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Report

Ad-Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Africa's Development Strategies

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I. Background

In recent development literature, nine development paradigms, with the accompanying strategies, programs and policies have been tried in Africa over the period 1960 – 1995 (see for instance Delgaldo C. 1995. – Africa's changing Agricultural Development Strategies: Past and Present as a Guide to the Future; IFPRI, Washington, D.C.) In the paradigms, regional policy makers demonstrated how development process ought to be implemented for a developing region such as Africa. According to Delgado, these paradigms also convey the notion of stylized ideals, rather than a pragmatic approach towards achieving a set of objectives. They include: commercialization via cash cropping 1960 – 1970; community development, integrated rural development and participatory development, 1960 – 1973; regional integration for industry and national self-sufficiency for food, 1970 – 1979; basic human needs, 1970 – 1979; regional integration with food first, 1973 – 1989; supply shifters in agriculture, 1973 – 1989; Structural Adjustment 1: demand management, 1980 – 1984; Structural Adjustment 11: equity and growth, 1985 – 2000; and sustainable development, 1990 – 2000.

An important characteristic of all the nine paradigms is that the basic design and mode of implementation were all formulated from outside Africa. Unfortunately, the current state of the development of the economies of the region testifies to the failure of these past development efforts. As a matter of fact, it is hard to think of any other region where outside influences on basic development strategy issues have been so pervasive. That notwithstanding, the recent failures are exhibited in the continued average negative Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita growth and other poor economic and social indicators (such as levels of poverty) posted by the region and the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa in particular. As an illustration, in the early years of independence, from 1965 - 1973, the average GDP growth rate for the region was 5.7 percent. By 1990 – 1994, this average had declined to just 1.9 percent. Per Capita GDP declined from 3.0 percent to –1.1 percent over the same period. Average growth rate of investment from 9.6 percent to only 0.8 percent. Both export and import of the region declined to low levels as the average rate of inflation jumped from single digits of 5.8 percent in the period 1965 – 1973 to over 27 percent in the period 1990 – 1994. In other words, economic growth and transformation that had started at the early days of independence witnessed serious regression through the subsequent periods inspite of the varying development paradigms adopted by the region and the programs and strategies designed for their successful implementation.

A number of variables surfaced in the effort to explain the regressing economic performances in the region. The most common ones include government spending, financial depth, inflation, geographical location, scale variables, outward orientation, tariff restrictions, black-market premium and ethno-linguistic fractionalization, among others. Most of these variables, it should be kept in mind, are policy variables usually associated with the adjustment paradigm except for geographical location. According to several organizations in the development business, the relevance of the various variables had necessitated the variation and expansion of the development agenda for the region.

Managing these agenda has equally proved highly difficult with the prospects of the results remaining trivial in the first decade of the second millenium in the presence of dwindling resources. It is the growing list of issues and small amount of resources for implementation that makes it imperative to review these programmes with a view to harmonizing them and determining which among them rise up to higher order of priority.

II. Objective of the Meeting

The Ad Hoc Experts Group Meeting that took place from the 22 – 24 March 2000, therefore was to take stock of the most important aspects of Africa's development Agenda as the region enters the 21st Century, given its past economic and development performances and the anticipated development challenges. In doing the above, the experts explored the possible ways and means of attaining the desired development goals in some form of prioritized order and tried to identify the required institutional innovations that could help in the process of achieving such goals. They also tried to quantify the resource requirements and the implication of these for the national governments and donors. Moreover, the meeting was left to speculate on whether a broadened development agenda, is a more expensive undertaking for African governments and their development partners.

The Expert Group meeting took place in the UNCC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A total of 84 experts attended this meeting (see list of participants in the annex 1). One major background paper entitled, "Broadening Africa's Development Agenda" – **ECA/ESPD/AD-HOC/EXP/01/2000**, was the key documents for most of the discussions. Other background papers and presentations were equally made to facilitate the expert discussions on the different subjects. The format for the meeting is made of free discussion sessions each motivated by a resource person drawing on the background paper or making limited presentation on the key issues. This was normally followed by open discussion by the experts under the moderation of a chairman selected from within ECA and other UN agencies. The Ad-hoc meeting ended with recommendations distilled directly from the experts discussions in a panel discussion. The central theme of the recommendations is "knowledge for production and development through learning-by-doing and education". Increasing the level of knowledge in all the economic and social sectors is seen as an instrument to increase efficiency in use of resources, raise factor productivity and bring down the transactions cost which is currently too high across the region.

III. Opening Session

In the opening statement, Prof. Ali, the Director of Economic and Social Policy Division of the ECA, underscored the major directions that the regional development paradigms must emphasize in the 21st Century. He stated that Africa had witnessed a large number of development strategies without the required transformation of the respective societies. He remarked that development in the 21st century will be driven by science and technology where atom computers, quantum physics, brain power, inventions and new technology will become the main sources of comparative advantage. In most African countries the stage has not been set to follow this trend. The number of scientists is constantly reducing and private capitalist pursuit of development had allowed too short a period for education.

In terms of what should be the over-arching objective of Africa's development strategy, Prof. Ali commended to the experts, the consideration of the issue of poverty reduction in the region. He noted that Africa would need to reduce poverty in half by the year 2015 in order to achieve sustainable development. The Commission's Economic Report 1999 had explored this possibility and calculated the financial and economic growth implications. He cautioned that two decades of implementing the Structural Adjustment Programmes in Africa has left theoretical lacunae in the region. This is as a result of incomplete macro-economic framework and stability crucial for conducting development business. He highlighted the importance of institutions for the development of the region's economic and social sector management. The issue of efficient and effective institutions is highly necessary for carrying out the development packages. In the words of Landes, institutions evolve over long period of time. As such, he told the experts that the design of the appropriate institutions is one of the fundamentals for the regions development strategy and is one that is being considered in the current ECA's economic report for the year 2000. Several other initial conditions that are imperative for the development of Africa are also being considered in the report. In this case, he urged the experts to consider the development fundamentals of the region seriously and be able to come up with the list of issues that form priorities for the sustainable transformation of these economies. He wished the experts success in their deliberations. His statement was followed by presentations and discussions on the various areas that the region's development strategy should face in the 21st Century.

IV. Africa's Development Challenges in the 21st Century

After an opening speech by Prof. Ali, three key presentations were made in the first session of the day. These comprised of the presentation and discussion of the 1) background paper; 2) Explaining Africa's Economic Performance; and 3.) Economic Reforms and Policies. All these presentation were made under the theme: Africa's Development Challenges in the 21st Century.

The presentation of the background paper focused mainly on the paths that development has taken in Africa since the independence years of 1960 that led to the poor outcome and increasing poverty that most of the countries are faced with today. To this effect, paper comprised of two key components – The African Development Experience since Independence; and Towards a Broadened Development Agenda for the region. The principal objective is to carefully look at the post-colonial development experience of the region with an eye of drawing lessons that could serve as a basis for designing appropriate growth-enhancing policies for the future.

The part of the paper on African Development Experience divided the region's postcolonial period into the first oil shock, around 1965 – 1973 which is classified as the good years for African economies. The second period beginning with the first oil shock 1973 – 1980, is when things started to get bad for Africa. The third beginning in 1980 until the mid 1990s was the period of the real crisis in African economies. At the beginning of the first period, a new leadership emerged in most African countries from the anti-colonial movement that were committed to the development of their respective countries. During this period, the key economic policies that were emphasized include industrialization which resulted in a healthy economic performances in the countries. Real GDP growth for Sub-Saharan African was a healthy 5.7 percent in 1965 – 73. Average population growth was 2.7 percent. Per capita income grew by 3 percent annually. Comparatively, per capita growth in Africa was more than twice that of South Asia during this period. The main source of this was the high level of investment which averaged 16.5 percent of GDP and grew at an annual rate of 9.6 percent. This rate of growth of investment was more than three times that of South Asia.

