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Review

Can NEPAD Rescue Africa through the Millennium Development Goals?

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That the majority of Africans are materially poor is hardly disputable, nor very surprising. After all the entire continent has been dealt several unfavorable blows: A dehumanizing and devastating global slave trade, colonialism, and multiple European backed commercial ventures with the view of exploiting the riches and wealth of the continent, providing little institutional, infrastructural and human capital when African countries began to achieve independence during the past century. In the more recent past, the Cold war and post cold war politics, protracted conflicts, structural adjustment programmes and HIV/Aids pandemic have left the continent poorer than before. Unlike East Asia, which has enjoyed a dramatic reduction in the absolute number of people living in poverty over the last 15 years, sub Saharan Africa has seen dramatic increases in both the total number of poor people and the fraction of its population that is poor. This sad reality has not gone unnoticed, various initiatives have been adopted even though most of them are tantamount to rhetoric, from Tony Blair's Africa commission, the G7 finance ministers' debt relief, the live 8 concerts, the make poverty history campaign and the G8 Gleneagles promises to the United Nations 2005 summit, Africa's gains seem to be reduced to some kind of public relations exercise indicating that the world has taken stock of the plight of the continent. But the problems of the continent persist- debt and inequitable trade are at the heart of Africa's problems and sometimes powerful elites within Africa collaborate with exploiters in the North at the detriment of their own nations. During the last half century, the economic performance of the developing world has been far from uniform. Developing countries were polarized into those that made great progress in catching up and those that were mired in economic stagnation. Many African countries belong to the second group. The question, which arises is, what could be done in order to help these countries to move from the stagnation to sustainable growth and development? During the last five decades, many attempts were explored and undertaken without any remarkable results. In 2000, 189 states endorsed the Millennium Development Goals, covering an array of targets with aspirations of reaching these goals by 2015. One year after, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, a vision and strategic framework for Africa's renewal was launched as a driver for African countries to move from long severe poverty, and consequently in reaching the MDGs. In this paper, we would like to share how policies contained within the NEPAD programme are key elements in achieving the MDGs. The first part of the paper analyses the whole vision behind the NEPAD programme, with the emphasis on the role that must play various African governments. The second part discusses the Millennium Development Goals and their targets. The third part develops a model for an effective and efficient implementation of these two initiatives, and how they could lead to a sustainable development within the African continent. The last section focuses on various roles African governments must play in order to achieve the various targets developed within the Millennium Declaration.

Keywords: NEPAD, capital market, economic integration, MDGs.

INTRODUCTION

Since 1999, the World Bank has promoted cutting poverty as the ultimate goal of development and required all developing countries, to draft a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) as its principal tool to reach the above. In September 2000, during the United Nations Millennium Summit, the Millennium Development Goals, a set of numerical social goals to be achieved by 2015, were launched on this regard. In the African context, a programme for social economic development was initiated the following year. The next section analyses this concept by paving the way for options necessary for a sustainable development for the African continent.

The new partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD): Vision and objectives.

Why NEPAD?

In the late 1980s, no one could deny that development efforts in almost all the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa had been a failure. Development plans had been prepared in most of these countries during the 1960s and 1970s. Some of them had really been little more than wishful thinking. Others had been implemented at least partially, resulting in some major achievements, but had proven powerless to relieve the crisis caused in particular by the continuing decline in the African export commodities. (Sall, 2000)

The structural adjustment programme designed to restore the financial equilibrium disturbed by the crisis, and to create the conditions for sustainable growth, had achieved only a very small part of their objectives. Though these programmes helped to reduce these imbalances, they clearly did not produce the expected sustained growth. (African Futures, 2002)

The many attempts to provide development in various sub-regions of Africa or in Africa as a whole, in particular the 1980 Lagos Action Plan for the Economic Development of Africa, in which many African had placed great hopes, had also clearly failed to produce the expected results. In response to this critical situation, the Government of the Netherlands organised a conference on Africa, held in Maastricht in 1990 and attended by African governments and aid agencies. The participants in this conference agreed that, contrary to what seemed to have been not achieved through economic measures alone. Though sound economic policies were definitively necessary, they have to be accompanied by changes in behaviour and in social, cultural and political structures. The conference participants also agreed that these changes would not occur without a vision of the future that was broadly shared by the peoples concerned. Here came the essence of various programmes leading to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). What is really the NEPAD programme?

