



ADF TODAY

FOURTH AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Governance for a Progressing Africa

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Children of Africa unite and fight

By Andrew Allimadi,
General Rapporteur's Team

Conference room one united in song yesterday morning as President Kenneth Kaunda gave his keynote address at the ADF IV plenary session on "The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Africa's Capacity to Govern". After making an impassioned plea for strong action from African governments and leaders at all levels to reverse the continuing rise in HIV/AIDS infections, Dr. Kaunda asked the hall to join him in "singing Nkrumah's song:"

*Sons of Africa rise and fight
Daughters of Africa rise and fight
We shall fight and conquer AIDS*

He described the epidemic as a "crisis, which I feel, should be declared as an emergency requiring extraordinary and urgent measures to address; a crisis that not only needs the urgent attention of our Governments but more importantly, their commitment to act."

He noted that stigmatization was still preventing many people living with HIV/AIDS from seeking treatment and counseling and called for high-level political leadership to encourage openness. He referred to his own example in 1986, when he was still president of the Republic of Zambia after the death of his son through AIDS-related illness. To the surprise of many, President Kaunda called a press conference at which he announced to the world the cause of his son's death. Kaunda is now patron of the UN Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa (CHGA).

The second plenary today was titled "Mutual Accountability and Good Governance in Africa: The role of Development Partners." The session was chaired by the Executive Secretary Mr K.Y. Amoako and the panelists were Gerald Ssendaula, Uganda's Minister of Finance and Economic Development; Anna Maria Agnes van Ardenne-van der Hoeven, the Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation; Ambassador Bengt Save-Soderbergh from Sweden; Richard Carey, deputy director of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC); Ambassador Shinsuke Horiuchi from Japan; and Dave Fish, director of the Africa Department at the United Kingdom's Department for International Development.

Mr. Ssendaula called on development partners to live up to their numerous commitments to Africa, particularly regarding the quality and quantity of development assistance. He also said the deep reforms carried out by many African countries such as Uganda have not resulted in the expected increase in foreign direct investment but rather in an increase in domestic debt levels. He called for a 100 per-

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AIDS impact on human capital

In yet another moving session on HIV/AIDS and governance, Pascoal Mocumbi, former Prime Minister of Mozambique and a Patron of CHGA, lamented the impact of the scourge on humanity and challenged governments to take action, warning that otherwise the future is doomed.

"The HIV/AIDS epidemic is the worst epidemic in the history of Africa. For both men and women, the virus is attacking the most productive sectors of African societies, prime-aged adults, robbing economies of scarce skills, children of their parents and a continent of a generation in the prime of their working lives".

There is need to understand the implications of the loss of human capital to governments and the society in sustaining vital state structures and maintaining economic development.

"A country that loses skilled labour at a faster rate than its capacity to produce it faces a downward spiral. Health and education systems that are already weak are getting weaker by the day. States with meagre resources and institutional infrastructure, heavily constrained by foreign debt, are now charged with societies that are too hollowed out to increase the stock of human and social capital", the Prime Minister said.

For African governments, the cost of writing off HIV-infected people will be too high to contemplate because the institutions and societies simply cannot afford the human resource losses implied by the high rates of HIV/AIDS.

The very future of our society is therefore tied to keeping these people alive, but there is no escaping the fact that the loss of teachers, health workers, and civil servants at the rates witnessed today



H.E. Pascoal Mocumbi

Photo: UNICEF/A. Fiorenze

threatens further deterioration and eventual collapse of our administrative systems.

Unfortunately, there are major gaps in our understanding and knowledge about what exactly is happening. Across the continent, too little is known about the impact of HIV/AIDS on the skills base in all sectors. Such knowledge is vital for government charged with economic policy and planning.

But there is no evidence that any government has begun to comprehensively address the human resource planning challenges raised by the HIV pandemic, nor is there any sign that the capacity exists, domestically or externally, to meet the needs for critical skills and training.

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Beijing + 10: A Commitment to Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the Development Agenda

By Peter Moszynski

African Ministers meeting at the Seventh African Regional Conference on Women (Beijing+10), Addis Ababa, October 2004, affirmed their commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment as stated in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and related UN and international agreements.

Over the past decade international commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment have been made in UN Conferences, including those contained in the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA). The world's leaders have agreed to take these commitments forward in the Millennium Declaration and set targets for the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Beijing+10 review process is about accountability for the delivery on existing commitments and concrete steps forward to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment.

At Beijing + 10, speakers pointed out that the decade following the adoption of the Beijing PFA has witnessed many changes in the African continent. The advances in democracy and peace fronts at the national level have contributed to a renewal at the regional level.

The creation of the African Union (AU), committed by its Constitutive Act to the principle of gender equality, provides further opportunities for institutionalizing gender mainstreaming and increased political participation of African women in regional decision-making. The AU Commission was formed on a 50/50 gender parity basis. The first Speaker of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) is a woman and at least one in every five national members

of PAP is a woman.

