

AFRICAN YOUTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: INVENTORY FIXTURES

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Abstract: While African governments are increasingly putting youth concerns at the heart of the development agenda, a lot more remains to be done. After fifty (50) years of Independence, Africa is still economically, politically, culturally, socially fossilized. In spite of different models of development elaborated here and there, the continent is still a home of social vices. The social fracture is deep; depths that we need to seek to know African's responsibilities to eradicate them. Yet, the unfinished resources of the continent are youths. Unfortunately, they are worth used or planed. This comes back to analyze the contribution of this social group to the development of their continent. This of sustainable development depends on it. It is the way to fully engage young Africans in all aspects of the programs and initiatives that target Africa's future.

Keywords: Africa, development, fracture, initiatives and youths.

INTRODUCTION

Y outh constitutes approximately 60% of the African population. It is among the most vulnerable layers of the continent. In spite of the efforts authorized by this one, it always encountered evils which prevent its blooming. Often qualified spearhead, of major actress of development, but one does not give him the place which returns from right. It is all times marginalized, given up with its sad fate. Committed debates around him appear generally political. Its rights are ridiculed and hardly worry the leaders. Each year one attends very beautiful speeches at the time of the political meetings which do nothing but deaden it. As much

these speeches are held, as much the blooming of youth is posed with discharged. It is victim of all the evils: unemployment, bandits, drug, alcoholism, school loss, VIH/SIDA, etc so, a generation of the young people arrives and passes, and another and so on. In this succession of the generation, to become to it youth's future remains always dark. Africa which reappears would like well that its sons at least know what they must give him before asserting what they await from him. Everywhere, in the continent, the social defects are announced large and the means to extirpate them are limited. All this master key at the time when Africa is from now on in the middle of the concerns of development in which are committed its leaders since about fifty years. A combat in which the fate of Africa decides always elsewhere:

*"One of Africa's greatest untapped resources is its young people, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed, urging the continent to take advantage of the skills and talents of its youth to promote sustainable development"*¹.

In this contradiction one does not hesitate to qualify Africa of all the evils (Giri: 1986)². Thus, Africa is compared with the rest of the world according to its weak material accumulation, measured of many health centers, of telephone and car, school, hospital beds per capital. One reproaches today Africa, his incapacity to look at more towards the future. It is

¹ Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38500&CR=Africa (accessed on 11/25/2011).

² Giri, J. (1986). Africa is Broken Down, *Paris, Karthala*,

what made say to french President Nicolas Sarkozy, at the time of her speech at the University of Dakar on July 26, 2007, which the continent sufficiently did not enter into the history of humanity. However, the current world is driven by a real rising of the young people to take in hand their destiny. If that were not enough, the African leaders are upset to find an exit happy from which the continent could play a leading role on the international scene. These contradictions, is still necessary it to add, are encouraged by the enemies of Africa and sap to become to it thousands of people.

It is necessary to think of a new generation of leaders, able to take up several challenges of development. It appeared, to recall us, of the series of divergences so much political, economic, cultural and ideological within the past fifty years. It is necessary to think of a new generation of leaders, we want of all our wishes, a youth adequate to promote self-development. This new generation will help to correct what (Adisson: 1989)³ by captive trade to mention the intrusive character of Western multinationals in Africa.

By what precedes, it is necessary to ask to know what to do, so that to avoid in the continent the same observation made by (Banégas: 1998)⁴. This preoccupation leads us to define the concept of development and to direct the debate. From this point of view, if sustainable development gets along like much undertaken aiming at exploiting the current resources without compromising the chance of the future generation, youth more than is ever challenged there. It is by engaging itself at the sides of the decision makers that it will be able to take up the challenge which challenges it. It is at this price only that it will have Africa removed from social defects. Yesterday they were human development, social, integrated... and one knows the place which is reserved in Africa: condemned to absolve theories of these concepts to the great lady of very whole planet (two brothers Hazoume: 1998)⁵.

By what precedes, if the safeguard of the biodiversity requires a local diary, it is not the international financing which will help to prevent the destiny of Africa; because the financial ones are destroying truths⁶. It is necessary to pose a thorough diagnosis of

³ Adisson, E.(1989) .The Captive Trade: French Societies of Black Africa, *Paris Harmattan*

⁴ Banégas,R.(1998) .The Democracy at Chameleon Step Transition and Imaginary political in Benin, *Paris, Karthala*

⁵ Hazoume G. Alain and Hazoume G. Edgar. (1988), Africa, a Future in Reprieve, *Paris, Harmattan*

⁶ "An Over View of Sustainable Development in Africa", in www.eolss.net/.../E1-48Pdf (accessed on 9/

the problems of deep Africa, to identify them, to treat them on a hierarchical basis in order to bring the remedies. Altogether, one needs a synergy of action of the know-how which rests on the determination and the real engagement of the young people. A real determination of those at the side of the actors would help with better apprehending reality and bequeathing profitable memories to the following generations. Unfortunately, it is not the case. And yet, it is enough to a will on behalf of the young people themselves to break this unequal report/ratio of the forces so much denounced. Thus, at the moment when the African people agreed all to turn the page of their sad history, after fifty years of political Independence, a basic work is awaited on behalf of the youth of this continent. It is the place to help this social layer to benefit from their knowledge. Because it appears to our knowledge, that the vulgarization of this potentiality passes by the invitation of this one to work and a true policy of confidence placed in it. It is in this direction that one will be able to develop the virtues in which the latter abounds and to plan the needs for Africa of tomorrow.

They are on the whole, anxious to see this youth engaging in the fight for the development of their country, which this article intervenes. It is a question of knowing the participation of youth in the development in general and that of sustainable development in particular. . It is a `will to treat the participation of African youth in the development of their nation under an angle of historical approach (I) then to propose some lines of thinking for new leadership for Africa's sustainable development (II).

