solutions to the problems that continue to plague the continent*

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Kampala, Uganda  
(ciriljazbec.com)



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**Dr. Richard Nduhuura**

Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative of the  
Republic of Uganda  
to the United Nations

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African Solutions to African Problems has always been and is dear to our hearts. I wish to quote one of our founding fathers, Kwame Nkrumah who stated that, “ The survival of free Africa, the extending independence of the continent, and the development towards that bright future on which our hopes and endeavors are pinned, depend upon political unity and African Solutions to the African Problems.”

The state of peace and security on the African Continent remains a pre-occupying phenomenon, with successes and continuing challenges. Indeed, alongside the steady progress in the establishment

of the African Union (AU) Continental peace and security architecture as well as establishment of regional and sub-regional Organizations such as International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC) and many others to mention but a few, with great and promising achievements on the continent, should always be venerated. However, the geopolitical map of Africa continues to bear the marks of several latent crises. There are multiple full-blown conflicts in the face of which peace efforts are often met with opposition or simply foiled by the existence of diverse challenges.

These diverse challenges are often based on the logic of confrontation and on rivalries, to the detriment of concepts and ideological orientations that are more receptive to the exigencies of the peaceful solutions anchored on dialogue, peaceful settlement of disputes, compromise and win-win for mutual benefit.

## Why Peace in Africa?

Although it is instructive to note that not all the continent is beset by conflicts, where they exist, conflicts have led to devastating effects, including deaths to innocent civilians, refugees across borders, internal displacements, loss and destruction of property, disruption of socio-economic activities as well as costs relating to their management and resolution. The innocent people of Africa deserve a settled life to fully exploit their potential and this aspiration is enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, to promote peace, security, stability and development on the Continent.

Africa is endowed with a wealth of resources; both human and natural. Without peace, these resources cannot be fully and optimally harnessed to ensure the much needed development on the continent. Indeed, the scourge of conflicts in Africa constitutes a major impediment to the socio-economic development of the Continent. “Without peace, development is not possible”, and also true, is the maxim that “without development, peace is not durable”. Therefore the spirited efforts of We the Africans and our Leaders of the continent must remain focused to achieve peace and development.

## Regional and Continental Integration

In this globalized world, it is a truism that many African countries are small and uncompetitive. The most important agenda on the African Continent spearheaded by African Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) is promotion of regional and continental integration. This position is also inspired by much richer nations in the world which have found it necessary to embrace integration for bigger markets and production lines as well as social and political stability. Ridding the continent off the lingering conflicts would, therefore, provide conducive environment for faster integration, stability and development.

## Regional Efforts

On the basis of our observation and engagements over the years, there is no doubt that there is

desire and commitment, on the part of Africa and the international community, to resolve conflicts on the continent. This desire and commitment are well expressed in previous and recent regional efforts undertaken to ensure security, stability and development.

Examination of regional efforts towards long lasting peace in Africa reveals that they have been successful where they have occurred. Where the conflicts have persisted, the problem has been lack of implementation of agreed positions because of various reasons, including external interference and internal constraints. It is therefore my submission that we continue to be inspired by past experiences, where solutions to African conflicts have been made possible because of active involvement of all the African parties concerned and African ownership and drive of the peace processes.

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*Without peace, development is not possible, and also true, is the maxim that without development, peace is not durable*

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Owen Falls Dam, Uganda  
(Source: sunnyside-studio.com)

Africa, with its regional economic communities have anchored African Solutions to African Problems, hence peace and stability is gradually being realized in the sub regions and the entire continent.

For example the following achievements have been spearheaded by African and regional solutions or efforts.

- Establishment of the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU-PSC)
- The Arusha Peace Process that culminated into Peace and stability in Burundi
- Fighting terrorism such as Al-shabab (who have linkages with Al-qeada) in Somalia by AMISOM - an African Force
- Regional efforts to address instability in DRC e.g. the outcome of the Kampala Talks between DRC and M23 to find a durable solution to the conflict in Eastern DRC
- Also the Concept (CONOPS) to establish the Neutral International Force (NIF) with a robust mandate to pursue negative armed groups in DRC was an ICGLR regional effort and a decision of the Heads of State and Government in the Great Lakes Region and UN borrowed our Concept which was renamed the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB). The brigade is also constituted of regional forces i.e. South Africa, Tanzania and Namibia. It should therefore be noted that, MONUC and later on MONUSCO had been in DRC for decades but with no beacon of hope and progress to realize security and stability in DRC
- Establishment of MISCA- an African led Force in Central African Republic and the hybrid Force in Mali.
- IGAD's role in facilitating dialogue in the recent conflict in South Sudan.
- Pursuing Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) through regional cooperation- African Union Region Task Force on LRA
- Increased robustness of the African Forces to deal with armed negative forces or groups on the continent as witnessed in the decision of the recent AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government to establish an African Standby Force (ASF) intended for rapid deployment for

a multiplicity of peace support operations that may include preventive deployment, peacekeeping, peace-building, post-conflict disarmament, demobilization, re-integration and humanitarian assistance

- Peaceful Settlement of disputes by Africans as a pillar to peace and stability in Africa
- Regional integration for common and wider markets as well as tourism and investment opportunities, to mention but a few.

While we thank the development partners who have supported Africa in its endeavors. I wish to quote my President, H.E Yoweri Museveni; He said "That, Africa needs to be insured from conflicts and instability, instead of People or Africans having insurance for their cars."

## Challenges

Whereas Africa, its organizations and regional Economic Communities have been compelled to deploy peace support operations, they continue to experience difficulties in financing them. Most of the African led peace efforts and initiatives require more support by international partners to effectively carry out their mandate. Therefore, finding a dependable and assured mechanism to finance African Peace support operations will make peace, security and stability on the continent a reality.

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*...finding a dependable and assured mechanism to finance African Peace support operations will make peace, security and stability on the continent a reality*

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## Conclusions

The need for a conflict-free Africa needs not to be over-emphasized. On their part, African countries continue to spearhead peace processes aimed at the peaceful resolution of existing conflicts. The resolution of the conflict in Burundi and the recent Kampala declaration between DRC and M23 are classic examples of region-led initiatives, hence African solutions to African Problems.

The main challenge to Africa is lack of assured means of financing these efforts, especially peace support operations and post conflict reconstruction which require stable funding. Therefore more genuine support from the development partners shall continue to play a significant role.



Down town Kampala, Uganda  
(Source: wordpress.com)



# Application of the Principles of 'African Renaissance' in Addressing African Problems



Lagos Skyline, Nigeria  
(socialmediaweek.org)



**Dr. T.A. Elias-Fatiler**

Senior Counselor  
Permanent Mission of the  
Federal Republic of Nigeria  
to the United Nations

Africa occupies a strategic position in the world stage for many reasons. The continent is endowed with rich human and natural resources.

