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NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN AFRICA: SOLUTIONS FOR BUILDING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CREATING JOBS FOR AFRICAN YOUTH

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ABSTRACT

Everyone knows about the richness of Africa; the continent has an abundance of human and natural resources that is next to none. Unfortunately, it suffers from hunger and extreme poverty; most African countries suffer from inadequate infrastructure, poor education and health. Specific questions arise. Why are we in this situation? We have vast lands, multiple rivers and underground water. However, we import food, medicine and clothes. Where is the problem? How can we get out of this closed circle? This paper outlines a roadmap for a better future for the next generations in Africa. This task will be done by taking advantage of the United Nations development plans, namely, sustainable development goals and invent mechanisms for the African continent to implement development priorities. Taking into account the differences within each country in regards to population structures, needs and natural resources available in each nation.

Key Words: Sustainable Development, Non-Government Organizations, African Youth

INTRODUCTION:

The development in South-East Asia challenges Africa significantly. Why do we compare Africa to the Southeast Asian countries? It is because they were the worst in the world 100 years ago in regards to poverty and hunger. Now the African continent takes its place. Most of the long wars in the past five decades have taken place in Africa, and the continent has been affected by food shortages and military coups.

Most regions of the world have managed to use their precious resources to create a major development boom, based on what the majority of the population is doing. Take Japan, for instance, a country that had been destroyed by the Second World War; Japan was at that time worse than most African nations today but managed to rise from that situation by capitalising on its human resources. Another reason why African minds should work hard to find practical solutions to bring about development to the African continent. Using global technology and the plans issued by the United Nations and applying them in each country as per their natural resources and population.

If we succeed in implementing these strategies, I can say with confidence that the twenty-second century is Africa's century. Africa will lead the world, will feed the world, the Sahara will become a wheat and rice plantation, and forests in the middle of the continent become the biggest fruit producers. Africa's ports can become major trading centres around the world; we only have to believe in that dream and work to achieve it.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Sustainable Development Goals draws a roadmap to the better future for the African Development

The concept of development means an event constituting a new stage in a changing situation. Development in this sense is the first stage, with respect to processing infrastructure and foundations which we will build on, in later stages, but it is not the ultimate goal. What we need is a continuation in development, which is the same definition of sustainable development, "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The problem in Africa is not the lack of development projects at all, we have many development projects in the African continent, but the problem is how to make these projects sustainable in the face of changing of governments or the change in financial support.

This leads us to ask more questions when we start any development project such as:

- What is the future of this project after ten years, twenty years?
- What is the primary purpose of the project, is it just a quick profit for the investor?
- What is the future of the natural resources in the area, and what is the future of local communities?

We should answer these questions first; this knowledge must be clear and transparent.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

What kind of development do we need in Africa?

To answer this question, we must think deeply about these three elements; economic development, human development and the urban development of the region. These elements must be present in every future development equation.

Regarding definition, we mean the following:-

Economic development: improvement of the way endowments and goods and services are used within (or by) the system to generate new products and services to provide additional consumption or investment possibilities to the members of the system.

Human development: people-centred development, where the focus is put on the improvement of the various dimensions affecting the well-being of individuals and their relationships with the society (health, education, entitlements, capabilities, empowerment etc.).

Territorial development: development of a specific region (space) achievable by exploiting specific socio-economic, environmental and institutional potential of the area, and its relationships with external subjects.

Then we need to create or construct a new platform that helps us to apply the development policies, figure 1 show the suggested mechanism to implement a deeply rooted development plan in our communities by establishing Intergovernmental Development Authorities to fill the gap that exists between government and communities, this shape is divided into three levels; governmental level to cover the running of the state and to build balanced sustainable development in the country, directed by expertise independent bodies funded and not funded by the government.

Figure 1: Intergovernmental Development Authority

Making independent, non-profit governmental bodies to direct the development

Institutionally, government organisations are typically organised into sector related ministries and departments. It works reasonably well until the system encounters something very comprehensive and highly integrated by nature, such as sustainable development. In practice, sustainable development requires the integration of economic, environmental, and social objectives across sectors, territories, and generations.