METHODS AND MATERIALS

A wide search was conducted of published and great literature on youth and sustainable development issues. Researchers and NGOs have documented Libraries, web site etc; these reports have been consulted.

In addition, we interviewed key informants, including youth in Chad (N'Djamena) and Cameroon (Kousseri), persons involved in sustainable development issues. They have responded to a structured questionnaire. Time did not permit a more exhaustive assessment, but we hope that the issues raised in this report will lead to further investigations both within the Governments, NGO's and by independent observers.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Youth's involvement on Africa sustainable development has its strengths and its limitations. In this discussion I will discuss about the participation of African youth in the development of their nation

under an angle of approach historical. This includes youth's contribution to the development of Africa, with particular definition of concepts of such as development, youth and sustainable development, and to propose some lines of thinking for new leadership for Africa's sustainable development. It is good to inform that question on youth's contribution to Africa's development has been developed in two sections: the first one before the sustainable development and the second during this one.

Lastly, we propose Africa's New Leadership and Sustainable Development Issues. It concerns with the steps they will need to take in order to try to address these issues (challenges).

HISTORICAL APPROACH OF AFRICAN YOUTH'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR NATION

Africa is broken down, it is sick of itself intends one to say. It is in the middle of the concerns of development in which its leaders are committed since about fifty years. The leaders are gone to lot of trouble to find an exit happy from which the continent could play a leading role on the international scene. As many there are terminologies of concepts to indicate the development, as much ways rise to criticize the delay of Africa. By what precedes, it is necessary to dwell too long on the real participation of wire of this continent to measure the way traversed for the development.

However, it is a question of throwing a particular glance on the youthful participation in so much desired sustainable development.

Definition of Development and Youth Concepts

An analysis of these two concepts will enable to orientate our work in order to apprehend it.

Development Concept

To begin with, the concept of 'development' still remains the most controversial and easily manipulated term both in the academia and political arena. It is not uncommon to understand that people take the idea of 'development' for granted and as something that can be realized so long as there is a good will and a capacity to do so. What is not usual, most of the time, is to consider the fact that it is also a political and ideologically driven concept and practice since its inception as a catchy concept in the discourse of practitioners and intellectuals in the 'post World War II period'. From the attempt of crafting a stage-by-stage process of achieving it [development] in the works of (Rostow:1960)⁷, to the ambition and

supposedly 'philanthropic' mission as asserted by Harry Truman in the 1960s; from the establishment of the Breton Woods Institutions (WB, IMF) to the execution of the structural adjustment programs; from the Needs Based Approach to the Rights Based Approach, from the attempt of crafting a 'different path' in the African Alternative Framework to the structural adjustment programs (AAF-SAP) to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); and finally to the Millennium Development Goals of the UN, one can witness that the context in which 'development' is idealized, ope rationalized and practiced is not on a neutral ground rather within the realm of highly political, ideological, hierarchical, deterministic and institutionally structured system.

Youth

The sociology-cultural setting, the political and economic system, gender, as the assumed and given role within family and society are immensely different for people of the same age (be it 18 or 24) irrespective of their categorization under the same concept of youth.

Youth is more of a social position whose roles and responsibilities are always negotiated and influenced within the broader framework of society. The relational and generational features of being youth are vital also elements in commanding power and exercising their agency to influence the course of the social, economic and political process to their advantage. Unless there is a broader conceptualization of youth which accommodates the various realities they are living in like; a situation in which they are leading players of societal transformation, a system in which they are co-opted to sustain dictatorship and clientele political system, a condition in which they are depoliticized and marginalized from meaningful decision making spheres, a context in which they are merely recognized as economic assets of society. In short, youth is not a homogenous group of people.

Sustainable Development

The concept of 'Sustainable Development' first appeared into the mainstream discourse strongly after the launching of the report by the Brundtland Commission under the title: Our Common Future in 1987. The commission defined and introduced the concept as '...development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. This definition has been used as a benchmark in efforts to make it more comprehensive and accommodating of the changing discourses that emerged into the agenda of

⁷ Rostow W., 1960, *The Stage of Economic Growth: A Non – Communist Manifesto* in Rostow's Stages of Development, *North Virginia Community College*, Pp.4-

development from the socio-economic, political and environmental perspectives. The conceptualization of sustainable development offers is the focus on the human-to-human relations at the present time rather than the human-to-nature or the relation with the 'future' generations in hypothetical level. It is the intensity of the interaction at the human (society) level, who has the power in deciding the process and the approach, whose ideas are prioritized and taken into consideration at the expense of others (and why), who is benefiting from such decisions. It is finally a process in the social, economic and political of a given society, the issues of power, participation, rights, equality, conflict of interest, domination, and activism context.

Context of Youth's Contribution to the Development of Africa

This contribution will start from 1960, date of the independence for the majority of African countries. It is starting from this date because the Africans had to ensure the management of things of their continent. It will be question of making short various contributions so much about the political plan, economic, cultural... before dwelling on issue of youth and sustainable development.

Brief Youth's Contribution to African Development before Sustainable Development

1960 to 1970, the management of Africa on the political plan was ensured in majority by teachers and some doctors and African trade unionists chiefs. In spite of their rather heteroclit education level, these first African leaders all were guided in their actions by the same requirement, that of the nationalism considered to be essential for better demolishing colonial yoke and sitting the first steps of a true nation and a self-development (Ritingar:2008)⁸. Nationalism is common at the same time to the Anglophone, French-speaking and Portuguese-speaking countries. The difficulties around the construction of nationalism are numerous. Beyond the under-equipment of the colonies coldly independent and formation of the lately independent elites, more centered on obedience than on the responsibility, the main obstacle of the first African leaders is that of the Cold war between 1960 and 1990. Africa, in the search of an autonomous development model, was in the center of the East-West confrontation. The enthusiasts of nationalism estimate that only the ideology of left which

