

**CO-CHAIRMEN'S REPORT**  
**GCA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**KAMPALA, UGANDA MAY 8-9, 1992**

The contents of this report represent the overall conclusions and observations of the Co-Chairmen of the Global Coalition for Africa. It is requested that African, bilateral and multilateral partners of the GCA return to their respective capitals and institutions and act on the identified results. In addition, they are requested to support the processes and future work of the Sub-Committees outlined in both the Advisory Committee report and those of the Sub-Committees. The Co-Chairmen wish to express their deep appreciation to the African Heads of State, Ministers and Senior Representatives from all the GCA partners for their invaluable contributions and most evident commitment to the consensus building processes of the GCA.

There will be no more than one annual meeting of the Advisory Committee. However, it must be emphasized that involvement of the partners at the policy level is highly desirable to ensure that consensus will lead to action and that actions and measures agreed upon will receive firm political validation.

**A. OVERVIEW**

The Advisory Committee in Kampala was indeed enriched by the very substantive participation in two days of work by a number of African Heads of State. In addition to H.E. Sir Ketumile Masire, GCA Co-Chairmen and H.E. President Museveni, the host, the invited Heads of State were: H.E. President I. Babangida, current Chairman of the OAU, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; H.E. President A. Diouf, current chairman of ECOWAS, and President of the Republic of Senegal; and H.E. President N. Soglo, President of the Republic of Benin. The Co-Chairmen have noted the African high level engagement in GCA processes and in the respective Sub-Committees. The recognition by these leaders and other GCA partners, as characterized in the opening session, that the GCA is a unique and unprecedented forum for Africa to demonstrate a new seriousness of resolve to address the continent's severe political and development constraints was especially noted. This new seriousness should be matched by the North with a willingness to consider a new kind of partnership to carry Africa into the 21st century that, like Europe following World War II, would provide Africa with the incentive framework to move beyond self-limiting concepts of sovereignty to truly integrated markets and economies with improved regional security arrangements.

The Co-Chairmen also took special note of the candid observations of African Heads of State regarding Africa's most severe and urgent development needs and their pledges to demonstrate Africa's seriousness. In their views, these needs included greater capacity for independence in decision making, literacy and universal primary education, diversification of economies with conditions created for the beginnings of industrialization and truly integrated markets with urgent removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers.



Several speakers, including President Masire, called our attention to the terrible two year drought in East and Southern Africa and the required food aid in the millions of tons. In addition to emergency food aid, extremely well coordinated action with Africa's international partners will be needed in the logistics of delivery and inland distribution to the people. Without such urgent help in 1992, the world could see a flood of refugees and starvation in Africa on an unprecedented scale. Donors are urged to respond quickly to the appeals and to work most closely with Mr. Jan Eliasson, U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator, who will coordinate the U.N. effort and an international conference in Geneva, June 1-2, 1992.

## **B. GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY**

This Sub-Committee meeting of May 5-6, 1992 was characterized by remarkable candor and frankness from Africans discussing the inseparable linkages between democratic pluralism, good governance, human rights and sustainable and participatory development. Africans impressed on their Northern partners that democracy can not be bestowed by leaders, but it must grow from participatory roots and the freedom and civil responsibility of the individual. Suggestions were made for Africa's partners to help with communications and the electronic means to improve the means for participation by the electorate, in the improving climates of press freedoms. This would also assist the accountability and transparency principles at the base of improved governance. In particular, the meeting agreed that the institutions of democratic transition and civil society must grow from within Africa, but there is an important role for external partners as Africa and Africans articulate their own institutional requirements. The joint work of the ALF and the GCA in this regard was urged to proceed. The report of the Sub-Committee, as attached, was accepted.

## **C. CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION, REDUCTION OF MILITARY EXPENDITURES, AND DEMOBILIZATION**

There was a consensus that one of Africa's most immediate challenges is the peaceful and tolerant management of tremendous change, in ending conflicts and in preventing others, while deepening difficult economic reforms in a time of severe drought. Several African ministers, especially the Minister of Finance of Mozambique, noted their country's desire to reduce military spending and to demobilize some military units. However, substantially more resources are required to provide retraining and to integrate former combatants back into the work force and into civil society. Several donors, including the United Kingdom and Sweden, have announced a willingness to do more on demobilization.

On conflict resolution, the OAU Secretary General, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, reminded the Committee that Africa is making new efforts to resolve strictly internal conflicts, initiatives that would have been inconceivable 4-5 years ago. He said the problem was now to enhance Africa's capacity. There was a consensus on the Sub-Committee proposal to form a small working group with the OAU and other GCA members to identify ways to strengthen institutional mechanisms for conflict prevention at continental, regional and local level, including non-governmental institutions.