I believe that Africa is central to global prosperity. It became clearer towards the close of the 20th century and at the wake of the 21st century that the African continent was already experiencing a different form of 'Scramble for Africa'<sup>1</sup> by countries from other parts of the world - although there is no 'partitioning' as witnessed in the 1880s. Countries from the East, West and other parts of the world have continued to strive to maintain consistent relations with Africa and African countries. The importance of the African continent, the recognition of its strategic role and its place in global affairs are amply demonstrated by the very

fact that seventy non-African states, regional entities and other organizations are accredited to the African Union (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Howbeit, there are problems, which I usually prefer to call 'challenges' in Africa. We must acknowledge that there are challenges of corruption, poor infrastructure, weak governance and others in some African countries. There are pockets of conflicts on the continent. All African countries are not growing at the same pace. These and other challenges are often cited as barriers to foreign investment and effective regional integration in Africa. Undoubtedly, there is no country or region of the world that is insulated from problems or challenges.

## The Application of the Principles of 'African Renaissance' in Addressing African Problems

The principles of 'Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance' have continuously guided efforts aimed at addressing African problems by Africans themselves. After the independence of many African countries, the principle of 'African Renaissance' encouraged philosophical and political movements meant to end and

<sup>1</sup> The proliferation of conflicting European claims to African territory between the 1880s and the First World War in 1914, popularly referred to as the Scramble for Africa, also known as the Race for Africa

replace the corruption, conflicts, poverty and other societal ills in Africa with a more just and equitable order, developmental programs and agenda. It encouraged Africans to take pride in their own heritage, to preserve African cultures and traditions and it called for African unity to be able to jointly address the problems plaguing the continent.

The first hurdle towards addressing Africa's problem was how to attain unity among African states. The principles of 'Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance' provided a guiding light towards that direction. Consequently, the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was underpinned by the concept of 'African Renaissance.' As the end of the 20th century drew closer, the concept of Pan-African Renaissance resonated and it was popularized by some African leaders who were referred to as the "new generation of African leaders." They believed that it was time to fully accomplish the objectives of African Renaissance and they practically demonstrated their desire for Africa's revival through the creation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Union (AU), which effectively replaced the OAU in 2002. These were the last efforts made by African states under the auspices of OAU in their quest for unity, political and socio-economic development in Africa.

## The Establishment of the African Union

The desire and efforts to unite countries in a diverse continent like Africa were definitely, bound to be confronted with some challenges. In spite of the debilitating challenges, the African Union<sup>2</sup> was established amidst the excitement of an African renaissance with a renewed expectation that was reliant on the ideology of Pan-Africanism. The establishment of the AU was inspired by the realization that collective African intervention was required to address the common problems of the continent. Considering the limitations of the defunct OAU in addressing African problems, the eventual establishment of the African Union can be rightly described as the beginning of efforts to sincerely address African problems. Uniting African countries was important towards galvanizing and addressing African problems in a more coherent manner.

Against this background, in my opinion, the ability of African countries to overcome the challenges to attain unity in the continent and the eventual transformation of OAU into AU was a landmark achievement. This demonstrated the sincerity and commitment of Africa countries to the aspiration of addressing and finding solutions to African problems by themselves. AU was established to address the myriads of problems plaguing the continent, which included poor governance,

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*The principles of 'Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance' have continuously guided efforts aimed at addressing African problems by Africans themselves*

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<sup>2</sup>The Objectives of the AU are: To achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the peoples of Africa; To defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its Member States; To accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent; To promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples; To encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; To promote peace, security, and stability on the continent; To promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance; To promote and protect human and peoples' rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant human rights instruments; To establish the necessary conditions which enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations; To promote sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural levels as well as the integration of African economies; To promote co-operation in all fields of human activity to raise the living standards of African peoples; To coordinate and harmonize the policies between the existing and future Regional Economic Communities for the gradual attainment of the objectives of the Union; To advance the development of the continent by promoting research in all fields, in particular in science and technology; To work with relevant international partners in the eradication of preventable diseases and the promotion of good health on the continent.

insecurity, and political instability. Beyond these, the objectives<sup>2</sup> of AU were deliberately and properly articulated not only to improve on some of the relevant objectives of the OAU, but also to address a number of germane issues, which OAU could not address.

The African Union was expected to address Africa's socio-economic and political problems, which were compounded by the negative aspects of globalization. It was envisaged (as indicated as part of the vision of AU) that the organization will look forward to having "An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena." A very important principle governing the AU is enshrined in Article 4 (h) of the Constitutive Act of the organization on the 'collective security and early-warning arrangement to facilitate timely and efficient responses to conflict and crisis situations in Africa.' It grants '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.' This is unlike the OAU's principle of non-intervention.

### **Few Instances of How Some Regional and Sub-Regional Issues were Addressed in Africa**

There is no gainsaying the fact that there is a nexus between security and development. A more secure Africa will be a more prosperous Africa. Consistent with this, a more united Africa would have the potential of attaining greater security and pursue the path of prosperity collectively for African populations.

Home-grown solutions, when backed by political will, are always the best ways to address problems and resolve conflicts. African forefathers had countless mechanisms that were employed to resolve disputes and address their problems. In line with this pedigree, African leaders, through the AU (and its Member States) have no shortage of ideas on how to resolve the continent's challenges. The African Union and sub-regional organizations in Africa, which are closer to the African people, are most strategically placed to lead in the overall efforts geared at addressing African challenges.

Consistent with this, African states and African statesmen, have sought ways to end crises and have been playing significant roles in brokering peace agreements on the continent. While Africa should always be prepared to lead in addressing its own problems, in an increasingly interdependent world, the United Nations and African partners should naturally be expected to support Africa's initiatives in this regard. For instance, they would be expected to assist in building the required capacities to address African challenges and assist in other appreciable ways. The United Nations and sincere African partners should, therefore, be commended for their noteworthy assistance in different ways to the continent.

One of the examples of how Africa has addressed her own problems at the sub-regional level was the Nigerian-led Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), which was established in 1990. West African countries should be commended for establishing this multilateral armed forces that successfully intervened in the civil war in Liberia. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) also deployed ECOMOG forces to control conflicts in other West African countries like Sierra Leone and in Guinea-Bissau.

In the promotion of regional financial systems, the Togo-based Ecobank Group, which was initially supported by the ECOWAS fund, was one of the first institutions that paid attention to the need for cross-border expansion into other parts of Africa. The Group provided financial services in 33 African countries with assets that were valued at \$19bn. There were other regional efforts, which included those of financial institutions like Nigeria's United Bank for Africa (UBA). In East Africa, Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Group investments were ranked among the leading five investors in Africa.

According to Ernst & Young's Africa Attractiveness Survey, Nigerian and South African FDI flows to some African countries were at some point quite over \$1 billion each. The focus on value-added processing prior to domestic or international sale; the development of service-oriented businesses for the emergent consumer class; and extension



into neighboring countries are a clear suggestion of positive movement towards a more sustainable growth.

At the continental level, AU Member States had deployed troops for peace operations in Africa; in Burundi, Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan and South Sudan, in Mali, and more recently in the Central African Republic (CAR). For instance, African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) that was established in 2007 could also be described as a success story. AMISOM was composed of Ugandan, Kenyan and Burundian troops with financial assistance from the European Union and the United States. Over two decades, Somalia was entangled in clan-based warfare and in the activities of Islamist militants. AMISON achieved its objectives by securing and stabilizing Somalia, enabling humanitarian activities in the country and protecting government institutions. The mandate of AMISON was extended to 2014 by the UN Security Council.