prevailed in the East could help them to demolish supervision of the conquering Occident. Thus, almost all the political parties which led Africa to independence were of obedience Marxist-Leninist: the African Party for independence (APIS) in Senegal, the African Democratic Regrouping (ADR), created in Bamako in 1946, with in particular Felix Houphouet-Boigny (Ivory Coast), Ahmed Sékou Touré (Guinea) and Modibo Keita (Mali), the Group Action of the chief Obafemi Awolowo in Nigeria, Convention People' S Party (CPP) of Doctor Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana, the movement Mau Mau Jomo Kenyatta in Kenya, etc It is well after France succeeds in dividing ADR into recovering Felix Houphouet-Boigny. This recovery was fatal with the unit of action of this part of the left. On the crucial questions concerned with the future of Africa, these leaders were deeply divided. On a side the group of Casablanca was constituted, which, around the king Mohammed V and of his successor, Hassan II, gathered the pro-Westerners like Felix Houphouet-Boigny, Leopold Sédar Senghor (Senegal), Omar Bongo (Gabon) or Ahidjo (Cameroon). Other, the enthusiasts of the Eastern current had set up the group of Monrovia around Doctor Kwame Nkrumah, of Sékou Touré, Modibo Keita and William Richard Tolbert (Liberia). In the middle of these two antagonistic groups the indifferent ones like Sourou Migan Apithy (old Dahomey) floated Benjamin Nnamdi Azikiwe (Nigeria), Aboubacar Sangoulé Lamizana (the old Upper Volta) or Ngarta Tombalbaye (Chad). It is on this bottom of strong ideological divergences that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was created in Addis-Abeba in 1963. These various tendencies also influenced the intellectual young people and training of the leaders until the advent of the soldiers as from 1970. In spite of the difficulties, this youth of the time was all of agreement for a joint project: the panafricanism was regarded as impossible to circumvent for them.

It was the golden age of the continent. Everywhere, it was the hour of independence 'Cha-cha', the hour of happiness (Loba: 1960)⁹. With a small diploma the young people were able to catch a work. The cost of living was relatively very low. It was easy to be looked after even with a limited resource. The elderly were respected and all that the man undertook thus marked these limits protected the ecosystem. It was the beginning of the creation of the production units or nationalized.

Unfortunately, the combat started by these young people in favor of national construction and the panafricanism was hardly started that a new generation of leaders, that of the soldiers, put an end

⁸ Ritingar, A. (2008). *From the Nationalization to the Privatization of the Companies in Chad: A case Study of CST, STEE, DHS and MCT From 1960 to 2008*, University of Ngaoundere, Department of Sociology, Phil's Thesis

⁹ Aké Loba. (1960). *Black Student, Paris Flammarion*

to it. Thus, as from 1970, certain States fell into the hands from the soldiers. It is the autocratic beginning of the modes. It is the reign of the sole parties, with for consequence the end of the hopes born of independence. It is in these contradictions that the concept of sustainable development intervenes towards end of the year 80.

African Youth during Sustainable Development

To start with, the question is how considerate are development policies and programs at national and continental level to the multiple realities that African youth are living in? Very often, we understood saying youths are tomorrow's leaders or tomorrow's hope; we therefore, would like to know if these statements are taken into account.

The period of 1980-1990 was particularly hard for the African countries, because of a generalized economic recession and a heavy debt. The search for solution at this crisis period economic involved the generalization of the programs of structural adjustment, whose first agreements go back to 1981. But the good application of these programs can be done only in one political atmosphere marked by freedom and a liberal economy. Thus, as from 1990, Africa was subjected to the experiment of democratization of the State and the company, with the return on the integral multi-party system and arrival on the African political scene of a new generation of leaders, was composed at the same time of "civilized" soldiers, some old leaders of civil origin and young politicians of which a good part had been used as advisers for the military regimes between 1970 and 1990. The advent of the democracy in Africa did not involve a radical transformation of the political community. The mixture of the leaders of this democratic period, between civilians and soldiers, did not make it possible the democracy to be truly a success and, especially, a progress factor. Altogether, the State is the fact of the foreign powers and the relay of the colonial ideology. Blow, the political leaders whom Africa knew up to now are mainly perceived like simple puppets with the pay of the dominant powers (Le Roy: 1997)¹⁰. From this point of view since in the African countries, only the political directors to find a solution suitable with the population, we wonder about the real one on the place reserved for youth.

Youth and Environmental Issues

As heirs to the environmental risks and hazards the world is producing today, it is imperative that the

¹⁰

Le Roy, E. (1997). *The Building of State in Africa, between Indigenization and Enculturation in the Misadventures of State in Africa GEMDEV*, Pp7-21. Paris, Karthala

youth take on a leading role in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable livelihoods. Africa faces a number of environmental risks and hazards that disproportionately affect young people, not only because they result in deteriorating physical conditions for both rural and urban dwellers. Erosion, pollution in all its forms, reduced biodiversity, over-exploitation of natural resources such as water and forests, and desertification, among many others, also severely compromise economic development and prosperity.

Already, forest size in Africa has been drastically reduced over the last century, due to human activity, contributing to desertification and water scarcity. In many countries on the continent, access to clean drinking water may soon become a reason for conflict.

In addition, the rate of urbanization in Africa poses an environmental challenge in waste management, access to water and sanitation facilities. With only an estimated one-third of the total municipal waste on the continent formally disposed of, the amount of waste generated in African cities far exceeds the capacity of most municipalities (Rititingar:2011)¹¹.

Youth need to take responsibility for the state of the environment by becoming full participants in society. Are young people sufficiently engaged? The voice of youth is an invaluable asset to environmental conservation and management. Some governments and non-governmental organizations in Africa are committed to advancing the role and active involvement of youth in the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development.

