SUBMISSION

**REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATATION OF THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT: IDENTIFYING AND PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICES**

**AT ADDIS-ABABA, 27-29 MARCH, 2018, ECA- CONFERENCE ROOM 3**

 **ABSTRACT**

This submission is centered on the phenomenon termed ‘The Right to Development”, and its possible repercussions in the global socioeconomic and political arena in the present and near future. Here, we try to look at the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and the challenges meeting them face in light of these continuous worldwide social economic imbalances. It identifies three key divides which further complicate the problem: i. Generational divide ii. Gender divide and iii. Economic divide. It posits that in order to address these pressing concerns, it is necessary to bridge these gaps.

The submission offers a series of propositions from the perspective of international law and best practices in governance and the development sector which are geared towards implementation in the areas of youth empowerment, structural reforms in education and sustainable circular labor migration and reintegration.

It also emphasizes the empowerment of women and the positive role of ICTs in assisting inclusive global development.

It further discusses the issue of refugees, which comprise 65 million of the total 244 million international migrants as of 2015. I suggest that instead of viewing them as state burdens or liabilities, they should be considered as additional factors to boost diversity, productivity and economic gains in line with the right to development of the UN.

In conclusion, apart from looking at the best holistic practices available to all, it still also suggests more practical ways and steps as relevant reformations to move forward in this urgent need and call to bridge the gap of social economic divides and advance the global drive to move for inclusive and sustainable development.

**INTRODUCTION AND THE ROLE OF THE UN RIGHTS AND CHARTERS TO ENFORCING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT:**

As the world continues to be held in a state of socio-economic demographic tsunami, I strongly feel that the United Nation, as an organization of sovereign states with her charter which says, **“to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, … to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights,… to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treatise and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom**”, is better and well positioned to arrest and handle these global ugly trends. Since it is obvious that present sub-governmental and even regional and national government actions and resources have proven just too inadequate - as evidenced by the increasing wide gap existing between nations and especially against women, the younger generations, and the physically challenged - the United Nations could act now and very fast as a bridge, to step down and stop these scourges of social and demographic inequalities.

The right to development for instance, is the right of every human being to participate in, to contribute to, and to benefit from social, economic, cultural, technology, and political development. The right to development is a right that expands the capabilities (freedom to achieve) and choices of the individual. It provides a comprehensive approach to the realization of human rights by according attention to structures, processes and outcomes; recognizing the entitlements of individuals as well as collectives including future generations. It puts equity, equality and justice as primary determinants of development, and promotes the full realization of fundamental freedoms.

To realize this right, the World leaders in 2015, with a series of consensual international commitments reaffirmed the right to development through the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Paris Agreement on climate change. These new commitments have provided a momentum for the protection, promotion and fulfillment of the right to development at national and international levels.

However; there is still a great margin and gap to be filled and covered in achieving these laudable objectives for inclusive and holistic development.

Today and for instance, the 20th century witnessed rapid global population explosion especially in the developing countries thereby creating unexpected rise in the world’s population. Unfortunately this explosion especially in Africa and other developing regions has not come with a fortune but rather undesirable conditions that take the core of UN responsibilities such as malnutrition, disease, drought, poverty, and environmental degradation (especially in Sub-Saharan sub-continent where land is the source of everything necessary for survival such as shelter and farming).

Professor Kamuntu once remarked in an academic presentation at Makerere University Kampala that, if you have a majority of the population spending six hours of their day looking for water and carrying it in jerry cans on their heads like donkeys and after, they spend three more hours again looking for firewood to cook food, you cannot expect development.

The UN and other Member States therefore need to address these structural conflicts in the Global South to reverse the population and socio-economic catastrophe that is already evident.

The population problem in the present day developing world is (more than ever before) a concern for the world leaders because its careful scrutiny may reverse the disastrous depletion of the world’s environment and distortion of coexistence of human with nature. Therefore, UN policy response to this socio-economic problem must address aspects of health, family planning methods, education of women, and gender empowerment, as well as socio-economic emancipation of developing countries. This is farfetched for the UN alone but the UN agencies can steer advocacy and state awareness towards the role of governments in the developing countries as well as other international development and humanitarian agencies in the economic and developmental right policy formulation.