In 2004, African Heads of States adopted a Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, providing normative standards on women's human rights in Africa to be adhered to by governments at the national level. The New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) is also expected to enhance women's human rights, particularly through the social development indicators included in its African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

Efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa gained momentum on several fronts over the past ten years. Some 51 of the 53 African member States have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), known as the women's international bill of rights, and 17 have signed the Optional Protocol.

Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) initiated in some countries has triggered transparent processes of accountability for gender responsiveness in public expenditures. Information available from GRB and the inclusion of women's informal and unpaid work in national accounts are likely to have tremendous impact on resource allocation. In addition, some countries have used affirmative action to reduce gender differentials in education through gender-aware policies aimed at improving the enrolment, retention and



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Editorial

The pen is mightier than the sword

In a growing group of democratic and accountable governments in Africa, such as Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia; and those further north, such as Ghana and Nigeria, the media is being embraced as a key partner in development.

Where resentment exists, it is tempered by a recognition of the need to find a middle ground in which both parties can co-exist.

The question is increasingly not whether the media is bad mouthing or undermining African governments. No newspapers or broadcast stations have brought down any African administration.

Complaints by often irresponsible and repressive governments that it is the media that is irresponsible and needs to be dealt with in draconian fashion are merely an excuse to try to hide the results of their autocratic and corrupt misrule.

In much of Africa, heads of state and government are putting their performance directly up for scrutiny by their people. In Nigeria, President Olusegun Obasanjo holds a monthly talk show on radio so ordinary Nigerians can ask him to account for his policies.

In South Africa President Thabo Mbeki holds "imbizo's" (meet-the-people) forums at which he is asked questions about the direction his country is taking. He might not always like the questions he is asked, but he remembers that the men and women posing these questions are voters and they must be given adequate responses. Mbeki also often

goes live on radio to take questions from his citizens on matters related to South Africa's health.

In Ghana, Kenya and Zambia, the presidents have shown willingness to go live on television to respond to crucial pressing issues – such as the long-delayed constitutional review processes in Kenya. Zambia's President Levy Mwanawasa regularly quotes the media, referring to matters they ask and explaining the government stance.

ADF IV has highlighted the crucial role that the media has to play in achieving good governance, which is now widely regarded as central to Africa's development prospects.

Yet far too many governments still regard journalists as a threat, viewing them as a danger to state security rather than commending their heroic efforts to advance the well-being of the continent's citizens. Although there are clearly still shortcomings in Africa's nascent free press, on the whole its practitioners are heroes rather than villains

The strength of the pen is one of the rights the African Peer Review Mechanism – a crucial part of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) – seeks to reinforce. That strength of the pen must be preserved to remind Africans of their pledges and how they are striving to meet them.

Often the governments meeting their pledges to their people see no need to fight the pen, but those with extremely questionable records can only resort to repression – which they know best – to fight back.

Responsibility of African Intellectuals in the Age of Good Governance

By Bruck Fikru

Markedly absent from the various inspiring dialogues competing for our attention this week is the voice and viewpoints of intellectuals who have critical stories to tell about the origins of the discourse on good governance. Aside from the reality that the discourse is currently in vogue almost everywhere, how the idea of good governance entered the daily discourse of the international development establishment is a story well worth understanding.

The need to put current events and the latest development agendas in historical perspective is something we cannot afford to live without. In Africa, for example, the last few decades have witnessed the establishment's agenda of conducting large-scale experimentation with weakening the role of the State in the pursuit of economic development. Conducted in the name of bringing about "structural adjustment" to the economies of developing countries, the neo-liberal mantra of "getting prices right" has assumed various guises in its pursuit to minimize the role of the State in almost all sub-Saharan economies.

Recent history and current reality show us the catastrophic results. For those subjected to the bizarre experiments, disaster has been the rule rather than the exception. Economic stagnation has become a reality to contend with for most sub-Saharan economies, leaving them vulnerable to innumerable shocks, of which the latest and most threatening to the survival of millions of Africans is HIV/AIDS.

The role of international development institutions in glossing over this critical aspect of recent history, and attempts at maintaining the neo-liberal paradigm under a new guise of "getting institutions right" needs critical vigilance on the part of African intellectuals. The argument that the failure to bring about structural adjustment in Africa was due to the absence of "good governance" needs to be exposed as an untenable intellectual fraudulence.

Billions of dollars have been poured as aid in the name of getting markets right. The result has been disaster. Billions more are

about to flow in the name of getting institutions right, or establishing systems of "good governance" in African societies that find themselves under tragic circumstances. Such times call for serious skepticism, especially in light of history, both recent and old.

Institutional arrangements of the kinds we see in the rich economies have taken literally centuries to evolve. The expectation that massive aid to African economies could result in fast-paced institutional evolution and "good governance" is bound to disappoint. It is contrary to any acceptable understanding of history that most of us should be willing to digest.