Youth and employment

Given the right combination of motivation, ideas and opportunities, youth are more than able to establish productive and creative businesses. Engaging in entrepreneurship shifts young people from being "job seekers" to "job creators," and also from social dependence to self-sufficiency. Many self-employed youth also contribute to the upkeep of their family, sometimes in a leading role in the absence of parents.

Despite these potential benefits, the majority of youth continue to look up to the state for employment rather

¹¹

Rititingar, A. (2011). *Fight against Delirious urbanization in Africa* in African Fiftieth Anniversary for another Africa: A Contribution to Social Crises Resolution, Paper sent for 18th Conference of the Society for Human Development (SRDHD), Pp.19-22, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 2012

than creating their own jobs and employing others. This failure of young people to engage in entrepreneurship has also been attributed to a range of factors: socio-cultural attitudes towards youth entrepreneurship, lack of entrepreneurial training in the school curriculum, incomplete market information, absence of business support and physical infrastructure.

Having a job provides a person not only with a source of income but also a basis for dignity and self-respect. To be leaders in the context of their families and in the broader community, young Africans need to find a decent job.

However, young people have a hard time in African job markets; with inadequate education and skills and few opportunities, most young Africans face a future of low-wage employment, unemployment and underemployment. An increasing youth population adds to the pool of job seekers every year, worsening the situation (Rititingar: 2011)¹².

Young African women also face particular barriers in the labor market, much of which is attributable to cultural attitudes towards them. The expansion of employment opportunities is far below the growth in the youth population because of lack of appropriate technologies and investment work conditions, and in particular, poor access to finance.

Youth and rural exodus

While migrating to an urban area is a rational act for a young person in search of a job and a better life, too often, the end result is poverty and exploitation (Rititingar:2011)¹³. To rectify this, governments are now looking at job creation in rural areas, though these initiatives need to be both intensified and expanded.

Sadly, once in the big city, African youth lose hope of finding a decent job and are compelled to cross dangerous paths and waters to better pastures, with all too tragic consequences. International observers report that less than one-third of the thousands of young Africans who attempt to reach Europe through the Sahara desert make it to their dream destinations.

Another problem is the rising incidence of youth poverty, crime, prostitution and drugs among youth, as well as the involvement in armed conflict - direct consequence of the lack of decent jobs

(Kirthi:2011)¹⁴. This is particular concern, not only due to its profound impact on the lives of young people but for society as a whole. At the same time, very little effort has been made in Africa to reduce emigration or to promote the return of emigrants.

Youth and HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS pandemic, in Sub-Saharan, is one of the greatest economic, social and political challenges of our time. AIDS reduces the earning capacity of affected individuals and increases their medical expenses, pushing families and households further into poverty, creating a vicious cycle of material deprivation and health problems. The disease leaves behind a generation of orphans, many of whom are left to be brought up by other relatives or are forced to fend for them. Besides the tragic consequences of the pandemic for individuals and their families, HIV/AIDS remains a major burden for affected countries; it severely hampers efforts of governments to improve the health status of the countries and achieve sustainable economic development, in particular by diverting scarce resources from other development priorities.

HIV/AIDS also reduces labor supply and productivity levels, which in turn have a negative impact on economic growth. This is nowhere more evident than in the education sector, where the disease is cutting back the numbers of trained teachers and diminishing aspirations for achieving development. So, youth reap immediate impact of HIV/AIDS ravaging (Rititingar: 2011)¹⁵.

Youth and Conflict

The leaders actively participate to people's disunion. The community that is ruling considers its culture, itself in general, to be more important than other groups. Elections are organized not to bring people's expectation change, but to reposition leaders; as a consequence, it is difficult to create links between places and institutions, urban and rural areas in order that children of each group should be able to advance intellectually and compete on equal footing. Only minorities, who are ruling, are able to access higher education and so within great institutions. To show their disappointing, some children lost trusting of themselves and choose to join armies' band or become alcoholic after several years of studies. Those

¹² Rititingar, A. (2011). Op cit Pp 16-17

¹³ Rititingar, A. (2011). *Domestic workers in N'Djamena City: A case Study of Domestic workers from Rural de-Population and Domestic workers under Protection*, article sent to www.elsevier .com for publication

¹⁴ Kirthi Jayakumar. (2011). *Wars and the Child – Unending Saga of Child Soldiers*, Unpublished article

¹⁵ Rititingar, A. (2011). *How to Train/ Teach Pupils in Schools about HIV/AIDS: A Challenge of Training and Information for African Youth*, article sent for International Conference on Sustainable Human and Social Development, Paris November, 2011

that have chance to find job whether in public or private sector, their intentions are to gather as much as possible and as fast as possible necessary resources (Dumond: 1991)¹⁶. What is painful is that resources gathered fraudulently will be used into luxuries investment instead of creating employment to absolve unemployed people: this money is used to buy cars, lands, wives or put into banks abroad.

These ongoing wars are destroying the social fabric and preventing mobilization of human resources and financial resources. In this condition, most governments mobilized resources to service debt rather than to create employment for their people. When the conflict starts, it touches at the same time neighboring countries, and has serious impact on them; especially on youths who have been using by the belligerents.

From what we said above, peace, prosperity and enlightenment should be governments' objectives. It is difficult to do it, but with political will, one can reach this goal. African Renaissance claimed by our leaders this day during the fifty years' Independence celebration depends on it (Sawadogo: 2003)¹⁷. It comes to create new class of leadership who will actively for moving African. This class will working on following social vices so that preserve Africa's destiny.