One of the strategies instituted by the African Union is the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which was launched in 2003. As an African self-monitoring mechanism, the APRM is a mutually agreed instrument that is voluntarily acceded to by AU Member States. It is a bold, unique and innovative approach designed and implemented by Africans for Africa.

Another positive development was the creation of African Risk Capacity (ARC). According to its vision, "The African Risk Capacity (ARC) was established as a specialized agency of the African Union by a conference of plenipotentiaries to help AU Member States improve their capacities to better plan, prepare and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters. It aims to assist its Member States to protect the food security of their vulnerable populations."

The ARC is an innovation that seeks to establish new markets and value network for capital contributors that are interested in protecting investments in Africa's agricultural sector. ARC seeks to contribute toward building resilience among vulnerable populations, at promoting

fiscal stability and to increase productivity and economic diversification.

In most recent times, the African continent has witnessed its first decline in poverty rate since the 1970s, from 58 percent in 1999 to 47.5 percent in 2008. There has been an improvement in macroeconomic policies across sub-Saharan Africa and this has inspired confidence in the investors and in the consumers. Africans are turning inward and they are investing at home. Many African countries have been recording impressive growth rates, which would eventually assist the continent from its economic doldrums. The World Bank's annual "Country Policy and Institutional Assessment" as at 2013, indicates that the overall macroeconomic performance in the region could be equated with those of the developing countries outside Africa.

The narratives on trade are becoming different as there are instances of departures from Africa's historical trade patterns, which were hitherto inclined solely towards the export of raw materials. In 2013, among the key decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at the 50th anniversary celebration of the African Union was the adoption of the Declaration of the OAU/AU 50th anniversary. Other decisions were on the development of the African Union Commission Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017, the AU Agenda 2063, the implementation of the Global



Oil production in Nigeria  
(Source: bbc.com)



African Diaspora Legacy Projects and others. By the Declaration of the OAU/AU at 50, African leaders committed themselves to achieve the AU goals of an integrated and prosperous Africa, at peace with itself and with the world; an Africa whose development is driven by its own citizens and is a significant player on the world stage.

On the overall analyses, it is my view that African countries and the AU are making considerable progress in finding solutions to African problems.

### Concluding thoughts

Although, as stated earlier, recent events monitored in 2013 were pointers to positive developments in Africa, it is necessary to frontally address some serious challenges on the continent. Some questions of concern are: 'Why are nation building efforts leading to disintegration rather than integration in some African countries?'; 'Why should 70% of issues on the agenda of the UN Security Council be on Africa?'; 'Why should leadership succession through elections always generate problems in some African countries?'; and 'Why is it difficult to attain genuine reconciliation in some African states?'

To address the pockets of conflicts that remain on the continent, there is the need for a robust, balanced, consensual, open and inclusive dialogue among concerned and affected people. Africa should promote the rule of law, democratic principles and strengthen democratic institutions among member states of the AU. It is necessary to address the factors that foster the root causes of conflicts in Africa, which can be regarded as the breeding grounds for conflicts on the continent. We should not address the symptoms but the causes. We should build from the roots and not from the top. Africa needs to continue to raise corps of mediators from among her own people. The environment should be made safe for the people to live in but not through military might.

African countries should continue to increase investments in high-quality education, health and other infrastructure that can enhance long-term growth potential. Towards experiencing the transformation of their economies in a sustainable

way, African countries should galvanize their capacities to obtain, use and adapt existing environmentally sound technologies to local conditions.

As I begin to conclude, I want to note that I do not have any oversight that there are perspectives that present sharp contrary views to my optimistic standpoint on Africa as enunciated in this paper. Some arguments always focus solely on pockets of conflicts on the continent and the political

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*To address the pockets of conflicts that remain on the continent, there is the need for a robust, balanced, consensual, open and inclusive dialogue among concerned and affected people.*

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instabilities in some African countries. The proponents of these contrary perspectives refuse, either deliberately or inadvertently, to consider the positive and cheering developments in the continent but rather prefer to argue solely from negative perspective. Sometimes the issues are exaggerated and over-generalized. I believe it is unfair to Africa and some African countries when discussions concerning Africa only emphasize the problems or challenges that are on the continent. My stance is that while there are challenges that should be addressed, which are not insurmountable, therefore the stories of Africa can no longer be narrated exclusively from unenthusiastic perspective. An illustration with a glass that is filled with water by half would suffice at this point. Such a glass of water can rightly be described as either half full of water or it is half empty. The story of AU at 50 and African countries in 2014 could be narrated from either of those two sides of the illustration. We can stress the prevalent positive development in Africa. The other way, instead of aligning with the pessimists to highlight the negative aspect, I will rather describe the other side of the divide as the need to pay more attention to and address the remnants of challenges facing the continent.

I will like to state concerning the developed parts of the world that, at one point in their histories, they had experienced their own period of challenges. I am convinced that as those countries successfully passed through their period of challenges, Africa will also emerge successful at the end. I believe Africa and African countries are nearer to the Promised Land, contrary to the arguments of pessimists that always discuss African issues from a gloomy perception.



Abuja, Nigeria  
(Source: fortuneofafrica.com)



# The New Africa Paradigm

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea  
(nationsonline.org)



**Anatolio Ndong Mba**

Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative of the  
Republic of Equatorial Guinea  
to the United Nations

## Africa's Growing Influence on the Global Stage

Africa is indeed the birthplace of humanity and the cradle of civilization. As such, Africa has had a significant impact on the development and evolution of mankind. Historically, long before the advent of colonialism, Africa had established astronomy, mathematics and architectural science as evidenced in the magnificent pyramids of Egypt. Additionally, during the pre-colonial era the continent had well established local economies, a judicial and social order based on various traditional chiefdoms and kingdoms; one example of this is the Ashanti Kingdom in Ghana. These African advancements have influenced

other regions of the world with lasting impacts. Africa's influence on the world can also be seen in its culture, especially in terms of her art and music. Renowned European artists like Pablo Picasso painted in a style which was strongly influenced by African sculpture, now regarded as Picasso's African Period. Africa's musical influence continues to be felt around the world from American pop and jazz to Cuban rumba - Africa's culture permeates the world. Even during the colonial period, Africa's impact on Western Europe and the New World was undeniable. As the "scramble for Africa" by Western powers intensified, much of Africa's wealth in terms of her raw materials was transferred to the West, and African skilled labor was employed - through the infamous Trans-Atlantic slave trade - to work in the fields as well as build infrastructure in the New World such as roads and buildings.

## Africa's Political Influence

In recent years many African nations celebrated an important milestone of 50 years of independence. At the same time, this milestone marks a continent that has come of age and is determined to chart its own independent course. From a



political perspective, Africa has made significant progress. There are more democratically elected governments and multi-party states today than at any time since independence. Political pluralism has taken root in almost the entire continent and is strongly supported by the African Union. Governance has also improved and there have been many successful reforms with many more underway. In Equatorial Guinea, for example, H.E. President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo signed and officially promulgated Fundamental Law Reform on February 16, 2012. This reform stipulates that Equatorial Guinea rests on the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights (also known as the Banjul Charter), with the goal of promoting and protecting human rights and basic freedoms on the African continent.