As the next generation of African intellectuals grows up to assume the responsibility of telling the truth and educating the public on the workings of the international system in which our continent operates, "good governance" needs to be put in its proper historical perspective.

Noam Chomsky once wrote: "it is the responsibility of intellectuals to tell the truth and to expose lies". The statement could not be any more relevant than it is to those who currently shoulder the responsibility of opening the eyes of the societies from which they come, and to whom they owe their existence. African intellectuals face an uphill battle in keeping the record straight, and in keeping the fire alight until global conditions that allow for meaningful development space open up.

Well meaning international development bureaucrats, gathered for ADF with politicians and academics engaged in the pursuit of Africa's development, should taper their excitement by reflecting on the hard facts surrounding the reality of power asymmetry within which our attempts at economic development operate. Perhaps they should ask why most of our visible continental leaders are absent from our midst while we continue to debate governance issues of evolutionary significance for Africa's future.

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quality of education for girls.

However African women, especially those living in rural communities and those with disabilities, still face daunting challenges. Women's lower access to productive resources including land, credit, education, health and remunerated employment, has contributed to the situation wherein more African women live in absolute and relative poverty today than ten years ago.

The cumulative effects of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria, food insecurity, low economic productivity, low levels of education and increased sexual violence have left African women with considerable challenges and vulnerabilities. Women bear the brunt of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, either as principal providers of care or as the most infected. Even in countries where overall HIV prevalence is low or has been reduced, the number of infected women is still on the rise.

Women and girls continue to be seriously affected by gender-specific violations of their human, sexual and reproductive rights. Situations of armed conflict have become increasingly marked by rape and other forms of sexual violence against women. Women and girls continue to risk death from maternal mortality with 1 in every 16 pregnancies in sub-Saharan Africa resulting in death.

Ten years after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and PFA, governments have recognized that passing laws and policies alone do not bring about substantial gender equality and respect for women's human rights. Reports on the Beijing ten-year review from both governments and non-governmental organizations identified the need to bridge the gap between commitments and implementation.

Hopefully, the ministerial commitments expected to come from Beijing + 10 will result in meaningful changes and will make a real improvement to the lives of Africa's women.

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E-Government: The Beauty and the Challenge *By Ayenew Haileselassie*

It was earnest zeal of the highest standard that made the Government of Canada determined to become the most connected government to citizens in the world. This was not mere rhetoric but a practical engagement, which forced the participants of the ICT focus group at the ADF IV on Wednesday, October 13, to stop for a brief moment and think about their dream of e-government in Africa.

Jacques Bouchard, senior policy advisor at the Canadian International Learning Programs detailed with a few powerful facts the extent to which his country has gone to achieve its objective of government services available online. Since 1995, seven billion Canadian dollars have been spent at the federal level and another 6.5 billion dollars at regional level annually. Another 800 million dollars were spent to kickstart the government website, www.canada.gc.ca, which links a number of other websites. The whole effort required 13,500 people to work on it. It has not been a perfectly smooth progress. "Being the first, we were making mistakes," admits Bouchard, expressing at the same

time his country's eagerness to share its experiences with Africa.

A key challenge for Africa, according to a briefing paper produced by AISI, is how to go about using ICTs to enhance government efficiency. This issue is not about the technology alone, which is but a tool to get things done easier and faster. In "government with an e," it is essential that the government side be first ready and able to use the technology before adopting it.

Dayo Ogunyemi, ECA Consultant, says, "It is important to look at government processes and re-design and streamline bureaucracy." He advises against just using ICT to automate poor or unwieldy processes. "Responsive government is the goal," he told the meeting. "ICT is just one of the tools to drive innovation in pursuit of good governance goals."

The Canadian experience shows a ready government with political willingness and commitment is essential for the realization of the full benefits of e-government. Government On-Line and Canadians, a

multimedia documentary of Canada's e-government achievements, proudly boasts, "It is an extraordinary evolution, setting the course for the kind of government we want in the future."

As the Canadian documentary summarized, "Tomorrow, building on our leadership in information and communications technology and driven by our spirited innovation, the Government of Canada will continue to respond to our needs in new ways eliminating the traditional barriers of time, distance and space between Canadians and our government."

In this year's Government On-Line report, Stephen Owen, Canada's Minister of Public Works and Government Services, says, "By 2005, more than 130 of the most frequently used government services will be available on the Internet."

The impact of this on the lives of Canadians is expressed well in the documentary video, "Instead of the limitations of traditional office hours, services are becoming available to us in ways that are more convenient, ways that fit our life styles."

According to the Report of the ADF IV ICT Focus Group Pre-Meeting, e-government application has proven itself able to promote good governance by increasing transparency in public service and by reducing corruption. "E-Government implies the active involvement of citizens in the decision-making process," the report said.

As a best practice, governments should consider e-government rollouts instead of

pilot projects, which are increasing becoming failures, according to the same report. Funding e-government also demands creative means. Internal and external resource mobilization, public private partnership and continuing support for the Digital Solidarity Fund were among possible solutions proposed by the ICT Focus Group.

