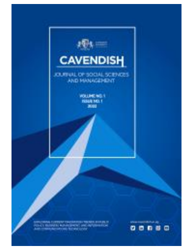

Governance and the challenges of public service delivery in Africa: a reflection on Uganda

CJSSM
ISSN 2518-8623

Volume 1. Issue 2
pp. 1-12, January 2023
www.cavendish.ac.ug
email: secretarycjssm@cavendish.ac.ug

Abdulrazak Yuguda Madu
Cavendish University Uganda
Email: amadu@cavendish.ac.ug

How to cite this article:
Madu, A.Y. (2023). Governance and the challenges of public service delivery in Africa: a reflection on Uganda. Cavendish Journal of Social Science and Management, 1(2).

Abstract

Public service delivery is one of the cardinal objectives of governance. Uganda faces crucial challenges in delivering inclusive infrastructure, quality health service delivery, sustainable education, employment, and housing, among other things due to governance issues. State powers and economic resources are controlled by political elites and are being used as instruments to guarantee regime survival and maintain political control over society. As a consequence of this control over resources, the activities of Ugandan civil society and international agencies aimed at stimulating the demand for governance reform are sometimes rendered less effective or even outright ineffective. Extant literature shows that this experience replicates itself in other African countries. This study aims to examine governance and its challenges in public service delivery in Africa. The study is qualitative and as such, a desk research method is used. The data obtained, interrogates the concepts of governance, leadership, and public service delivery, to develop an effective model for good governance and service delivery in Africa. The study concludes that despite several challenges, Uganda has an opportunity to create a more accountable and responsive government through participatory politics. A more accountable and responsive government will increase citizen commitment to democratic governance and reduce tensions among political, regional, and ethnic groups.

Keywords: Governance, public service delivery, accountability, participatory governance

Introduction

Africa is faced with a lot of challenges. Some of them include poor infrastructure, poor leadership, insecurity, hunger, unemployment, flooding, unsustainable development, etc. This has negative impacts on social progress, particularly in contexts where there are no social safety nets provided by the government. The double challenge of rising inequality and a growing population will become increasingly unsustainable for the continent (PSC report, 2021). Most African countries cannot afford to sustain a healthy economic growth rate and find it difficult to provide essential public services to their citizens (Fagbadebo and Dorasamy, 2021). It is in this light that Marais, (2019) maintained that "corrupt activities continue to stifle economic growth and good governance across the African continent"

Government and indeed good governance is a social contract, which seeks to provide political, social and economic goods to the citizens (Mireille, Affa'a, George and Lucky, 2014). Governance encompasses state-society relations that are democratic, including respect for human rights and the rule of law. They are developmental and allow for the management of the economy in a way that enables economic growth, structural change, and the judicious use of available resources in a sustainable manner; they are socially inclusive, in particular of minorities and ethnic or religious diversity.

Experts have observed that politics in Africa is associated with unethical practices (Mireille E'al, 2014). Financial misappropriation and lack of accountability is the order of the day. It is in this light Moscona (2019) disclosed that "Many African leaders are known for misappropriation of funds". Bad leadership has led to a vicious cycle of conflict and corruption in Africa. Leadership in Africa is characterized by politics of patronage, endemic corruption, and power politics which made African leaders operating short of observance of rule of law. Africa is struggling with people that are occupying leadership positions with sole aims of personal aggrandizement rather than having ideas to change the economic situation of the continent; while those who have ideas are usually not in leadership positions (McGuirk and Burke, 2020). Political corruption in Africa is dominant and most leaders manipulate voters to vote for them and afterward, continue exploiting the economy like others. The political violence in Africa is a mechanism to disrupt the attempts to change the economic situation of Africa to a more prosperous social and economic fortune (Duursma, Twagiramungu, Gebrehiwot, and De Waal, 2019).

Good governance through proactive leadership is important for African development. Africa certainly needs leaders that will change the economic situation in their countries. Effective leadership, therefore, involves the processes, mechanisms, and policies that deliver essential public goods and services that citizens must come to expect. This study is designed to explore the concept and challenges of governance, leadership, and public service delivery in Africa, concerning Uganda.