The Co-Chairmen were pleased to note the potential for linkages between the GCA Advisory Committee and DAC/OECD deliberations. The assurances of the DAC Chairman, Mr. Ray Love, that issues raised in the Secretariat papers and in discussions here would be carried into upcoming DAC meetings, to encourage greater financial flows to support



governance, democracy, and military spending reductions, are most appreciated by the Co-Chairmen. This kind of follow-up from our deliberations demonstrates the institutional catalyst role of the GCA that can help turn words to action.

#### D. AFRICAN MANAGEMENT OF ECONOMIC REFORM POLICIES

The Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of Uganda, H.E. Mr. Joshua Mayanga-Nkangi, briefed the meeting on the outcome of the first meeting of the Sub-Committee on Economic Reform Policies. A copy of the Chairman's report of this meeting is attached. The meeting commended the work of the Sub-Committee and endorsed the recommendations of the first meeting and the proposed work program of the Sub-Committee.

The issues covered by this Sub-Committee are the real issues which African Governments grapple with in dealing with Economic reform policies. The deliberations of the Sub-Committee confirm that African countries are now discussing how economic reforms, including Structural Adjustment Programs, should be designed and implemented and not whether reform should be undertaken.

In the Advisory Committee discussions, it was emphasized that economic reform programs should be "home grown" and realistic, taking into account political realities. People's awareness and participation in the process of design, implementation and monitoring of reform programs are essential in order to internalize and build domestic consensus in support of these reforms. Income distribution and poverty reduction should be an integral part of adjustment programs. The sequencing and speed of adjustment is critical for its success and sustainability. Adjustment programs should emphasize the regional aspects, i.e. the regional dimension of adjustment. Political stability and good governance are needed for the success of economic reforms.

Some donors expressed concern about the inadequate or interrupted funding available for reform programs and the slow pace of implementation and disbursement of these programs. More external assistance should become untied to allow flexibility and efficiency in resource use. Economic reform programs, therefore, should be provided more sustained and adequate funding from donors.

The discussion of civil service reforms by the Sub-Committee provided valuable exchanges on experiences on the design and implementation of such reforms. It was pointed out, however, that lack of supervision is a major factor for low productivity of civil servants. It was also noted that Sweden is preparing, for the SPA meeting, a paper on civil service reforms and the role of donors.

It was emphasized that timely and reliable data are essential for sound economic management and are needed to monitor the progress of economic reform programs. Donors and African governments should support African capacity building in data collection and analysis, including recurrent cost financing. The social and economic indicators agreed to by the Sub-Committee would form the basis of the proposed GCA annual report to monitor social and economic progress in Africa.

It was concluded that the Sub-Committee is a valuable forum where African countries could share and deepen their experiences and expertise on economic reform policies and



programs. The networking arrangement of African experts and institutions which was initiated by the Sub-Committee was supported.

#### **E. REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION**

The Advisory Committee meeting was briefed by the OAU and the EC on the activities and progress made since the last Advisory Committee meeting. In particular, the outcome of the two workshops sponsored by the EC/GCA, and by AfDB, EC, and GCA were highlighted. Following are the main points made during the discussion:

- The OAU reported that although 50 African countries have signed the African Economic Community Treaty -- which lays out action to be carried out over 34 years -- only 8 countries have ratified the Treaty to date.
- Political will and support at the highest level is essential for the success of regional integration. Some African countries have established Departments or Ministries for Regional Integration, thus demonstrating their strong support for regional integration. Such useful initiatives should be encouraged.
- The African Economic Community Treaty is an instrument for demonstrating political will, but African countries need to emphasize what can realistically be achieved.
- Regional integration should also be initiated and discussed at the grassroots, local and national levels, as well as regional level, so that citizens as well as policy makers understand that the benefits outweigh the costs. The active involvement of the private sector is also essential for the success of regional integration.
- There is a need to improve communication and infrastructure to facilitate integration and the involvement of the citizenry who must actively support integration.
- Africans should be the main actors, designers and implementors of regional integration by creating an enabling environment to ensure that integration takes place. Africans should also define the role the donor community should play to support Africa in this effort.
- There is a need for a strong institutional framework with clear terms of reference. There is a need to streamline and rationalize institutions in order to ensure efficient use of resources. This is the responsibility of African leadership, and support for these rationalized institutions should be assured from member states, not just from external sources.
- The Canadian Government's new approach to development in Africa (Africa 21) emphasizes regional integration by (i) screening out projects and programs which are inimical to regional integration, (ii) establishing links between people to share ideas to promote integration, and (iii) targeting activities at a



regional rather than country level, based on indepth analyses of Africa's regions. The initiative was well received by the Committee.