At this time, most of the investment was financed through domestic savings which was as high as 16.2 percent of GDP. Exports were growing at a rate of 8.2 percent per annum while imports were growing at 7.4 percent. The macro-economic situation enjoyed stability as evidenced by the positive resource balance and modest inflation rates. Inflation averaged 5.8 percent. As sectoral growth rates show, it was the industrial sector that was growing rapidly by about 13.8 percent per year while agriculture was growing at 2.7 percent annually. The regional countries also registered significant progress in their quest for social development during this period. Considerable investment was made in the social sector, especially in education and health. New social classes emerged as a result of the incipient industrialization and the indigenization of the civil service. By the mid 1970s, many countries could point to significant progress in initiating processes of economic and social development. Some level of industrialization had been initiated. Levels of school enrolment had increased. New roads had been constructed. Even then, it was beginning to be obvious that the economies were still woefully underdeveloped, highly dependent on the external sector the associated changes and shocks. This set-up became prominently highlighted by the second period that marked the economic downturns.

In the period following the one described above, the stellar economic performances was replaced by stagnation. This was quickly followed by economic decline after the first oil shock of 1973. Real GDP growth declined to 3.5 percent per annum between 1974 – 79. Per capita income growth was a mere 0.6 percent. The sector that was most affected among others, during this period, was the foreign trade sector. The value of exports grew by 2.6 per cent per annum. This was less than one third of the growth rate achieved in the previous eight years. Growth in imports also declined to 6.2 percent. These declines led to a significant increase in the region's resource gap to –3.6 percent of GDP. Inflation more than doubled, averaging 13.8 percent. In all, the Sub-Saharan economic conditions had changed from bad to worse by 1980.

After the 1980's the economic performance of the SSA witnessed some severe downturns. In the first half of the 1980s, GDP growth declined by half to 1.8 percent as income per capita fell by 1.4 percent. The sectors most affected were the industrial sector that was growing by a mere 0.9 percent and agriculture which grew by 1.7 percent. Other indicators such as the investment-GDP ratio decreased by more than four percentage points. Investment growth rate actually declined by 4.8 percent between 1980 – 85 and by 2.8 percent between 1980 – 93. Export growth was only 0.4 percent on the average in the first half of the 1980s as import declined by 0.4 percent. Fiscal deficit was growing at a high rate as well as the rate of inflation. By this, the picture was clear, Sub-Saharan Africa started with a healthy economic performance immediately following independence, witnessed stagnation into the second half of the 1970s and a decline that reached a crisis level beginning in the early 1980s.

In terms of explaining the economic crisis that besieged the region, three kinds of literature emerged. The first category is the externalist view that gives high value to external and exogenous factors as explanations. In their view, Africa's poor performance is largely a result of weak initial conditions including bad geographic location, made worse by an adverse international economic environment. The perspective insists that African economies are characterized by disarticulated production structures with little linkage between various sectors of the economy. Agriculture in these societies is largely rain fed and subsistent on fragile soils. A typical SSA economy has a very narrow export base usually depending on one or two primary products as their source of foreign exchange earnings. The human resource base is also very weak lacking administrative, managerial and technical capacities. The economies are also marked by weak private sector, very shallow middle class, income inequality and unstable polity. Africa's tropical climate and the land-lockedness of many of the countries are also contributing factors inhibiting growth in the region. In overall, these and other similar factor, according this view, have not only affected SSA's economic growth negatively, but made the economies quite vulnerable to repeated external shocks.

The second perspective which may be called the internalist perpective emphasized domestic factors, particularly domestic policy failures as the main culprit. While in this view, it is not completely ignored that external conditions have a role in the crisis suffered by the region, it is strongly contended that the main culprit for the economic crisis of SSA lies in the inappropriate and distortionary policies pursued by African governments. The key policy failures emphasized by the proponents of this view are as follows:

- Indiscriminate allocation of resources and rent-generating resources without any guarantees of reciprocal action by the recipients;
- Irresponsible monetary and fiscal policy;
- Failure to maintain physical infrastructure;
- Negligence of markets as an effective means of resource allocation;
- Failure to promote agriculture; and
- Failure to introduce policies to support diversification of exports.

The centerpiece of the argument is not only the problem of too much intervention by African governments but even more important is that government is meddling in the wrong places. Given the limited capacity of African governments, it would have been better if they concentrate on areas that they could be more effective and their contribution to economic growth is optimal. This diagnosis of the African economic crisis is part of a larger ideological move known as the "Washington Consensus" mainly by the powerful donors and the Bretton Woods Institutions (IMF and World Bank) which later introduced a ready-made solution, the Structural Adjustment Programmes, (SAPs). The main crisis levied against this approach, to African crisis, is that it is extremely narrow and because of that, it is unable to explain the persistent stagnation of SSA economies even after heavy doses of its recommendation were taken by many countries in the region.

The third and more recent perspective is the one that advocates "political economy" approach by laying emphasis on the failure of the African states. This view tries to go beyond the so called "Washington Consensus" by capitalizing on the issue of government failure as the key explanatory factor in the economic crisis in the region. The governments failed to implement good macroeconomic policies, invest in social and physical infrastructure, provide good governance structures and provide the environment conducive enough for the private sector to thrive and promote economic activities. Accordingly, proponents of this view strongly recommended fundamental reforms in the state sector along with severely limiting its role in the economy. The wider implications of this view to policy making is that once the correct neo-liberal policies are followed, all would be well because the process of liberalization and deregulation would have removed all bottlenecks and rigidities.

In all, beginning with anti-colonial policies of the early sixties, African policy making has gone through nine paradigms and strategies to enhance the region's growth process. Some of them simultaneous and others at different periods. Four of these paradigms were implemented before SAPs were inaugurated in the early 1980s. The first strategy pursued since the late colonial period up to the early 1970 is the strategy of commercialization via cash cropping. It was a growth and industrialization strategy, which identifies the main bottleneck as the shortage of foreign exchange. The second strategy was that of community development. This strategy pursued in the 1950s and 1960s was a means to provide a 'non-revolutionary sources of change in rural areas'. The next strategy derived from the general call to refocus the concerns of development to move beyond the growth imperative and address the issue of equity and poverty alleviation. This led to the adoption of the Basic Human Needs paradigm which argued for a direct approach to meeting the basic needs of the poor. The fourth key strategy before SAPs, pursued in the 1970s was a more integrated strategy that incorporates both the agricultural and industrial sectors of the economy. The Strategy's main emphasis was on industrialization. The strategy starts with import substitution for a very limited range of consumer items to be followed by a more complex industrial production.

The more pronounced strategy had to do with the so-called Washington Consensus that started in the 1980s. It involved the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs), supported by the powerful donors and the International Financial Institutions. By the diagnosis of this strategy, the problem of the region is invariably market distortions usually created by too much meddling by the state. This is to be remedied by a host of Structural Adjustment methods that include price and foreign exchange liberalization to bring a balance in the external account, real interest rates and to introduce market discipline in the financial sector. It is also to encourage savings, agricultural prices to provide incentive to farmers and wages to cut production costs. The strategy suggests abolition of subsidies in all areas of production and consumption to reduce misallocation of resources. The economies were also to be fully opened to foreign competition by eliminating all tariff and non-tariff barriers to imports of goods, services and capital so that the economy could get clear signals to concentrate on taking advantage of its comparative advantage.

By several assessments, this strategy was extremely narrow in focus. Moreso, it is its aversion to the role of the state in the economic management combined with its failure to deliver better economic performance in SSA that has generated severe criticisms not only from outside the Bretton Woods Institutions that pursued the prescriptions with vigour, but from within it. The criticisms centered on the outright overlook of the role of institutions, history and the issue of equitable income distribution as explanatory variables of economic growth.

The comprehensive assessment of regional development strategies up to the last one is that the prescription pursued by many SSA countries over the past two to three decades failed to deliver rapid growth mainly because they have a very narrow economistic focus. Many of these strategies never sought inputs from local forces in the design and implementation stages. The narrow focus is partly a result of a flawed and simplistic theoretical understanding of the growth process in the region and an ideological aversion to the role of the state in economic management.