Finally, considering the role of the UN against the world’s imbalanced, Right to Development is unquestionably farfetched but the UN as the world’s police can, through its different programs and charters, have a shot at most of these issues of the ‘new inclusive economic and development order’. As such, the UN efforts can address stability and security, poverty, nature and environment, accountability and good governance, gender, prevention of health hazards, improvement of reproductive health and fertility services in developing countries. The UN also has a role in the stabilization of hostility in the immigration /refugee crisis fueled by uneven developmental spread that has characterized Northern politics in this century.

**SUGGESTED INTERVENTIONAL AND REFORMATIONAL STEPS TO THE RIGHT TO INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT**

As observed in the foregoing discussion, The UN’s role will be to emphasize policies aimed at improving the human resource capacity in the highly populated areas of the world. This in the end will provide quality human resources needed to fill the skilled labor gap in the ageing developed world. The UN is also faced with a daunting task of bridging the conflict gap between immigrants/ refugees and the receiving countries especially in Europe.

Also, as could be clearly seen and notice, the influx of African immigrants to Europe in the recent past is an indicator that the African continent can no longer sustain its people. Most of the immigrants from sub-Saharan sub-continent are actually socio-economic refugees under pressure of the undesirable structural violence existing at the moment. The humanitarian crisis characterized by massive refugee inflow from Middle east and North Africa should certainly be a concern to the UN as well. Efforts to stabilize the conflict areas through strategies to improve security and governance, human rights and freedom as well as socio-economic empowerment through the right to development ought to be at the core of UN function.

The UN must go back to the drawing board and reconsider the root-causes of the socio-economic problems in the developing countries and take a lead in addressing these causes. By doing this, the UN will address environmental degradation, reduce refugee influx to developed countries and empower the people at the bottom of the world’s pyramid. It is now common sense to a layperson that there is a significant correlation between poverty and illiteracy, culture and high birth rates. Therefore Gender-based programs directed to these variables can be extremely fruitful especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

Therefore, based on best practices and balance developmental approach, the followings as urgent reforms are hereby suggested as means of achieving even right to development for all. Thus to achieve inclusive development right, the UN and her member states need innovative reforms in line with the mandate of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda that urgently seek to address the 17 SDGs.

This is the high way to sustainable economic, social and environmental transformation as envisioned and entrenched in the global goals mandate and it is aptly summed up with the 5Ps of the SDGs as: P1-PEACE, P2-PROSPERITY, P3-PARTNERSHIP for P4-PEOPLE and P5-PLANET.

**THE NEEDED REFORMS BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO BRIDGING THE DEMOGRAPHIC GAPS IN OUR WORLD TODAY**

To tackle the global challenges and move the world forward from inequalities, injustice, poverty, hunger and underdevelopment, to sustainable peace and development, the United Nations must inject into her systems some radical reforms and approaches, which could include:

* ***Strategic Reformation in Approach to the 2030 Agenda:***

In accordance with the principle of first thing first, the UN needs a strategic reformation in the approach to the 2030 Agenda, which was adopted by the General Assembly in September 25th, 2015, as a global plan to tackle poverty inequality and other social ills – **with a pledge to leave no one behind.** *Thus, the challenge here is how to make this global goal to become specifically relevant to the needs of the common people of the world as a major concern.*

This, according to Idriss Jazairy, UN Special Raporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights: ***“the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include commitments to eradicating poverty, provide clean affordable energy, promote peaceful and inclusive societies, and implement nationally appropriate social protection systems for all, including social protection floors must be made bare and clear to the understanding and possession of all citizens of the world****”.*

Taken in tandem, the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs of the UN with strong commitments by member states, make it clear that the world could experience sustainable peace, prosperity and transformation despite the fragile and volatile nature of our societies due to inequalities, poverty and social injustices. This call for reformation in the approach to the global transformation 2030 Agenda through the 17 SDGs is urgently needed to achieve developmental right for all. While the global goals are laudable and needed for socio-economic transformation, the language of the call for global renewal and transformation as contained in the UN SDGs programs, though highly valuable; are somewhat foreign and far beyond the grasp and understanding of the local/grass root people of the world.

All the 17 SDGs with their 169 targets capable of directly impacting the local communities around the globe through an all-inclusive approach are still very much strange to the supposed beneficiaries.