The EC paper and presentation of Mr. Dieter Frisch, Director General for Development at the EC, outlined a number of principles that are very relevant for the success of Africa's regional cooperation and integration efforts. More specifically, the EC highlighted the principles of subsidiarity and of variable geometry. Subsidiarity means that a matter should be dealt with at regional level only if it can be better handled at that level. Variable geometry on integration at various speeds ensures that progress can be made whenever possible between sub-groups of countries if all the countries of the regional group are not yet ready. In addition, the EC paper contains important suggestions for governments, regional organizations and the international community, which could help in the move towards the promotion of more effective regional cooperation and integration. All participants agreed on the need to speed up the pace of integration.

The meeting agreed to establish a GCA Sub-Committee on Regional Integration and Cooperation to focus the work of the many actors involved. H.E. President Abdou Diouf of Senegal has accepted to chair this Sub-Committee. The GCA Secretariat was requested to prepare the terms of reference and operational modalities of this Sub-Committee. One of the tasks of the Sub-Committee will be to work with the Joint OAU/AfDB/ECA Secretariat, the EC and the World Bank, to take into account all ongoing work, and to prepare an action program to promote regional integration and cooperation focusing on the creation and organization of regional markets. The meeting specifically requested the World Bank to provide assistance to efforts already in progress and cooperate with the Sub-Committee in the preparation of the action program. The program of the Sub-Committee should be action-oriented, with a timetable for implementation allowing adequate monitoring at the level of the GCA. The Sub-Committee will work closely with African governments and their partners in the North to expedite the implementation of regional integration in Africa in order to achieve the objectives of the African Economic Community Treaty.

#### **F. REDUCING POPULATION GROWTH**

The Advisory Committee welcomed the Introductory Remarks of Robert S. McNamara and the well prepared presentations of the Population Advisory Committee (PAC), including Dr. George Benneh, Chairman; Dr. Fred Sai of the International Planned Parenthood Federation; and Mr. Ben Gyepi-Gabrah, from the Population Advisory Committee Secretariat. These introductions emphasized alternative population growth scenarios for Africa, calling attention to the importance of African nations setting more ambitious targets for the year 2000 in contraceptive prevalence and in education opportunities for women. Mr. McNamara stated that current population projection for the Region indicate that population will grow from 525 million in 1990 to 2.0 billion in 2050 and to 2.9 billion before stabilizing (2.7 billion after taking account of AIDS). He estimated that if contraception levels were to be increased in the individual countries from an average of 11% in 1990 to 45% in the year 2000 (Zimbabwe is already at 46%), population would total 1.3 billion in 2050 and would stabilize at below 1.6 billion. It was stressed that there is substantial unmet demand for contraceptive services and that commitment to meet this demand would act both to reduce fertility rates and would also assist in curbing the spread of AIDS.



In the discussion that followed, the Co-Chairmen noted the following areas of consensus :

- Although there was some disagreement over statistics on the levels of population and rates of growth, there was broad agreement on the meaning of the numbers, and that Sub-Saharan Africa's high rate of population growth has been a major factor causing its rate of social and economic advancement to lag behind that of all other regions in the world.
- Population growth in Africa, at projected rates, will become an increasingly heavy burden in the future, in light of the projected low rate of increase in agriculture labor productivity.
- In order to reduce population growth rates below projected levels, Sub-Saharan African nations that have not already done so should consider the formation of National Population Councils.
- The Councils would formulate and implement National Population Programs. The programs should be based on the wishes and needs of the people, and they should stress education -- particularly of females -- and reductions in infant mortality, as well as expansion of family planning services to try to meet the real demand for services that is thought to exist.
- The lack of financial resources should not be allowed to stand in the way of reducing fertility rates as rapidly as individual countries desire. We particularly appreciated the statement of the Government of Japan to provide additional assistance to family planning. If necessary, the World Bank should be requested to organize the external financing required to supplement local resources.
- The GCA should work with appropriate international agencies, including WHO, UNDP, and the World Bank, to organize a conference in Africa on how best to limit the impact of the AIDS epidemic on human and economic development.
- The Population Advisory Committee will prepare for GCA participants an annual report summarizing the results of the region's population programs.