Even the President of the World Bank acknowledged the narrow focus of these policies. In 1999 he called for a Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) in which it was underlined that any new development strategy must incorporate structural, social and human aspects of development. His framework, calls for incorporating in the policy dialogue, a litany of issues that were hitherto ignored by the Washington Consensus. Those include but not limited to good governance, organized and supervised financial system, poverty alleviation, investment in education and knowledge institutions, health and environmental concerns and comprehensive strategies to address the issue of food production and transform agriculture. This and other calls set the tone for a broadened development agenda for Africa. It was also obvious that the resources for keeping up with this seemingly overloaded development agenda are few. If we are to understand the economic crisis in SSA and provide a viable solution amidst declining resources, these agenda items must be prioritized and sequenced to adequately address the various concerns. The paper then suggested that some economic fundamentals and other areas in the region's development predicaments could be looked into for this purpose. They include:

- Investment in Physical and Human Capital;
- Industrialization and Structural Tansormantion;
- Poverty alleviation and Equitable Income distribution;
- Good Governance; and
- Empowerment.

The paper concluded that the process of rethinking of Africa's development experience should start by acknowledging the narrow focus of strategies such as SAPs. In this context, it will help to develop a broader development agenda that include economic fundamentals but goes beyond that. The expanded view should include the pursuit of structural transformation and also encompass non-economic issues such as governance and empowerment of citizens where the area of priority and roles of each entity are clearly defined.

In the discussion that followed, the experts agreed that all the points raised in the background paper are relevant items, as the development agenda for the region is reviewed and broadened, considering the problem of declining resources. What in the opinion of the experts seem more of an obstacles to the concise achievement of the goals of designing the new development agenda is principally the issue of the conflicts between the economist and politicians, as pertains to their various roles. This also raises the paradox of why, with abundant resources, Africa remains highly underdeveloped. It equally challenges the experts to seek out ways through which such situation could be corrected considering the experiences drawn from the period just after independence. Mainly it was brought to bear that African countries have done many things wrong in their effort to develop their economies. Such errors include:

- Industrialization that was based on import substitution and not a demand patterns
- Agricultural policies that were mostly repressive
- Quality of the regional products
- Lack of proper linkage between participation in international trade and development needs of the region
- Quality of the leadership, corruption and low factor capacity
- Ownership of development policies
- Human resource capacity
- Lack of integration of facts of growth – savings and poverty
- Creating the right mix of factors for growth and development
- Adequate pricing of commodities
- Small national markets
- Issue of productivity, growth and poverty, among others.

To tackle all these, the experts were of the opinion that it is necessary to differentiate between the theoretical and empirical factors that have caused the poor performances. Initially, there was no consensus on what constituted the development fundamentals for the countries of the region. Now however, the consensus appears to be emerging between the countries, international donors and the Bretton Woods Institutions on what ought to be the development fundamentals. The next step in assuring the proper ordering of the region's development agenda for a meaningful future results, is to determine the causality between these factors. This way the effective instruments could be put in place. As an illustration, it will require some rigorous analysis to find the major factors behind the region's low productivity that has resulted in low economic growth and increased poverty. Also, it was pointed out that African countries appeared to have gradually lost their economic vision starting from the time of independence. Just immediately after independence, a clear development vision existed. With the loss of vision, the countries equally could no longer assure the cultures of implementation of adopted policies. Very often countries do not analyze the design and implementation of national policies as a way to determine how to move into the future.

An illustration of the problems of implementation that countries are having at the national level, for instance, is that most of countries would not analyze international adopted strategies and declarations, such as the Copenhagen declaration at the national level to see the implication on their development efforts. Other aspects of this include the global environment declaration on sustainable development. In a majority of these countries natural resources were exploited by both the nationals and non-nationals as if the world was ending. This leaves the question on how much we have done to endogenise the African problems. It also raises the question of African think-tanks in the evolving the adequate ownership of the programs that are being implemented for the well-being of the regional population.

One key new addition to the list of fundamentals to be considered in the region's development agenda is the issue of regional integration and the implementation of the Abuja Treaty. This, it was pointed out has to be considered along side the process of globalization and the process of increasing the competitiveness of the regional countries. The process of African regional integration is supposed to help boost the competitiveness of the countries where they could easily complement each other in production of goods and services they needed. Also, if the process is well designed and implemented properly, it will allow the various countries to specialize while using the regional market as the initial base/market for their outputs. A preferential scheme allows the countries to use the existing markets to pursue their industrialization objectives and achieve economies of scale in production prior to full integration into the global economic framework in which, for now, they have little or not comparative advantage. In view of the values expected from this process, it was generally agreed, by the experts that this must be included in the new list of priority agenda items in the designs of a relevant development strategy for Africa, in the 21st Century.

V. Economic Reforms and Policy

A brief reminder of the path that economic and policy reforms had taken in the African countries was made to the meeting. In the details, it was made clear that the countries had undergone different stages of economic and policy reforms starting with the policies of early independence days. The most crucial period was the time of the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPS), supported by the international financial institutions and the donor countries. One issue that clearly comes out about the SAPs in Africa is obviously the narrow focus of the programme. It is an accepted fact, even among the institutions that have vigorously pursued these policies, that SAPs as they were designed and implemented in Africa are not working. The abject failure of SAPs in addressing the fundamental problems of the region rests on the fact that it was not based on or derived from proper understanding of the existing regional realities. If Africa is to get out of the economic quagmire that it has found itself, it needs to go beyond SAPs and design a much more relevant development agenda that better serves the needs and aspirations of its people. As a result of this, the discussions focused on what countries had experienced going through these reforms especially the experiences with the Structural Adjustment Programmes. The experts generally agreed with some of the reasons given by the presenter as to why the reforms failed. Some cited instances such as the failure of the promoter of Adjustment to support national currency at the purchasing power parity level with the dollar, little concern for equity in income distribution and provision of social services, among others. The consequence had been, in the opinion of some, an unacceptable give away of domestic products and goods at little or no return to the external markets. In turn African countries had to pay exorbitantly for their imports.

Economic reforms under SAPs also ignored the situation of the majority of the population and by this created an opportunity for social conflicts. The experts indicated that there was some favouritism by the sponsors of the SAPs towards some countries, particularly Uganda, Ghana, Botswana, non of which is in the French-speaking group of African countries. The reforms that were put in place also focused on certain sectors namely liberalization – removal of price controls, regulatory mechanisms in the financial sector and agricultural subsidies. Very little attention was paid to the public sector/civil service sector reform – the incentive structures applicable to these sectors and the role of the state and how it could contribute to the process of development in African countries. As a result, faithful implementation of the policies became a major victim.

Additionally, policy planning and medium term framework was compromised with the adoption of the SAPs since it is a case of intervention where policy planning and budgeting were disjoint. Financing provided by the donors and IFS focused on their own policy prescriptions and paid little attention to the nationally defined priorities and strategies. Adoption and implementation of reform was not related to the existing internal capacity to implement such reforms. At the same time, the intervention coming from these sponsors were mainly generic as one prescription in one country was replicated in another country without considering the unique situation in these countries. The Bretton Woods Institutions never considered the difference in economic, social and cultural backgrounds before introducing the adjustment programmes. These therefore constituted major errors to which any new development strategy for the region must address itself.

VI. Inequality, Poverty, Human and Physical Capital Development, Governance, Conflicts and Institutions.

Because of the relations between inequality, poverty, human and physical capital development, governance, conflicts and institutions, the meeting decided to bring these issues under one session for discussion. Three presentations were made. In the first presentation, it was made clear that the main consequence of the economic decline in SSA is the increasing poverty in the region. Both the number of people living in poverty and the depth of poverty has significantly increased over the past two decades. According to ECA's economic report 1999, over 51 percent of the population of SSA subsist below the poverty line of (PPP) US$34 per person per month. The average income of the poor was only 83 cents per person per day for the whole region. This declined to 67 cents for the SSA in the 1990s. In rural areas, the depth of poverty is intense, with over 60 percent of the population living under US$1 a day. The average income of the rural poor was US$14 per person per month.

In another presentation entitled Human development in Africa, it was pointed out that Africa has been identified in several studies as a continent of rising poverty, declining human condition and slow economic growth, particularly in the decade of the 1990s. In the UNDP's 1999 Human Development Report, 29 out of the 35 countries with the lowest human condition in the world belong to SSA. Similarly, poverty as reported in the World Development Indicators 1998, increased between 1987 – 1993 in SSA. The slow growth performance of the African countries spurred a large amount of empirical work on factors explaining and identifying what has become know as the African dummy in cross-country regressions.

