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

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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 violence in Kenya

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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 violence. The conflict took an ethnic connotation. Yet, the election campaign had occurred without major incidents. These violence 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, Kofi 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 fought 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 Resolution 1804/2008 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 fought under different names and changed frequently strategies to confuse Rwandan Government and the Great Lakes Region.

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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. This Government is now realizing the threat represented by these forces on its own stability and the security of Congolese people.

People of DRC are strongly expressing the opinion of seeing the negative forces leave their territory and it has been highlighted during the recent talks and debates. Furthermore, the international community is showing much attention to the issue of ending actions of negative forces in the DRC. This is the reason why an idea of settling a credible military force to fight against military groups. This fight includes disarm and repatriate FDLR and the other groups voluntary or with force as it is stipulated in the recent Nairobi joint Communiqué between Rwanda and DRC Governments. This Communiqué stipulates that by March 19th, 2008, if FDLR are not disarmed, next steps will be undertaken including a military threat against them.

Now we have seen some new signs of actions undertaken by DRC Government against FDLR. The other optimism for Rwanda is that the MONUC is shifting FDLR attention and their foreign sources of arms towards ending of their threats. MONUC have started movement of more aggressive DDR Program (Disarmament, Demobilization and Repatriation) against FDLR. MONUC moved their forces towards FDLR fighting fields. They moved from Kisangani to Goma.

Finally, the International community, through the Resolution 1804 and through other actions is on the same page with Rwanda's vision on the issue of FDLR. A strong call is made upon Countries to cease that host the leaders of the negative forces operating in the DRC to make sure that they do not continue to cause insecurity in that country. These Countries are invited to take another look on people like Murwanashyaka in Germany, Higiho in United States of America and Mbarushimana in France and others elsewhere, not because they committed genocide, but because they head genocidal groups.

Therefore, regarding the fact that the main source of insecurity and instability within the Great Lakes Region is the negative forces above highlighted, given the fact that the ICGLR Pact on peace and stability tried to address this issue, also given the fact that the international community is changing its look over the issue of the negative forces and considering that the internal socio-political dimensions of conflicts within ICGLR members states are addressed, we strongly believe that the issue of genocidal movements like FDLR and other negative groups will be sooner ended.

The role of regional environmental networks for sustainable development in the Lake Victoria region

By Andreas GODSÄTER, University of Gothenburg-PADRIGU

Many of the development challenges facing the Lake Victoria region (LVR) in East Africa are cross-border and regional in nature and must therefore be solved through regional strategies besides national and local. In fact, there is an emerging "new regionalism" in the LVR, which is created not only by inter-governmental organizations, like the East African Cooperation (EAC), but also by regional civil society environmental networks like EcoVic and Osienala. However, there is a knowledge gap about the role of the latter in sustainable development.

Therefore, the aim of this project is to study in what ways regional environmental networks are contributing to sustainable development as well as the obstacles for that.

More specifically, the project will try to answer the following research questions in terms of how they affect the ability of networks to contribute to sustainable development in LVR:

- (1) How are the networks governed in terms of transparency, coordination, decision making, accountability etc. including their relation to state-level regional governance?
- (2) What are the mechanisms for inclusion and exclusion in terms of participation of local and national actors and social representation (gender, ethnicity, class) in networks?
- (3) What is the role of identities and ideas in

constituting environmental networks in terms of complementing/opposing visions of as well as strategies for developing the LVR?

The definition of regional network is quite eclectic. All civil society networks with some sort of regional dimension fit in the study, as well as national and local organizations being part of or somehow connected to these networks. Furthermore, departing from a rather extensive conceptualization of the latter implies that a broad range of actors, dealing with specific environmental issues, poverty reduction as well as social and economic justice in more general terms, are important. What is of most importance is to reach a greater empirical understanding of the regional dynamic of civil society contribution to various aspects of sustainable development in the LVR, which will be the main result of this study.

The civil society organizations that work in the field of environment in the region offer the opportunity to improve networks of organizational structures. They make possible the participation of the population and insure durable development. To become more efficient, such organizations need to be democratic, improve its performance and have a solid leadership.

In such condition, their role in development should be more efficient if they speak for marginalized people, include population in decision making process, become inclusive and include women, create its own resources, improve services, threat the real cause of problem instead of handling the only problems of the moment.