AFRICA'S NEW LEADERSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

We tackled above on Africa's development issue after its accession to political independence. In this chapter we are going to focus on an alternative Africa's destiny with new class of leaderships able to change image of this continent. Though we recognize that high-level advocacy through the African Union (AU) Conference Ministers in Charge of Youth and Africa Development Forum V on youth have enabled formulation of regional frameworks, policies and action programmes, such as the AU Youth Volunteer Youth corps programme and the AU Plan of Action for the Decade for Youth Empowerment and Development, we also recognize that there are limits of these actions. In addition, other commitments like the International Conference on Population and Development and the Banjul Declaration consider youth issues, AU's Conference of Malabo of 2011 considers youth empowerment issues, hoping that Governments will provide education, skills

¹⁶ Dumond, R. (1991). *Democracy for Africa, Paris, Doorway*

¹⁷ Sawadogo. (2010). *Mutations of African Countries* In A Best Regional Approach of Development in West Africa, dir. J.O .Igué and S. Schumacher., *Paris: OCDE*, Pp: 47-51

development programmes, flexible labor market and gender-sensitive planning. So, we do plaid for another class of leadership to keep moving Africa.

Types of African New Leaderships

Leadership is a social influencing process for the attainment of goals. The leader is the most influential person in an organization who provides direction, guides group activities and ensures that group objectives are attained. The function of leadership pervades all organizations. A good leadership therefore is one who is capable of persuading others to move enthusiastically towards the achievement of group goals. According to (Allan and Robert: 1969)¹⁸, leadership can be defined as a process where one person exerts social influence over the members of a group. *A leader, then, is a person with power over others who exercise the powers for the purpose of influencing their behavior* (Nwachuku: 2006)¹⁹.

From what proceeds, we need to have in Africa new class of leadership capable to orientate the African institutions towards development. It comes to have different classes of leadership:

Intelligent Leadership

Intelligent is a learnable skills that is based on developing healthy and effective relationship²⁰. This concept is based on system theory and it tries to describe the leadership process as a whole with the key elements that belong to it. One of the main premises it makes is that intelligent leadership is shared and collaborative and therefore significantly different from the way leadership has been addressed in mainstream models.

Initiative Leadership

Great leadership is partially defined by initiative. This does not mean that they were the ones to come up with great idea and patent it. It simply means that they took a deep breath and dared to the first to step forward. They did not wait for the masses to join them. They lead. What is important about having initiative as a leader? This is one of the questions one should ask. The answer to this question is that it embodies the definition of a leader. A leader is one

¹⁸ Allan G. and J. House. (1969). *Management Process and Organization Behavior, Illinois: Scott, Foresman and Co.*, p.391

¹⁹ Nwachuku C. Celestine. . (2006). *Management Theory and Practice, Africana First Publishers Limited*

²⁰ *Emotionally Intelligent Leadership Book and Resource MLS Consulting LLC*, in www.mlsconsulting.net/products (Visited on 9/ 25/ 2011

who leads or stands out in front and directs. So, you cannot be in that position and be successful if there is no initiative.

A true test of leadership comes when you realize that you might be making a stand alone and you still do it. The fact that the crowd goes the opposite direction does not deter a leader shows his true heart. (Daniel: 2009)²¹ in bible is one who showed initiative as leader. All leaders need initiative otherwise they not leaders but followers.

Self- assurance Leadership

Self- confident or self- assurance leadership is seen as leader whose personality and actions influence people to behave in certain way. He creates realistic, credible and attractive vision of the future those energies followers to put forth the skills and talents required to achieve the vision. Therefore, one who is visionary will have the ability to explain that vision to others not only verbally but also through behavior. So, in deepest part of you, you have faith in your strengths. One should be able to take a risk, able to stake, claim, and most important, able to deliver. The assurance makes someone confident in judgment²². We need that when African youths look at the world, they must know that their perspective is unique and distinct. And because no one sees exactly what you see, you know that no one can make your decisions for you. No one can tell you what to think. Whenever African youths should keep in their minds that others can guide, but they have authority, make decisions and act. No matter what the situation, they seem to know what the right decision is. This lends them an aura of certainty.

Maturity Leadership

The Leadership Maturity offers a new way for people to discover possibilities that they are mature. It offers a guiding hand to those who are motivated to grow themselves and to develop new ways of thinking and a larger, more nuanced repertoire of behavioral choices. It is helpful in understanding strengths and weaknesses in relationships, community interactions and leadership capabilities. Moreover, The Leadership Maturity reveals the mindset (form of consciousness) that currently shapes our worldview. Without our knowing it these mindsets significantly affects our relationship with the world: they determine how we see ourselves, each other and what we believe is possible between us. These mindsets,

which build one upon another, play a vital role in establishing how we interact with and make sense of the world, how we understand and interpret our interactions and the events they generate.

We need that youth should proceed through this position to propose us exact way of Africa's development because it has been revealed that many thousands of people (mostly in America and Britain) have employed the leadership maturity to discover their developmental profile. This enables them to achieve an understanding of their current stage of development, and to employ this understanding to help them discover the means to further their own growth and development²³. It is way to help build, boost, and develop self-confidence and assertiveness.

We therefore need collective action in order to reach our goals. We will need other visionaries people like those mentioned above. Since we do recognize the types of leaders we are expecting from African youth, it is urgent to identify the challenges that are awaiting them. On possible expectation today's is that youth should actively participate to the building of the kind of societies that fit with them. Though we recognize other leadership approaches, the most important today is to be more determined to move Africa forward. Youth should note the sustainable development is possible if they recognize the current Africa challenges.

Youth And Sustainable Development's Challenges

All is important in terms of Africa's progress, but below we are going to tackle of challenges judged indispensable for social development of this continent.

Youth and HIV/AIDS Issues

It is essential to recognize that the majority of Africans who do not attend schools are girls. In this section, the principal advocate is girls' education on the continent. It is a pleasure and privilege to acknowledge that educate a woman is educate a nation. In this context, African girls and young women need special attention. Overall, in most of Africa, gender disparities continue to impede young girls' acquisition of a decent education and employable skills. This keeps young African girls away from their rightful place as agents of development and leaders of tomorrow .The report comes at a time when the state of education in Africa is still a cause of grave concerns. Therefore it is urgent to stop HIV pandemic through education.

