



ADF TODAY

FOURTH AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Governance for a Progressing Africa

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Royals ignite day two with impassioned defence of traditional governance

By Andrew Allimadi and Carolyn Knapp, General Rapporteur's Team

His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene of the Ashanti people of Ghana, and His Majesty Kgosi Leruo T. Molotlegi, King of the Royal Bafokeng Kingdom in South Africa, provided the highlight of Day Two with powerful presentations in defence of traditional systems of governance.

Speaking at a plenary session on "Traditional Systems of Governance and the Modern State," the Asantehene – whose entrance into Conference Room 1 was preceded by a colourful fanfare of drumming and horn-blowing – pointed out that contrary to popular belief, traditional governance systems also included checks and balances on authority. "Democracy and the rule of law are cardinal features of traditional systems of governance," he stressed, adding that his own accession to the throne was not automatic, but the result of wide-ranging consultations within the kingdom. The leadership and personal qualities of the ruler are assessed before an heir is chosen from among those eligible.

The Asantehene also described the important role of traditional leaders in mediating conflict situations, explaining that his courts had resolved over 400 cases since his accession, which would otherwise be bogged down in the modern legal system. He suggested that the absence of traditional systems in Cote D'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Liberia may well have played a part in the emergence of conflict in those countries.

In arguing for a pivotal role for traditional systems of governance in delivering development, particularly in rural areas, the Asantehene also described his numerous charitable activities, including HIV/AIDS awareness and the Otumfuo Education Fund, which has provided scholarships to more than 2,000 people, including doctoral candidates. While traditional systems were not the panacea for Africa's challenges, he argued that they should be part of the solution, calling on the African Union to invite traditional leaders to participate in its summits.

In his presentation, His Majesty Kgosi Leruo T. Molotlegi challenged the popular perception that electoral democracy was uniformly preferable to traditional forms of governance. "Traditional modes of governance are not the same thing as tribal politics," he insisted, emphasizing that not all traditional leaders represent tribally or ethnically defined entities. Indeed, the modern electoral system itself was far from immune to tribal politics.

H.M. Kgosi Leruo T. Molotlegi cautioned
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Ethiopian President H.E. Girma Woldegiorgis challenges CHGA

By Amon Mulyowa

In his speech, H.E. Girma Woldegiorgis expressed gratitude to each and every one of the Commissioners for honouring the invitation of the Secretary-General to champion the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The President said that understating the terrible nature of the scourge that has enveloped our society is a grave mistake. Ten years ago, it was unimaginable that HIV prevalence would have reached the shocking levels at which it is today in most parts of our continent.

In the absence of massively expanded care and treatment efforts, the AIDS death toll on our continent is expected to continue rising. This means the worst of the epidemic impact on our societies and economies will be felt by the future generations. His Excellency warned, that "As bad as it is today, the reality is, it is getting worse".

For the current generation, AIDS is primarily killing those in their productive and procreative years, with profound implications for the population configuration and social structures. The most direct impact is being felt at the family level, where the death of the breadwinner means the disruption of the family as an economic unit and even its disintegration. The capacity of the communities to pool resources in times of hardship dwindles with the collapse of the families.

Shocks that would have otherwise been absorbed with little impact get magnified and become unmanageable, worsening poverty and leaving those alive ill-prepared to sustain the community.

In the long term, the loss of income-earning adults translates into more than economic hardship to those who survive. Along with the death of productive adults comes the loss of integrated knowl-



Pres. Woldegiorgis and K.Y. Amoako at CHGA symposium

edge, which will be felt in lower productivity and security over the years. The deaths of workers across all sectors acutely affect coming generations.

Though AIDS has been killing the poor disproportionately, those who are skilled and economically well off have not been spared either. Skilled workers who are the backbone of society are dying. We are losing teachers, health workers, soldiers, policemen and civil servants.

"Our cemeteries are filled beyond capacity, parents are dying from HIV/AIDS or burying their children; a generation of grandfathers and mothers is being lost leaving the grandparents to grieve and raise the next generation," the President lamented.

The resulting social decay and economic breakdown is threatening

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The ECA African Governance Report

By Tanja Bosch and Jenine Coetzer

The second ADF plenary session opened Tuesday morning with the presentation of the Economic Commission for Africa's long-awaited African Governance Report. This represents the end of the first phase of a groundbreaking project in which progress towards good governance in Africa was assessed.

The report presents data gathered during a survey of 28 African countries, in which household surveys and expert panels of some 100 members per country used 83 indicators against which good governance is monitored. The indicators gauged citizens' feelings about the state of governance in their countries, yielded information on best practices and identified the main requirements for capacity development. The countries involved in the study were: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

According to Mr. Okey Onyejekwe, Regional Advisor in ECA's Development Policy and Management Division (DPMD), the data gathered by the Household Survey and the Expert Panel show that collectively, the overall Governance situation in African countries has markedly improved over a decade ago.

Overall governance is getting better in Africa, confirmed Mr. Onyejekwe, although he qualified this by pointing out the many

hurdles to overcome. However, citizens in many countries believe that their political space is being liberalized, that human rights and the rule of law are more widely respected and that the media and civil society are advancing.