On the software front, Mr. Bildad Kagai Kanuri of the Foundation for Open Source Software for Africa, advocated the use of open source software which could be accessed and distributed freely and whose source code was available, so the programme could be altered to suit user needs.

Frank McCosker, Senior Director of Global Strategic Accounts at Microsoft, advocated open standard and interoperability between systems. "Our interest is representing commercial markets" he said. Defending this argument he added, "For every dollar we make, local economies make four to five dollars." Microsoft has 8,000 partners in Africa, he said.

Meanwhile, South Africa's e-tax, Uganda's District Administrative Network, Egypt's e-services and Ethiopia's Court Case Management System among various others are also emergent examples of the ICT role in public service in Africa.

However, the Report of the ADF IV ICT Focus Group Pre-Meeting called for caution in replicating models that work well in the developed world but not necessarily here in Africa. African countries must continue the quest for the right formula to put together working e-government.

Reflections from the ADF Today newsroom



By Aaron Mwerwa

ADF saw journalists from within Africa and beyond come together to work, on among other things this publication that you are reading. The following are the reflections on the conference from some of the journalists who worked on ADF Today.

They say the pen is mightier than the sword. I sometimes wonder if this is why it is that the least democratic governments are the ones that



Peter Moszynski, Consultant Editor ADF Today

ADF was a great opportunity for me as a journalist to bond with people from across the globe, share ideas and of course learn quite a lot about how we can push Africa ahead.



Ruth Neshibo, radio journalist, Kenya Broadcasting Co-operation, Specialist reporter on Gender.

I was able to see that the ADF truly raised issues relevant to the African agenda. It now remains for Africans to act on the ideas and issues raised by this huge event that brings together people of influence not just from Africa but the entire world. I am not sure about

one thing, and that is whether or not the agenda of the African governments and the agenda raised by the ADF have been made to conform in such a way that the desired change could be achieved in as short a time as possible, at a time when time seems to be running out.



Ayenew Haileselassie, Editor-in-Chief, Fortune Newspaper, Ethiopia.

This is the third time I have covered this event. All ADF's offer a great pool of experts to interview on various subjects, so it is possible to bring news to listeners "right from the horse's mouth." The broadcast media has a great influence on its listeners, and by bringing listeners information on all the aspects relating to good governance, coming right from the people that deal directly with those issues, carries the message even further.

I found ECA personnel very helpful in tracking down people to interview, and assisting with recordings. Working on ADF Today was something very new, as I am not used to writing for the print media, but still it was a great experience to work as part of an "in house" news team, and with journalists from all over Africa and beyond.

Jenine Coetzer of Channel Africa Radio, South Africa



Media demands African Charter for press freedom

By Dean Mwaanga

Media practitioners attending ADF IV have called for the drawing-up of a Charter on the promotion of free flow of information that will guarantee press freedom to enable the media play its role effectively in promoting good governance. The proposed charter should spell out the rights and responsibilities of journalists and set goals on what should be achieved.

During the ADF IV Media and Governance Focus Group discussion yesterday, participants said there was need for the African Union to come up with a Charter that will bind governments to press freedom if the African media is to play its role effectively in promoting good governance. Each state party shall undertake to have freedom of the press from the date the Charter comes into force.

The meeting noted that although it was widely acknowledged that the media should have an important role to play as a public watchdog in exposing corruption and upholding democracy, most countries do not have a free press as government interference persists throughout the continent.

A senior Reuters correspondent based in South Africa, Manohar Eshipu, said for development to take place on the continent, governments needed to triple their

efforts to increase literacy levels to enable their people to make informed decisions based on knowledge and available facts: by freeing the media.

"I have not heard many journalists claim to run a government although I hear many government officials with little or knowledge of the intricacies of our profession pretend to know how we must work. They act and seek to run newsrooms from the luxury of their tax-paid-for mansions," he said. Eshipu also noted that journalism training lacked depth on the continent and called for the inclusion of political science, diplomacy, economics and other subjects as additional modules.

He said journalists needed to clear the perception that they are pests and interfere in other people's activities, by getting facts straight and analysing them well so that they can build their reputation as professionals.

A journalist from South Africa, Audrey Brown, said the issues of low wages and lack of resources should also be addressed. She advised media heads to run their organizations as business entities if they were to survive. Brown also said there was need to encourage South-South comparisons and called for the establishment of a Complaints Commission to promote journalism ethics.

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Rwanda brings in foreign experts as peer review gains momentum

Rwanda, one of the first four countries to be reviewed under the continent's new governance rating initiative, has brought in experts from South Africa and Kenya to help with the process and show accountability, the chairperson of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) panel of eminent persons said.

Senegalese activist Marie-Angelique Savane, head of the seven-member panel that includes Mozambique child rights activist Grace Machel, former South African Reserve Bank governor Cris Stals and Kenyan diplomat Bethuel Kiplagat, said Rwanda, Mauritius, Ghana and Kenya had started the review process with a self-assessment period and the panel's first reports could be issued as early as March next year.