NEPAD: Definition

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a vision and strategic framework for Africa's renewal. The NEPAD strategic framework document arises from a mandate given to the five initiating Heads of State (Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa) and by the Organisation of the African Union (OAU) to develop an integrated socio-economic development framework for Africa. The plans prepared focused on challenges that are common to most African countries; looking at projects that were critical to sub-regional and continental economic integration, policy reforms and increased investment in priority sectors and indicative flagship projects. Above all they highlighted the need for country and regional ownership and leadership (NEPAD, 2004). What is the need for the NEPAD programme?

NEPAD is designed to address the current development challenges facing the African continent. Issues such as escalating poverty levels, underdevelopment and the continued marginalisation of Africa needed a new radical intervention, spearheaded by African leaders, to develop a New Vision that would guarantee Africa's renewal.

NEPAD primary objectives

According to NEPAD (2004), the primary objectives of NEPAD are amongst other:

- To eradicate poverty
- To place African countries, both individually and collectively, on path of sustainable growth and development;
- To halt marginalisation of Africa in the globalisation process and enhance its full and beneficial integration into the global economy; and
- To accelerate the empowerment of women

NEPAD key principles

According to NEPAD (2004), the programme NEPAD is based on a number of key principles, namely:

- Good governance as a basic requirement for peace, security and sustainable political and socio-economic development;
- African ownership and leadership as well as broad and deep participation by all sectors of society;
- Anchoring the development of Africa on its resources and the resourcefulness of its people;
- Partnership between and among African peoples;
- Acceleration of regional and continental integration;
- Building the competitiveness of African countries and the continent;
- Forging a new international partnership that changes the unequal relationship between Africa and the developed world; and
- Ensuring that all partnerships with NEPAD are linked to the MDGs and other agreed development goals and targets.

From the above, I sometime define NEPAD as a socio-politico economic programme designed by African Heads of State and Government to reduce uncertainty in Africa by paving the way for sustainable economic development of various countries. At the heart of the programme is the issue of good governance. The question of governance occupies an important place in Africa since the early 1990s. New conditionalities are introduced in its name by development agencies, which increasingly use it as criterion for financial assistance. According to Sall (2000), good governance means a government sufficiently strong to ensure respect for law and order, to uphold lawful rights, to guarantee personal safety and to protect public and private property. Such a government derives its strength from the law and from the willing consent of the people, without which it is difficult to maintain a long term and sustainable national commitment for the process of structural reform, which is needed to constitute a platform for sustainable development in the continent.

Mandaza (1996), suggests four yardsticks that can be used to measure performance in the field of governance. They are:

a) The political aspect, notably the level of participation in the electoral process and the values and procedures that apply at elections;
b) Institutional aspects, their existence and their results;
c) Economic aspects, particularly economic benefits and their distribution;
d) Gender empowerment.

In definitive, transparency in the political, economic, administrative, budgetary and financial fields underlies all these aspects.

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

During the last decade leading up to the 3rd millennium, a number of UN Conferences were held with the intention of laying down international Development Targets (IDTs), which could help countries in fighting poverty. At the Millennium Summit held in September 2000 in New York, representatives of 191 countries adopted the Millennium Declaration. Among the 191 representatives were 147 Heads of State or Heads of Government including African Heads of State.

According to Sachs and Reid (2006), the Declaration focused on concerns arising from peace, security and development issues and covered areas including environment, human rights and the sound management of public affairs. The Declaration sought to integrate into one overall programme a variety of complementary and mutually reinforcing development goals. These goals and the development targets defined by the world conferences and summits of the 1990s are related but in some respects different. Recently, the various categories of goals were regrouped into the "Millennium Development Goals" (MDG). They are:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
- Achieve universal primary education;
- Promote gender equality and empower women;
- Reduce child mortality;
- Improve maternal health;
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
- Ensure a sustainable environment;
- Develop a global partnership for development.

These eight goals are broken down into eighteen quantitative targets, which should be achieved within the twenty-five year period from 1990 to 2015. Monitoring of progress towards the MDGs will be carried out at the global continental, sub regional and country levels.