For these problems, we claim that education should be a top political agenda in Africa .Even though

²¹ Daniel. (2008). Youth Bible Contemporary English Version, *Global Edition*, 1:3-21

²² Greg E. *Leadership is self-assurance, whether you are or you are not* in www.love-quotes.com/quote/653407

²³ [Http://www.harthill.co.uk/](http://www.harthill.co.uk/) (accessed on 10/ 20/ 2011)

responsibility is anchored at the national level, this requests synergies of action both national and international. The purpose is to promote and sustain partnership between governments, researchers and funding agencies in an environment of openness, collegiality and trust. It is the way to prepare the ground for a new culture of cooperation and new way of fighting against the HIV/AIDS. We are confident that developed countries are experiencing aid fatigue. HIV is become a business matter for some people today.

Although developed countries have an important role to play in development education, the subject of education should be included in the school curriculum into communities with concerns and support. This is important in terms of girls' education because they are victim of their social diktats. As mentioned (Texier: 1986)²⁴

« Without instruction of all of levels of societies, indeed, the freedom is in danger and does not take long. The persisting of alphabetization on a high scale constitutes major obstacles to development and stops million of men and women to take their destiny in hands. The more individual is instructed the more he can understand the link of cause to effect, between the powerlessness of sanitary system and the bad nutrition, the infections and the illness. »

HIV/AIDS is not merely a health problem; it is a serious development problem. It is multiculturalism issue. This purpose is to identify constructive policies, processes and practices in recognized problem in this fighting against this epidemic and thus to promote a culture of looking for solutions within the African societies (Context).

We acknowledge that efforts have been made, but, up till now, the result is deceitful and the danger persists. How can you answer a girl who tells you that "she cannot eat banana with peels?" While she knows that her aunt or uncle was died because of HIV/AIDS disease. We therefore believe that efforts must be refocused on equity, greater relevant of health care. It comes to create channels through which policies can be based on true experiences. The main aim is to help make populations' purpose more relevant to needs and explore all the different ways of doing it. Sexual act that is taboo subject should be decrypted by education. It doesn't matter to introduce HIV/AIDS teaching into all levels of education whether Koran or Western education. This should be done from primary to Universities. In this point, youths must learn earlier how to manage a society living with HIV/AIDS. It is note that education is a window of hope to quote

²⁴ Texier R. (1986). Education, the World of Hope, Lyon, Social Chronic

(World Bank: 2002)²⁵

We realize that when women are together, they discuss, talk about what is even taboo. That's why we have to encourage women drama's group in our societies. There are possibilities of initiating some projects with Ministries in charge of women so that in the village, these groups of drama should organize weekly debates within villages or in towns. Unfortunately, current strategies in this fighting do not care about it. Some drama groups that exist are men's groups. People said "women are unfinished sources of inspiration". So, women's initiatives are more important for social buildings and any initiative that involved women are subjects to success. Once, a mother is educated, it is the whole family that is educated too. It is likely true that when the education of mother is failed, that of children to suffer because of it. It is also mentioned that (Dumond: 1991)²⁶

« Africa will never go forward if it continues to no give to the majority of women a minimum of instructions. »

The misconceptions about the relationship between leadership and gender have adversely affected employment, performance evaluation, promotion other human resources decisions for female. This should be banished because (Nwachuku: 2006)²⁷ "women score equally with men in strategic planning and analyzing issues". Another debate is how to associate traditional health care to this fighting against HIV. We continue to urge that before knowing Western health, our grand fathers used to take traditional drugs. What we are saying has already been developed and we would like to recall attention for those who are involved in this fighting to transform the theories into actions (practical issues). Priorities should be given to local pharmacies full with knowledge of local ecosystem.

To reach this position, education and health should be reformed.

Youth and Education Reform

The normal programs of education are connected with the purposes of society. Unfortunately, many States in Africa are still keeping western educative system inherited from their colonizers.

It is clearly approved that we cannot deny our responsibilities in what it is going on. It is not only the quantity of educated people that we need, but more again, the quality of teaching and above all its adaptation to the real needs of development that we

²⁵ World Bank. (2002). *Education & HIV/AIDS: A Window of Hop*, World Bank

²⁶ Dumond, R. (1991). Op cit

²⁷ Nwachuku C. Celestine. (1991). Op cit

are expecting. Education sector now is in rout in some countries in Africa: classrooms full overpopulated, proportion of rural youth educated is regressing, teachers in some cases, are not qualified. All these problems are serious handicap to Africa's development issues.

The development of a nation should not be considered under the corner of economic achievements and of growing raw materials. It is into education and culture that it gets importance. The economic progress itself is involved into educational and cultural perspective. So it is by democratizing schools that one will create an equal society, and democracy. Furthermore, this reform should be a jam-packed which allows stirring up all a society. In this reform originated from our manner of thinking and behaving, we can better influence the future of our societies and form the responsible of tomorrow.

We cannot accept that after twelve (12) years of studies from primary to secondary school, some youths are not able to distinguish the different types of soil, climate and History of their country from other neighboring countries which are closed by History and Geography.

Young Africans need access to both decent formal education and opportunities to acquire a range of vocational and life skills to actively participate in all spheres of an increasingly Knowledge-intensive society, today as young citizens and tomorrow as the continent's future leaders. Unfortunately, young people in Africa struggle to acquire an education that provides them with the right set of skills and knowledge. As a result, the transition from school-to-work is a major challenge such that many young Africans end up either unemployed or underemployed in the informal sector with little protection and prospects. This is what is happening with youths in Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) sector.

The evident is that on the streets of all African cities with their vending kiosks, young people provide such services as mobile phone calls, sale of recharge cards and repairs. This is absolutely bad. ICT adoption can be used both as a tool to promote youth as leaders in the ICT sector and to foster broader youth leadership. With an impact that is cross-cutting, ICT can, therefore, contribute to youth participation in a wide range of economic, social and political activities. For Example, new technologies can be used for improving access to and quality of education for African youth. The living example is with Arabic up rising where hand set, internet browsing, connection social network (face book, YouTube) have contributed to destitution of political regimes in Tunisia and Egypt.