#### **G. STRENGTHENING AFRICAN AGRICULTURE RESEARCH SYSTEMS**

The Advisory Committee was pleased to receive the action proposals of Mr. Moutar Touré, the Executive Secretary of the Special Program for African Agriculture Research (SPAAR). The recent drought in Africa tragically demonstrates the consequences of low agricultural productivity and the vulnerable and limited technologies available to African farmers. With this in mind, the GCA urges the strongest African and donor support for the regional action programs of SPAAR, to strengthen national agriculture research systems. Such action can also be a critically important sector for regional cooperation, and more specialized research centers of excellence can bring the economies of scale, scientific capacity building and improved technology that are needed in this field.

The meeting agreed on the usefulness of the recent initiative of Senegal to bring together a conference of West and Central African Ministers of Agriculture to coordinate strategies and to build regional mechanisms for agriculture collaboration. Such a conference should be expanded to include other African countries and form the basis of establishing an African Agriculture Advisory Committee, similar to the Population Advisory Committee.

## **H. AFRICA AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

The Advisory Committee received a report from Minister Jan Pronk on the GCA meeting in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which was held in New York in March 1992. It was indicated in the paper circulated that the participation of African Ministers had better equipped their participation in the negotiations of UNCED and allowed a full discussion and better understanding of Africa's Common Position paper for UNCED with the donor community.

The issues raised in the New York meeting, including coverage and finance issues, have been followed up in discussions in the Development Committee and the Council of Ministers of the European Community. The Advisory Committee meeting has endorsed the outcome of the New York meeting. Such endorsement should continue before, during, and after the Rio Conference.

The Advisory Committee greatly appreciated the intervention of Minister Faremo of Norway on the African Environment and UNCED. It was particularly emphasized and generally agreed that each African country should prepare its own national environmental program to implement Agenda 21, and that these must be supported with the means for implementation from the international community. However, over consumption of non-renewable resources in the North must be reduced if global environment issues are ever to be rectified.

It was particularly emphasized that additional resources are essential for Agenda 21, however to include new resources for this purpose solely in the GEF might limit or even reduce the availability of resources to Africa as middle income countries are better equipped to access and utilize the GEF than the poorer African countries.

In conclusion, it was recommended that a capacity ought to be developed to assist lower income African countries to prepare sound environmental projects for financing both from the GEF and through national action programs for other bilateral and multilateral sources. Consideration should be given to the possibility of establishing an Africa-wide environmental project preparation facility. Such a facility could be managed jointly by the African Development Bank and the World Bank.

African countries stressed that the GEF should place more emphasis on desertification as both a continental and global issue. The meeting emphasized that capacity building in environmental statistics was most urgent to monitor progress or lack thereof. National systems for environmental data must be established in all African countries to emphasize the costs of degradation and to produce data understandable to all citizens.



## I. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE FLOWS

The Advisory Committee received an update from the World Bank, as requested in Paris, of the resource requirements for Africa and for external financial flows, for achieving average GDP growth of 4% . The major points of this analysis revealed the following :

- the target of a 50% increase in African domestic savings in the 1990s remains an important and realistic target.
- the projected net resource requirements for Africa will amount to \$29 billion by 1995 with about half of this amount needed for adequate imports and nearly the remaining half for debt service requirements.
- the overall gains from rescheduling and debt relief are diminishing over time. Therefore, reschedulings need to become more concessional, with more debt eligible for rescheduling.
- even with increases in foreign investment flows and additional debt relief, closing the gap in Africa will require at least a 20% increase in ODA flows between 1992 and 1995, or a real growth in ODA of approximately 5% a year. This will require a substantial effort on the part of donors to increase Africa's share of global ODA from just over 30 percent to around 35%, with corresponding small real increases in overall aid budgets.

## J. NATIONAL LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE STUDIES (NLTPS)

The Advisory Committee received from UNDP a status report on the preparation of National Long Term Perspective Studies by African countries. UNDP has financed regional projects, to be based in Abidjan and Harare, to assist African countries in launching NLTPS. The main points of the presentation and the discussion were as follows:

- African countries must take the initiative to launch such long-term studies. The support of UNDP and other donors should supplement, but not replace, African initiative and effort to begin the study processes.
- The responsibility for implementing long-term studies should not necessarily be located in Ministries of Planning, nor even in the Government. African governments should be involved in, but not control, these very participatory studies.
- The UNDP project can assist in the launching of NLTPS and its technical aspects. It cannot, however, finance the totality of each individual exercise. Additional support by the donor community would be necessary for the implementation of each NLTPS.