As a group, Africa performed quite poorly compared with other regions of the developing world. As further illustration, the average life expectancy, literacy, school enrolment and per capita GDP for the region progressively deteriorated or only improved slightly in the last decade. Sixteen African countries had their indicators of human condition lower than the average to the least developed countries in the period under consideration. In the rural areas of SSA, experience shows that extreme form of deprivation as compared to the urban areas in terms of education and health exits. Net primary enrolment in the rural areas, is nearly half that of the urban areas resulting in literacy rate that is much lower by nearly half. Access to pipe borne water and sanitation were very low. In a sense, deprivation is much more pronounced in the rural areas of SSA than in the urban areas even with the fact that the region's economic performances still belong to the lowest among regions in the world.

Relating human condition to economic performance, the link between education and health on the one hand and economic growth, on the other, is determined by socio-economic factors such as level and composition of public expenditures on health and education. It also depends on the incentive for teachers, education of mothers, relative cost of health services, adult education of women etc. These variables form the socio-economic constraints. Generally, demand for these inputs has high income elasticity of demand, and for the poor households, these are superior commodities. The obvious conclusion is that region has experienced the poorest state of human capital development, a derivative of the level of poverty now existing in majority of the countries. This has contributed significantly to the level of under-development in the region.

On Governance, Conflicts, Institutions and Development Policy, it was noted that since independence era, in the late 1950s and early 1960s, African countries have been struggling to create an ideal growth and development society. The weakness of the African State partly emanates from its relatively short experience in governance. Acknowledging the important role of the state in economic development based on the experiences of other countries does not necessarily mean that all states have the capacity to play such a constructive role. If the African states are to play its development-enhancing role, it needs to increase its capacity significantly. This includes a competent, skilled, disciplined and professional administrative structure, at all levels of government. It equally involves the creation of rule of law to ensure equity and fair, broad and legitimacy of the laws in all regions of the country and to keep political commitment to economic objectives and growth. In other words, African countries need legitimate government to provide efficient and ideal societies for private investment and create economic growth. Such an ideal society must:

- Know how to operate, manage and build the instruments of production and to create and adapt and master new techniques on the technological frontier;
- Be able to impart this knowledge and know-how on the younger ones by formal education or by apprenticeship;
- Employ, promote and demote workers on the basis of competence and relative merits;
- Afford opportunity to individuals or collective enterprise and encourage initiative, competition and emulation.

Such a society must have social and political institutions that secure rights of private property and personal liberty, enforce contracts; provide stable, responsive, honest, transparent and accountable governments; allow for social and geographical mobility, and evolve a more equal distribution of income supporting a large middle class.

The experience over the past 50 years shows that African countries applied various forms of governance regimes, from the extreme totalitarian regimes to liberal democratic regimes. Even at that, the recent study by Freedom House shows that 23 out of the 50 countries in the world classified as “not free society”, are in Africa. While an enduring peace and stability has somehow emerged in some African countries, a good number encountered civil strife and conflicts generated by the poor economic, social and political arrangements. According to the OAU, 26 major conflicts have taken place in Africa since the establishment of the organization, in 1963 up to 1998. This affected some 61 percent of the region’s population. The principal causes of these conflicts include the destabilization acts of mercenaries, human rights violation, geopolitics and effect of cold war, power sharing, inter-clan and fractional rivalries and their contagion. The negative impact of these conflicts include the destruction of physical and human capital, reduction of savings, diversion of portfolios from domestic investment to capital flight, disruption of economic transactions, and distortion of government activities and expenditure from the provision of public services to military expenditure. Overall, the combined impact of this situation has been drastic reduction of the growth rate of the economy and increased poverty in the region.

An important element of Africa's development efforts, in this area, has also been the move towards a market economy, mainly through liberalization of key markets and privatization. In this case the private sector is the engine of growth. This constituted one of the principles of economic and policy reform under SAPs. However, critics of the reforms suggest that developing countries of the region need somewhat stronger government with broader role. This will include the role of providing leadership and the development of the private sector through teaching by doing. In doing this, there is need to create public institutions that would facilitate the specification, enforcement and/or monitoring of those economic transformation of Africa's development requirements. In the absence of such institutions, even the democratization process might not produce the right government and could even lead to more severe case of conflicts. Thus, the 'right kind of state' should be the one that is efficient and capable of servicing public interest in the development process.

The discussion that followed were more in line with country experiences in dealing with poverty, building human capital in the rural sector and improving on the systems of governance in the countries as a whole. Example of South Africa was cited where about 70 percent of the people is still living under poverty. The Gini coefficient reflects the wide gap between the poor and the rich as the level of poverty is highly gender biased, also. Other experts accepted that other than race, poverty in their countries equally has similar characteristics as that of South Africa. In many of the countries the poor are located in the rural sector of the economy and the concept of poverty programs – poverty alleviation, poverty reduction and poverty eradication have not been harmonized and clear objectives defined. There is in the opinion of the experts, the need to be able to standardize policy approaches and ensure the objectives are clear.

At the heart of South Africa's poverty program is the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). Through this programme, the government was committed to addressing the problems of poverty and gross inequality that is evident in almost all aspects of the South African Society. The central goal is to meet the social and economic needs of the people and to create a strong, dynamic and balanced economy. In so doing the specific goals are:

- Create jobs that are sustainable and increase the ability of the economy to absorb new job seekers in both the formal and less formal sectors;
- Alleviate the poverty, low wages and extreme inequalities in wages and wealth and wealth generated by the apartheid system, meet basic needs and thus ensure that every South African has a decent living standard and economic security;
- Address economic imbalances and structural problems in industry, trade, commerce, mining, agriculture, finance and labour markets;
- Integrate into the world economy, utilizing the growing home base in a manner that sustains a viable and efficient domestic manufacturing capacity, and increase the country's potential to export manufactured products.

The concept of the RDP integrates growth, development, reconstruction, redistribution and reconciliation into unified programme. Against the background and the poor growth in GDP, the country adopted trade liberalization and integration into the global economy, a macroeconomic framework for Growth, Employment and Redistribution. Most of the strategies and policies for achieving the objective of the RDP and GEAR are spelt out in the country's Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

Also, as it is estimated that eleven out of seventeen million of the country's poor people live in the rural areas, the country has engaged in rural infrastructure provision by facilitating agriculture, tourism, mining, creating jobs and increasing rural income through appropriate government and private sector actions. The objective is to improve the welfare of the rural households under the RDP and GEAR programmes.

As relates to governance, conflicts, institutions and development policy, the experts generally agreed that the region is faced with serious paradox when it comes these issues. It is mainly the conflict between the cultural values (social capital) and the introduction of the modern system of doing things that has resulted in the numerous conflicts and possibly the high level of corruption and 'bad governance' that had resulted in most of these countries. Consequently the experts saw it as inevitable that development policies and strategies must take into account these paradoxes. In this regard, it requires a thorough look at a governance strategy that takes into account the following elements:

- The cultural specificities of each nation and country of the region.
- Ways to harmonize the current situation and the future;
- A way the takes into account the different situations by economizing the forces and weighing the available capacities and means.
- Strengthening institutional capacities and the necessary human resources
- Strengthening of Social Capital – traditional social cohesion, social stability and security, and civil society.
- Improved public expenditure design and management.
- Progress in the regional integration progress in both scope and policies.

In the word of some experts, the region has reached a point where the incoming generation should "get angry about the status quo". By this, the target of the correctional measures ought to focus essentially on the incoming generation of Africans by teaching them how not to fall into the same pits that most of the post-independence leaders found themselves. We have so far accepted some of the development predicaments simply because the major international organizations are talking about them. Good governance and poverty eradication have gained currency in Africa because the UNDP, World Bank, IMF, OECD, European Union and others are talking about them. While African countries must seek to combine the qualitative and quantitative aspects of these issues, some among the experts reiterated that the governments must not wait for another decade only to complain that programmes were imposed on them. The efforts at the ownership of the programmes should start now implying the countries should not wait till the programmes start failing them only to complain that it was externally driven.