To reach this goal, we suggest that South- South cooperation with India who is advanced in this sector will help African countries to reach youth's expectations. The privileged tool of that Cooperation between India and Africa is the initiative Team 9 (Techno-Economic Approach for Africa-India Movement) that regroups many African countries today. (Chad, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda...). This same reform is also expected with health care sector.

Youth and Health Care Reform

Money is regularly put forward as what is lacking to develop African countries. We can be convinced with the large volume of their external debt for this sector. Sometimes, we understand saying, "without money, nothing is possible". Thus, we badly give importance to the money on the detriment of health. This is totally wrong, because an ill people even assisted cannot actively participate to the development. There is first of all a close links between health and production, development and the quality of life that lead people to the development of a nation.

With Knowledge, know-how, the health also appeared as one powerful engine of the production and therefore for the development. To better subdue the nature, to dominate it, to command it and satisfy our objectives, we need to have healthy mind into healthy body.

In this perspective, it is up to our leaders to set up health policies that will enable people to live for long. The aimed objective is not media event. We used to observe that when in Africa leaders made a gesture in favor of his countries part, he covers the event with journalists to comment his gesture. This is totally wrong, because it belongs to him to give or create a condition in which people will be able to access to health care. Sometimes, even health's budget is not totally used for the purpose whereas we grant every year big budget to this sector. Health's system reform should integrate at this same time the curative and preventive dimensions of health which ones must cease to be gold mind for certain, and an object of speculation for others. It is worth understood that in twenty one (21) century, some sub-divisions are still lacking district hospitals. How can you accept that an ambulance car is lacking some districts of hospital? How can we accept that an operating theater is still electrified in twenty century (21) with generator?

Anyway, youth should avoid that our States may be called sorcerers (Hours: 1985)²⁸ or the what (Bayar: 1986)²⁹ has mentioned by political of stomach

²⁸ Hours, B.(1985). Sorcerer, State, Health Public and Society in Cameroon, *Paris, Harmattan*

²⁹ Bayard, John F. (1989). The State in Africa:

Reforming health care system comes to manage with responsibility our resources for equal access. Resources should be carefully managed so that everybody should be satisfied without any distinction. It comes to fight against poverty with new visions. It is another challenge to youth.

Youth and Fight against Poverty

The African continent has potential resources, but it must first build consensus about goals priorities of managing them. The development is local and even local localized. So we need consensus -building efforts of different partners involved into this issue. There is therefore an urgent need to monitor impact and evaluate progress at local level. Countries have to develop poverty reduction strategies and keep local knowledge at the core of local development. This must be relevant because at local level, peasants better know their soil's nature, their palm tree... than development theoreticians. That's why they always sow two seeds that have different reactions to climate as such millet and beans in the same field.

This local knowledge must be observed, selected and translated into new formula or strategies of fighting against poverty.

Taking the sector like agriculture, we do not need to be fed by Western people. We have millions of lands which are rich than other continents. To be explicated, from Saint-Louis (Senegal) to Nakfa (Eritrea) and from Tanger (Morocco) to Cape-town (South Africa), we have fertile soil because of trees species such as acacia "albida". These trees according to Agronomists' surveys are rich in nitrogen. It has been demonstrated that these acacias' leaves contain thorn and during raining season, they absorb water which is kept for future use during dry season. So, acacia albida presents a life at a slower pace. Its roots and barks are also effective for soil's protection and even human beings. In this perspective, the current Chadian government's initiatives to diversify the farming of maize, rice and corn in some regions of this country need to be encouraged. We should also make garden to plant vegetables in order to always avoid depending on raining season.

Out of these above mentioned steps, we strongly plead for equal distribution of resources incomes. Experiences collected over the year since after political Independence has convinced the world entire these natural resources have been used and managed by small groups who always do not make the difference between what is public and private one. We observed that the run towards political power was never is never for general interest, but it will be for general issue according to the current youth

The Political of Stomach, Paris, Fayard.

determination.

All what we have to do is also our possibility to manage the current human resources carefully and they too, have to be dynamic and determinate-focused, because the future belongs to them and it needs self- building.

Youth and Employment Issue

It must give priority to develop human resources of the continent for a prerequisite of development. We need to formulate a clear picture of successes and failures and to determine the reasons for failures: it is to be hoped that the skilled human resources will help to demonstrate concrete successes of development. The importance of qualified manpower in social, political and economic development of any nation cannot be neglected.

No nation is known to have attained sustained high level of economic growth and development without an ample supply of qualified manpower. Of all the factors that unlock the forces of development, a country's human resources are the most vital, without it, all the others factors have to wait.

They are requested to reforming a system of managing natural resources. There is a need for current educated Africans who are able to apply their knowledge to entrepreneurship because (Kusnet: 1969)³⁰;

«The major capital stock of an industrially advanced country is not its physical equipment; it is the body of knowledge amassed from tested findings and discoveries of empirical Sciences, and the capacity and training of its population to use this knowledge. »

According to these above statements, it is recommended to African leaders that in terms of economic, the accumulation of human capital and its effective investment in the development is determinant. This comes back to giving chance to youths. They are the beginning and the ending of nation's future. The clear challenge for many countries now is to pay just as much attention to sustainable political progress. Young people are agents of change with the potential for taking a leading role in tackling Africa's development challenges for themselves, their families and the society.

All youths' issues should be analyzed and a solution should be found in trusting climate. One of the major pitfalls of training programs in Africa is the lack of

³⁰ Kusnet, (1969). "Towards a Theory of Economic Growth", in Lekacham R., National Policy for Economic Welfare at Home and Abroad, New-York, Double Day

positive reinforcement and the lack of opportunity for trainee to practice what he has learn. This is what youths are currently facing. All these problems are far from being contained. African nations should identify and encourage youths who have the potential to contribute their quota in organization and the society as a whole. No nation can continue to survive and grow in our dynamic environment that forgets to develop its managerial cadres.