For instance, according to a recent study by the renowned Professor - Philip Misselwitz, *about 65 percent of the 169 targets of the 17 SDGs can only be achieved through substantive and direct involvement of the local stake-holders including the local governments.*

Now, the critical question again is: How can the United Nations transit with and translate the global goals to local actions? Put in another way! What can the world body do or what is needed to be done by the UN and all Member States, practically to localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

This thinking dimension is urgently needed to motivate and catalyze a global grass-root advancement towards launching inclusiveness of the sub-national authorities, and the needed individual actors in national SDGs awareness strategic implementation, monitoring and accountability actions plan. To me, this is one of the most urgently needed reformations the UN should undertake to move the world forward through the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

Hence, for none to be left behind, we need a mechanism to encourage and strengthen municipalities in localizing the SDGs. The UN through policy reforms could empower urban and national governments to integrate stakeholder’s platforms for implementing the SDGs. Again and to re-emphases this, as was suggested by Franziska Schrerber, an urbanization expert: *“****To truly and really localize the 2030 Agenda, more streamlined and genuine efforts will be needed at the global, national and local levels*.”** And this indeed, is an area that needs urgent reformation by the United Nations to ensure that no one is being left behind in order to close the gap of inequalities and social injustice today. Thus and in line with positive reformative actions,

* ***New Educational Reforms Needed by the UN:***

In line with Goal 4 of the SDGs, this focuses on quality education for all by the year 2030, hence, the United Nations needs to make some reforms in the global educational system. This, to me is vital and in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes that every child has the right to go to school and learn. That right begins in early childhood, which is one reason why the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 4) call on governments to “ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education.

Good and quality education has the power to end intergenerational cycles of inequity, improving the lives of children and the societies in which they live. Education can provide children with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life. It is associated with increased incomes, reduced poverty and improved health.

However; for education to play these roles, it must begin with early childhood development and continue with quality learning opportunities that provide all children, especially the most disadvantaged, with a fair chance to thrive.

In both rich and poor countries of the world, education has long served as a great leveler of opportunity for all because, it helps people realize their potentials and contribute to the advancement of their communities and the world. Good and quality education increases knowledge, sparks innovation, builds skills that drive growth and prosperity, and fosters inclusive societies. Equitable and quality education has no doubts, been a catalyst and provide younger generations with a pathway out of deprivation and economic poverty with social slavery.

It is very alarming to read that millions of children around the world are still denied their right to education because of poverty, gender, ethnicity, disability and geographical location. Other factors such as, armed conflict, natural disasters and the sustained negative impacts of climate change are also implicated as factors that deprive children of the chance to go to school and learn. Above all and in addition, when public resources are not allocated on the basis of evidence pointing to the greatest need, education systems could entrench inequalities and inequities rather than dismantle them.

Truly, the lack of good learning facilities in children’s early years raises concerns at many levels. Learning deficits begin early, sometimes even before primary school. Statistics indicate that, in about 28 countries with available data, less than half of children between the ages of 3 and nearly 5 were developmentally off track in literacy and numeracy in 2014. This implies that most of the educationally disadvantaged children of the world are greatly left behind in terms of good and qualitative learning environments conditions and facilities.

This is quiet disturbing and need urgent reformation because, in early childhood and through primary school, children are supposed to acquire the foundational skills that allow them to develop problem-solving capabilities, flourish in secondary education and later succeed in employment markets.

Now and again, according to UNICEF’s state of the world’s children report 2016, why should one around five young people in Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries not be able to complete secondary education? It is also reported that, globally, children from the poorest households are five times more likely to be out of school than those from the wealthiest. And that in nearly all countries, with data, wealthier children had better learning results than poorer children.

This indeed calls for urgent educational reforms by the UN to bridge the educational demographic gap and promote equal and inclusive society with fair opportunities for all because if the current trends on the educational imbalances persist, the world could be off-track to reaching the goal of quality education for all by 2030.