## K. THE GCA WORK PROGRAM - 1992 AND BEYOND

In general, there seemed to be a consensus that the GCA should continue to work on the priorities identified in Paris, especially where the GCA has a comparative advantage in taking up critically important issues not adequately addressed in other fora. The Co-Chairmen have taken note of the concerns expressed by Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Canada that the GCA should not dilute its effectiveness by taking on too many topics, but should adhere to the areas agreed to in Paris, especially environment, population, agriculture; governance, democracy and conflict resolution; sharing of experiences on economic reform policies; and regional integration. Some delegations however expressed concern as to the amount of time and effort the GCA should devote to regional integration, given the many preliminary issues only Africans can address at the political level.

For the coming period the GCA work program will have two main components:

- (a) Activities directly managed by GCA Secretariat. These will include:
  - (i) Implementation of the terms of reference of the Sub-Committees on: African Management of Economic Reforms; Governance and Democracy; and Regional Integration.
  - (ii) Organization of the next Advisory Committee meeting, and the next GCA Plenary.
- (b) Activities sponsored and supported by the GCA, but carried out independently by other GCA partners. Such activities will comprise the following:
  - (i) The continuation of the work of the African Population Advisory Committee and establishment and initiation of the new African Agriculture Committee.
  - (ii) Organization of an international conference on AIDS in Africa.
  - (iii) Publication of an annual consensual report on Africa's development conditions.

The decision of the GCA Co-Chairmen to publish an annual report on Africa's development condition, to be utilized in measuring progress and correcting strategies was discussed briefly. Several delegations commented on the importance of monitoring but there was some concern expressed that the GCA not duplicate other major reports already issued on Africa. It was emphasized that the GCA Secretariat would work closely with the United Nations, the World Bank, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, and the African Development Bank to assure that any GCA annual report would be undertaken in a manner designed to build consensus on both issues and actions to be taken. It would be the intention of the GCA that its annual report contribute positively to the U.N. reporting due in 1993 and beyond on the New Agenda for Africa. The Co-Chairmen have been in touch with U.N. Deputy Secretary General Ji in this regard.

The Co-Chairmen wish to express their appreciation to the governments of Canada, Norway, and Sweden for their very constructive comments on the GCA work priorities and to Canada for their just announced contribution of C\$500,000 for the GCA Secretariat and work program.



#### L. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the Advisory Committee will meet again in about a year's time. The exact date of the meeting will be announced as early as possible to allow the participation of Heads of State and high level officials from Africa and the North.

The meeting was informed that H.E. Sir Ketumile Masire, GCA Co-Chairman, has sent a letter to H.E. Prime Minister Miyazawa of Japan offering GCA cooperation to explore possibilities for merging the Japanese Government's proposed high-level meeting on Africa in Tokyo in 1993, with the next GCA Plenary meeting in 1993. The Co-Chairmen wish to express their appreciation in advance to Japan for their consideration of this offer.

#### M. CONCLUDING REMARKS OF PRESIDENT MASIRE ON BEHALF OF THE CO-CHAIRMEN

This has been a very productive meeting. With hindsight, the idea of involving actively Africa's political leadership at the highest level, that is, at no less than the Heads of State level, in the GCA process, indeed was a good idea. We, in Africa, hope our partners have witnessed the unqualified interest and even enthusiastic support and commitment of African Heads of State to the process of the GCA. Time and again, over the past two days, we have heard expressions of hope that this Coalition will grow into becoming the focal point for policy dialogue between Africa and the international community on the most effective ways to reach consensus on mutually agreed development cooperation strategies for Africa.

As we all know, as beautiful as they are, roses have thorns. The high level political dialogue we all feel is indispensable for the success of the GCA may not always allow the very crisp comments and contributions that can be obtained in the context of a non-political forum. As an African leader, I am confident that I speak for my colleagues throughout the continent, in saying that the GCA has to be seen as an unprecedented catalyst and as unique with its comparative advantage. So, we may all need to be understanding and exercise more patience.

In fact, we should not forget that the GCA is above all a process.

- A process to learn about and accept the other side's idiosyncracies.
- A process for dialogue and consensus building and a process for action.

One lesson we learned here, in Kampala, is that in order to build on the strengths of this unique initiative and blend harmoniously technocratic rigor with political vision and leadership, we political leaders, in making our remarks, will have to move closer to the rigor of technocrats and be concise. On the other hand, members of the Advisory Committee with less political inclination will have to be more sensitive to the idiosyncracies of politicians.

This will be our challenge for future GCA meetings. For, only in doing so will we forge an unprecedented instrument for effecting constructive and durable transformation in Africa.

My colleagues, Heads of State and Co-Chairs, we look forward to our next meeting with great expectations for progress in Africa.