The information gathered also reveals considerable country variations in governance indicators – some countries score consistently better than the sample average and some consistently worse. Most of the 28 countries surveyed scored lowest in terms of decentralization of government structures. They also have low scores for efficiency of government services, control of corruption, integrity of the tax system and the transparency and accountability of the civil service.

The Governance Report identifies ten priority areas for action in building capable and accountable States. These include strengthening the capacity of Parliaments to perform their core functions, deepening legal and judicial reforms, improving the delivery of public services, fostering credible and responsible media and maximizing the contribution of traditional modes of governance. The Report also suggests that in all ten areas it is essential to tap the potential of Africa's young people, as they are the future of governance on the continent.

However, despite the long build up to the launch of this Report, described as a groundbreaking contribution toward understand-

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Editorial

Yesterday's launch of ECA's report: "Striving for Good Governance in Africa" was met with mixed criticism by the representatives of African states present at ADF IV.

While representatives of countries such as Tanzania praised the report and said they are striving to match some of the suggestions it makes, others disagreed with the focus of the report.

"We have criteria of our own. Perhaps they are not the best, and need to be reviewed but they are our own," said the Minister of Family from Gabon, in a statement following the presentation made by Okey Onyejekwe, ECA's Senior Governance Advisor.

Albeit from the heart, the outburst was perhaps not entirely fair. As Mr Onyejekwe reminded the audience, ECA's selected methodology for the report was not only participatory, it also relied on national institutions selected by competitive bidding in no less than 28 African nations, in four regions, and representing 70 per cent of the continent's population.

This very technical report bases findings on three types of research. They were overlaid to provide thorough analysis of the status of political and economic governance on the continent.

The first is an opinion-based study, which utilizes a national Expert Panel composed of 70 to 120 experts, depending on the project country. In each case careful selection ensured an appropriate range of representation of age, gender, social status, education, field of training, political and religious orientation, as well as ethnic or regional balance.

A second sample was made using a stratified two-stage probability range of 1,300 to 3,000 households across Africa, representing a cross-section of the population to gauge perceptions of principal national problems and the accessibility, adequacy and efficiency of government services.

Finally, desk-based research and hard data were used to supplement and complement the Expert Panel and national household surveys.

The study finds that comparatively, much improvement has been made with regard to the establishment of democratic processes on the continent. On the political front, the highest scores were registered

on the credibility of electoral processes in general, the freedom of political parties, and the distribution of political power.

Despite these high scores, it was acknowledged quantitatively that fewer resources are allocated by national governments to opposition parties, regardless of legislation passed to guarantee equity of representation.

Average scores were lower for the effectiveness of institutions for all three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial.

The independence of the three powers and the concept of checks and balances require first and foremost a culture of transparency, as well as a political opposition that is given a fair chance in taking part in government. In addition, legislative and judiciary bodies independent of the executive presuppose both increased capacity in the area of justice for parliamentarians and legal professionals alike.

On the economic front, poor access to finance was identified as the most frequent bottleneck for improving the investment climate. Few businesses in Africa have access to loans. When available, interest rates for bank loans are practically unaffordable.

The report acknowledges that considerable caution should be exercised in cross-country comparisons. The political, social, and economic environments vary significantly from one country to another. This is clear in several cases.

For example, with regard to the quality of public services, while Burkina Faso reports that 62 per cent of its surveyed households claim they are 'good' or 'very good', in nearby Cameroon a mere 22 per cent of those surveyed agree with the statement.

Another starker contrast is noted between Botswana and Swaziland, both in southern Africa. Whereas in Botswana 88 per cent of those interviewed consider their leadership respects the rule of law, in Swaziland, 69 per cent of the interviewees said leadership 'rarely or never' respects the law.

Still in the process of being refined, this first report of its kind for the African continent is a necessary tool for a discussion surrounding the effectiveness of governments, as well as the durable and sustainable nature of reforms to incipient democracies, which will result in capable States.

Traditional Governance

By Kennedy Mambwe

A clarion call for convergence between traditional systems of governance and the modern State presented to the ADF IV by the Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II of Ghana, impressed delegates to the level of a standing ovation.

Passionately charged by the successes recorded during the past five years of his rule to positively transform the Ashanti kingdom, Otumfuo Tutu II is set to push for a broad-based recognition of traditional leaders as viable partners in the social and economic development of African communities.

He requested the AU to consider giving traditional leaders a seat in their regular meetings to discuss development issues on the continent. Quoting the 1954 Cousey Commission Report to the British Government, the King said the whole institution of chieftaincy was so closely bound up with communities that its disappearance would spell disaster: "I have often said that while politicians think of the next election, we traditional leaders think of the next generation."

The Asantehene was quick to acknowledge that, though weaknesses still existed in the traditional system, chieftaincy should be seen and recognized as a partner in national development and governance.

Concerning conflict resolution, the King said the socio-political upheavals in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire could be explained, in part, by the absence of strong traditional authority. He said the established chieftaincy institution in Ghana has, to a large extent, contributed to installing relative peace in that country today.