To re-echo the words of the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, who said and I quote: ***“Investing in education, finding decent jobs for young people and promoting social cohesion are just some of the things that can be done to make the world safer, more resilient and sustainable****”.*

Hence, in order to move from poor enrolment among school-aged children to achieving quality education especially among the least developed countries, the United Nations needs to reform and focus on the following areas of educational improvement:

1. Closing the gaps in gender parity in Primary and Secondary Schools enrolment to improve educational access in all region of the world is imperative and a sure way out of the poor educational gaps in the world today.
2. The principles of universal access to education by citizens of all members’ countries should be upheld and given first place and priority in policy making and infrastructural provisions.
3. Innovation on inclusive school curricula and vocational training programs must become a needed dimension and a critical factor to bridge the inefficiencies in the global school systems.
4. Again, the UN could work with ministries of education and public service agencies to assist academically inclined students with disabilities who wish to go beyond secondary school. This is very necessary and needful because financial difficulties are a major reason why young people with disabilities are unable to continue their education. These assistances should include free education incentives, grants, loans and even scholarships. Governments also need to make same doors for education facilities open for students with disabilities as for everybody else.
5. Additionally, there is a need for the UN to design friendly educational incentives that are attractive to the younger generation. Incentives for quality learning such as: green spaces and gardens in school environments, games and sporting facilities, school free feeding programs, provision of libraries and research centers; prizes and rewards for both best teachers and students and affordable education at all levels are needed to reduce the stress and difficulties faced by many children and youths in attaining higher educational standard especially among the developing countries.

Above all and in summary, the greatest challenges in the drive towards education for all, which are – lack of access to education and deficits in learning outcomes, must be overcome for education to fulfill its role as an agent of equity. To overcome these challenges, countries will be best served if they offer comprehensive early childhood care and learning opportunities, and if the focus on making the fastest progress for the children left behind is to be realized. These approaches and reforms definitely have the potential to narrow the gaps in educational outcomes between the richest and poorest children of the world by 2030.

* ***The UN needs to Re-Innovate on Gender- Youths and Women Empowerment:***

The Sustainable Development Goals of : 1- Poverty; 2- Zero Hunger, 3-Good Health and Well-being, 8- Decent Work and Economic Growth, 9- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure are designed and meant to bring a reduction in inequalities among societies and people today.

Nowadays, the world is changing rapidly. The magnitude of change and the scope of new ideas are just remarkable – but in most cases, they are also often in extreme disparity. For instance and in specific terms, there were around 5 billion people in the world by 1990, but by 2050, there will be estimated population of 10 billion and more than 2.4 billion of these are expected to be younger than 18 years. How shall these vast majority of children and youths be cared for and be carried along into decent adulthoods? No doubts, many children born today will have the rare privilege of enjoying vast opportunities which were unavailable some 30 years ago. It is also very obvious that not all will have an equal chance to grow up healthy, educated and be able to fulfill their potentials and become fully participating citizens, as envisioned in the Convention on the Rights of the child.

Unequal developmental outcomes such as lack of decent jobs and unfair placements between and within societies have become a real cause of concern spurring global action to fixing them. The demographic divide as exist today has left the younger generation with a vacuum and a sense of separation from the mainstream of society. Contemporary capitalism is creating deeply, unstable growth and as the single greatest threat to social and political stability around the world. The inequality it engenders is indeed bad for humanity not only in the sense that it is unjust, but in that, it leads instrumentally to negative outcomes for society as a whole. Inequality due to some neglect of the younger generation’s welfare is a corrosive force, hampering the global fight against poverty and sowing the seeds of social unrest. This is in total agreement with the social reformer, late **Martin Luther King Jr**, when he said, ***“But the real danger confronting civilization today is that atomic bomb which lies in the hearts and souls of men, capable of exploding into the vilest of hate and into the most damaging selfishness”.***

As the inequalities in the world heads towards a demographic tsunami, the most important question that demands an urgent answer again is: What can the United Nations and all member states do to arrest and reverse these most dangerous and ugly trends?

Again, I am in total agreement with the UN Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres, when he said, ***“We need global response that addresses the root causes of conflict, and integrate peace, sustainable development and human rights in a holistic way – from conception to execution****”*. Responses to global ills, according to him must integrate peace and sustainable development. And to me, holistic youth empowerment in an inclusive way is a key to bridging this social gap for progress to be attained.

Truly and indeed, there is deep wisdom in the saying, “Sivis Pacem, cole justatium, - yes! If we seek peace, we must cultivate justice for the young generation, the physically challenged and women who are mostly marginalized.

In tackling these maladies, apart from the broader issue of wealth redistribution and the mustering of the world’s political will in handling inequalities and preventing the vulnerable from further unrest and conflicts, the United Nations could as well consider empowering the youths and women through new innovative approaches and methods.