At the international level, the United Nations Secretary General will report on progress to the General Assembly annually and will present a more detailed report every five years. However, at the country level, reports on the MDGs will help to mobilise support from development partners for the achievement of the goals. United Nations Country Teams under the guidance of Resident Co-ordinators are required to support the Government in monitoring progress and in providing MDG reports. The next paragraph addresses the first goal.

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Extreme poverty remains a daily reality for more than 1 billion people who subsist on less than $ 1 a day. Hunger and malnutrition are almost equally pervasive: more than 800 million people have too little to eat to meet their daily energy needs. For young children, the lack of food can be perilous since it retards their physical and mental development and threatens their very survival. More than a quarter of children under age 5 in developing countries are malnourished. The number of people living on less than one dollar a day dropped by nearly a quarter of a billion from 1990 to 2001; a period of rapid economic growth. In more than 30 countries, hunger was reduced by at least 25 per cent during the last decade. Fourteen of these countries are in sub Saharan Africa, the region hardest hit by hunger and malnutrition. (UN, 2005)

This goal contains two targets which are to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than $1 a day, and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Achieve universal primary education

Education gives people choices regarding the kind of lives they wish to lead. It enables them to express themselves with confidence in their personal relationships, in the community and at work. But for more than 115 million children of primary school, this human right is being denied. The loss of potential does not affect children alone. (UN, 2005) The only target of this goal is ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

Promote gender equality and empower women

Gender equality is a human right and at the heart of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It is a prerequisite to overcoming hunger, poverty and disease. This means equality at all levels of education and in all areas of work, equal control over resources and equal representation in public and political life. Achieving parity in education in primary school and beyond is critical if women are to engage fully in society and the global economy (UNDP, 2004). The only target of this goal is to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.

Reduce child mortality

Yet, every year, almost 11 million children die, that is 30 000 children a day, before their fifth birthday. Most of these children live in developing countries and die from a disease or a combination of diseases than can be prevented or treated by existing inexpensive means. The only target of this goal is to reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate. (UN, 2005)

Improve maternal health

The main target of this goal is to reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio. More than half a million women each year, pregnancy and childbirth end in death. Twenty times as many women suffer serious injuries or disabilities, which, if untreated, can cause lifelong pain and humiliation. A mother's death can be partially devastating to the children left behind, who are more apt to fall into poverty and to become the object of exploitation.

Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases

AIDS has become the leading cause of premature death in sub-Saharan Africa and the fourth largest killer worldwide. More than 20 million people have died around the world since the epidemic began; by the end of 2004, an estimated 39 million people living with HIV. In addition to the incalculable human suffering that AIDS has wrought, the epidemic has reserved decades of development progress in the worst affected countries. (UN, 2005).

There are other diseases, which are not making headlines, but stealing quietly the vitality and hope of people in the developing world. Malaria claims the lives of a million people a year, tuberculosis, once thought defeated, is making a comeback, helped by the emergence of drug-resistant strains and the vulnerabilities created by AIDS and HIV. The two targets aim at reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Ensure environmental sustainability

Environmental sustainability means using natural resources wisely and protecting the complex ecosystems on which our survival depends. But sustainability will not be achieved with current patterns of resource consumption and use. This climate is changing, bringing with it threats of rising sea levels and worsening droughts and floods. Fisheries and other marine resources are being overexploited. The rural poor are most immediately affected because their day-today subsistence and livelihoods more often depend on the natural resources around them. Though the exodus to urban areas has reduced pressure on rural lands, it has increased the number of people living in unsafe and overcrowded urban slums. In both urban and rural areas, billions of people lack safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Overcoming these and other environmental problems will require greater attention to the plight of the poor and an unprecedented level of global cooperation. (Sachs, 2006) The three targets of this goal are integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources, to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and finally achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

The development of a global partnership for development

At the heart of the Millennium Development Goals is the understanding that fighting poverty is a collective undertaking and that all countries have a stake in the achievement of the projected results with the primary responsibility to achieve them resting with developing countries. However, international support is critical, especially for the poorest countries and for countries handicapped by geographical isolation. Furthermore, in an independent and globalise world economy, avenues for trade, international financial stability and the spread of technology are needed to enable developing countries to seize the opportunities for accelerated and sustained development. (Sachs and Reid, 2006) The importance of this goal is highlight in the number of targets to be achieved. They are:

- Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system (includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction both nationally and internationally)
- Developing countries must liberalise their trade in industrial products and bind their tariffs, cutting them aggressively by bringing them closer to the level of tariffs in industrial countries. Developing countries must engage in rapid liberalisation. Africans must also do so even though their industries are not mature enough to compete with early starters in developed countries (Yilmaz, 2005).
- Address the special needs of the Least Developed Countries (includes tariff- and quota-free access for Least Developed Countries exports, enhanced program of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries [HIPCs] and cancellation of official bilateral debt, and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction);
- Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and Small Island developing states (through the Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and 22nd General Assembly provisions);
- Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term;
- In cooperation with developing countries, strategies must be develop and implement for decent and productive work for youth
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries must be instituted;
- In cooperation with the private sector, the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies must be available to all.

TRADE: DRIVER FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT

State of the Africa's marginalisation on trade

The marginalisation of African countries in the international trade regime has been identified as a critical challenge for the continent. Africa's plight has worsened since the start of the 1980s (referred to Africa lost decade) and the trends that have subsequently prevailed have included the inability of African states to diversify their exports as well as their dependence on agricultural products (Bah, 2005). The marginalisation of these states has impacted upon their respective abilities to attain adequate levels of growth and development.

According to figures from the World Trade Organisation (WTO) World Trade Overview (2004), African countries account for merely 2.4 percent of exports and 2.3 percent of imports.

Although the volume of Africa's trade has increased since the 1990s, the continent's share of trade has declined. In the WTO's (2004) ranking of leading importers and exporters, few African states featured. Of the 50 leading exporters, only three African states market share is small in comparison to both developed and developing states.

Growth driven by trade and investment: the way forward

According to Ohno (2002), for each African country, income trends and industrial shifts in GDP and exports can track the long-term growth path and the achievement of industrialisation. The most important feature of African countries is that growth could be attained through the existence of economic interaction among them, but also through "market-friendly" policies and good governance.
African countries, one by one, in order to realise economic growth, they must participate in the dynamic production network created by private firms. Linked by trade and investment, a system of international division of labour with clear order and structure must exist. Under this system, industrialisation will proceed through geographic widening in one hand, and structural deepening within each country on the other hand. In order to achieve all this, the different African countries must play a key role. The next paragraph addresses this important issue (Ohno, 2002)

THE ROLES OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS

The traditional functions of government cannot be disputed. They include, among others, creating institutions to maintain law and order, protecting property rights, creating laws to ensure competition, promoting confidence in markets through proper contract enforcement laws and ensuring anti-fraud laws, among other law enforcement functions. (Stiglitz, 1998)

To actively respond to the challenges from regional and global networks as described above, African countries must undergo a great transformation. While the main players of economic development are undoubtedly private firms, simply deregulating and opening up the private sector does not generate sufficient impetus for growth if countries are saddled with underdeveloped markets, lack of human resources and technology, and low productivity, elements characterising African economies. (Sachs, 2006)

In order to kick start an economy trapped in the vicious circle of low income, savings, and technology, the role of government is crucial as an external agent imparting order and direction to the national economy.

African governments must take certain actions after economic integration in the region in order to get out the state of economic stagnation; isolation leads to economic backwardness and that can destabilise the country. (Ndedi, 2005)

Good governance must also be redefined in the African context. Components of Good governance, such as macroeconomic stability, structural reform, administrative efficiency and transparency, social participation, do not necessarily coincide with the conditions needed for growth driven by trade and investment in the African continent.

The most basic task for African countries is to establish a *stable political regime and social unity*, which are the preconditions of economic development (Ohno, 2002). The NEPAD programme encourages countries to undertake policies of Good governance and democracy; the Peer Review Mechanism is the main illustration. Countries like Ghana and Rwanda have been reviewed, and several are willing to undertake the process. However, there is no real legal instrument or enforcement for countries, which are not in the right track regarding issues of good governance. (Ndedi, 2005)

Once social stability and policy consistency are attained as basic conditions, African governments have three important roles to play namely the creation of a market economy, the promotion of international integration, and finally the mitigation of the negative aspects of growth; elements develop in the next paragraphs.