She said Rwanda was firmly on track and Ghana could join it in delivering the first reports if general elections later this year

passed without a hitch.

"Rwanda has taken tremendous steps to ensure that it stays on track. Because of the 1994 genocide, Rwanda lost a lot of professionals and it has brought in experts and researchers from South Africa and Kenya to help with the process and that is the spirit we hope can be emulated across the continent. The critical challenge is to improve governance and transparency and we think there is growing political will to deliver that," she said.

Some 23 countries had so far signed up to be reviewed, just short of Africa's 54 members (including, according to the African Union, Western Sahara). Savane said she saw the figure of 27, or half of Africa, as a watershed that would confirm that the continent's commitment to being audited politically and

economically was not mere pretence.

Savane said peer review was a tough process and many governments were not entirely sure of what it would lead to, meaning trepidation within many administrations on the continent. But she said those that signed up showed great courage and were in a group of Africans willing to be counted as Africa moved to improve its international image.

Peer review is a huge plank of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which preaches improved political and economic governance in exchange with improved donor dollars and foreign direct investment. The scheme has won the backing of the Group of Eight most industrialized nations, which says it will increase funding to those countries with good reviews and consider reducing assistance

to countries with bad ones.

Savane said she was concerned that private sector players were not giving peer review as much attention as it deserved, yet it was they who complained most about bad governance. She also said that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were demanding money to enable them participate in the process.

Funding for peer review has so far come from the governance programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) but Savane's team was working to establish a fund that would deal with the matter, she said.

"NGOs are now used to being paid for whatever work they do instead of advancing an activist role they are supposed to play. So, money issues has slowed civil society participation in peer review issues," Savane said.

Kaunda inspires action on HIV/AIDS

By *Amon Mulyowa*

In the on-going plenary sessions on HIV/AIDS, former President of Zambia and Patron of CHGA, H.E Kenneth Kaunda, was at it again, pushing for intensified action against HIV/AIDS.

In his remarks, he welcomed the opportunity for the members to interact with Ministers of Finance in order to bring attention the Commission's work: "I believe it's extremely important for us to work closely with our policy makers because Africa is facing a crisis with frightening implications on populations, a crisis that I feel should be declared an emergency requiring extraordinary and urgent measures to address it; a crisis that not only needs the urgent attention of governments, but more importantly, their commitment to act".

Kaunda believes the AIDS pandemic in Africa should compel our leaders to do everything necessary in the fight against the disease for it has already taken millions of youth in the prime of their lives and still more are living with it. "In many of the deliberations in the continuing sessions about the scourge we were given food for thought", he noted.

It is now some twenty years since the first cases of HIV/AIDS were diagnosed and while some progress has been made, in methods of treatment and provision of care, a lot should be done especially in reaching the rural people. This calls for the need to focus on partnership between governments and other stakeholders, especially NGOs.

At the Maputo interactive session, the Commission recognized the need to inspire our leaders to do more in spearheading the fight against HIV/AIDS and to take appropriate measures for care and treatment. "The involvement of political leaders is important, as people listen to what they say", explained the CHGA Patron.

The underlying cause for Kaunda's com-

mitment to fight the scourge was the loss of his son in 1986 due to HIV/AIDS-related illness. Before this he knew little about the disease he said, and there was a lot of stigma attached to it.

"I realized that if we had to make progress in Africa against AIDS, there was need at high political level to provide leadership and to encourage openness in dealing with people infected with the disease. I view this to be important in breaking the wall of silence, which was mainly due to stigmatization, as AIDS was viewed as a disease of shame".

He stressed the fact that if we succeeded in breaking the wall of silence, many infected people would be encouraged to come out in the open and seek medical treatment and our doctors would learn more about the disease for the good of humanity.

"I have taken the initiative to encourage people to go for testing so that they can know their status and in 2002 I took a test in which I announced the results, which were negative", the Patron said.

But this goes further. What if the results were positive?

Kaunda insists, "I would still have made it public and used that status in the fight against this pandemic. I am glad to mention that, since then, stigma is becoming less of an issue and many Zambians are going for voluntary counseling and testing".

He strongly supports counseling and testing services. He said, "It is extremely important that those who are positive should be counseled on how to live positively and those that are negative be given the necessary information on prevention".

Referring to the magnitude of the problem he noted that sub-Saharan Africa is the most affected region in the world. This has had an adverse impact on governments in the region, in delivering services

to communities, due to the loss of skilled labour. "There is no sector that has been spared by the scourge; the civil service, the health sector, education, agriculture and mining are a few to mention but all have been affected".