* ***The UN Needs New Reforms in******Inno-Native Designs:***

Another unique area the United Nations could take advantage of and explore for youths and women/girls empowerment and bridge the demographic gap for even developmental right, is in the promotion and investment in **Inno-Native Designs**. Here, the creative abilities and potentials of the youths are encouraged, stimulated and exploited for creative endeavors towards developing indigenous technologies. Inno-native designs through available local resource mobilization and innovations could as well create and generate millions of new opportunities for the idle minds and hands.

In today’s increasingly connected world, problems cross borders – and solutions must do the same, linking global and local problems solvers to push the boundaries of the possible, try out unconventional approaches in new places, and accelerate progress towards a future in which all youths can enjoy their rights.

Hence, as the global development goals demand an era of equity, justices and transformation, we have the choice and privilege of using the potentials presented through the local resources – culture, tourism, crafts, festivals etc – to create new youths, women/girls friendly jobs and opportunities for creative engagements. Thus, there is urgent need for increase in funding and investment in local technologies and infrastructures to harnessing local resources around the world especially among developing nations.

* ***Reforms in the Recovery Economy for Inclusive Sustainable Development:***

The green economy and agro-biz ventures schemes, through creative approach could carter and change the fortunes of the women and the younger generation being left behind today. The UN working in tandem with the SDGs and in-collaboration with national and regional governments could promote in more concrete ways a culture of sustainable organic agriculture. The green economy through agriculture, forestry, horticulture, land scalping and crops and animals cultivation, processing and value chain marketing could bring the needed inclusive opportunities to the youths, women/girls in order to bridge the demographic inequalities for sustainable development. This is in line with the targets of the SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15 and 17, which are: economic, social and environmental transformation of the world. Environmental protection, economic growth and social human development are intrinsically linked and interconnected, but not separated and to be pursued in isolation. We must now pursue a global development agenda that addresses environmental degradation with the potential of eliminating poverty and improve the lives of the most vulnerable through innovative indigenous technologies.

Today, it is obvious that, the lack of harnessing the power of native technologies for infrastructures and industrialization is the greatest bane of Africa and most developing nations of the world. If for instance, the vast natural endowments and the human resources, especially the vibrant skills and energies of the younger generation in Africa are properly and creatively harnessed, the scenario of poverty and backwardness could be turned around for better, as expected by the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations.

Dr. Walter Williams, Professor of economics at George Mason University, once wrote: “In terms of natural resources, Africa is the world’s richest continent”. If then, Africa is well endowed above other continents of the world in terms of human, natural and mineral resources, why should the situation of the African continent become perpetually in an impoverished state? What happens to the great materials and human resources - large water bodies, expansive land, sand, forest, mineral and oil deposits of the Africa Continent? For a specific example, African’s 30, 212,000 square kilometers of landmass representing 22.3% of the world’s total land area can no longer be left fallow. But through locally design sustainable organic agricultural production, Africa will not only feed her teaming population, but as well supply and export food to other less privileged and land locked nations of the world.

Without mincing words, the best and most viable approach and reform by the UN to the African and the global underdevelopment predicaments, is more and sustained investment on indigenous friendly efforts in Inno-Native Designs. We need now more than ever, local solutions to the global ills. And that is an area that demands an urgent focus by the UN and member states. The world through investing in local solutions could be lifted from the levels of hopelessness and abject poverty to dignity. We must now count the cost and come to terms and agree with **Edward De Bono,** who said and I quote**: *“Creativity and greatness involves breaking out of the established patterns in order to look at things in a different way”*.** Through this submission, I am re-echoing the call on the global bodies to take another look at “Inno-Native’’ designs for more friendly and homemade options that must be embraced and invested on to overcome the problems of poverty, extreme hunger, and unemployment, lack of development, illiteracy and injustices for true freedom of the world’s people.

* ***The UN Could Harness the Opportunities through the Social Media and Create Social Enterprises Reforms:***

Still, talking about novel strategies for inclusive development for a peaceful and progressive world, the vast opportunities presented through social media for social entrepreneurship is a 21st century boom that cannot be over looked. The social media presents a global opportunity for both the rural and urban dwellers for creative engagements which could be harnessed as means of livelihood. Again, here the United Nations in partnership with member states could encourage the training, mentoring and deployment of the social media tools to empower the left behind and volatile groups. And this calls for and demands urgent creative and expert approach before the total outbreak of uncontrollable unrest by the marginalized people-women and the younger generation.