The creation of a market economy

In poorest or transition countries, the case of many African countries, domestic markets are extremely primitive. In terms of productivity, organisation and human resources of these countries have not reached a stage where mere deregulation can unleash the latent market power to sound development (Ishikawa, 1990). Each country must constantly and flexibly mix market and government according to its development stage. Naturally, respective African governments must do this mixing. To create a market economy, rules and frameworks such as laws, deregulation, privitisation and free trade are important but not enough. The government must also pay attention to these initiatives and take actions on the real sector concerns, such as trade, investment, technology and industrial structure. Finally, competitiveness must be given pragmatic support and concrete contents. (Ohno, 2002)

The development of capital markets

When we speak of a Capital Market, we are referring to the joint efforts of investors and entrepreneurs to foster the growth of business revenues and profits. Investors participate in this process by putting at risk their money or property for the use of entrepreneurs, who may be people with whom they have no other business, professional, or personal relationship. Investors are willing to take such risks because of the possibility that they will receive significant economic return on their investment if the business in fact prospers. Entrepreneurs participate in the capital market process by offering various forms of financial instruments that attract investors to their companies, such as ordinary shares, preferred shares, and various types of debt instruments. (Ndedi, 2004)

The capital market exists in order for enterprises to raise funds, for investors to place their funds into investment opportunities, and for investors to buy and sell their securities to others. Full disclosure is the *sine qua non* of every capital market, and many of the laws and regulations exist for the purpose of assuring that that policy is met. (UNITAR, 2006)

Government's role in developing a free market economy can be described as one of facilitation. Government facilitates capital market development by adopting sound fiscal policies for itself, by creating institutions that effectively regulate and promote the capital market, and by enacting laws that appropriately balance business growth and investor protection. If government does its job well, the free market will develop and take its natural course. Ministries and agencies that are responsible for drafting and amending the company and securities statutes must be continually alert to market developments. Here are just a few major areas that regulators should be aware of in considering appropriate statutes or regulation; securities Registration Process, the Secondary Market and the Enforcement process.

The Central Bank plays a key role in regulating interest rates; the public float of currency, and overall monetary policy. The interest rates that the Central Bank sets for government treasury notes and other government debt obligations directly influence the capital market. T-Bills and other government debt compete in the market for investors.

If the government budgetary policy is based on high deficit financing, T-Bills and other government securities will necessarily have to be sold in large quantities and at high interest rates to attract sufficient investors. The answer is not to blame the Central Bank, but to go up another level and question the wisdom of the government's budgetary policy. However, Central Bank officials are important and respected members of the government's financial organization. Thus, they should be among the most outspoken in favour of government monetary policies that stabilize the currency, keep inflation to acceptable levels, and minimize the amount of debt that the government must raise from the market. What is most important is to recognize the link between government monetary policy and the ability of private companies to raise capital. If the direct impact of government financing upon private company financing is understood at all levels of policy-making, government's sometimes indifferent attitude towards deficit financing might well be affected.

Government expertise in the workings of the capital market is essential to market regulation and development. That expertise is best created within an agency that specializes in the capital market. Most countries have established such an agency, whether called the Securities Exchange Commission, Securities Commission, Capital Market Authority, or any other title. Other responsibilities often include public education, interpretive advice to lawyers and other inquirers, regulation of offerings by local government units such as towns and municipalities, developing exemptions from registration for limited forms of offerings, establishing uniform accounting standards for publicly-held companies, regulating foreign investment in domestic companies, and advising the Ministry of Finance and other government officials on the progress of the securities market (UNITAR, 2006).

The promotion of international integration: African countries cannot afford to isolate themselves with the rest of the world, especially during this era of globalisation. However, Opening its doors to international companies without any mechanism of regulation can definitively destabilise national economies. Integration initiates growth through internal dynamism. The timing, sequencing and scope of opening up to foreign organisations are extremely important. African countries must design an integration timetable, which gives sufficient incentive for enterprises efforts while avoiding crisis and social instability (Ohno, 2002). A delicate balance between liberalisation and protection is required.

Mitigation of the negative aspects of growth: Many African countries experience issues of poverty and income gaps due to the legacy of the 1960s "political independence". Apart from these problems, economic growth creates a set of new problems. Foremost among them is the emergence of income gaps among individuals, regions, and tribes. This situation is experience in Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique among others. Environmental pollution, issues associated with urbanisation such as rural-urban migration, traffic congestion and housing shortages, and social evils such as crime, corruption, drugs and prostitution, tend to arise. Economic growth is sustainable only when the opportunities and fruits of growth are perceived to be shared equitably by the standards of that society (Ohno, 2002) African country must opt for economic policies aimed at ensuring a real balance of the mentioned elements. The Millennium Project developed a short court for underdeveloped countries, especially sub-Saharan African countries called "Quick Wins". The next paragraph explains the concept.