Methodology

The study is qualitative and as such, a desk research method is used. The method employs secondary data. Data obtained from extant literature, newspapers, government gazette, reports, and online news has been used as a method to collect relevant data. Content analysis was used to interrogate the concepts of governance, leadership, and public service delivery. Conceptual clarity and interpretative rigor were used to ensure validity and reliability of the data analyzed.

Literature review

Governance is a broad concept, not easy to define, and many related concepts are attached: the issue of democracy and development; popular participation and development; corruption and development; and also, the issues of state capacity and development. The late 1980s and 1990s were characterized by a concerted struggle for democratization and the clamor for good governance on the African continent (Hilal, 2014). Good governance is defined within the framework of accountability, rule of law, freedom of expression and association and public choice of government are important elements of Africa's renewal. It deals with the consolidation of market reforms. Good governance requires an adaptation and continuous improvement of market-oriented systems in a specific socio-economic context, especially in Africa (Hilal, 2014). However, the market-oriented system tends to breed external domination especially in production process of goods and services in Africa; thereby undermining socio-economic development and widespread underdevelopment.

Public service delivery is increasingly seen as a critical component of development strategies to tackle poverty and build more stable societies. Mireille, Affa'a, George and Lucky (2014) noted that "these public goods and services range from safety and security to political participation, the rule of law and human development, among others. At continental, regional and national levels, numerous norms and frameworks have been adopted to promote democracy and the rule of law in Africa". However, a persistent delivery deficit prevents these norms from being transformed into reality. While governance challenges in Africa do not originate uniquely from the continent, the reality is that ongoing African initiatives to address these crises, as in the Central African Republic or South Sudan, have often been insufficient.

The income levels of most African countries are still low. While in 2019, 478 million people lived in extreme poverty, it is estimated that in 2021, 490 million people in Africa live under the poverty line of 1.90 PPP$/day, and this is 37 million people more than what was projected without the pandemic (UNCTAD, 2021). Poverty levels declined in most African countries: On average, the proportion of African households with a consumption level below the 1.9$/day poverty line declined from 40% in 2010 to 34% in 2019. At below 3.2 $/day, the poverty rate fell from 63% to 59%; and below 5.5 $/day, it fell from 83% to 80%. On the other hand, inequality has widened between and within African countries. The Gini index, measuring the distribution of income, ranges from 27.6% (Algeria) to 63.3% (South Africa), where 0% indicates that everyone has the same income and 100% implies that one household receives all the income (Economic Development in Africa Report, 2021).

Less than half of all African countries have experienced inclusive growth between 2000 and 2020. Growth has been inclusive (poverty- and inequality-reducing growth) in only 17 out of 49 African countries in the sample; poverty-reducing, but inequality-increasing in 18 countries; and non-inclusive on either dimension in 14 African countries. Important elements of inclusive growth include better human development outcomes, greater social inclusion, the creation of productive and formal employment opportunities, and environmental development. In 2019, Africa accounted for 2.8% of world trade. Africa's intraregional trade accounted for only 4.4% of total continental trade. Africa's extra-continental exports reflect a heavy dependence on primary commodities, making the continent vulnerable to external shocks such as global demand and volatile commodity prices. The share of processed goods in extra-continental exports is low at 17%. In contrast, 41% of intra-African trade is comprised of processed goods, suggesting higher potential benefits from greater regional trade for transformative and inclusive growth (Economic Development in Africa Report, 2021).