Furthermore, the law reform in Equatorial Guinea also requires equal rights, gender equality and protection under the law. Several other African countries have either implemented or are

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implementing similar reforms that advance the rule of law and improve governance.

The Africa Union is growing in stature in the continent as it plays an even greater role in promoting regional peace and security. Internationally, African countries are also playing a greater role as international partners by contributing to UN peacekeeping efforts around the world.

### **Africa's Economic Influence**

Africa's impact on the world's economy through its natural resources is ever present: whether in the form of fine jewelry manufactured from precious minerals mined in South Africa or Botswana; oil drilled from Nigeria or Equatorial

Guinea; steel manufactured from iron ore mines in Guinea and Sierra Leone; delectable chocolate manufactured from cocoa beans grown in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana; and coltan mined in the Democratic Republic of Congo and used in the manufacture of the electronic devices we use in our daily lives. Africa remains an integral part of the world economy with a strong influence on global commodity markets. Africa is by far, the richest confinement in terms of endowment in natural resources. Its manufacturing base however, remains a small fraction of her true potential. Botswana, the world's largest producer of diamonds, for example, has taken steps to have the country realize more economic benefits from its vast deposits of diamonds for her people by insisting that De Beers, a leading producer of uncut diamonds move their trading and sorting operations from London to Gaborone, the capital of Botswana. This relocation which occurred in 2013, signals the transfers of about US\$6.5 billion a year business to the people of Botswana. It is also important to note that Africa's economic growth rate has been remarkable. According to The Economist, 6 of the world's 10 fastest growing economies of the past decade are in Sub-Saharan Africa and many African countries have enjoyed growth in income per person of more than 5% since 2007.

Africa's rise on the global stage is palpable. The continent's emerging middle class with increasing disposable income is slowly being recognized. According to the Ernst & Young's Attractiveness Survey Africa 2013, the size of the African economy has more than tripled since 2000, with a number of African economies predicted to remain among the fastest growing in the world. To cite another source, McKinsey Global Institute analysis indicated that four sectors in Africa, namely consumer products and services, infrastructure, agriculture and natural resources will together be worth \$2.6 trillion in annual revenue by 2020. As such, the continent's economic impact on the rest of the world is unmistakable.

To sustain this growth trajectory, many countries on the continent are embarking on policies of diversification and infrastructural development to attract investors and build a solid foundation for



development. In my country Equatorial Guinea, H.E. the President of the Republic set in motion Equatorial Guinea's long-term development plan "Horizon 2020" which was instituted in 2007. This strategic plan aims to invest in important sectors that will strengthen economic growth, ensure a transparent social climate, build important infrastructure to support a modern nation state, improve social welfare and reduce poverty. One billion dollars have been set aside to support this bold initiative.

Another important goal of H.E. President Obiang Nguema and his government is that of economic diversification, which will reduce our reliance on oil revenues by converting revenues from oil into large public works projects. Equatorial Guinea has experienced significant growth and infrastructure development over the past few years, and we continue to expand secondary and tertiary roads into rural areas and provide piped water and electricity into villages and rural areas.

Equatorial Guinea exemplifies the growth trajectory of Africa. But while the government continues to make significant gains and improvements, marked by its impressive development accomplishments, it is unfortunate to note that some former colonial powers with nostalgic and acquisitive interests, insist on playing the unwelcomed role of colonial master by auto-proclamation and that of a self-appointed caretaker determined to find "solutions" for the internal problems of Equatorial Guinea. What problems? Our country was left largely undeveloped at the time of our independence. Since then, significant progress has been achieved.

We recognize our current challenges concerning sustainable development in the country. These challenges as I have previously stated are being addressed by the government through the implementation of the Horizon 2020 program and the government is working tirelessly toward solving current problems and challenges. Therefore, I would like to seize this opportunity to state that Equatorial Guinea is and has been an independent republic and a sovereign country since her independence in 12 October 1968 and is not a protectorate under the auspices of any country;

we merely seek equal partnerships. Nowadays, there are problems and challenges everywhere and countries should first concentrate on solving their own political and economic problems before interfering in the internal affairs of others, ostensibly to "help" or "solve" manufactured "problems" when in many instances the real intention is one of destabilization in order to gain unfettered access to Africa's natural resources.

It is important to note that as many Africa nations mark 50 years of post-colonial independence, the continent has indeed come of age. What this means in practical terms is that Africa, while welcoming of partnerships and international cooperation, at the same time, she is determined to chart her own independent course consistent with her values and interests.



Natural gas pipe rack suspension bridge in Punta Europa, Equatorial Guinea (Source: Reuters)

### **The New Africa Paradigm**

As Africa continues to make significant progress in the political, social and economic spheres, the continent demands an even greater role on the world stage. Africa welcomes partnerships, but Africans must lead Africa's development and African solutions must be applied to African problems. This leads me to the next phase in the continent's evolution, which I refer to as the new Africa paradigm. There are several important factors that underpin this new paradigm.

First, it is important that Africa and its 54 countries be regarded as equal partners on the world stage. This equal partnership can begin to be realized by having Africa or its representative participate more fully in regional groups such as the G7. While at this time, countries in Africa do not have equal GDP of the existing members, it stands to reason nonetheless that because world affairs are being discussed and formally or informally decided, Africa should have a sit at the table representing a billion people. Additionally, greater collaboration with the European Union would be in the mutual interests of both parties.

Second, this new paradigm shift means that Africa will be exerting its influence for a more fair and equitable benefit from its natural resources as seen in the earlier example of Botswana. For far too long, the African continent has been relegated to being the supplier of raw materials to the rest of the world with little or no value addition being done in-country. This is especially problematic in light of the fact that many African countries are grappling with very high unemployment rates, especially among the youth and women; a situation that could lead to social unrest in some countries. As such, Africa must capture greater value in the value chain of her minerals and agricultural products.

Third, Africa seeks an even greater economic diversification - this means that while Africa extends the value it receives from her natural resources, at the same time, there is a movement to increase diversification into other sectors for greater national and continental resiliency. In effect making the continent less susceptible to

oil shocks and volatility in the world commodity markets. From an agricultural perspective the continent will look to move away from a monoculture, the cultivation of a single crop in a given area. This was historically done to supply industries in the West and usually at the expense of Africans.

Fourth, Africa requires a greater say in the management and governance of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In the past policies were simply imposed on the continent and in some cases without regard to the cultural and socio-economic impact, resulting in negative consequences. Although there has been some improvement in both institutions, Africa can still benefit from more consultations and in playing a greater role in the governance of both organizations.

Finally, I wish to conclude by saying that since Africa is becoming an important driver of future global economic growth, since it is home to a billion inhabitants, and is growing in its strategic importance to the rest of the world, it is time to validate Africa's growing importance. It is now time that Africa occupies permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council. Africa, with 54 members in the United Nations, is unfortunately the only continent without Permanent seats in an Organ where more than 70% of the agenda pertains to Africa. It is imperative that after 69 years since the founding of the United Nations, Africa be given this fundamental right in order to participate fully and effectively in the discussions and decisions for solution to its problems.