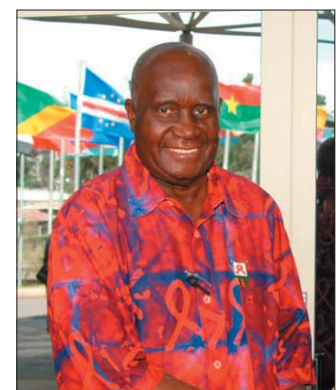
The Patron gave an illustration with a brief account from Zambia, where at independence in 1964, the country had produced only 100 university graduates. This was 70 years after British rule and of these graduates only 3 were medical doctors. By the time he left power in 1991, there were 35,000 graduates. Since then, most have been lost to HIV/AIDS. What a loss!

In terms of strategy, Kaunda pointed to the need for partnership with different stakeholders involved in this struggle. "Governments need to work closely with NGOs to develop effective strategies for combating the scourge. Critical strategies have to be looked at to help the infected to live longer and those not infected to remain that way".

The issue of nutrition was covered extensively in these deliberations and in this regard, Kaunda requested the Commission to look at nutrition strategies seriously as it is a critical factor in management of HIV/AIDS. He has found out that nutrition plays a remarkable role in helping patients on ARVs to get better. "This is an important discovery, which we should follow up". Kaunda said.

With regard to treatment, he feels that African governments do not have adequate capacity to sustain programmes at national level. He called for the support of the international community in scaling up treatment to the affected population. On their part, governments in Africa should commit much more funds to the campaign against HIV/AIDS and to implement the programmes of treatment, care and prevention.

This should be done with the participation



Dr. Kenneth Kaunda at ADF IV

Photo: UNECA/Florence

of the people, not only at national level, but also at district and local levels, in order to enhance the availability of drugs and also their accessibility. The Patron challenged governments to be ready to face up to the need to scale up treatment programmes in African countries.

"I wish to appeal to leaders in government to look at the recommendations of this group when they are published and to consider incorporating them in their national programmes and to allocate resources to the fight against HIV/AIDS. But this may not do the trick unless governments are willing and ready to implement the programmes they draw up.

"As an old statesman I am obliged to urge our governments to wage a relentless fight against HIV/AIDS with the similar vigour and determination which characterized the struggle against colonialism and apartheid. Sincerely, given the adverse impact of Africa's capacity to govern, our leaders should rise to the occasion and do what is right to help reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa but there will be need to work together through networking in order to learn from each other's experiences for the good of Africa".



ADF V: Focus on Youth

Youths resolve to move from words to action

By Aaron Mweewa

"If it is left to the politicians themselves out of their own political will to involve us in the governance of our countries it will never happen," Southern African Development Community Youth President, Alfred Sigudhla, has charged.

Sigudhla said that like the women who managed to push for a protocol that called for greater representation in parliament, the youths must also push for space in parliament so that they can be mainstreamed in the governance of their countries.

"The sessions that we have had at ADF IV have helped to come up with ways that will ensure that we get to be part of the agenda setters who shape the destiny of our continent," he said.

It was a boiling pot when the youth thematic group sat to ponder their future in the context of social justice and peace in Africa. "We must formulate militant ways in which we have to prescribe our own development. Africa is not a continent in which whoever wants must come and tell us what to do," said one General Womba.

The overall feeling was that they had insufficient time to discuss pertinent issues that affect them. Evidently, as ADF Today noticed, the youth thematic group was the last to stop discussing, so many were the words and thoughts to be voiced. But the youths will definitely have more time at

the next ADF to discuss all the serious issues affecting them, as it will centre on them.

ECA's Kwabia Boateng says arrangements for the next ADF have actually reached an advanced stage, even though he qualified it by saying that they are at the planning stage. But he confirmed that the next one will seriously concentrate on youth issues because ECA wants to give them more time to reflect on their issues and chart the way forward.

ADF V will focus on 12 thematic areas - all of them related to youth.

"I cannot wait for the next ADF. I think for now the youth have to start preparing so that when we come it will be serious business, Sigudhla said.

"ADF IV did most certainly give us an opportunity to speak in a unified voice and to reflect on how Africans youths can go forward in pushing for more space", Nyakuru Dembedza confirmed. She said there are a lot of challenges before the next ADF, some of which can be overcome by sensitizing and mobilizing at the grassroots so that their views can also be incorporated.

What seemed to be the consensus among this honourable theme group was the feeling that something concrete had to

be done. "We should not become generic conference attendees that go home with a set of recommendations that won't affect anyone. We are not here to just have tea!" said the General.

The Chairman of the group found it painful to close the meeting because the end was more like the beginning. "What we need to have is more time to bring out these issues and I know we have more to say," he said.

The youths' messages are really but one: no more neo-colonialism in Africa. We know how to develop and the future is in our hands, let the prescriptions come from us. "We have to regionalize our concerns and challenges; we have bring together our voices across the region before taking them up to the global level. This is an opportunity the ADF gave and should always do so," said Dembedza.

She added that there is need to build a critical mass of Africans at the global level and to bring out the huge prominence of HIV/AIDS.

Jessy Zulu said she was very impressed with the keynote address, saying it bound Africans together. She said the civil society is calling on the ruling elite to know that they have rights and she hopes the Forum will help prevent further misrule in some

parts of the continent.