To achieve these goals, and to fill the gap between the government and local communities, we need to find new forms of supervision of development; characterised by the following objectives:

1. Establishing a development authority under the government, not the ministries, the members of this authority are a group of specialists in all fields of knowledge related to the development. Their first task is to supervise regional organisations specialised in agriculture, small industries, capacity building and skills.
2. These authorities are the advisory board of many local voluntary organisations, offering free services and sharing their expertise with the executive offices of the voluntary organisations to provide all the technical and scientific support required to implement the plans and programs of the regional voluntary organisations.
3. Authorities funded by the government. They have made decisions for non-governmental organisations. They have partnerships with ministries to implement the development plans approved by the government, and the relationship is co-operative between government agencies and non-governmental organisations to put plans and programs into effect on the ground.

Using non –governmental organization as a tool of development

These non-governmental organisations are concerned with the full definition in terms of tasks and objectives, as organisations that “attempt to improve social, economic and productive, conditions and are found both as small community-based organisations at village and district levels, characterised by the following objectives:

1. Establishing of non-governmental organisations, the members of these organisations are educated young people from the state-appointed territory and respected members of the local community. And representatives of the region in parliament and the legislative councils. The task of these organisations is to balance between the development plans adopted by the government and the actual needs of the local population.
2. The government and other supporters fund these organisations. The primary task is building partnerships between government agencies and local communities to implement development plans from planning to implementation with the assistance of the development authorities set up by the government by providing financial support and expertise in projects that meet the basic needs of local communities in agriculture, education, health and microenterprises.

The purpose of these organisations is to benefit from the ease of movement, decision-making and implementation of the particular plans and other advantages given by the law to the voluntary organisations. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have become an essential ally in the development process of the Third World. Activities of NGOs serve to mitigate the cost of developing countries' institutional weaknesses which often include administrative shortcomings and an inability to carry out essential development tasks efficiently.

Sustainable development according to the needs of the regions

African governments need to increase public investment in agriculture and rural development substantially; this will boost productivity in the in demand-driven initiatives. Investments in agriculture should be monitored to ensure specific targets that benefit smallholder women and waged agricultural workers.

Rachel Emas, 2015, the Concept of Sustainable Development: Definition and Defining Principles, Florida International University

Norad. 2004. Swaps and civil society – the role of civil society organizations in Zambia's Basic Education Sub-Sector Investment Programme. Oslo, Norway: NORAD. Retrieved 27 March 2008 from:

www.norad.no/items/1125/38/9363464881/042004.pdf p. 6.

United Nations Development Programme (1990) Human Development Report, Oxford University Press, New York p.136.

That is why we have to implement this system, by establishing independent expert governmental bodies to orient respected young volunteer organisations to apply these programs for development.

This system is designed to facilitate the implementation of different needs of development by regions, quality of population, natural resources and urgent needs of development according to the specific priorities. The system uses the available financial and human resources for development and through a well-managed administrative process that includes planning, organising, leadership, control the activities and financial funds to achieve the objectives of development efficiently and effectively.

Creating Jobs to ensure the sustainability of sustainable development

In the short run, given the importance of agriculture and microenterprises for new employment opportunities, improving the business environment in these sectors is a high priority.

It is important to know that this objective can be achieved by creating an economy within the local communities protected from global fluctuation and adopting policies to protect local production and finding markets for agricultural products to attract prices for small farmers, more jobs in agriculture and industries based on agricultural production.

All in collaboration with specialised groups of people selected from local communities to implement these programs.

CONCLUSION:

The biggest challenge of sustainable development remains the lack of management to the available resources and failure to develop appropriate plans for appropriate resources, and the biggest problem is the lack of practical and economic expertise to follow up the progress of development plans and programs in third world countries in general and particularly in Africa..

In conclusion, the critical recommendation is to study this system again and work on its application in Africa, at least for five years and then make a necessary evaluation.

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