"One area where the traditional system



Kgosi Leruo Tshekedi Molotlegi

of governance has shown tremendous success is in conflict resolution. We have noted that our system of arbitration and resolving conflicts is now doing rounds in academic and developmental circles as alternative dispute resolution".

He said the ability to use democratic traditional systems to resolve conflicts had made it possible to maintain social stability and cohesion: "The State of Ghana has been better off with these mechanisms for arbitration," said Otumfuo Osei Tutu II.

In the past five years, over 400 cases that would otherwise still be pending in modern law courts have been settled amicably before traditional courts in Ghana. In land cases, he said, the Government has benefited from the painstaking traditional system that enables rulers to be aware of land and property boundaries, getting a head start over cheats and frauds: "The secret here is that, because chiefs are closer to the communities, they

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A Majestic View

The Kings stole the show on Tuesday at ADF IV - hands down, one draped in bold and colourful handwoven traditional kente cloth, with bejewelled golden accessories on his hands, fingers, feet and toes; the other besuited and looking very much the progressive 21st century mining mogul that he is.

The Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II King of the Ashanti, and Kgosi Leruo Tshekedi Molotlegi, King of the Bafokeng Nation and protector of their platinum fortune, graced the ADF gathering with their presence and pageantry in a display that few will forget.

Their Majesties did not just look good and smile benignly at the applauding masses. They also had messages to deliver. Both spoke at some length about pressing issues concerning their respective kingdoms in Ghana and South Africa, as well as the rest of the continent, and highlighted the roles traditional rulers can play to help resolve them.

Whether or not you are an advocate of traditional leadership in present-day Africa, judging by the crowds who squeezed into the foyers and exhibition hall of the Conference Centre to catch a glimpse of the royals, you cannot deny that they appear to unite Africans.

As the two men walked, talked and relaxed together, under the canopy of the Asante-



H.M. Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene at ADF IV

hene's traditional red umbrella, they were followed by a retinue of Ashanti courtiers, dressed in gold, red and green Kente cloth thrown elegantly, toga-style, over one shoulder. Behind them came the drummers, whirling dancers and, in dramatic black and white, the haunting horn blowers of West Africa, their resonance mixed with the piercing ululations of appreciative Africans in and outside the auditorium.

And that is how it was. The Kings came to town and won Addis over - hands down.

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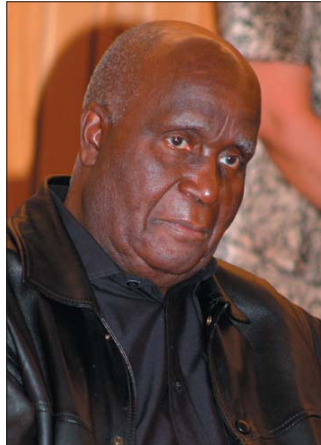
Good nutrition a tool to fight HIV/AIDS pandemic: K.K.

By Diana Mulilo

Household food security can reduce vulnerability to HIV infections and African leaders must take this as a serious issue to help combat the scourge. Some policies have been formulated and ratified but the resources to implement the processes are inadequate.

Speaking in an interview with ADF Today, the first African leader to come out to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic passionately, His Excellency Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, the first President of Zambia, said our leaders are also human beings and they will need to be helped to understand what it is that is taking place, and that quite a few have come to see sense in fighting against HIV/AIDS.

Despite the little progress being made by the few African leaders in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Dr. Kaunda is not disappointed but is still hopeful that strong will to continue fighting and trying to find ways to educate and raise awareness among other leaders will help stop the pandemic from killing millions of people, especially in Africa.



H.E. Kenneth Kaunda

He maintains that HIV/AIDS is worse than poverty or even war but it can be stopped at some point if the leaders and the community can begin working together and maximizing resource use and knowledge to fight the pandemic.

Leaders and civil society have to help the people to know what is being done. That means education and information are absolutely important, and also working together as a whole in the regional fight. Secondly, Dr Kaunda also stressed that poverty is one of the factors that we have to fight alongside HIV/AIDS. He warned that if we don't do so now, we could all perish.

Good nutritious food is crucial for people on Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) and must be taken seriously and promoted in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Dr. Kaunda says this means that there is a need for long-term responses and perspectives on combining relief, rehabilitation and developmental initiatives on food aid, along with access to land for women.

"There are people living with HIV in Europe and they are able to look after themselves by having good nutritious foods. Nutrition also does a lot to help fight AIDS."

Referring to the need for education to help fight the stigma attached to the disease, he noted that stigma is one of the most dif-

icult issues to fight in Africa but that this can be done if the leaders are determined, "just like we did when fighting for political independence".

"What is important now at home, not only in Zambia but in all the region, is for us to appreciate the importance of all those who are fighting AIDS finding a way of working together. Right now the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) is helping us to get round to talk to our colleagues so we will be able to work together".

Dr Kaunda also pointed to the need to "advocate for supportive laws, and to improve agriculture productivity for women". He further urged that community campaigns should be carried out to raise awareness of women's legal rights to own land.

"HIV/AIDS can be stopped if the African leaders realize that Africa has vast land and can utilize this to build economies and eradicate poverty, by enriching and investing in land and the resources of its people."