In terms of poverty, conflicts and resources, it was pointed out the countries can no longer legitimately complain of resource gaps because they have not so far managed the resources that they have adequately. Lack of division of labour contributes to poverty. At the same time, the national policy priorities had consistently remained wrong in most of these countries. For example, the volume of capital that African countries are loosing to capital flight due to poor management and dysfunctional institutions is considered to be more than enough to fill any resource gap that might exist in the region. The same goes to the high expenditures on military activities, which provides high incentives to disrupt economic activities and contribute to the destruction of the human resources, domestic infrastructures and complete disruption of development. Essentially the view was that African governments as a matter of immediate priority should seek to restructure their expenditures to focus on appropriated technologies for a larger proportion of their population including the men and women, education sector that focuses on the needs of the region and departs from the current concentration on curricula of literacy and numeracy in European languages.

VII. Structural Transformation and Industrial Policy

In terms of production constraints, the climatic and trade related shocks that most African countries do experience especially in the decade of the 1990s are attributed to structural problems associated with the extremely backward and rain dependent nature of the region's agriculture. Also, it is as a result of the exclusive reliance of African trade on a very few primary commodities of which the prices have been declining significantly since the 1980s. Agriculture for instance, is still composed of small peasants and is characterized by low productivity and high risk. A significant portion of the population is engaged in the sector and income is very low. In 15 countries, agriculture depends upon a length of growing period of under 150 days, which makes it vulnerable to even minor climatic changes. In view of the make-up of the sector and its contribution to the welfare of the population and the region's GDP, the sector forms one of the areas to be looked into.

At the same time, structural transformation requires more than increasing productivity in agriculture. It implies expanding production in industries with high value added. It is repeatedly said that the foreign trade vulnerability of African countries emanate from the dependence on a few primary commodities. The frequently suggested remedy is export diversification and in the African context, this should mean vertical and horizontal diversification. This raises the issues of how best to achieve industrialization. Two interrelated issues confront policy makers in devising an industrialization strategy. The first deals with how to alleviate the constraints towards industrialization imposed by initial conditions. It is equally important to improve on the small size of the domestic market owing to the small size of the population and the low level of income in the region. Certainly, the small market size reduces productivity that could come from scale economies. The main criticism levied by the Bretton Woods Institutions towards earlier import substitution industrialization strategies in SSA is that they led to inefficient production that needed continuous high tariff protection to survive. There was no incentive for producers to increase productivity. Inspite of all these, experiences in the developed economies such as East and South Asia and Germany suggest that import substitution industrialization strategy is a necessary step for export led growth and development. The second issue is the role of the state and markets in the process of industrialization in the region. In this case it is important to find out the way in which the state and the private sector can work very closely in a complementary fashion if industrialization is to be a reality in Africa.

In the debate that followed, the experts acknowledged the need for African countries to effect structural transformation of their production and export bases and the fact that industrialization is an inevitable instrument of development. At the core of any relevant development strategy should be the issues of raising Africa's international competitiveness through a combination of policies aimed at addressing domestic constraints and designed to take advantage of the opportunities generated by globalization. The effort at achieving structural transformation in the previous economic policy reforms, especially the SAPs had focused on liberalization without due consideration of the available capacities in the region to respond the global challenges. Because of this lackluster, the objectives of the previous policies aimed at structural transformation failed. The process of achieving overall positive economic performance must also consider the complex and multi-dimensional set of structures in the region i.e socio-cultural, political and environmental factors. The socio-economic condition in the region is replete with widespread problems, especially those of low levels of human capital build-up (education) and poor health infrastructures. Important also is the weak institutional framework and high transaction costs associated primarily with inadequate and inefficient public services, utilities, transport, contract enforcement, and maintenance of law and order, have all reduced Africa's ability to attract investment and achieve competitiveness.

The issue of attracting investment also cuts across transformation and industrialization. Particularly in the strategy for industrialization, the expert stated that it is important that African countries carefully consider a coordinated trade development and industrial policy in a regional integration framework with a stable and predictable policy environment. It was pointed that this will help minimize the risks to investors that is associated with possible policy reversal. Under such risks, investors are not prepared to undertake the investments necessary for industrial take-off. Specifically, a number of factors have inhibited the development of a dynamic industrial sector in many African countries and such factors include: high cost of doing business associated improper enforcement of laws and contracts; Risk and uncertainty; inefficient financial sector; Poor human capital build-up. The overall conclusion that came of the experts' discussion is that African investment and industrial strategy should essentially start with one key priority. It is investment in human and physical capital so that they could produce growth. It is not trade, it is not outward orientation, it is not globalization, it is not international framework, it is rather investment in human and physical capital and the incentives for ensuring local capabilities that generate growth.

VIII. Resource Mobilization, Savings and Investment, Development Financing

The issue of resource mobilization definitely has several dimensions. These dimensions could be sub-divided into two main parts – external and internal sources. In the history of development effort in the region of Africa, both sources have proven to be highly crucial sources of development finances. Under the external sources are the Official Development Assistance (ODA), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and savings as a result of Debt forgiveness under the various initiatives adopted in this regard at different international forums. The ECA estimated that for Africa to achieve the goal of the Copenhagen Social Summit of reducing poverty by half by the year 2015, it will take a monumental challenge to mobilize both external and domestic finances. It however will require intensified efforts by both African countries and their development partners to mobilize Official Development Assistance, private sector investment flows to Africa and debt relief.

On the domestic side are the issues of domestic savings which could fall under both private and public savings and reversal of capital flights. Very little might be possible in terms of private domestic savings. The same goes to the public savings. This is because of the poor economic performances and the low income that it has produced. What constitutes a credible source of savings for these countries would be to emphasis the reduction of the leakage and wastes associated with the use of the financial resources available to promote development in the region. Because of this, the principal culprit in this case is seen as the policy defining the incentive structures as well as the institutions charged with the regulation of individual activities. As an illustration, Development Assistance works only when the right policy and appropriate institutions prevail. In this case assistance can be growth-enhancing and helpful in poverty reduction. In the absence of both the right policies and appropriate institutions, which seems to be the case in most African countries, such assistance normally leads to harmful results such as capital flight, debt overhang and recurrent interest payments. The possibility of these continuing in the future, is what constitutes a serious challenge of resource mobilization strategy for African policy makers. Eventually it will be crucial to articulate the ways of weaning the regional countries out of the dependency associated with foreign assistance.

Also crucial in the area of external savings is the issue of external debt. A number of initiatives have emerged in recent years aimed at alleviating the debt burden of the most heavily indebted poor countries. This is both within the framework of bilateral arrangements and also as part of the process of trying to improve the debt relief provided by the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. Leader of the World's industrialized countries meeting in Cologne, Germany, 18-20, June 1999, agreed in principle to cancel an additional US$45 billion in debt owed by the heavily indebted poor countries. This was to reduce significantly debt service payments of at least 16 countries. Many have called for further debt relief to be provided not only to the heavily indebted poor African countries, but also to the middle income heavily indebted countries. In this context the more fundamental question is what would be the impact on the developmental performance of poor countries of full cancellation of debt of heavily indebted poor countries. Also to be looked into is the way by which the savings accruing to these countries could be transformed properly into sustained economic growth and channeled to such important objectives as poverty reduction. Attracting investment that is accompanying globalization and liberalization under the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements was also seen as a challenge in the region's future development strategy.

The experts concentrated the discussion on this subject on their national experiences and how they are working to assure that savings coming out of domestic sources and external accounts turn out to be useful towards promoting economic growth and reducing poverty. One thing that has affected the level of leakage of available resources is the parochial nature of the previous Structural Reforms under SAPs, that had paid very little attention to the institutions that are supposed to be implementing the adjustment policies. In the absence of sound and capable regulatory institutions, monitoring of projects were difficult in as much as the accounting systems were completely retrograde. Also connected to this is that a large number of the countries were faced with recurrent uncertainties in their political economies thus scaring away both domestic savings and potential foreign capitals and direct investment from private individuals except in the mineral and oil sectors.