* ***Other areas of Urgent Reforms by the United Nations towards implementing the Right to Development include:***

It might also be pertinent to state and recommend here that the practices in many countries by some leaders to stay put in political positions and recycle mostly the retired and elderly ones without giving due consideration to the younger generation to have their say and placements especially in the Africa continent, must be deliberately checked among member states by the United Nations relevant organs and agencies. This, if properly done, could bridge the gap of inequality which is the root cause of unrests, conflicts and restiveness against most authorities in our world.

* ***The UN Could Reform and Forge an Inclusive Model of Collaborative Diplomacy****.*

Today’s world as noted earlier is highly infested with problems that are proving very difficult to fix up. Inequalities, social exclusion, terrorism, resource depletion and environmental degradation all combine in breeding dissatisfactions and constant conflicts among the people in many societies across the world. The looming and glaring sense of exclusion and hopelessness is creating deeper wounds and uncertainty as obvious responses that include depression and most times, outright rebellions and revolts against the authority. Now, the question is, what other solutions apart from suggestions above, must be applied and urgently too to stop these trends before they get out of hand?

To move the world forward from the state of restiveness due to inequalities social injustices, there is a need to find common ground for collective action. It is now time for the United Nations systems to work more strategically with government around the world through a stronger partnership with other multilateral private entities to prevent the reoccurrence of conflicts from breaking out in the already fragile and volatile societies.

Together, with a new reform in collaborative diplomacy, it could be more flexible for the UN to build a new generation of partnership with governments, civil society, regional organizations, international institutions, academia and the business community to implement the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement for inclusive peaceful and better world.**

The Paris Agreement and other treaties of the UN could become anomaly or the means for multilateralism in present circumstances. To be more relevance therefore and build the world’s confidence, the UN and its member states must now work together to proffering novel solutions to the numerous problems of the present age and resolve right to development problem today.

Thus, to bring about an inclusive world-free of ran-course and conflicts, the UN needs to embrace and involve a more dynamic multilateralism. And this must incorporate friendlier public and private participatory actions, which preserves the legitimate and primary roles of states while welcoming and encouraging inputs from the private sectors through mutual interactions/exchanges.

Above all, the UN needs to work and effect altitudinal changes in political and social responsibility by world leaders. There is an urgent need to ensure that citizens feel more belonging and as stakeholders in our corporate future without being excluded or discriminated against. Without this assurance and harmonious atmosphere, there would continue to be the feeling of bitterness, disenchantment and dissatisfaction that could breed conflicts and recurrence unrests. The UN could address and arrest the wide range of global ills and threats to peace and security; by re-invigorating and embracing a new form of inclusive multilateralism. These also include reducing the burden of debts and increasing funding to developing countries.

As the world heads towards a demographic tsunami due to the wide gap in social imbalance around inequality, wealth distribution and poverty, the UN could address these global injustices by addressing the drivers of inequality through effective collaboration and workable partnership.

Global peace and inclusive sustainable development could further be achieved and strengthened through, among others, the following selective and strategic reforms in labor availability; wealth redistribution, friendly migration laws and policies; urbanization and globalization drives, equal and even educational opportunities for all, deployment of none violence negotiations, strategic and holistic youths, women and girls empowerment as well as global firm policies adherence in the areas of illegal controls /handling of small arms and nuclear weapons of mass destructions, creating friendly and inclusive political and leadership opportunities for women and the youths and strengthening of government institutions like the judiciary to be more freer and non oppressive in all Member States.

Ensuring to leave no one behind is a cardinal philosophy of the post millennium 2030 Agenda of the United Nations. And the 17 sustainable goals (SDGs), with the 196, targets standing out as beacon of hope and a vision for global optimism for a transformed world. The challenge before us now is: How can the United Nations address the multiple and complex problems of recurrent injustices and inequalities, unrest and conflicts with increasing ramifications, abuses, and states of despondencies and hopelessness gallivanting towards a state of global tsunami?

The answer to these global puzzles is not farfetched. A reform in approach by the UN and member states in the implementation of the adopted 2030 Agenda through the SDGs is a major key, to a peaceful and transformed world.