Traditional Govt.

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know better the claimants to properties."

The often-ignored dualism in African governance systems has greatly benefited the large Asante community inside and outside Ghana. The traditional ruler revealed that, in 1999, when he assumed the throne (stool), he found falling education standards, with alarming rates of school dropouts chasing after jobs for a living, while some were attending under-the-tree classes.

In the health sector, HIV/AIDS was threatening Ghana and its entire social and economic fabric. Realizing that Government alone could not solve these problems, the Asantehene set up an education fund to support bright but needy children and university students.

So far, through contributions received from the public and private sectors, individuals, international bodies and from Ghanaians overseas, over 3,000 children and students have benefited from scholarships offered by the fund. He also established a health committee to advise on steps to stem the tide of HIV/AIDS prevalence in the region.

Speaking later, Kgosi Leruo Tshakedi Molotlegi of the Royal Bafokeng Nation in South Africa, echoed his counterpart's sentiments about the pivotal role that traditional systems could contribute to governance and economic development if fused with modern rule.

The King of the Bafokeng called for the promotion of local solutions to local problems, rather than adhering to prescriptive guidelines from Western countries.

"African leaders have been following rules made by others for far too long. We have the ability and the resources to establish and pursue our own versions of participatory governance, responsible and accountable leadership and prosperous communities that can grow and develop according to standards set by Africans, not by the Western world," he observed.

CHGA-I: It's not business as usual

Jamillah Mwanjisi

With all the suffering HIV/AIDS brings, food insecurity is now the greatest threat for the future of Africa and yet most programmes addressing HIV and AIDS have not changed to reflect the current reality,

The impact of food shortage is best felt at household level in many African countries where HIV/AIDS has eroded the most productive force: men and women who are able to till the land and produce both cash and food crops.

However, with the enormous amount of resources being poured into HIV/AIDS programmes across Africa, we still pretend it's business as usual: agricultural extension workers, who are vital in agricultural development in rural communities, continue to operate the same way they have been doing the past 30 years.

"We operate as if it's business as usual. It's not business as usual," says Joseph Tumushabe, a lecturer at Makerere University in Uganda. "Extension workers are also dying. They are overstressed with work and our focus continues to be the same." Due to AIDS, extension workers spend more time attending funeral or being sick than working with communities to improve food security.

He said although Africa continues to suffer from hunger and famine caused by poor soils and rains, AIDS has affected many households, especially in rural areas where subsistence food production is taking place.

As a result, families are forced to sell their land and other assets in order to get food. "The result is terrible, most of them going into destitution," said Tumushabe.

Tumushabe was presenting a paper on

HIV/AIDS and rural livelihood at the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa (CHGA) Interactive. The session aimed at collecting views from civil society on AIDS and governance and obtaining civil society inputs into CHGA's own deliberations and recommendations. These inputs will be reflected in the final report of the Commission to the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, due in June 2005.

The Commission is chaired by K.Y. Amoko, Executive Secretary of the ECA and its patrons are the former president of Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda, and the former prime minister of Mozambique, Pascoal Mocumbi.

This is the third CHGA Interactive session. The first was held in Mozambique in March this year. The second, in July, took place in Botswana and focused on treatment and care of people living with HIV/AIDS. Two further sessions are planned for Cameroon and Ghana.

On the issue of livelihood, Tumushabe said there is a need for agricultural extension services to adapt new ways of working, which can ensure easy availability, access, and stability of food in rural communities.

Promoting wide ranges of food crops and improving water harvesting should be part of the agricultural extension work as well as reducing women's workload who are the major producers of food crops across Africa.

However, these main producers are now burdened with caring for the sick as a result their ability to produce food has diminished drastically. In addition, HIV/AIDS has increased women's vulnerability to land and property disposition as well as their right to education whereby girls are taken out of school to care for their sick

family members.

Gladys Mutangadura, ECA's Economic Affairs Officer said African governments should now concentrate on finding ways of assisting women in their workload such as promoting intercropping which reduces weeding time and promoting high yield and less labour intense crops such as sweet potatoes and cassava.

"This is the only way we can assist women to continue producing using less time and energy," said Mutangadura. "Research should also concentrate on new technologies which will assist women to spend less time ploughing."

Ms. Mutangadura also suggested that African governments should provide farm inputs to women to increase their productivity as an immediate solution to food insecurity in the continent. But more work should be put into building women's capacity to survive.

Most of the participants who took part in the interactive session agreed with the presenters and emphasized the need for governments and the donor community to implement some of the policies, ideas and recommendations coming from people affected at the community level.

Richard Mabala from UNICEF said the problem with African governments is that most decisions made take too long to be implemented while people continue to die. Therefore it's important for communities to be given resources to work on their priorities.

Joy Phumaphi, one of the commissioners of CHGA, said it's high time we see HIV/AIDS not only as a disease or a developmental issue but also as a threat to livelihoods and the future aspirations of Africa.