Table 1: Income level of some African countries

Country	Score	Rank	Income Level	Country	Score	Rank	Income Level
Mauritus	0.6514	1	Upper- middle	Congo	0.4795	27	Low – middle
Gabon	0.5836	2	Upper- middle	Zimbebwe	0.4726	28	Low – middle
Gambia	0.5648	3	Low	Uganda	0.4701	29	Low
Morocco	0.5496	4	Low - middle	Kenya	0.4655	30	Low – middle
Togo	0.5474	5	Low	Angola	0.4624	31	Low – middle
Seychelles	0.5454	6	High	Cameroon	0.4574	32	Low – middle
Senegal	0.5378	7	Low - middle	Guinea	0.4484	33	Low
Malawi	0. 5375	8	Low	Egypt	0.4435	34	Low – middle
Tunisia	0.5366	9	Low - middle	Burkina Faso	0.4412	35	Low
Cabo Verde	0.5325	10	Low - middle	Lesotho	0.4348	36	Low – middle
Eswatini	0.5294	11	Low - middle	Congo (Dem. Rep)	0.4270	37	Low
Comoros	0.5240	12	Low - middle	Liberia	0.4252	38	Low
South Africa	0.5194	13	Upper- middle	Ethiopia	0.4248	39	Low
Botswana	0.5122	14	Upper- middle	Equatorial Guinea	0.4181	40	Upper – middle
Sao Tome and Principle	0.5109	15	Low - middle	Mozambique	0.4169	41	Low
Zambia	0.5043	16	Low - middle	South Sudan	0.4046	42	Low
Tanzania	0.5026	17	Low - middle	Madagascar	0.4002	43	Low
Ghana	0.5023	18	Low - middle	Djibouti	0.3991	44	Low – middle
Namibia	0.5009	19	Upper- middle	Entrea	0.3959	45	Low
Algeria	0.4971	20	Low - middle	Sierra Leone	0.3952	46	Low
Nigeria	0.4959	21	Low - middle	Mali	0.3863	47	Low
Burundi	0.4955	22	Low	Mauritania	0.3857	48	Low – middle
Libya	0.4934	23	Upper- middle	Central African Republic	0.3377	49	Low
Rwando	0.4904	24	Low	Chad	0.3260	50	Low
Benin	0.4862	25	Low - middle	Niger	0.3031	51	Low – middle
Guinea Bissau	0.4842	26	Low				

Source: World Bank (2009).

The report above shows disparities in income levels among African countries. This is a strong indicator that characterized the level of underdevelopment in Africa. Income inequalities translate into inequalities in access to basic services and lower opportunities to get out of the poverty trap.

Sadly, Wil, Ria Jonathan, Lydeke, and Natascha, (2016) explained that Uganda's lack of transparency and accountability of financial resources, weak institutional development and low civil society capacity pose significant challenges to good governance. The main governance challenges in Uganda relate to justice, rule of law, and decentralization from the mid-2000s characterized by increasingly authoritarian, personality, and centralized character of governance in Uganda (Wil, Ria Jonathan, Lydeke, & Natascha, 2016).

Beyond Uganda, the gap between the rich and the poor in education and health remains striking in many African countries. The gap keeps widening. Chancel et al. (2019) provide estimates for top incomes in Uganda along with many other African countries; which indicates shocking revelations on the gap in income distribution and inequality. Wil, Et'al (2016) reports that, in Uganda inequalities affect more the southern sub-region than the northern sub-region countries and more countries in the western sub-region than the eastern sub-region.

In spite the above, Africa is projected to make an impressive economic progress. This is in the sense that, several countries sustained double-digit growth. African Development Bank Bi-annual Report (2023) shows that estimated average growth of real GDP in Africa slowed to 3.8% in 2022, from 4.8% in 2021 amid significant challenges following the Covid-19 shock and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Despite the economic slowdown, 53 of Africa's 54 countries posted positive growth. All the five regions of the continent remain resilient with a steady outlook for the medium-term. However, Africa remains overwhelmed by unequal income and wealth distribution. The poor performances, in terms of reducing inequality, are not specific to resource-poor countries only, but also a feature of resource-rich countries such as the Congo, Uganda, Nigeria, Angola, and South Africa ((Rotberg and Rachel, 2007).

According to Hilal (2014), "Most of the countries in Africa are conflict-ridden societies and most of them are facing bad governance challenges. In some countries, there is an intractable political wrangle going on from last so many decades and still, conflict is unresolved". He added that, "the African Continent is a true political and social mosaic. There are countries that are making a real move towards democracy. There are others in which the democratic experiment is in unstable situations. In many others, the political, social, and State infrastructure has failed" (Hilal, 2014). The consequences of these failed systems are increased poverty, a dearth of infrastructure, widened inequality, etc. Achieving good governance is therefore essential in achieving multidimensional poverty-reduction goals (Asefa and Huang, 2015).