The United Nations with her lofty objective of providing the architecture through which all member countries can address their common problems, peacefully resolve their disputes and support each other in building strong, prosperous and just societies, must now stand up to her duties as custodian of the foundation of international peace and security. Though, in her over 70 years of existence, much has been achieved by the various UN systems, organs and charters, but the present cases of social ills, call for a more radical, innovative and pragmatic approach and actions to addressing these global challenges.

Yes! And indeed, we urgently need a global response, now or never, that addresses the root causes of conflict, and integrates peace, sustainable development and human rights in a holistic way – that is, prevention of conflicts and other manmade threats to the cohesion and total wellbeing of man and societies. And this must be done and urgently too to rekindle the hope and confidence of the world’s citizens thereby inspiring and motivating every one of us to live up to our highest purposes and potentials of the holistic enforcement of the right to development.

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| ***0.1*** | ***Share good practices and experiences in designing and implementing human development policies and programs that contribute to the realization of human rights.*** |

***THE STUDY ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF MICRO RESERVOIR TECHNOLOGIES FOR RICE PRODUCTION IN AFRICA (IMRT FOR AFRICA)***

Rice is a primary staple for food consumption, particularly in West Africa where its growing cities depend on rice as a cornerstone of the daily diet, and consumption is increasing by roughly 5.5% a year. However, despite the clear potential to boost regional production, most African countries continue to rely heavily on imports for meeting their growing rice consumption needs at an annual cost of USD 5 billion. Such a heavy reliance of most African countries on rice imports for their consumption continues to pose a serious food security concern, as rice consumption is projected to jump to 130% by 2035.

In sub-Saharan Africa, rice production falls short of consumption. As a result, the region imports an increasing amount of rice from Asia or North America every year.

Despite the positive and rapid increase in rice production in Africa since 2007, local rice production is unable to keep pace with the increasing demand. It is noted that the demand-supply gap is widening and underlined sustainable intensification of rice production, based on enhancing biological processes of the ecosystem.

Given this situations, the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) was established in 2008 with the goal of doubling rice production in Africa in 10 years. However, even in Africa’s inland wetlands, which have great potential for rice cultivation, the average rice yield is only 2t/ha, with farmers relying on rainwater for their crops.

The Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), Ministry of Food Agriculture (MoFA), and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology signed a tripartite agreement to cooperate in the research on the “Study of Improvement of Micro Reservoir Technologies for Rice Production in Africa”. This study had its main verification studies in the Ashanti and Northern regions of Ghana and was inconformity with the target goal of CARD to double the rice production in Africa from the present 14 million tons/year to 28 million tons/year by 2018.

The main objective of the study was using micro reservoirs to increase the yield and cropping times of rice production in Africa.

The research study was coordinated by Elizka Relief Foundation.

The implementation of double cropping at some small scale irrigation paddy fields has been a challenge as a result of unstable water flow or seasonal stream and this has called for the need to develop technologies for micro reservoir construction and sustainable water use in these areas.

Increases in rice production in Africa have been attained mainly by area expansion while yield increases, of the type realized through a “Green Revolution” has rarely been observed.

This research findings and recommendations was to promote more efficient, sustainable and productive rice production systems in Africa through the use of micro reservoirs.

At present, small dugout reservoirs are mainly constructed for obtaining water for domestic purposes. Water spilled out from such a dugout reservoir is not utilized effectively. Moreover, in some cases, water user’s association of small reservoir is not functioning well, and the facility is not utilized effectively after construction.

This research focused on this insufficiently utilized spilled water. Water spillage usually occurs from the middle of the rainy season, and irrigation is mainly considered for the late stage of rice cultivation when the unavailability of water affects productivity severely.

The water volume for paddling work is high at this stage of the rice cultivation cycle. Paddling work generally starts approximately a month after the beginning of the rainy season in Sub-Saharan Africa. When pond water is used for paddling, a large amount of water is stored in a huge pond before paddling. The larger the pond, the higher the construction cost and more complicated is the maintenance and management tasks. Hence, the target cultivation method is direct seeding, instead of transplanting for which paddling is necessary. Plowing is executed even in the case of direct seeding, and rain is the source of water for plowing. The pond water is supplied from the panicle initiation stage to the flowering stage, during which water severely affects production (around 40 days; depending on the variety of rice).

The research focused on the following: an idea for estimating the volume of spillage water (or estimating the water volume available for irrigation), an idea for developing irrigation facilities using spillage water effectively, and an idea for the management and maintenance of irrigation facilities and rice cultivation based on the research results.