Gender Development Index

By Ayenew Haileelassie

The African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD) of the Economic Commission for Africa yesterday launched the first phase of an Africa-based index to measure the level of equality between men and women on the continent. This African Gender and Development Index (AGDI), has two parts - the Gender Status Index (GSI) and the African Women Progress Scoreboard (AWPS). Together, they have four main objectives.

The first is to provide an appropriate tool to measure gender equality and equity, and women's empowerment and advancement. The second objective, to democratize statistics and create qualitative monitoring tools that are easy to use and effective, is particularly relevant as a policy instrument to increase knowledge on the measurable status of women on the continent. The third AGDI objective is to help monitor the progress made in implementing conventions that African countries have ratified. Finally, the index should stimulate interdepartmental cooperation within Ministries.



ADF IV stressed the need to reduce gender inequality

A pilot exercise undertaken by ECA confirmed that there is a strong, measurable relation between policy implementation and improvements in the situation of women.

Unlike previous indices of its kind, AGDI shifts from GDP-linked indices to more comprehensive gender-disaggregated data sets that are nationally available and that incorporate qualitative and legal issues such as women's political rights and women's right to own property in Africa.

Designed for both gender planners in government and NGOs, as well as experts and donors, AGDI is divided into three blocks of sub-components and indicators: social power capabilities, economic power opportunities, and political power agency. "We are not ranking countries," said Ms. Thokozile Ruzvidzo, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, with ACGD. "We are attempting to show a general picture of the status of gender in societies across the board in Africa."

The study avoided the names of respective countries, though examples were quoted during its presentation. In one unnamed country, for example, the GSI showed a worsening gender divide. Good efforts in

primary school enrolment at 0.700 have been frustrated by dwindling secondary and tertiary enrolment rates, which stand at 0.481 and 0.250, respectively.

The closer the indices are to zero, the worse it is for women, according to the study. An index of one indicates gender equality and equity. In 36 out of the 41 categories, the indices are below zero. Nine of the 36 categories place equality rates above 0.700.

The worse records of discrimination against women were recorded in the components measuring advances in literacy, wages, income from informal enterprise, time spent in domestic, care and volunteer activities, ownership of titles, and access to credit of any kind. In addition, re public sector participation and representation, far fewer women as compared to men are employed as civil servants.

The final version of AGDI is scheduled for release in March 2005.

AIDS impacts on rural livelihoods and households

By Amon Mulyorwa

During the ongoing meeting of the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa, Prof. Joseph Tuushabe from Makerere University in Kampala delivered a paper on rural livelihoods and food security/nutrition in the context of HIV/AIDS in Eastern and Southern Africa.

The purpose was to examine the impact of the scourge on food security at all levels (house-hold, community and institutional), review the coping strategies adopted, and synthesize best practices, successes and constraints.

Rural livelihoods in Africa have been affected by the general vulnerability of farming systems, the state of governance and its effects on resource allocation towards rural areas, population dynamics, poverty and the demand for resources.

These, coupled with the natural causes of vulnerability such as bad weather, (for example floods, insufficient rainfall), particularly in the horn of Africa, Sudan, and more recently, in Central and Southern Africa, have accelerated the rate of vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in these areas.

With the exception of Mauritius, Reunion and Libya, all countries in Africa have shown negative nutrient balances every year, on account of the poor soils, high population density and poor management practices.

The state of governance in Africa has also made things worse. The conflicts in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda, Angola, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo have aggravated the HIV/AIDS scourge.

In the same context, globalization demands the opening up of markets and lifting of subsidies. This has to be seen against the African context of peasant farmers and pastoralists unable to access extension services, competition on the local markets with cheap foreign agricultural goods, and too few farmers with the technical knowledge and the financial means for meeting World Trade Organization (WTO) regulations. Globalization has made the economic situation in Africa worse.

Some 70% of the world's HIV cases are in sub-Saharan Africa and by 2020, 55 million Africans will die earlier than they would have in the absence of HIV/AIDS and if treatment and care programmes are not urgently put in place. The rural situation is especially daunting because the pandemic has come at a time when more than two-thirds of the population of the 25 most affected countries in Africa lives in rural areas.

In Africa's most hard-hit countries, 7 million agricultural workers have died of AIDS since 1985 and 16 million more are expected to die before 2020, that is 26 per cent of the agricultural labour force. It should also be noted that food consumption drops by up to 40% or more in homes afflicted by HIV/AIDS.

The scourge has torn apart families, destabilized economies and communities and reversed the positive evolution of farming systems and rural livelihoods and economies. The current HIV prevalence rate has increased the momentum of fresh infections. The haphazard, ad hoc prevention, care, treatment and mitigation services in most countries have not been able to decrease or stem mortality and there is general inability among victims and their



Women bear most of the indirect costs of the global scourge of HIV

families to access basic food and other livelihood entitlements, especially in times of stress.

As a result of the scourge, the age of marriage has lowered, reduced contraception use, and increased birth rates thereby causing growth in population, especially in the younger and unproductive age groups.

Migration is one of the results of the scourge. When added to the increased mortality of farm labour and the low use of technology and science to replace the demand for human labour, the threat to rural households intensifies.