In conclusion, the key point that came out of all of the discussion is that in designing a new development strategy for Africa, be it in poverty reduction, structural and industrial policy, human and physical capital accumulation or resource mobilization and investment, it was made abundantly clear that one key and prime factor is crucial to produce growth or reduce poverty. It is investment in human and physical capital that generates income, savings and growth in output in goods and services. People needed to be equipped with the appropriate knowledge to produce income and save it for future investments. In doing this they needed social insurance and safety nets which should be considered also as an incentive for people to vigorously pursue production activities without fear or resorting to risk aversion in the highly unstable African economies. Many of the flaws in the economies contribute either directly or indirectly to the little ability to mobilize and invest productively, the resources we needed for production. The regional policy makers therefore must assure that the future strategy must be able to curb brain-drain, target industrial incentives and provide solid base for technological advancement. The general discussion was concluded by a panel discussion from which some summaries and recommendations were gleaned to help structure the region's development strategies in the 21st Century.

Summary and Recommendations[1]

The last session of the meeting was conducted in panel discussion where a select group of panelist overviewed the key outcomes from the expert discussions. The central theme that became recurrent across all the issues is "***Knowledge for production and development, through learning-by-doing and education***". In this view, development is about the well-being of the people and it is the people that produce growth and development, not trade, not globalization or autarky. The message was that the larger population must know what to do and how to do it in a free and just environment, for productions to increase and lead the way to economic recovery and transformation. Therefore, the panel discussions reviewed many issues among which are governance and finance.

1. Governance

There is a general consensus that the principle of good governance is essential element towards achieving sustainable development and poverty alleviation in Africa

Good governance entails observance of the democratic principles, the rule of law, independent and efficient judiciary, empowerment of the citizenry, reduction in the inefficient use of public resources and or misuse and abuse of public office (corruption).

Government has no business engaging in real time production but to facilitate and regulate the process of development by encouraging competition and rectifying problems of imbalances in production structures, resources and knowledge.

The government, private sector, non governmental organizations, civil society, professional associations, and community based organizations, must play their rightful role in development and help to ensure good governance though these must be tailored to the specific operational conditions of each country. Since it is common that the various structures are under-developed, the first best starting point will be gradual education of the population on the roles in building of these highly essential structures for good governance. If countries subscribe to democratic elections, the motto should be "If you elect officials, you must train and retrain them". The principles of separation of power must be thought. This will help elected officials understand and focus on national priorities.

Conflicts

Internal conflict is a common feature in Africa. Major causes are high levels of poverty, unemployment, and unequal distribution of income and other national resources. There are also cross border conflicts between different countries. These generate internal tensions, within society, and often culminate into violence, insecurity and wars, creating

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[1] Apart from minor editorial changes, the recommendations contained in this report are as adopted by the experts themselves, at the end of the three-day meeting. In the view of the experts, most of these recommendations will require limited financing to discretely initiate and subsequently sustain. These recommendations also deviate from the simple stylized ideals that were considered pervasive in the previous strategies for implementing the region's development paradigms.

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instability and uncertainty. By consequence, it scares investments thus compounding under-development problems, poverty levels and undermining poverty alleviation initiatives.

Mass media and education system seem like one cheap way of creating national awareness, propagate sense of population and draw some broad consensus on ways to minimize conflicts, especially when the sharing of income and natural resources are involved. Certainly this requires a lot of willingness of the national governments to be able to intensify the employment creation initiatives [structural transformation and financing development] and the provision of adequate security both within individual countries and in cross-border initiatives.

Institutions

It is acknowledged that failures of control and regulatory organs of the state; classified generally as coordination failures, are a major contribution to bad governance.

Separation of power and respect among the three distinct organs of the state, the executive, legislative and the judiciary need to be revisited in national constitutions. There are also a number of capacity constraint issues.

- There is need to strengthen the capacity of the parliament to focus on development issues. Often, in Africa, parliamentarians have turned parliament to a platform where political parties demonstrate their political strength rather than focusing on key development matters. Inaugurations of new government may necessarily have to start with orientation of new parliamentarians on the process of rule of law, and separation of power to assure clarity of functions and faithful applications.

- There is also the need to strengthen the capacity of parliamentary institutions such as: Parliamentary Accounts Committee and Public Investment Committee through special review of functions and training on these functions. This is to enable them perform their regulatory roles effectively.

- Strengthen the capacity of the judiciary by increasing access and delivery of justice. How? By expanding the court system (civil and commercial) to reach out to the majority of the people, improving court administration through maintaining proper records and filing, undertake case load analysis, and computerization of the system. The officials must first be retrained to be able to change their old and impervious ways of providing justice to the citizens. Any little expenditure in this area may have to start with this.

- Review the court system to ensure that judges and magistrates are deployed evenly across the country, to deal with court cases promptly and also to pay them well.

- Face the issue of misuse of public resources and the role of Controller and Auditor General/Parliamentary Accounts Committee/Anti-Corruption Legislation – through more regular financial audit of public expenditure, with results exposed to public scrutiny. Reduce to minimum the gap between the time that reports are produced and when the recommendations are implemented.

- The fight against corruption should focus on prevention, by targeting civic learning on the youth in school and in institutions of learning. This is to enable become better citizens and help change the attitude of people; also to curb corruption and engaging in corrupt practices.

- Because corruption is real, countries may have to establish Anti-Corruption Authority and give it the autonomy and powers to investigate cases of corruption and to prosecute. Examples of SA, Uganda and Kenya may be useful]. The authorities should be empowered to punish both the initiators and recipients of bribes (or corrupt activities),

- Involve the media as stakeholders and those who influence the thinking through what they are reporting. The media have a role in the development process, poverty reduction, and in instilling the principles of good governance [Cases of Ghana, South Africa, and Kenya].

- Restructure and reform Procurement and Tendering procedures by making them more participatory, transparent, and accountable [Central Tender Board that is Chaired by Private Person]. Set clear standards on how to punish those who fail to deliver after winning tenders: get them to complete the job, commit them to civic education and national patriotic correctional programmes and or ban them from getting other new tenders.

- Target legal and policy reforms that empower the poor to engage in productive activities. Local Government Acts as they relates to the treatment of the informal sector in urban areas, streamlining the licensing procedures; laws that relate to mainstreaming gender issues into development are necessary but the masses must be frequently informed to their applications and the consequences of non-compliance.

- Improve the capacity for tabling to parliament relevant legislative changes (Bills of Parliament) in time through in-house training. Where capacity does not exist locally, these could be out - sourced or subcontracted.

- Reform Local Authorities through decentralization and devolution of policy to allow a more active and proactive role in local governance (participatory planning) at the local level to alleviate urban poverty. Through targeted training, sensitize the local leaders on the need to mobilize and involve local communities in defining their priorities and facilitating them to implementing their developmental needs.

- Strengthen the bottom up approach as the means of building the capacity of communities to be accountable and ensure that service delivery takes place. More frequent training programmes, no matter how short, appear to the most feasible instruments to this effect.

2. Development Policies

The central concern here is how to evolve a national vision around which national development policies priority can be developed. This enables clear identification of immediate, medium and long-term policy priorities. The building blocks to realize the vision include: Medium Term Economic Framework, National Poverty Eradication Plans, and HIPC initiatives.

The key issue is the participation and ownership of the policy formulation processes in ways that impacts on the implementation. Policy formulation process has been closed and secretive with minimal (sometimes no consultations) with stakeholders. Consequently, there has been the lack of consensus and ownership of development policies at implementation stage, especially when things fail.

It is therefore a good thing to start by a consultative process in formulating development policies. The role of the mass media cannot be over-emphasized. The government must be open and consult at the national, provincial, district, and local levels. Consult within itself: private sector organizations, NGOs, professional associations, communities based organizations, and local people (the poor) about development priorities to generate ownership and accuracy of policy.

Utilize information, Education and public Communication system in soliciting opinion in policy making. The public [all stakeholders] deserves to know what the government does on a continuous basis, hence the need to monitor and evaluate the implementation of development policies, not by government alone but by all stakeholders through multi-media approach.

The poor for example need to be sensitized and empowered with relevant information and appropriate educational tools to enable them make informed decision for their lives and the progress of the country [Case of HIV/AIDS, Uganda, Kenya].

3. Human and Physical Capital Development

The key recommendations made in this section remit from the human development index - which emphasizes education, health and income as important instruments for sustainable development process. The central argument revolves around the concept of education for production and development as against the lengthy certificate oriented system obtainable in most African countries In terms of physical capital development - infrastructure development was emphasized.