The Quick Wins

According to the Millennium Project (2005), African countries could follow what is called Quick Wins. They are actions that can be taken immediately within existing capabilities to produce dramatic results within three to five years. Although far from comprehensive, some Quick Wins could bring vital gains in well-being to millions of people and start countries on the path to the Goals. Some of the Quick Wins include:

- Eliminating school and uniform fees to ensure that no children are kept out of school because their families cannot pay. Lost revenues should be replaced with more equitable and efficient sources of finance, including donor assistance.
- Providing impoverished farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa with affordable replenishments of soil nitrogen and other soil nutrients.
- Providing free school meals for all children using locally produced foods with take-home rations.
- Designing community nutrition programs for pregnant and lactating women and children under five that support breastfeeding provide access to locally produced complementary foods and, where needed, provides micronutrient (especially zinc and vitamin A) supplementation.
- Providing regular annual deworming to all schoolchildren in affected areas to improve health and educational outcomes.
- Training large numbers of village workers in health, farming, and infrastructure (in one-year programs) to ensure basic expertise and services in rural communities.
- Distributing free, long-lasting, insecticide treated bed-nets to all children in malaria endemic zones to cut decisively the burden of malaria.
- Eliminating user fees for basic health services in all developing countries, financed by increased domestic and donor resources for health.
- Expanding access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, including family planning and contraceptive information and services, and closing existing funding gaps for supplies and logistics.
- Setting up funding to finance community based slum upgrading and earmark idle public land for low-cost housing.
- Providing access to electricity, water, sanitation, and the Internet for all hospitals, schools, and other social service institutions using off-grid diesel generators, solar panels, or other appropriate technologies.

- Reforming and enforcing legislation guaranteeing women property and inheritance rights.
- Launching national campaigns to reduce violence against women.
- Establishing, in each country, an office of science advisor to the president or prime minister to consolidate the role of science in national policymaking.
- Empowering women to play a central role in formulating and monitoring MDG-based poverty reduction strategies and other critical policy reform processes, particularly at the level of local governments.
- Providing community-level support to plant trees to provide soil nutrients, fuel wood, shade, fodder, watershed protection, windbreak, and timber.

These Quick Wins are not the only interventions needed to reach the Goals- but they are actions with very high potential short-term impact that can be immediately implemented. Other interventions are more complicated and will take a decade of effort or have delayed benefits.

SUMMARY

In the current development strategy featuring MDGs and PRSP, the close relationship between economic growth and poverty reduction is known and recognised by scholars in the field of development economy.

At the operational level, budgeting and aid modality discussions over pro-poor policies are quite active, while the implementation of growth strategies which are concrete, feasible and specific to individual poor countries are just begin. Countries like South Africa are already on track. Despite the frequent protestations of social movements in South Africa, SA is on track. However, these policies need to be accelerated. The gap between rich and poor is widening day after day, with all its consequences. If nothing is done, violence, crime, prostitution et al will go crescendo.

To realise growth through trade and investment, the criteria for good governance develops earlier must be redefined and apply in the African context. Democracy in Africa does not have the same meaning in Europe; and good governance in South Africa is quite different of Good governance in Zimbabwe. We must understand the fact and accept it. However, political stability and social integration are absolutely necessary. Beyond that, there must be a strongly committed and economically literate leadership, a technocrat group to support it, an administrative mechanism to execute economic policies consistently, and popular support for growth-oriented development strategy. Africa has really never lack technocrats and scholars in various fields; however, Africa lacks political will. We need political will on this regard.

At the level of individual policies, African countries must undergo in the process of transfer of industrial research and policies formulation from developed countries. East Asian countries used this method during the 1960s by Japan, and more recently during the 1980s by the likes South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan. African countries can use the same mechanism. We have many scholars working for big corporations in America, Europe. They could be used on this regard. These techniques need only to be adapted to the African context, what is sometimes called "domestication" of foreign skills.

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