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### ***The New Africa Paradigm***

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  - 2. Africa must have greater chain value of her minerals and agricultural products*
  - 3. Africa must have greater economic diversification*
  - 4. Africa requires a greater say in the management and governance of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund*
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# Development in Africa Post the 2015 MDGs



Johannesburg, South Africa  
(maharishiinstitute.org)



**Kingsley Mamabolo**

Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative of the  
Republic of South Africa  
to the United Nations

We have a rich history, the question arises, why is Africa still behind? That is the question we need to answer – a question that Africa has the responsibility to answer – and the responsibility that the international community has to answer as well. That is why we are here at the United Nations negotiating an international framework to ensure we agree as to the way forward to address development. We need to agree on how to move forward. Then we can begin to recognize and help some of the countries in Africa, who continue to be in terrible situations of poverty. How do we develop this international framework? It is all of our responsibility. We need education, governance,

and transparency. Sometimes the international community debates and disagrees on which issues are a priority and the negotiations get really difficult. Discussing governance and transparency then comes into question. Bread and butter issues are the preference. For Africa, all these issues are very important. These issues all come with their challenges that stem ultimately from our colonial past. What would have happened if Africa was left intact, in terms of unity? What would have happened if we had been colonized by countries such as China, where the state remained intact as one? We did not. We became fragmented such as South Africa and so on. We developed different languages, different national anthems, and flags. If we had been left in that sphere, we would have been a power to reckon with along with China, and many others that were not colonized as we were.

I know the argument to not keep going back to the past, but what are we doing now? And how are we improving our situation? It is a factor which has made us far behind in development. The topic today is about African problems, and finding its own solutions. It is a notion that symbolizes this



paradigm shift, of transforming from a beggar mentality to an outlook that is proactive and self-assured. It is a notion that challenges the leadership of the people of the continent, which is to take ownership of the development challenges that are facing Africa. It is a notion that seeks to instill a drive in us, and to find a home brood. We need answers and solutions to ensure that poverty, industrialization, crowd food production, and disease are developed, while simultaneously working on capacity building to ensure the continents' self-reliance. The Africa program at the level of the UN is about 2015. We need to evolve past the 2015 agenda and MDGs that focus on energizing countries, in particular Africa and others, to address issues of development. We have reached an assessment stage asking ourselves if what we have done is enough. Future programs that develop should have a central focus on the eradication of poverty and development of education. We are cautiously moving towards sustainable development as well, but something we do not know very well. The international community is on board with focusing on this issue and as Africans we need to move to this next step and make sure that we are not left behind. We must recognize the MDGs are not enough; we need to add to them. We need to look at issues such as energy, industrialization, technology, which were not well represented in the MDGs.

On the economic side, we also need to look at financial aid. Aid is very important. Certain countries in Africa would collapse without aid - parts of some countries' budgets depend on it. Yet it is not realistic to think that aid can solve all development problems in Africa. In addition to aid, we need to look at other means to finance and support development programs. In Africa, we rally around our own programs, like NEPAD and ask international communities to ensure such programs succeed. We need to find support through foreign direct investment, information and communications technology, trans-boundary water networks, and analyze how they can boost African growth and trade networks. These are some of the opportunities that will be useful in the structural transformation of the continent's economy. They are examples of what we may do outside of what the international community can

do. However, part of the problems that may be faced is capacity - some countries have challenges in collecting taxes. From the experience in South Africa, efficient tax collection can help support a country's infrastructure. The money accumulated from insurance and pension money can be used to build bridges right across the continent.

Another problem is the illicit flow of capital, which is a huge problem for Africa. Figures are estimated but there is no way to check the accuracy. It is estimated that Africa is losing \$50 billion a year, through corruption and other issues. There is corruption both at the national and international scale. For example, multinational companies operating in Africa often do not declare any company profits. Yet these companies do not collapse, but instead they thrive. There is a problem here. The problem is that some African countries allow these companies to operate tax free for five years to entice them to come and create jobs. After five years, some of these companies change their names in order to continue operating tax free. As a result, a lot of money is lost from the continent, including through corrupt leaders. An international framework that curtails this illicit flow of capital and that necessitates the cooperation of national and international community is needed. There are many other issues related to this topic, which Ambassador Ndong has expanded on quite well.

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Our quest in Africa is to improve and strive for integration, both politically and economically. Peace and security continues to be a very important aspect of development as it relates to conflict resolution. There is also a lot we need to do in terms of education and around health issues such as malaria and HIV, which continue to be a problem. In Washington D.C. this August, President Obama will be inviting African presidents to discuss these issues and how we can collaborate. Is help from the international community needed? The answer is “yes” and “no”. As Africans, we need to be accountable to ourselves to ensure we take the initiative. We need to not sit and wait for money to come from outside, but generate our own money as well. We need the commitment of the international community on what is needed to move forward. If you look back in history, the Asian tigers did not simply come out of their dire economic situation. They needed a lot of capital injected into the economy to get them where they

are today. Africa needs that as well. This is the time for Africa. We should make sure that when those opportunities come, all that we talk about is this progress. We need to highlight the fact that of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world, 6 of them are in Africa. For the past 10 years, these countries in Africa have had a consistent GDP. So we do have good stories to tell about Africa. We need to maintain this momentum and turn these stories into the rule and not the exceptions. However, this will continue to be a challenge as long as we have positive growth that is based on natural resources such as oil. If we are solely basing our growth on that nature, it will not be long lasting. These resources give us the opportunity to find other avenues for development. It is not the end goal and final option. Who then has the responsibility to ensure that Africa does this? It is we ourselves, along with the support from the international community.



Western Cape Province, South Africa  
(Source: matchdeck.com)





Cairo, Egypt  
(en.wikipedia.org)



**Osama Abdelkhalek**

Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative of the  
Arab Republic of Egypt  
to the United Nations

I would like to begin by analyzing the waves of change in Africa. The first wave of change started over 50 years ago as African countries gained independence along with the creation of the AU. The second wave of deep change was the democratization that started from Senegal and Zambia who started to change the regimes and to meet international standards; that phase is still ongoing. We are still witnessing changes happening even in my own country of Egypt, such as the political change aiming for democratization. I wanted to address the paradox Ambassador Tete mentioned along three axes: sustainable development, peace and security, and democratization. How do you prioritize where to

start from, where to end, the dilemmas, and the delicate balance between them? Africa has chronic problems with poverty, illiteracy and diseases. The question is how to address them.

In terms of sustainable development, it is a real challenge. Which model should Africa use? The Chinese model? The Indian? Or the Western model in reaching a formula? The green economy has become a main talking point, but Africa is lagging behind since it has not developed sufficiently. It shouldn't reinvent the wheel, but to follow the best of the formulas we have. A lot of Africans are saying that Africa needs a fair chance internationally. The rest of the world has developed enough, so no conditions should be put on Africa to develop. No conditionality should be applied under the umbrella of climate change and global warming. Yes, we are one world, but we have common and different responsibilities. Africa should have the opportunity to grow and meet the needs of its people to combat and eradicate poverty, and to guarantee education for the younger generation. Secondly, fair opportunities are not about donations, but the transfer of technology. We are ready to have better solid waste management, but we need technology and concessions, foreign

direct investment, and free trade to do so. Europe for example is subsidizing its own farmers. It comes at the expense of Africans having a fair opportunity and then Europe asks why are we receiving so many illegal immigrants from Africa? This is all part of the same issue.