Governance and development challenges in Africa

Driven by the desire to raise living standards across the continent, "African leaders have over the years adopted a development strategy that relied heavily on an extensive system of government interventions and controls for the purposes of economic management" (Osemeka, 2020). Price controls, import licensing, foreign exchange restrictions, controls on bank credit and interest rates, the taxation of the agricultural sector, and the establishment of public enterprises in strategic sectors were the main instruments of economic management (World Bank, 1989). A report by JICA Research Institute (2021), "In Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), although in the 1960s there was a modest increase in per capita income and export growth was strong, there was a marked deterioration of economic performance during the 1970s. The growth rates of real GDP and per capita income decelerated, and aggregate export volume trended downward". In the 1960s there was an upswing in the terms of trade followed by a downturn in the 1970s (in the wake of a surge in oil prices). In North Africa, where the average growth rate was lower than in the SSA region in the 1960s, growth performance improved in the 1970s (World Bank, 1989; Guariso & Rogall, 2017).

The JICA Research Institute (2021) report added that "In the 1960s Africa's new leaders relied on highly interventionist economic policies to promote economic development. These policies sought to achieve rapid industrialization by curtailing import dependence, establishing public enterprises to control and manage economic activities in strategic sectors, and putting in place wide-ranging regulations to control prices, restrict imports through strict licensing and other trade barriers, and control the availability and allocation of bank credit and foreign exchange". Governments relied on the taxation of agriculture and often on exports to raise resources for the financing of their economic development plans. Many countries were able to mobilize financial support for their development plans from foreign development partners (including both bilateral and multilateral institutions) (JICA Research Institute, 2021).

Beyond the adverse effects of the oil price shock of 2022, most countries began to experience the paralyzing influence of government interventions and controls, which manifest effects on service delivery and development. "Savings and investment rates were woefully inadequate to meet the needs of human resource and infrastructure development, unprofitable public enterprises became an unsustainable burden on the budget, and the private investments needed for agricultural and industrial development were not forthcoming" (JICA Research Institute, 2021). The report added that, "the state-administered system of controls on domestic prices, crop marketing, credit allocation, and bank interest rates, and the allocation of import licenses and foreign exchange made it extremely difficult for the private sector to function" (JICA Research Institute, 2021).

The World Bank report (1989) and the findings from Guariso and Rogall (2017) show that "following a rethinking of development strategies in SSA, an increasing number of countries began to implement far-reaching reforms to achieve macroeconomic stability and eliminate the government interventions that impeded economic activity, especially in the private sector". Economic performance was disappointing throughout the 1980s with a decline in per capita income. In the first half of the 1990s inflation rates accelerated. The first signs of economic recovery emerged only in the mid- 1990s. Throughout this protracted period of 15 years, investment-savings gaps and fiscal imbalances remained large and were financed by substantial inflows of foreign aid and external debt relief. Growth performance also weakened in North Africa during the 1980s and the 1990s. This trend continued into the 70s, 80s, and 90s centuries. In recent years, Agricultural exports from Africa's non-oil primary commodity exporters are declining (Guariso and Rogall, 2017). The non-oil primary commodity exporters of Africa had remained narrowly concentrated on a few agricultural commodities and had yet to tap into the growing markets in other developing countries (especially Asia). Mauritius and Kenya are notable exceptions where efforts were made to diversify away from exports of primary commodities.

A report published by PSC (2021) discloses that "Governance problems on the continent revolve around the management of states, resulting from the inability of many leaders to properly manage economies, diversities and political inclusion. This leads to a loss of trust in state institutions and in their capacity to execute basic functions, particularly the provision of the public good". The report revealed further that "as such, economic and political inclusion, particularly that of women, youth, minorities and other marginalized groups, remains a major challenge" (PSC report, 2021). Even though some African economies have seen sustained growth over the past few decades, such economic growth trajectories have not benefited most people.

Several development policies are targeted at improving the well-being of the African states. One such policy is the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The United Nation (UN) MDGs was designed to reduce by half by 2015 the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day;

ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling; eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005, and at all levels of education by 2015; reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five; reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio; halt and begin to roll back the spread of HIV/AIDS, the incidence of Malaria and other major diseases; and integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs, reverse the loss of environmental resources, reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water, and achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. After the scheduled timeframe, there is no significant development in Africa. Africa is now working on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As part of the MDGs, and SDGs, world leaders also seek to develop a global partnership for development through opening up of global trading and financial systems; support for the special needs of least developed countries, especially through tariff-and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for highly indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bilateral debts; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction. Other aspects of the global partnership will address, in developing countries, youth development programmes, access to affordable essential drugs as well as access to the benefits of new technologies, especially, information and communications technologies. These things cannot be achieved without effective and proactive governance.