It identified that irrigation of paddy fields and use of ponds are subject to constraints when implementing supplementary irrigation using pond water.

The following pond conditions were identified:

1. Water Resource condition, II. Social condition and III. Material availability.
2. *Water Resource condition*

It was noticed that sites where water from an existing pond is conventionally used for activities except agriculture (i.e., for other uses), the priority and volume for other uses have to be considered. Further, spillage water utilization downstream should be considered. It was observed that pond water at the area is used not only for agriculture (rice and other crops), but also for domestic purposes and for cattle. The order of priority among the purposes was as follows — agriculture, domestic use, and cattle. However, this differs depending on the community. When agricultural water is utilized in an area where the priority order is “agriculture < domestic purposes and cattle,” a margin is necessary after higher priority uses. Moreover, in areas where there wells and tap water, the available water volume for agriculture were considered integrally.

Further the following observations were made:

* Dugouts in northern regions are mainly used for drinking, domestic uses, and cattle.
* Water from the dugout are the final device if tap water and well water are not available.
* An existing user uses water from an existing dugout, and additional water (obtained by raising the height of an embankment, or by desilting, or by utilizing spilled water) is used for irrigation.
1. *Social conditions*

Construction of a small reservoir incurs some cost; hence, it is desirable that the suitable site is utilized for commercial production of rice. Maintenance and management cost are also incurred. Thus, a place where the benefits are not worth the cost is not a suitable place. That is, the suitable place shall be the place where rice is commercially cultivated. Moreover, rice cultivation incurs certain cost. Therefore, a suitable place is one where rice is cultivated commercially. In the case that rice is cultivated for self-consumption; the benefits should exceed the purchasing cost.

1. *Material availability*

In sites where materials (e.g., soil) cannot be easily acquired (or to which materials cannot be easily conveyed), the construction cost increases, resulting in an economic disadvantage.

The following results were achieved:

Based on such conditions, the research arrived that a facility improvement plan for generating additional water storage for agriculture, including rice cultivation should be promoted. In the project, two methods were developed with focus on unutilized spillage water. The methods provide techniques to obtain new storage capacity.

Water spilled from dugouts in the Northern region in Ghana flows downstream without being utilized in the rainy season when the dugout fills with water. Using the dugout water directly for rice cultivation is difficult because the irrigation water competes against domestic one. However, using the spilled water for irrigation can help avoid this conflict. Thus, the sub-pond, which stores the water spilled from the dugout (main pond), is planned.

The dugout (main pond) is classified as an off-stream reservoir, while a sub-pond is classified as an on-stream storage. Water from a sub-pond can be delivered to a paddy field by means of gravity or a pump, depending on the relative height.

Some fields where the JICA sustainable development project (completed in 2014) was implemented achieved high productivity without supplementary irrigation (according to the final report; productivity increased from 3.0 t/ha to 3.9 t/ha at the trial plot in Tamale, and from 4.0 t/ha to 6.6 t/ha in Kumasi).

On the other hand, according to the interim review report, the average productivity in the Northern region in 2007–2009 was 2.1 t/ha and that in Ashanti was 1.1 t/ha. That is, places with good conditions were selected as the trial plots. Thus, the productivity of rain-fed rice varies largely with the conditions. Moreover, the productivity increases up to a certain value with the water volume used by plants. Thus, given the same volume of rainfall and rain pattern, bund construction improves the productivity at sites where water is easily obtained. On the other hand, irrigation is needed for improving the productivity at places where water is difficult to obtain.

To utilize dugout water for rice farming, it is necessary for farmers to do activities such as;

- Operation of irrigation watering

- Maintenance of irrigation facilities

- Management of fund for operation and maintenance

Also, irrigation for rice has to be done as a collective activity in most cases and irrigation for rice may trigger competition with other water users, it is necessary for rice farmers to have functions of group decision making such as;

- Decision making on irrigation for rice

- Decision making on coordination with other water users

To implement these activities added to other water uses in a sustainable manner, it is advisable to have an organization framework to plan, implement and monitor these activities and functions.

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| ***0.2*** | ***OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)*** |

Elizka Relief Foundation has never received any Overseas Development Assistance. It is however of the view that it is important to have access to such a facility as it will help improve its services and enable the organization serve its constituencies even better.

***Submitted by:***

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