Another participant, Matilda Moyo, said it is sad that some countries are not fully represented at the Forum: "Considering this that this is a thematic group for the African continent we needed youths from all over the continent to come and participate, she said. This means that whatever comes up at this forum will be viewed as the voice of only the countries that are present. We really need to mobilize people in the region so that they claim ownership of the Africa Development Forum".

She said the next Forum should work on the successes of the on-going one and provide a space to get together and discuss pertinent issues that affect the region: "It's good that space has been created as it allows us to break down issues that affect the ordinary person in day to day lives. The youths face hardships because of lack of a table at which they can put their agenda and be heard. The 70 years plus generation of leaders is fading and so it is now our time to govern," Moyo said, adding: "Forums like the ADF are just what we need."

The message from the youth symposium is that deeds and not words should govern the actions of government leaders as they seek to mainstream the youth in the governance of their respective states. Yes, it written all over their faces; the youths are tired of rhetoric and have resolved to move

World Food Day

By Jenine Coetzer

Tomorrow, Saturday the 16th of October, is World Food Day - an annual celebration that began in 1981 and is now recognized in 150 countries as a day for raising public awareness concerning global food issues. October 16th also marks the founding of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which took place in Quebec City in 1945. World Food Day aims to heighten public awareness of the plight of the world's hungry and malnourished and to encourage people worldwide to take action against hunger.

Each year, World Food Day highlights a particular theme. This year, it is "Biodiversity for Food Security". It will highlight biodiversity's role in ensuring that people have sustainable access to enough high-quality food to lead active and healthy lives. FAO estimates that about three-quarters of the genetic diversity of agricultural crops have been lost over the last century. And of 6, 300 animal breeds, 1, 350 are endangered or are already extinct.

"The world's biodiversity is under threat and this could severely compromise global food security," FAO Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, said in a message for World Food Day. "As a consequence, the food supply becomes more vulnerable, there are fewer opportunities for growth and innovation in agriculture and less capacity for agriculture to adapt to environmental

changes or to the appearance of new pests and diseases," Dr. Diouf added.

Global efforts to conserve plants and animals in gene banks, botanical gardens and protected areas are vital. But an equally important task is to maintain biodiversity on farms and in nature. Conserving biodiversity for agriculture will require efforts on many fronts including measures to preserve the environment, better education, increased research and government support, according to FAO.

In Ethiopia, World Food Day will be marked at community level. Farmers in the eastern Herrege zone will celebrate the day in the presence of a delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and FAO. According to the FAO representative to Ethiopia, George Mburathi, they will have lunch with farmers at Kersa, about 470 kilometres from Addis Ababa. It used to be a food-insecure area, but with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture and some technical and financial assistance from FAO, farmers were taught how to improve their food security at household level. Low-cost agricultural techniques were introduced, and farmers were shown improved ways to store seeds for the next season. Mr. Mburathi says about 20 farmers that showed the best farming practices would be rewarded with certificates, and a few implements.



FAO is attempting to increase farmers' productivity in Ethiopia

Earlier this week, World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director, James Morris, asked the world not to forget the 840 million people in places as far apart as Liberia and Peru, whose chronic hunger is hidden from TV screens. Morris said while one might think that crises like in Sudan's northern Darfur would help to focus more attention on the general problem of hunger in the world, the opposite is actually the case. Funds for the unseen hungry, the people who are simply too poor to feed themselves and their families, are even harder to come by when the world's attention is seized by a major natural disaster or conflict.

WFP provided food for 1.3 million displaced people in camps inside Darfur last month and for a further 200 thousand across the border in Chad. With Darfur still in the news, Morris said, the WFP can probably continue to feed them over the coming months. The problem is that for every hungry child who makes the headlines there are millions more who do not. "When was the last time we read about hungry people in Azerbaijan, Guinea, Sri Lanka or Tajikistan?" he asked. "Even in regions that regularly hit the television screens, the hungry do not merit a mention. In all the news coverage of the West Bank and Gaza, when did we last hear

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World Food Day

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about hungry Palestinians?"

He noted that it is a shocking fact that now, in the 21st century, hunger is still claiming more lives than AIDS, TB and malaria combined. According to the World Health Organization, undernourishment deprives the world of more productive life years than any other health risk. Out of every 100 deaths from hunger-related causes, 92 are among the chronically malnourished. The problem is made significantly worse by the explosion of HIV/AIDS in some of the poorest parts of the world. AIDS has exacted a terrible toll on Africa, Morris said, but no sector has been hit harder than food production – with seven million African farmers already dead from the pandemic. That's why WFP interventions for those affected by AIDS are so im-

portant – well-nourished people who are HIV-positive stay fit and active far longer than those without enough food. That means that they can care for their children longer, and slow down the huge rise in the number of orphans, now already at a staggering 20 million.