So, educational system at the lower levels should be re-oriented to give adequate emphasis to acquisition of practical skills. All this depends on objective because (Druker: 1970)³¹;

« An objective is like a compass bearing by which a ship navigates. The compass bearing itself is firm, pointing in a straight line towards the desired post. »

The objectives give a sense of purpose and direction. Youth should help to formulate proper policies of governing. It should also deal with delirious urbanization because in general, African countries are substantially more urbanized than is probably justified by their degree of economic development. This is due in large part to the fact that the supply of urban job seekers far exceeds demand. Cities are confronting with delirious urbanization which causes crime, HIV/AIDS and other illnesses usually rampant; particularly among migrant youth who continue to pour into cities. The absence of big cities has had a significant effect on divisions within the country. Without the opportunity to mingle together in large numbers in cosmopolitan settings, most Africans remain largely within their ethnic group, their clan, and their region.

Many urban areas are wracked by water and housing shortages. The municipal tax base and city services in general, tend to be exceedingly insufficient, particularly beside urban neighborhoods where unplanned urban growth has become a central component of urbanization. Water and electricity are getting scarce in cities. They are updated twenty-four (24) hours a day when the city is ready to welcoming important meetings.

In fact, we observed atrocities are producing in Africans capitals, moving away poorest people from their work places. All this may create for the penniless people, some frustrating situations.

Due to these mentioned above problems, we urge youth to formulating some contributions to solving them. It is considered that urban Africans continue to

contemplate urban migration mainly because they are desperate and lack viable options. Accordingly, a popular remedy for intense urbanization is to intensify investment in rural Africa and thus draw people away from cities. Youths in cities must no longer be seen as the core of urban Africa's problem, but as the foundation for solutions. So, they must be actively, consistently, and positively engaged. This will be essential to transform perceptions of urban youth.

The most important urbanization to include in programs, finally, is likely the hardest to reach. Effective urban programming requires outreach, time, flexibility, networking, evaluation, support and patience.

By adopting this process, it gives us the opportunities to prevent conflict and integrated the democratic culture into our societies.

Youth and Conflict Prevention

The priority of objectives of the conflict prevention is deepened interfaith commitments to dialogue and cooperation for peace. Stability and security of nation are State's domain. It belongs to him to create an acceptable environment in which people should live and work together. Unfortunately, our leaders are not ready to make this effort. Many sub- regional organizations created but, few have come to solve crises in Africa.

Youths may provide social cohesion helping people face the most agonizing pain and suffering and leading them to forgive the unforgivable. They must influence to encourage mutual understanding within communities to create links between places and institutions, urban and rural areas in order that children of each group should be able to advance intellectually and compete on equal footing. Wars are destroying the social fabric mobilize human resources and financial resources.

Before it will be late, on the basis of a common agenda for action, the peace research and training institutions, Institutes for security studies and the NGO'S working in related fields can play an essential role in creating these links, building bridges between the academic world and the policy formulation mechanisms, contributing to the establishment of such mechanisms wherever necessary, identifying priority fields to be tackled and the populations that merit particular and urgent attention. We mean the depth knowledge of a conflict passes necessary by the knowledge of environment, territory and populations which are involved. It is the package of these elements as well as their interactions which will enable to globally define the nature of conflicts. So, youth should be aware that most of the conflicts in Africa are Western's works and peace keeping

³¹ Druker, P. (1970). Management, Tasks, Responsibilities, Practices, New-York; Harper and Row Publishers

operations are sometimes 'tromp- eye': they are looking for their interests. Africans are all brothers and sisters because we have one Fulani family in Cameroon, who has her relatives in Nigeria, Mali, Chad and Central African Republic, one Zaghawa family in Chad and has her root in Sudan, a Massa ethnic group in Chad and in Sudan, Cameroon and Burkina Faso so and so. It has been Western people interest that divided us and they are ones who push us today to fight ourselves. So, the challenge is to avoid these kinds of conflicts that ever bring benefit to Africa.

Conflict prevention should also be women's matter: Women's role is another element to consider as determinant. Within the context of dialogue process, efforts must be done so that to let women's voices be understood and make gossip column. They are considered like privileged victim in reason of their social situation. They, who are indeed always absent from decision- making's table while their capacities to contribute to the prevention of conflict and constructive dialogue are considerable and, always worth exploited.

Though Africa's challenges list is not exhaustive but, we had tackled some which needed particular interest in terms of sustainable development.

CONCLUSION

How African youth takes part in the development of its continent? This question was our concern in this article. Africa in the middle of the speeches on the development elaborate and formulated from here and there. Africa whose the destiny is always decided elsewhere whereas on the spot in the continent, the leaders are not to find the formula which it is necessary for the takeoff of their States. After formal Independence, the initiated good intentions that and there for the unit of this continent were broken by the western powers and the accession with the capacity of the soldiers. It is in these upheavals, that the question of sustainable development during the Eighties intervenes. This one gets along like the possibility of managing the current resources with rationality without compromising the chance of the future generations. However, can one really think of the future generations when we have in place of the individuals animated by a bulimia of living happy with the daily newspaper? Can one bequeath radiant Africa to the children of tomorrow when those of today are isolated debates with regard to them? How to release Africa of the social plagues? These interrogations are challenges launched to African youth. Admittedly, by recognizing that progress was made to put the question of youth in the middle of the political actions in the continent, we would like well that there is a new class of the leaders with - to even decide fate of this continent. A class of young leaders

with a vision to be useful to be useful itself will help to fight the evils which prevent the progress of Africa and to answer the challenges of sustainable development.

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