HIV/AIDS has affected the ability of households to produce food and earn income among other disease-induced burdens. The rural community's ability to sustain social safety nets for relieving

stress during crises is greatly affected and the country's ability to import basic requirements, attract investment and maintain quality governance structures is compromised.

Without advanced scientific innovations and technology, HIV/AIDS affects labour throughout the production process by removing productive family members. There is also the accompanying loss of income, assets and production time (ill persons and caregivers do not do any productive work and the workers are diverted to funerals).

The psychological impact and trauma resulting from loss of a loved one impedes production also. Furthermore, the health of non-infected family members also declines due to lower food levels and other

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basic entitlements. Inter-generational skills and experience also diminish or are lost due to the impact of HIV/AIDS.

The traditional social support system for reducing social stress is getting strained and affects the women mostly. Many of them have become destitute due to property grabbing by the relatives. To sustain household productivity, child labour and exploitation as a source of bride price have also become common.

The exclusion of directly affected families from extension services is a major outcome, as too is the reversal of the urban-rural support networks. The urban sick return to rural areas to die and be buried, and many orphans are sent to rural relatives to prevent their having to live as street children.

To cope with the catastrophe, there is a need to study and map interlocking vulnerabilities at all levels and re-design programmes in food security, poverty alleviation and HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment. This has to go hand in hand with resource re-allocation towards mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and patient care, and upscaling of mitigation programmes.

The identification of household, community and institutional capacities and challenges and building on existing entry points in programme design are vital. Equally, new measures geared at enhancing and sustaining the production capacity of AIDS-affected individuals, families, caregivers, groups, and communities have to be initiated or extended.

To address the issue of labour supply, promotion of non-labour intensive crops and reduction of time wastage should be emphasized, as well as agricultural diversification. Also recommended are community farming oriented to support food security and nutrition among the most vulnerable households and people, including female-headed households, and community-based school feeding programmes, among others.

Efforts to prevent HIV/AIDS-affected families from sliding into destitution and starvation should be intensified. The example of the Uganda Women's Effort to Save Orphans is often cited. This NGO operates a micro-savings scheme that has helped orphans and infected mothers to save.

Turning to the issue of extension work, the integration of gender and age issues into extension programmes that include women, youths and elderly participation, is a vital step.

The presenter also urged governments to strengthen and expand existing community-based initiatives into new areas, targeted at alleviating labour and social capital constraints through customary labour-sharing arrangements, traditional savings and other mutual assistance associations, to ensure that households in need have labour and capital alternatives.

Green revolution the key to Africa's agricultural sustainability

By Ruth Nesoba

Analysts from the continent have identified agricultural development as key to the achievement of sustainable development, broad-based economic growth, food security and poverty reduction in Africa. According to Alex Tindimubona, an analyst at ECA, agriculture is of fundamental importance to the industrialization of the continent because it involves over 80 per cent of the population across Africa.

"If our farmers are using the wrong methods for agriculture then the economy will be affected adversely and if they are applying the correct methods then the benefits accruing from their production will have multiplier effects on the whole economy", says Tindimubona in an interview with ADF Today.

Tindimubona explains that the dependence of poverty reduction and food security in Africa upon agricultural development is readily apparent. "As many as 70 per cent of Africa's poor live in rural areas and despite the rapid urbanization in many regions across the continent, it is estimated that 60 per cent of the poor will still be in rural areas in 2020, and their income and livelihood will depend primarily on agricultural enterprises."

However, despite these glaring facts, many farmers across the continent are still not using the appropriate methods of agricultural production, occasioning poor yields, over-used farmlands leading to poor soil nutrients and degradation of the environment, worsening the unending poverty cycle that bedevils the continent.

With this in mind, ECA has designed a road map for a Green Revolution Initiative for Africa. Identification of priority commodities with high domestic consumption and commercial potential can be used in promoting this agricultural transformation. Development of an inventory of available technologies related to such commodities would also be very useful.

In the words of UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan: "A green revolution in Africa is the key to the continent's move towards self-sufficiency in food, reduction of hunger and eradication of poverty."

Key to getting the Green Revolution working for the continent, according to Tindimubona, is farming methods that are country-specific: "Our farmers are small-holder subsistence farmers who produce only enough to survive, sometimes even less. Therefore, on the ground we have to get new designs."

These new designs include discovering the real potential of farming lands, water and other environmental resources, preventing their degradation and depletion, identifying the right crops to grow that are harsh-weather resistant and able to make enough money to raise income for the farmer and ensure food security.

In addition to these, Tindimubona says that transformation requires a shift from



Photo: Peter Moseyoshi

The Green Revolution could massively increase agricultural productivity

subsistence farming to targeting domestic and external markets, changing foreign trade policies and regulating agricultural market economies and policies to do with agricultural technology, including research and extension.

Indeed, there have been a number of success stories to write about the Green Revolution. These include the use of high-yielding varieties of certain crops, modern farming methods and plans for modernization of agriculture in various countries, following an intensive campaign launched early in 2003 by the ECA Sustainable Development Division (SDD).

One of the notable examples is Ethiopia in 1997, where trials increased from a few thousand plots to close to 3 million plots, turning a food-deficit country into a maize exporter to some of its neighbours.