Human Development

A. Education, Training and Capacity Building

- **Quality of Education** - Curriculum should emphasize education for production where science and mathematics applications should be emphasized. Vocational adult training should take precedence over the simple education in literacy and numeracy in either French or English. Proper teacher education and training, school management and availability of teaching material, professionalism etc.

are important. This should involve practical transfer of knowledge to the poor and the uneducated as a means of increasing their productive capacities and weaning them out of social services. This will increase their contributions to the economy as a whole as against simple literacy and numeracy in European languages – English or French

- **Genderization of Education**: Girls and boys should be treated equally in terms of education.

- **Access to Education** - School buildings, school uniforms and school fees should be revisited. Alternative buildings such as churches should be used as school buildings. School uniform and fees should not be enforced especially where parents cannot afford these. Infrastructure e.g. roads, transport, technology and communication in education cannot be underestimated. Local community groups should be trained on how to produce at the most elementary levels with prospects for improvement.

- **Importance of Secondary and Tertiary Education -** training for life skills to fit the production and industrialization plans of a country is important.

- **Out of School Education** - skills development, capacity building, on-the-job training, empowerment and awareness creation are key for those out of school and adult education.

- **Succession and Retirement Planning -** utilization of retired skills in building capacity, transferring skills and providing mentoring services at community levels.

- **Containing Brain Drain** - introduction of taxation for emigration out of the country and most importantly, introducing education curricula that are in-ward looking at the region's problems.

- **Funding of Education -** bursaries, scholarship, efficient utilization of resources to doing and government prioritizing spending or budget on education and other social services.

- **Incentives** - income or better pay for relevant qualification, job creation, promotions, conducive working environment to retain skills and acknowledging experience do matter. Effective monitoring systems should also be able to produce the set of people in the education profession that require improved training or should transfer to other professions.

B. Health

- **Primary Health Care** - prenatal and postnatal care for healthy citizenry and reduction of maternal and child mortality by at least teaching sanitation through mass-media is important.

- **Nutrition and Food Security** - this has been emphasized many times and will not be underestimated in terms of poverty reduction. Priority in education sector might for now focus on the practical method for production of the essential and necessary food material consumed by the society and will help keep the society in good health.

- **Epidemics and Pandemics Containment** - tropical diseases, viruses such as HIV/AIDS and unhealthy habits (smoking, drinking, drugs, and lack physical fitness) and their impact on production should be taken seriously – through preventive education.

- **Access to Health Care, Infrastructure Development and Fundng of Health Care** - all these cannot be underestimated – In this case, the local population should be encouraged to produce their own solutions and improvise by organizing community efforts, transfer of knowledge through projects and extension schemes.

C. Income

- **Income Dispersion, Inequality and Discrimination** should be eliminated as these facilitate achievements in education, health and provision of basic needs services.

- **Local Savings Mobilization** is necessary, so national experts should be deployed to help improve the informal sector savings arrangements, as this is common in Africa and does serve as a major source of investible fund for peasant farmers and the rural poor.

- **Poverty Reduction Funding** through short-term training on practical productions of local solutions.

- **Job** Creation through specific sector training i.e. road construction and income generating programmes help generate income for the poor. New project designs in these areas must at least basic transfer of knowledge to the local community for it to be sustainable.

Physical Capital Development

All the following areas form key areas where the education, vocational training and practical learning-by-doing should be focussed as far as physical capital development is concerned. Experts should be recruited not to do the work but to guide local community in how to deal with these issues in a gradual but highly practical learning-by-doing approach. This will form serious process of transfer of knowledge and quicker growth-enhancing development strategy for both the poor and non-poor. They include:

- Roads construction and transport
- Energy (electricity, solar, wind and other alternatives)
- Communication systems
- Water and sanitation – equipment production
- Technology (e-mommerce, bio-diversity) and utilization of forest and herbal resources.

- Spatial development initiatives

All these are important and fundamental. If a clinic has to be built, consideration for a road, transport, electricity, telephones are key for full service delivery.

Policy and Strategy Issues

These are key issues for consideration:

- investment on human and physical capital development – through the more practical teaching approaches as short-term solutions.
- development, maintenance and rehabilitation of infrastructure - where experts and expatriates are constantly transferring their know-hows.
- restructuring of the public service
- strategic planning and proper utilization of human resources – as foundations of knowledge for development.
- policies and legislation promoting R&D development
- use of media especially radio networks for education
- participatory democracy
- visionary and incorruptible leadership through constant institutional reforms and strengthening of the judicial sector.
- other issues - phycho - social and cultural issues such as patriotism, Africanization and African Renaissance, giving back - social responsibility and constructive and positive thinking are important as well.

4. Industrialization and Structural Transformation

The slow and poor performance of SSA economies is partly as a result of its vulnerability to external shocks -which are both climatic and terms of trade related shocks as well as a result of low national capacity and knowledge base. The shocks are a reflection of structural weaknesses such as dependence on rain-fed agriculture and reliance of few commodities and market destinations.

- In order to reduce vulnerability to these shocks, there is need for a fundamental structural transformation, which involve the need to:

    - Liberate agriculture from the vulgaries of weather through perpetual encouragement of the local community to adopt adequate technologies, at their levels of production.

    - Upgrade agricultural production techniques – through intensive resource diversion to practical education and popularization of the best practice.

    - Address priority need of the peasants who constitute the vast majority of Africa's people – by encouraging the educated elites and possibly expatriates to intensively get involvement in the provision of the needs'-solutions for these peasants. Low key but gradual transfer of knowledge and locally adapted productions techniques should be the key strategy here;

- Alter the policy-bias against agriculture since it is an important sector for the production of industrial raw materials and generation of foreign exchange, purchase of spare parts required to push industrialization and structural transformation forward – in this case spend more as a priority on the transfer of agriculture based techniques and technologies;

- Take steps that are deemed critical in increasing productivity which is linked to the expansion of industrial production and high value addition – seek cooperation with countries that had undergone through similar experiences and willing to assist in this respect.

- Diversify export base away from heavy reliance on few markets and products, by producing new products select three key sectors to emphasis initially as the starter strategy.

The other factors which were identified as constituting constraints to industrial development in Africa are:

- small domestic market both in terms of small population, paucity of income and low level of basic skills;

- initial conditions of African heritance at independence.

These constraints stifle the benefits to be derived from scale economies, technical efficiency and innovation, while at the same time undermining the environmental base on which sustainable industrial development can be based. The policy dilemma that faces the regional industrial strategy is whether to pursue export-oriented industrialization or import-substitution industrialization. However, empirical evidence indicates that import-substitution industrialization is a basic prerequisite step to export-led growth and development;

- In order to formulate an industrial strategy, the crucial steps to be undertaken should involve:

  - the proper identification of country's static and comparative advantage;

  - on the basis of identified comparative advantage, proceed to build competitive advantage through the development of advance factors of production in terms of highly educated and practically trained people in disciplines specific to the identified areas;

  - on the basis of the above, move into the next stage of dynamic competitive advantage by enhancing capabilities through encouraging learning-by-doing process among local communities in technology, and also to higher level of production which would involve not only the processing of raw materials for exports, but the high level manufacture of products for exports to international markets;

- the development of infrastructural capacities such as energy, water irrigation, transport and communications – by teaching the larger populations the basics in the applications;

- whereas the role of state had been played down, while that of market had been given prominence in the industrialization process, the need to strengthen the role of all actors in the industrialization process remains critical – principally the government should constantly seek to balance the deficits in knowledge and education for production;

- empirical evidence shows that no country has industralized without the active participation of government and private sector;

The last dilemma facing the formulation of an industrial strategy is due to the changed global environment in which late industrializing countries are required to:

- make less use of tariffs to protect infant industries;

- prohibit the use of export subsidies;

- impose conditions on multinational investment or favour the development of local indigenous enterprises through the WTO Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMS);

- encourage copying and imitating technologies which would enable them to acquire the necessary skills for industrial production due to the application of
Trade related Intellectual Property Right (TRIPS);

- liberalize their markets and not to promote local technical technological development.

It is in the context of the changed situation that:

- A careful reconsideration of industrialization through import-substitution within the framework of regional integration schemes must be undertaken.