Being diplomats in the UN, we are working on the African cause to introduce the African case and protect African interests. It is a daunting task. When I mentioned which model to use, Ambassador Mamabolo spoke about unity and whether it is doable or not. Could we have a better opportunity? Yes, we have a lot to learn, but it is doable. It is not mission impossible. We have to look at the European Union as an example, and follow suit. When we started with African unity, it was coming from a political perspective. The old AU was more of a political platform, and moving very slowly on regional economic integration. Whereas the EU started as a regional economic community, and now has become a political giant with a strong union. We need to borrow from that experience.

our own activities. If we do not, we will always be dependent on others and on priorities set by others and so on. This is very important. When we speak about the issue of finance and sustainable development, which Ambassador Mamabolo mentioned specifically the illicit flow of cash, we need to continue working with the international community, which has been able to track each dollar on the issue of finance going to terrorists activities. We need to do the same with corruption. We heard \$50 billion is wasted per annum because of these illicit flows. We need to do a better job on that. We need to work on our homework on democratic governance, such as the issue of the energy gap and how to address it. Africa needs a fair opportunity, but we need to bear in mind that Africa is also paying a price for the climate change. We keep hearing about climate change refugees and for example, look at Al Sahel. Part of the problem was the desertification, so there was a price to be there.

Democratization also is not one size fits all. I would like to quote the former prime minister

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*Africa should have the opportunity to grow and meet the needs of its people to combat and eradicate poverty, to guarantee education for the younger generation.... fair opportunities are not about donations, but the transfer of technology. We are ready to have better solid waste management, but we need technology and concessions, foreign direct investment, and free trade to do so*

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Coming back to African solutions, when you speak of solutions you describe mechanisms, capabilities, and empowerment. I worked four years in Addis Ababa and two years with the former minister of foreign affairs, so I consider myself an Africanist. I would say the AU needs to continue to prioritize and keep the focus. Ambassador Tete was kind enough to mention the ambition of the 50 years agenda. But 50 years is too long. We need to talk about a series of decades and intermittent goals along the way. We heavily rely on external funds provided by partners to finance that program or so on. We are recipients. To develop our own capability? Yes we now have the set-up. We now have Africa peace and security architecture and Africa standby forces in progress. But we need to develop our very strong base of finance to fund

of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi, who stated that democracy is an organic cultivation. It has to be cultivated in each society, bearing in mind the specificity of that society. We do not intend to reinvent the wheel, but we know what we want, and it will take some time.

Since we are speaking about unity, the key word should be regional economic communities, starting with the building blocks. The building blocks are the regional economic communities in Africa. We cannot jump from 11 to 54 countries to where we will be the United States of Africa. The sequence and cooperation from the state as an actor to the RECs to the AU as our continental organization is of great importance. We need to do some work on that. We have some protocols and so on. We have managed well in some cases, but

the secretariat and the RECs are lagging behind in some areas. To end with a positive note, I am one of those that believe the strengths of Africa are great. Yes, Africa can do it and can do a better job in being united. We can follow the example of the UN, with Africa speaking as one voice. Most of the time, Africa speaks with common African positions. It is possible and is doable. It makes a difference. I believe that since previous speakers have spoken on UN reform, Africa needs to have two permanent seats in the UN Security Council. I think we forget about the need for international economic reform and governance. Structures are needed. We are proud to have South Africa as part of the G20, but we need much more than that. The future of the global economy needs to have more of our presence. The international community needs to continue reforming the governance structure for better opportunities for Africa which has the potential. It is a place where in terms of demography, the younger generation is very strong. I believe we are on the right track. African unity is doable. It needs a lot of hard work, and persistence. The present younger generation can borrow from others, and be confident in their abilities.

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*African unity is doable. It needs a lot of hard work, and persistence. The present younger generation can borrow from others, and be confident in their abilities*

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# Peace and Security in Africa



N'djamena, Chad  
(centralafricanbusiness.net)



**Cherif Mahamet Zene**

Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative of The  
Republic of Chad  
to the United Nations

“African solutions to African problems” is not a concept or a slogan because Africa is already seeking and finding solutions to its problems by itself and with the assistance of its partners.

I will focus on issues relating to peace and security in accordance with the following outline:

I. Overview of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)

II. The Peace and Security Council of the AU: mandate, achievements and challenges

III. The African Standby Force (ASF)

IV. The AU early warning system

V. The Panel of the Wise of the AU

VI. The AU and Regional Economic Communities or Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Conflict Resolution

VII. Recommendations

## **I. Overview of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)**

The APSA is organized around structures, objectives, principles and values and covers a broad agenda in the service of peace and security on:

- Early warning and conflict prevention
- Peace support and restoration, post-conflict reconstruction and consolidation
- The promotion of democratic practices, good governance and respect for human rights
- The humanitarian and disaster management

The protocol relating to the establishment of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) adopted in Durban (South Africa) in July 2002 and entered into force in December 2003, describes the components of the APSA and their respective responsibilities.

## **II. The AU Peace and Security Council: Mandate, Achievements and Challenges**

### **(a) Mandate**

In accordance with Article 5 (2) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the CPS is designed to serve as a permanent decision body for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. The PSC is a collective security system in charge of conflict and crisis situations in Africa.

The AU Commission, a Panel of the Wise, as well as a Continental Early Warning System, African Standby force and the Special Fund, supports the PSC.

It is composed of 15 members with equal rights and elected as follows:

- o 10 members elected for a term of 2 years
- o 5 members elected for a term of three years to ensure continuity.

### **(b) Achievements: Field Missions and Liaison Offices**

The African Union has opened 13 liaison offices and could lead more independent field missions such as the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), the International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) and the International Support to Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA), or jointly with the UN, as UNAMID in Sudan. The MISMA and MISCA were converted into United Nations Peacekeeping missions.

### **(c) Challenges**

- Lack of funding and unpredictability of funding of peace operations;
- Difficulties of coordination with the United Nations (Mali, CAR);
- Difficulties in policy coordination and weakness of African Member States;
- External Interference (marginalization of the AU in the management of certain crises);
- Persistence and complexity of conflicts (Libya, DRC, South Sudan, RCA etc.).

## **III. The African Standby Force (ASF)**

The African Standby Force (ASF) is one of the major components of the APSA. It was created to enable the Peace and Security Council to assume its responsibilities regarding the deployment of peace support and intervention tasks. This force is composed of multidisciplinary contingents, with civilian and military components stationed in their countries of origin and ready for rapid deployment (Protocol on the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council, Art. 13.1)

The AU Constitutive Act authorizes it to intervene on member states in case of serious circumstances, such as cases of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.

Given the technical and political difficulties in the implementation of the ASF to the 2015 deadline, the AU Summit held in January 2014, pending the full operationalization of the APSA, decided to create the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) as a transitional measure. Several Member States have expressed their willingness to contribute troops for its operationalization. Furthermore, the high-level meetings at the level of Defense Ministers are held regularly to discuss issues relating to the operationalization of the ASF. In addition, a practical exercise is planned in Lesotho in the course of the year. The exercise will be crucial in assessing the responsiveness of ASF.