However, Tindimubona regrets that such transformation has not been smooth sailing, acknowledging that there has been a

delay in triggering a full-scale Green Revolution in Africa due to a failure in building national and international systems of innovation to sustain such a revolution. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has also robbed the agricultural sector of much-needed skills.

"This clearly calls for increased public, private and collective action to mobilize investment in the infrastructure required for production, such as irrigation and water harvesting, land improvement, roads, and markets, among others."

Matters of governance are also crucial in making sure that farmers are empowered. And this, according to Tindimubona, can only be achieved if governments across the continent create an enabling environment to help farmers to carry out their activities. They need to get good prices for their produce, reduced taxes and increase in subsidies. Above all, farmers need a space to express themselves, through such capacity-building initiatives as formation of farmers' groups to advocate for their cause.

Ethiopian President continued from page 1

the socio-economic fabric of our continent, particularly in southern and eastern Africa. Public services in most affected countries are facing widespread attrition of trained staff.

In Zambia, more teachers are dying than are being trained. Can the education system withstand this kind of loss? The deaths of water technicians and extension workers have a great cost for rural communities, and usually means the stagnation of already struggling systems.

Deterioration and collapse of public service systems are sure to reverse any gains made in the fight against poverty, making poverty worse and creating fertile ground for the future spread of the disease. In places where the infection rates are high, hospital beds have over 100% occupancy rates and health workers are working under adverse conditions and in high-risk environments.

The health sector lacks the capacity to manage the epidemic. An overwhelmed health sector and a struggling education system do

not bode well for the future. They contain the seeds of macro-economic instability, since they result in the erosion of human capital.

Meaningful economic growth is unthinkable without significant gains in health and literacy, which are under the direct attack by HIV/AIDS. The private sector has not been spared as the pandemic has robbed it of skilled workers who are difficult to replace, costing the firms dearly in profits, human resources and enterprise capital.

As the environment in which expectations about the future is formed deteriorates, investment looks less attractive and skilled workers find it more attractive to flee to stronger economies, exacerbating brain drain out of Africa.

The CHGA meeting therefore is a challenge and opportunity to everyone to contribute to Africa's fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic. As President Woldegioris urges, "Together, we can make a difference"

Zimbabwe is not an example of bad governance say its delegates *By Aaron Mweya*

We should not be used as an example for bad governance when looking at the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the Zimbabwean delegation at the ongoing Africa Development Forum 1V (ADF) has demanded.

They said good governance is all about efficient resource allocation, which Zimbabwe has done through the land redistribution exercise of giving the land back to the people, and as such should not be criticized but praised.

The delegation become incensed when the first two presenters from Kenya and Burundi respectively in plenary session 3 on governance said that people in their respective countries were questioning the effectiveness of the APRM when the African Union had failed to use it to punish Zimbabwe for its alleged bad governance.

The Zimbabwean delegation said using their country as an example whenever one was talking about governance would be sending a bad picture to the outside world, implying that there was misrule in that country.

They said they strongly suspected that there was an invisible hand that wanted to punish Zimbabwe coordinating the whole thing.

Delivering the complaint on behalf of the delegation, Zimbabwean Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Services, Paul Mangwana said that it was surprising that both of the first two countries mentioned Zimbabwe in their presentation when they are so many other countries that they could have used as examples.

He added there is no organ under the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU) that has the legal muscle or right to punish Zimbabwe for practicing what they said is a key tenant of good governance – distributing resources equitably. Mr. Mangwana said that 70 per cent of the land in his country had for a long time been under the control of a four per cent minority of the population.

Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa,

Abdoulie Jenneh, who chaired the plenary, apologized on behalf of the discussants and said that he was sure that the two presenters did not mean to use Zimbabwe as an example in bad faith.

After the plenary, the Zimbabwean delegation told ADF Today that they were not satisfied with the apology and would have preferred it to come from Kenya and Burundi directly. They said such differences are not supposed to exist among Africans as they are supposed to be brothers.

Speaking earlier, APRM Panel Chairperson Marie-Angelique Savana said the APRM is the best barometer to judge the state of governance in Africa because it is a wholly African initiative. She said if used properly it could help in coming up with good economic and political development initiatives for Africa. Ms. Savana asked the donor community to give the APRM time if it is to bring about the desired results, saying that like any other process, it takes time. She further disclosed that a Trust Fund has been established to help the implementing countries with funding.

Four countries, namely Rwanda, Kenya, Ghana and Mauritius, have already started implementing the APRM. This is an instrument voluntarily acceded to by participating states. The mandate of the APRM is to ensure that the policies and practices of participating states conform to the agreed political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards contained in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance. The APRM is the mutually agreed instrument for self-monitoring by the participating member governments.

The primary purpose of the APRM is to foster adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated subregional and continental economic integration. This is possible through sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful and best practices, including identifying deficiencies and assessing the needs for capacity building.

Every review exercise carried out under the authority of the Mechanism must be technically competent, credible and free of political manipulation. These stipulations together constitute its core guiding principles.

ECA's in-depth look at Africa's economy

By Kennedy Mambwe

Efforts to attract both domestic and foreign private investment and a pursuit of private sector-led growth and development in Africa have resulted in limited success.

