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Post Electoral Violences in Kenya

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Governance put to test on the field: the Case of Burundi in the post-electoral context

Dr. Elias SENTAMBA, National University of Rwanda

Good governance has been defined as a type of government resulting from the consensus of different stakeholders: the State, the civil society, the private sector and the media. This interaction between these actors aims to take the least bad decision. In this process, the determining role of the state is to consult other actors. The fact of working each on its side but in collaboration and complementarity is an indication of good governance.

The interaction between the state and the private sector is an ideal, the goal being that of taking the least bad decision. Since the year 2001, a ministry in charge of good governance has existed in Burundi. The question that arises is to know whether the choice has been motivated by the realities of the country or by the worry to have international credibility.

Within the framework of good governance, the huge challenge is still linked to the decisions or the policies that take into consideration the real situation or of the realities on the field. For example, exemption from payment for health care for under five children and maternity care are causing some difficulties at the hospital level.

Poor provision of human and material resources remains a major handicap. Other challenges are still prevailing, such as the one linked to the weakened state, the dependence on the financial donors, the shaky civil society, the weak private sector, the situation of insolvency.

Moreover, foreign NGOs actions are not made the most out of them. More than ten years of civil war are still causing difficulties. Good governance requires a minimum of security. Corruption doesn't foster investment. A lot of initiatives that require the means that the state doesn't have. To succeed its mission better, good governance in Burundi should concentrate on strong institutions, the rule of law, as strong state that takes into account the true reality on the field and the wishes from the population.

Post electoral violences in Kenya

Jonas EWALD, School of Global Studies, Göteborg University (Sweden)

Info r Before the presidential elections at the end of 2007, Kenya was seen as a democratic country, peaceful and having satisfactory interior security. Organization of elections, the electoral campaign and the conduct of elections occurred in good conditions without incident at security level. However, with the promulgation of the results, these elections generated a climate of tension and insecurity that degenerated into violences. The conflict took an ethnic connotation. Yet, the election campaign had occurred without major incidents. These violences are the demonstration of a crisis of authority; they produced a multitude of dramatic consequences including the loss of human lives, the flight of the population.

There were also economic and political repercussions at the regional level. In the management of the crisis, the following stages were gone through: the start of the crisis, the escalation of violence, the efforts of African mediation, Koffi Annan's intervention, the end of violence, the power sharing between the presidential camp and the opposition, the change of the constitution. After these violence, the enormous challenge remained that of organizing the dialogue and the reconciliation between Kenyans. Other key issues also remain to be solved such as those relating to land property, corruption, the distribution of resources, etc.

Moreover, several points brought about by these violence remain again in the shade, such as impunity of the actors responsible for violence, the weakened institutions, the external pressure, etc. In this situation, the best attitude to adopt would consist of separating the cultural identity and the politics.

THEME 4: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Peace and Security in the Great Lakes Region: Rwanda's perspective within International Conference on the Great Lakes Region

Dr. Richard SEZIBERA,
Special envoy of the President of the Republic of Rwanda to the Great Lakes Region

Since 1994 the post genocide Government of Rwanda has been fighting against the defeated genocidal forces. They started under the name of ALIR (Armée pour la Libération du Rwanda). Once they were put on the list of terrorists by United States, ALIR called themselves FDLR (Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda). They fighted under different names and changed frequently strategies to confuse Rwandan Government and the Great Lakes Region.

Everyone is noticing that these forces are approximately the main roots of insecurity within the Great Lakes Region. This is why for the first time in recent history, the United Nations Security Council during its Resoltion1804/2008 blacklisted the FDLR and close movements, FNL, that cause insecurity in the Great Lakes Region. Under facilitation of United States, the regional Tripartite Process has classified the causes of insecurity causes into three: Genocidal group composed of Ex-FAR and Interahamwe militias, other negatives forces like Ugandan groups operating in DRC and the Burundian Palipehutu FNL.

Our optimism is the DRC Government that is increasingly looking at FDLR and other groups as negative forces that are undermining its stability and security.

We came on time when DRC Government was ambivalent and was not acting against the issue of the negative forces operating within its own territory. Since 1994 the post genocide Government of Rwanda has been fighting against the defeated genocidal forces. They started under the name of ALIR (Armée pour la Libération du Rwanda). Once they were put on the list of terrorists by United States, ALIR called themselves FDLR (Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda). They fighted under different names and changed frequently strategies to confuse Rwandan Government and the Great Lakes Region.

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