In order to reverse the de-industrilization process in African the following steps are necessary, the:

- Development of entrepreneurial capacity in SME – by teaching and know-how in the formal and semi-formal academic institutions;

- Promotion of regional technical skills and information flows mainly through mass-media;

- Provision of accessibility to both higher and lower order factors and sharing experiences from other advanced developing countries with simple experiences on production located across the borders in order to sharpen Africa's industrial competitiveness at the global level.

- Total involvement of private sector in the formulation of industrial policy and promotion of basics of industrial development as a starter strategy;

For the strategies to be effective there will also be the need to institute proper African incentives for industrialization, namely:

- need for a developed society in which one has the knowledge to mobilize the factors of production, and in which educational curriculum imparts that knowledge - the introduction of a culture of doing the same thing differently and gradual but continuous learning-by-doing.

- the development of infrastructure through practical education and training of the larger population and the government officials, in order to support the whole chain in production structure within the context of cross-border initiative.

- Need for institutional framework to support the process of industrialization that considers the formal and informal production process that exist in the region. In all these, people must be constantly informed of their rights and obligations by:

  - promulgation of intellectual property right

  - introduction of patents at African level;

  - institution of regulatory framework which are more responsive to industrial development;

- The need for both state and private sector to work hand in hand in the promotion of industrial development and knowledge for production;

- The selection of industrial development projects as well as industrial development in general should be based on sustainability and environmental considerations by popurliazing best practices.

5. Challenges of Globalization for Africa's Development

Regional Integration and Globalization

Development is a complex and multi-dimensional process that is dependent on a variety of` factors. These include external, internal, political, economic, social and cultural factors. Most importantly, as recent economic literature has come to accept the reform or have come to realize, the knowledge base of each country production and application of technologies in a global economic environment, regulated under the World Trade Organizations (WTO) determines the success rate in such countries.

The challenges of development and the response to them in terms of policies and strategies will depend upon these prevailing external and internal factors and the environments therefore. More central will be the production and adaptation of technologies as the key instrument of social change and attaining competitive advantage.

The most important phenomenon of the last two decades is globalization. The world is becoming a global village - increasingly integrated by the flow of trade and capital. The forces of integration are driven by rapid advances in science and technology technology. - especially information.

Arising from 1 and 2 above, however, there is no blue print on development options that is valid for all regional countries at all times. A development strategy that is appropriate in an era of cold war and major blocs may become less so in a period of single supper power and globalization that is driven by advances in technology, technical know how, especially information technology.

For a development strategy to be successful and contribute to achievement of sustainable development - it has to be built on the strength and take into account the weaknesses of the countries concerned.

It is against the background that development strategies must take account of prevailing environments (internal and external) the weaknesses and strengths of societies and must examine the challenges of globalization and regional integration for African countries.

To derive benefits from globalization - African countries have to be competitive and strong. However regional integration is a first necessary step towards integration of Africa into the global economy.

Countries should therefore make effort to:

1. Rationalize their integration schemes by assessing the existing comparative advantages and the structures of industrial sittings that serves the regional economy.

2. Sacrifice some of their sovereignty for the interest of the region

3. Involve the private sector, civil society and others in the process to anchor integration on true participatory and active involvement of the population.

4. Speak in one voice when dealing with partners in development especially at the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations. The preferential schemes specified in the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) should form one core area where the countries should seek specific implementation strategies in the future WTO negotiations. This is to help technology transfer and the process of enhancing productions through knowledge build-up and regional integration.

6. Mobilising Financial Resources for Development

Sustainable development efforts in the world-over has known direct bearing on savings effort. Sustainable savings effort on the other hand is heavily dependent on the size and base of income. To formulate a more generally acceptable regional strategy on Mobilising of Financial Resources through internal savings, attempt must be made to examine the characteristics of under-developed environment or some of the ingredients of under-development obtainable throughout the region.

The term under-development is not the same as lack of natural resources. A developed or under-developed environment could be described by scholars, or even politicians in many different ways to suit their purposes. For this purpose it is described as follows:

- It is an environment characterized with low per-capita income as a result of narrow income base which is also a factor of production level/base;

- Sometimes the low per capita income is compounded by high birth-rate/high death rate, rudimentary economics, poor health/hygiene and mass illiteracy. Mass illiteracy as relates to African deviates from simple education numeracy and literacy in European languages mainly English and French. It includes lack of knowledge as to how to change the natural environment to meet ones own need – practical education;

- The dominant occupation is generally peasantry farming on a very small acreage of lands usually producing cereals and carbohydrates, etc. to meet the domestic needs of the producer. They lack the capabilities to explore improved method and the public sector had constantly failed in its role to promote innovations which is the key instruments for achieving competitiveness in production.

Since sustainable development effort will require the continuous use of high-level savings domestic capital resource mobilization for investment usually turn-out-to be a very difficult exercise because of the very low levels of income. It is essential to say that such saving whenever available is best invested in technical know-how and increasing the people's capability to turn-out outputs. In African countries, however, to stimulate savings, other areas of call should include a visit to macro-economic policies, the formation of regional financial capital markets in bodies such as those of the ECOWAS, SADC, ECCAS, COMESA and the Maghreb Union of North Africa. Other financial mobilization strategies should include the establishment of mechanisms to moderate/manage risks including the wise use of:

(i) ODA: Though the ODAs are fast reducing in quantity and volume, they should nevertheless be used effectively. The first area of attention should be on the enhancement of knowledge and technological base for increased productivity and production. Institutional reforms should be put in place to reduce the leakage that normally come with abuse and misuse of these financial resources in African countries.

(ii) Internal Savings Sources: These could also be expanded and be made more favourable through higher interest rates provision. The Treasury certificates/bonds could be made to attract higher interest-rates and redeemed as and when due to make them more credible. To expand the volume, the general public including the small and informal sector savers should be made to know the available opportunities through education and the media.

(iii) Foreign Capital Inflow: This could be made more attractive with facilities being freely available to investors to repatriate both their capital and income according to the terms of the contract. Availability of such incentive, as tax holiday and the sustenance of the rule of law and good governance could also attract the would be investors In this case, more intense effort will be necessary to publicly educate the people on the applicable codes of conducts and vigorously punish the offenders through a free and fair justice system.

(iv) Increase in public sector savings: The government, on its part, should be in a position to improve on its savings by being more economically conscious and thrifty. Ostentatious spending should be avoided and the element of cost-benefit should be ascertained in all public expenditure to generate more confidence from the population. One way of achieving this will be through retraining of public finance management officials on the priorities procedures and ex-post expenditure reconciliation systems embodied in natural development plans.

(v) Corporate savings: Public and private corporate bodies should be encouraged to save all unspent outlays including those meant for long term projects/programmes which have not yet been started or against which the said amounts are being saved in a special account.

(vi) Formulation of Good Investment Policy: The government should formulate good and favourable investment policies that are capable of attracting both external foreign investors to invest. In case of the nationals, such policies should guarantee safety of investment when invested by nationals outside the economy.

(vii) Management of Income as a result of Debt Forgiveness: All amounts approved, as debt forgiveness should be accounted for as if there was no debt forgiveness. Such amounts should be accounted for separately. A programme of activities has to be in place where issues such as education for production, as means of increasing production should be drawn-up and implemented with the proceeds and savings from debt forgiveness. This will certainly be growth and development enhancing with reduction effect on poverty. This procedure would form one of the methods of accounting for any debt forgiveness in order to make the society benefit from the scheme;

(viii) Bilateral/Multilateral Loan Schemes: These are loans negotiated between one country and the other and are governed mostly by the agreements signed on the amount of goodwill that exists between the two. Nowadays, with the globalization and the general World economic order, the multilateral loans are being preferred even though the bilateral loan or donors are grouping to look like the multilateral under either the Paris/London Clubs. The realizations from any bilateral debt forgiveness could be used where majority of the involved government officials are fully aware of the term, implemented in an open and transparent manner in order to minimize leakage (corruption) and stem capital flight that may result;

As was reiterated throughout the meeting, preparing the population to produce its own solutions through practical vocational training, community based experts and technical training and suitable form of locally adopted techniques and technologies should get priority in the use of the financial resources mobilized resources no matter how small. This as a starter strategy will prove more sustainable in the long run, highly appropriate and effective, in the 21st century in most African countries.

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