A report released Tuesday at the on-going ADF IV in Addis Ababa reveals that last year, the net FDI flows to sub-Saharan Africa were \$US8 billion, significantly less than the \$39 billion that went to Latin America and the Caribbean, the \$14 billion to Central and Eastern Europe and the \$89 billion to Asia and the Pacific.

"Striving for Good Governance in Africa"

Royals ignite day two *continued from page 1*

that traditional forms of governance were not uniform across the continent, and as such must be "... rooted in the histories and cultures and contexts" of specific instances and communities. However, just because they did not conform to western style democracy, this did not mean they were unaccountable to the people. Indeed, the Royal Bafokeng Kingdom frequently organized special general meetings for youth and for women to ensure that everyone in the community could participate in the policy-making dialogue.

Contrary to the conventional wisdom, the King stressed that in the South African context, customary law coexisted well with the South African Constitution and Bill of Rights. He insisted that traditional rulers were not contesting power with the modern state, but would like to work in partnership with it, arguing that it was the modern African state that in many cases had refused to partner with traditional leadership. On the contrary, a great deal of African democracy was already in place and this should not be discarded in favour of western systems.

Illustrating the potential for co-existence between tradition and modernity, the King pointed out that Bafokeng had invested approximately US\$ 1.5 million in 2000 to in-

says even this limited flow was channeled to only a few countries. The ECA-funded study in 28 African countries recommends that African countries take a more comprehensive approach to attracting investments and encouraging their domestic private sector.

Some key measures to improve investments include reducing rent-seeking by tackling corruption, removing business uncertainty, establishing credibility in public policies, fostering public trust in markets and firms and making sure that policy and institutional responses are based on local conditions, capacities and priorities.

still wide-area Internet access in schools and local institutions.

Also present at the session was the Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. K.Y. Amoako, who chaired the session and Mr. Olara Otunnu, UN Under-Secretary General and Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict, who responded to the two royal presentations.

Earlier, ECA unveiled two major new studies, the African Governance Report and African Gender and Development Index Report. This was followed by a review of the NEPAD African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), featuring testimony on the roll-out of the APRM in Ghana and Rwanda. A number of discussants cited difficulties encountered in implementing the APRM, which has been acceded to by 23 African countries to date. For example, the process has proven to be more expensive and time-consuming than initially expected.

Breakout sessions on five topics – Sub-regional perspectives on governance in Africa, Parliament and Governance, Traditional Governance, Local Governance and Participatory Development, and HIV/AIDS and Governance – were underway as ADF Today went to press.

On a positive note, incentives to encourage private investment in most countries on the continent have spurred rapid private sector expansion. Steps have been instituted to remove administrative barriers to the registration of private firms, protecting property rights, granting tax exemptions, providing land for industries, creating export-processing zones and improving infrastructure and security.

Progress in privatizing state enterprises has been uneven. The World Bank 2002 report records that of the 3,796 privatization trans-

actions valued at \$7.9 billion completed by African countries, 31 per cent in value terms was in South Africa. Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria and Tanzania were three per cent each.

Economic analysts have argued that the African privatization problems create higher unemployment and higher cost of goods and services. Ironically in some cases, privatization merely replaced state monopolies with private monopolies, generating all the disadvantages of the latter without any of the benefits of the former.

ECA African Governance Report

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ing the successes and challenges surrounding governance in Africa, delegates at this morning's session raised several concerns.

Many of them expressed disappointment that the entire study was not available before the session, to allow them enough time to peruse the contents, and so be able to participate more effectively in the session. A representative from Zimbabwe raised some methodological concerns, in particular the fact that the regional summaries indicate that Zimbabwe's report was not complete, although there is a summary for Zimbabwe in the main study. Moreover, delegates raised concerns that the final report includes data provided by Afrobarometer and Freedom House publications, perceived as organizations that "have problems with countries that continue the mission and agenda of the liberation struggles."

The Head of the Tanzanian delegation warned that ECA should take the need to build consensus at a national level very seriously, and that national country profiles, due in December 2004, should not be done by experts alone, but should involve all stakeholders at the national level. A delegate from Malawi pointed out that the study should not neglect the views of rural populations. Furthermore, he questioned the Report's assertion that the proliferation of political

parties represents a positive trend.

"We hope that this report will become the benchmark against which progress can be measured and that ECA will be able to repeat these surveys a few years hence. At the same time, the donors and the international agencies need to live up to their end of the bargain", said Mr. Jeffrey Katz, World Bank representative. However, some delegates pointed out that one key variable missing from the study is donor aid, and how this might influence political policy, and in turn, governance.

A woman delegate pointed out that although women and children make up 80 per cent of the African population, they were not adequately included in the study. Misgovernance, she said, also includes not targeting financial resources to women and children. "Forty eight per cent of children in Africa are not registered at birth. This means that our statistics for development and the projections that we make are completely erroneous."

Finally, another delegate pointed out that the study "does not take into account the current international balance, making it seem as though African countries are unaffected by the current state of the world and in particular the impact of a unipolar world on governance."