#### IV. The AU Early Warning System

The continental early warning system is the systematic collection and analysis of information on crisis areas which aims to anticipate and prevent conflicts in order to facilitate decision making. It comprises:

- A center of observation and control called the "Situation Room" that is responsible for collecting and analyzing data
- Observational and control units of regional mechanisms connected with the "Situation Room"

The System has developed early warning modules based on economic, political, social, military and humanitarian indicators to analyze changing situations and recommend the best course of action.

The chairperson of the AU Commission uses the information collected by the System to inform the PSC on potential conflicts and threats to peace and security, and recommends measures to take.

#### V. The Panel of the Wise

The Panel of the Wise is established to support the efforts of the AU PSC and those of the Chairperson of the AU Commission. It is composed of five African personalities, highly respected for their outstanding contribution to the cause of peace, security and development on the continent. These individuals are selected by the AU Commission Chairperson, after consulting the relevant Member States concerned on the basis of regional representation and are appointed for a period of three years by the AU Conference of the Heads of State and Government. The Panel of the Wise provides advisory services to the Peace and Security Council and the Chairperson of the AU Commission on all matters concerning the maintenance and promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa.

#### VI. Regional Economic Communities or Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution

Regional mechanisms and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are an integral part of the security architecture of the AU responsible for the establishment of a force across the region.

The ASF, once operational, will consist of five regional brigades each will provide 5,000 troops: The Southern Africa Development Community Brigade (SADCBRIG), the East Africa Standby Brigade (EASBRIG), the brigade of the Economic Community of West Africa States Brigade (ECOBIG), the North Africa regional Capacity (NARC) and the brigade of the Economic Community of Central Africa (ECCASBRIG), which is also known as the Central Africa Multinational Force (FOMAC).

The PSC in consultation with the Regional Mechanisms promotes initiatives to anticipate and prevent conflicts, and when conflicts break out, to undertake peacemaking and peace building actions.



Rond Point De L' Armee, N'djamena, Chad  
(Photo by Ismouz)

## VII. Recommendations

- In order to achieve the goal of ownership, the AU must provide the means to gradually overcome the challenge of outside support, which limits its freedom of action. AU Member States shall contribute to the Peace Fund and financing of peacekeeping operations on the continent
- Member States shall provide the necessary troops for the operationalization of the ASF and ACIRC
- The African Union must continue to design peacekeeping operations in the example of AMISOM in Somalia as part of its strategic partnership with the United Nations
- The strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations should be strengthened further and result in capacity building of the African Union whose role is increasingly growing facing multiple security challenges on the continent.



# Botswana: Vision 2016



Gaborone, Botswana  
(botswanatourism.co.bw)



**Charles Thembani Ntwaagae**

Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative of the  
Republic of Botswana  
to the United Nations

I commend the Peace Islands Institute and the Journalists and Writers Foundation for their welcome initiative regarding the Ambassadors Series of Panel discussions on the philosophy of “African Solutions for African Problems”. I am extremely delighted to have been afforded the opportunity to join my colleagues from Africa in today’s panel discussion. This will allow us to share experiences and perspectives of how our respective countries have approached the challenges of development, with a view of improving the living conditions of our people.

Moderator, it is true that Africa has taken control of its destiny and risen to the challenges of globalization. The continent has increasingly become an important player in global affairs. Most African countries have embarked on genuine political and economic reforms. They have embraced liberal democracy and free market economies. There has been public investment in infrastructure development; including roads and telecommunications as well as in social services such as health and education.

## **Peace and Security**

This is one area where there has been major manifestation of the philosophy of “African Solutions for African Problems”. Africans have increasingly assumed responsibility for resolving their conflicts and civil wars. Regional mediation efforts are mostly aimed at supporting the internal parties to the conflict to find a solution themselves. There are many cases in Africa, such as Burundi, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Somalia where this approach has proved successful.

## Development

At its independence in 1966, Botswana was one of the poorest countries in the continent. The discovery of diamonds transformed the country into one of the fastest growing economies in Africa – consistently sustaining impressive rates of economic growth. In 1994 the country graduated from LDC status to lower middle income. Revenues derived from diamonds have been used in infrastructure and human resource development, as well as in the provision of health, education and other social services.

As the country increasingly assumed control and responsibility for its development, it relied less and less on Official Development Assistance and more on domestic budgetary resources. The donor – recipient relationship that the country had developed with its traditional donors was transformed into genuine partnership.

### Public Private Partnership

Opportunities for Public – Private Partnership, as well as South-South and North-South Cooperation continue to be fully exploited.

### Response to HIV/AIDS

As one of the worst affected countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Botswana treated HIV/AIDS as a national emergency and became the first African country to implement a massive public funded Anti-Retroviral Therapy Program, which was then complemented by cooperating partners such as the Global Fund, PEPFAR, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation etc.

## Vision 2016

This is a National Vision by which Botswana aspires to become a peaceful and prosperous society by 2016 when it celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence.

### Botswana's Key Challenges

Poverty, unemployment, especially among the youth, economic diversification, HIV/AIDS, and Climate Change (negatively impacting on health, water, food and energy security) are the key challenges for Botswana.

### Future Prospects

With the recent discovery of coal deposits and the ongoing prospecting for other minerals, including oil and natural gas, Botswana's future prospects look generally good. More effort, however, needs to be put in diversifying the economy, with a view to reducing its dependence on the mineral sector. Agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and the services sector have the greatest potential and should therefore be at the center of the economic diversification efforts.

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*Africa has taken control of its destiny and risen to the challenges of globalization. The continent has increasingly become an important player in global affairs. Most African countries have embarked on genuine political and economic reforms. They have embraced liberal democracy and free market economies. There has been public investment in infrastructure development; including roads and telecommunications as well as in social services such as health and education*

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# Poverty and Conflicts in Africa

Bujumbura, Burundi  
(cidadesemfotos.blogspot.com)



**Hermenegilde Niyonzima**

Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative of the  
Republic of Burundi  
to the United Nations

Burundi, like its neighbors, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo, has suffered a big deal of ethnic conflicts for nearly five decades. But analyzing deep down, what really happened in the country, one cannot overlook the responsibility of colonial powers, especially the 1885 Berlin Conference, which divided the continent into separate states, with geographical boundaries.

As Benazir Bhutto indicated, “During the colonial era, imperial powers divided up and consolidated states at will. This lack of respect for ethnic and tribal lines often put two warring peoples into one state or split up a single people into two states. When independence was gained by these states,

democracy broke down along ethnic lines and many times proved impossible to sustain”.

Benazir Bhutto who referred to Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan, the Sahara Occidental and Iraq, had not intended to describe so well the politico-ethnic situation from which Burundi and the Great Lakes Region of Africa have suffered, and still suffer today and will probably continue to suffer. Indeed, the Hutus and Tutsis, which are two belligerent ethnic groups, are found not only in Burundi and Rwanda, but also in Buha, West of Tanzania, in South Kivu, East of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and South of Uganda, the area of Bufumbira.

This geo-sociological situation in our region as well as in other areas of the planet is worsening the inter-state relationships, because it is the origin of the civil wars and ethnic based trans-boundary aggressions.