"We can break this spiral," he said. "If everyone were to pitch in and help, we would dramatically reduce world hunger, especially among 300 million needy children. There is enough food already in the world for everyone. We have benefited so much from scientific advances that we can be confident of our ability to continue to grow enough food for the foreseeable future. Science isn't the problem; it's a question of political will and determination, not just on World Food Day."

Reflections from newsroom

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I am very interested in women's issues and HIV/AIDS. Probably this explains why most of the stories I wrote for ADF Today were biased towards these issues. ADFIV has been an enriching experience for me as I have met people from all over our great continent, listened to issues of my interest being discussed, learnt very much on governance and will be carrying a lot of literature back home. I was also very happy that my role as a journalist in achieving good governance has been highlighted. It is very rare that journalists are talked about at a workshop of this magnitude.

I had started some projects on human rights and HIV/AIDS back home and believe with the contacts I have made and

knowledge acquired, my work will be made a lot easier of course not under estimating the hurdles there in.

I received an e-mail today from the UNAIDS, expressing their gratitude for my writings on HIV/AIDS in ADF TODAY, and they requested my E-mail address so that I can receive printed and Audio material on the struggle. I only wait and hope to see future collaboration with the ECA, as we forge forward for the attainment of good governance in Africa.

Amon Mulyowa, a journalist working with Uganda Media Women's Association and MamaFm, a community radio station in Uganda.

Sons of Africa unite and fight

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cent debt relief to Africa so the continent can start with a clean slate.

Ms. van Ardenne-van der Hoeven said the Netherlands had already met its commitment to provide 0.7% of its GDP in development assistance and will use its current presidency of the European Union to press other countries to follow suit. She said it was important for development partners to harmonize all their policies towards Africa to ensure positive outcomes. She particu-

larly cited the European Common Agricultural Policy as particularly harmful to Africa; as are policies on generic drugs and immigration. She called on OECD countries to work towards a fairer international trading system by achieving a development outcomes in the forthcoming Hong Kong meeting of the World Trade Organization.

The third plenary session of the day was the closing of the Beijing + 10 Ministerial Conference.



Dr. Kaunda with ECA's Andreus Allimadi

Photo: Peter Moczynski

Covering ADF has been a great and rewarding experience for me. What has been most thrilling is the interaction with my colleagues in the media. Everyone on the ADF Today has been exceptionally friendly and helpful, you cannot feel any greater sense of belonging.

Kennedy Mambwe, Managing Editor of Zambia's First electronic newspaper: Information Dispatch.

ADF Today is available online at:
www.uneca.org/adf

AIDS impact on human capital

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"We have no information on the ramifications of mortality amongst senior government officials, what effects such losses are having on the delivery of public services, economic development and national security and at what point might the States simply seize to function?"

Governments need to re-think their growth and development strategies taking into account the effects of HIV/AIDS, on various sectors and on key economic variables that need to be closely scrutinized. The resource implications both in terms of national workforce and public finance need to be clearly identified.

In future perhaps the most critical measure to response will be the extent to which we are managing to keep PWLHA alive longer. For this to happen we need to begin systematic thinking now and to put in place scaled up anti-retroviral therapy in resource-poor settings. We also need to work out the implications of expanded access to treatment and care and free medication, for national and international resource mobilization.

"This will require two things; the first is a new thinking by policy makers based on concrete analyses and costed policy and programme options. The second is an engagement with leaders to erase any false sense of security and put in its place a serious commitment to new modes of



Reducing stigma will lead to increased take up of voluntary counselling and testing

Photo: Peter Moczynski

governance and development in the era of HIV/AIDS."

National governments must play their pivotal role in partnership with the international community and at domestic level and join forces with people living with the virus, local government, civil society and the business sector.

A fundamental task is to support the livelihoods of families and communities affected by HIV/AIDS, ensuring that government-

tal and international responses can be relevant to their needs.

CHGA will pave the way for governments to develop a systematic understanding of the impact of the disease on human capacity and related planning issues, as well as the likely budgetary implications for effective response.

This will go hand in hand with a call for greater leadership at all levels in confronting the epidemic, particularly from

national governments, the international community and civil society.

Also, by identifying the major pathways through which AIDS affects socio-economic prospects, CHGA is encouraging governments to undertake a re-thinking of their growth and development strategies to takes HIV/AIDS into account, so a difference will be made.

CHGA will also provide governments with practical recommendations on up-scaling prevention and treatment programmes for all those who need them. The greatest challenge that awaits heavily affected countries is to extend the life span of those living with the virus. This includes but is not limited to anti-retroviral provision, voluntary counseling and testing, and prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

As such, it will be crucial to identify resource mobilization needs, and determine the optimal way for utilizing our human, financial and material resources to scale up technical advances in the simplified administration of treatment.

"The tasks ahead therefore in mounting a serious crusade against HIV/AIDS are many but if the world is to stand any chance of its aspirations for sustainable development then our actions must be a full-scale attack on HIV/AIDS. This is the task of CHGA," Mocumbi affirmed.