Burundi gained its independence from Belgian colonial rule on 1st July, 1962. The departure of the colonizers gave way to a series of assassinations of leaders over fights for successions. This resulted



in ethnic wars for community survival that was fueled by propaganda of hatred, assassinations and attacks on different ethnic members who were considered as enemies.

But there are more immediate causes for ethnic conflicts in our region. They are summarized in a declaration that Sadako Ogata, the UN High-Commissioner for Refugees, during the Earth Summit on the environment and the development in Rio , June 1992. Ogata said, “More and more people are being forced to flee for a complex combination of reasons, linked as much to population growth, poverty, famine and environmental degradation as to mass violation of human rights, social and ethnic tensions and armed conflicts.”

There is cause-and-effect relationship between poverty and conflicts in Africa, demonstrated over the years during the second half of last century. The scarcity of resources inducts competition towards the management of resources, and there is no respect of rules, constitutions, electoral code and public law. That is what explains military coups and rebellious warfare on the African continent.

But I like to add, that poverty alone is not enough to explain the war phenomenon in poor countries in

Africa, because then majority of African countries would all be in civil wars. This means, therefore, that if the meager resources are democratically managed, with equal access to the public wealth, this can protect countries from ethnic conflict eruptions.

Another issue that is as important as poverty itself is the over-growing population. Burundi is over populated with more than 350 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. This situation implies too much pressure on the environment, exceeding what the ecology calls “carrying capacity”. And like a boat, which shipwrecks with more passengers on board than the number of life jackets, there is fight for survival.

The people of Burundi, with the help from the regional leaders, were able to overcome their conflicts through negotiations brokered by former Tanzanian President Julius K. Nyerere. The Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi installed new institutions, including security forces, with inclusion and participation regardless of electoral outcomes.

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*There is cause-and-effect relationship between poverty and conflicts in Africa.....The scarcity of resources inducts competition towards the management of resources, and there is no respect of rules; constitutions, electoral code and public law. That's what explains military coups, rebellious warfare on the African continent.*

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# Education: Senegal Post-2015 Development Agenda



Dakar, Senegal  
(acbf-pact.org)



**Abdou Salam Dialo**

Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative of the  
Republic of Senegal  
to the United Nations

The theme I have chosen to maintain focus on is education in Africa (with an emphasis on Senegal), in the current context of the definition of the Post-2015 development agenda. The importance of this sector in the development process of the countries from the South is no longer to be demonstrated. The document “The Future We Want”, adopted 2 years ago during the Rio+20 Summit, highlights the need to strengthen international cooperation in order to ensure universal access to primary education, and especially in developing countries renewed their commitment to promote education for sustainable development and to promote education for sustainable development in the

curriculum beyond the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

With regard to Africa, UN statistics shows that only 61% of people over the age of 15 are literate while the global average is around 82%. Over 50% of the 121 million children out of school worldwide are African; children tend to leave school sooner in Africa than anywhere else.

Such data demonstrate the magnitude of the challenges that Africa continues to face in the field of education and justify the initiatives in education undertaken by the African Union, reflecting the unwavering will of African countries, to make education an essential tool for development. Among these measures, I would like to single out the first Decade of Education for Africa (1997 – 2006), which focused on priority areas such as equity, access to basic education, quality and capacity building.

The shortcomings in the implementation of this program have been taken into account in the framework of the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006 – 2015).

In the same vein, in the year 2000, Senegal hosted the “World Forum on Education for All” which adopted the “Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All”. The framework recommended countries to develop a National Action Plan that aims at developing and improving, in all aspects, the protection and education of young children, and raising the level of adult literacy including women by 50%, and eradicate gender disparities in primary and secondary education.

In order to reach these results, Senegal undertook a comprehensive diagnosis of its education system in 1998, upon the completion of which, the Government implemented a major reform in the sector. In 2000, it adopted the General Policy Letter for the education sector, covering the period 1999-2008, with the Ten-Year Education and Training Program (PDEF) as operational framework.

Regarding the African perspectives, it should be stressed that despite the efforts made, the EFA goals and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on education will not be fully achieved by 2015.

I wish now to say a couple of words on higher education:

- Higher education is arguably the best measuring tool of African progress on the field of Education, while providing an excellent indicator of its related issues.
- In 1960, very few African Countries had quality Universities. The colonial rationale, from which they had just extracted, wanted their Educational system to only train low skilled labor, to fulfill the executing positions within the administrations.
- Very few Africans had the opportunity to enjoy higher learning.
- It is therefore understandable that the first African leaders put great emphasis on creating University Centers.
- This is why the number of enrolled students went from 200,000 in 1970 to 4.15 million in 2010,

meaning 22-fold increase in less than 40 years.

- In comparison, the net rate of schooling increased by 8.6% per year in Africa while it only increased by 4.6% at the global level.
- In some countries, the increase in enrollment has reached 2000% in 50 years, rosters exploding everywhere.
- However, this democratization of the access to higher learning hides great paradoxes. Indeed, only 6% of the population reaches the level of university in Africa against 25% globally.
- Furthermore, only 4.8% of African Women have access to higher learning compared to 7.3% of men.
- Infrastructures did not meet the pace of this high increase of students, the number of Professors and their qualifications are problematic. The different crises that the African Continent has faced had their toll on the finance of the universities, which are struggling to cover their operating budget (e.g. overhead and management cost) at the expense of research, the weakest link of African Universities.
- This could explain why the first African University to appear in the Shanghai Top 500 Universities, the University of Cape Town, is ranked 258<sup>th</sup>.
- We need however to balance such a diagnostic, as some of the specialized institutions (especially in Engineering and Management) train high skilled workers whose competence is equal to the ones in other continents.

Additionally, thousands of lecturers and hundreds of thousands of students from Africa work or study in the best universities around the World, and their qualifications have never been questioned.

It seems necessary to me that policies targeted at improving the quality of education must have the objective of adequately training teachers, in sufficient numbers, with appropriate infrastructure and equipment, as well as required school supplies and good recruitment policy. In most African countries, financial resources are



lacking, which often affects the education sector, even with the efforts of States to grant a significant share of their budgets to it.

In this situation, development partners should not only meet their commitments but also increase financial assistance in order to facilitate the achievement by African countries with the fixed objectives in terms of education.

In conclusion, I would like to express my strong conviction that given the evolution of the education sector in Africa, it is clear that African governments have realized that the development of our continent cannot ignore the need to improve performance related to the 2<sup>nd</sup> target of the MDGs. It is therefore essential, taking into account the foregoing, that greater emphasis be put on mainstreaming this issue in the Post-2015 agenda.

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*In most African countries, financial resources are lacking, which often affects the education sector, even with the efforts of States to grant a significant share of their budgets to it.*

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# PEACE ISLANDS INSTITUTE

Peace Islands Institute  
535 Fifth Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10017 U.S.A.  
+1-212-510-8644  
[info@peaceislands.org](mailto:info@peaceislands.org)



## JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS FOUNDATION

Journalists and Writers Foundation  
Tophanelioğlu Caddesi, Aygün Sokak,  
Altunizade Plaza No:4, Altunizade/Üsküdar  
İSTANBUL / TÜRKİYE  
+90-216-339-9196  
[bilgi@gyv.org.tr](mailto:bilgi@gyv.org.tr)