Achieving development goals remains an unfinished business for African countries. The SDGs fit accurately with Africa's priorities for the next fifteen years. The future of growth and its impact on poverty reduction in Africa hinges on what happens to structural transformation. A new development trajectory of structural transformation is required to ensure improving productivity as Africa industrializes. This requires a huge investment in both human and physical capital. Key priorities would be Investment in infrastructure, especially energy; and, improvement of labour force productivity, to fit the needs of manufacturing and agro-industries. These indicators support public service delivery in Africa.

The UN SDGs are a direct reflection of Africa's development challenges as articulated in the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) framework document. NEPAD seeks to create conditions for sustainable development through programs for strengthening peace, security, democracy, political governance, economic and corporate governance and enhanced regional and sub-regional approaches to development; promote the growth of priority sectors such as infrastructure, human resource development, agriculture, environment, culture and science and technology; and mobilize resources for development – with a focus on capital flows and access by African exports to markets in industrialized countries. To achieve the UN SDGs and the objectives of NEPAD, Africa and Uganda needs to effectively tackle their development challenges. Some of the development challenges facing Africa include,

1. Deepened Inequality and poverty

Africa has made considerable progress in poverty reduction since the mid- 1990s, about the same period 8.1 Africa still faces major challenges in making growth more inclusive that the region's (per capita GDP) growth has trended upward. This performance is a reversal of the trend over the previous 15 years when growth was quite anemic in the region (African Development

Report, 2015). Chronic poverty in Africa is constant and could not end under the current systems that are applied in Africa (Guariso and Rogall, 2017).

Africa accounts for a large share of the world's people living in absolute poverty. More than one billion people in the world live on less than US$ 1 a day and 2.7 billion live on less than US$ 2 per day. Since the late 1980s, the number of people living on less than US$ 1 per day in Sub-Saharan Africa, increased by 70 million to 290 million in 1998, over 46 % of the total population and Africa's share of the world's poor rose from just below 20% (Kayizzi-Mugerwa, 2001). Nowadays, close to 50% of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa lives on less than US$ 1 a day, which constitutes the highest rate of extreme poverty in the world (World Bank, 2017). The number of impoverished people has indeed doubled since 1981. The share of people living on less than US$ 2 a day reaches close to 60% of the population in Liberia and close to 50% in the Central African Republic. In North Africa, only 2.2% of the population lives on less than US$ 1 a day, and 23% on less than US$ 2 (Anyanwu, 2011). The fight against poverty is one of the biggest problems the continent is faced.

2. Corruption

Corruption is endemic in Africa. Corruption undermines equality and limits access to key services through favoritism or bribery. Ultimately, corruption undermines the very fabric of national and local government institutions, preventing their effective functioning and the nondiscriminatory delivery of basic services to populations. Sound financial and economic governance is a necessary condition to strengthen the trust of African citizens in their governments and to ensure the delivery of much-needed public services. In fragile contexts, corruption may help people access public goods and services by facilitating black markets and informal service delivery (Mbaku, 2020).

Corruption remains a longstanding challenge to the provision of efficient, effective, and equitable justice in Uganda in the contemporary Museveni era. The current GoU initially demonstrated a significant commitment to tackling this systemic problem – within and outside the judiciary - through the establishment of a range of investigative and oversight bodies during the 1990s and early 2000s tasked with identifying corrupt practices, from the top downwards, including the Inspectorate-General of Government (Tangri and Mwenda 2006) This practice has continued into the present day with the opening of an Anti-Corruption Court (established in 2009) in 2013 (CMI 2013; NTV Uganda 09/01/2014).

Effective decentralization in Uganda faces growing challenges posed by the limited funding and capacity of local government structures and offices. Difficulties experienced in collecting sufficient revenue by local officials during the 1990s and early 2000s have led to local structures becoming increasingly reliant upon the central government for funding since 2005 (Green 2013). This has, however, coincided with a decrease in funding allocations to local government in GoU budgets (from 25 percent of Uganda's national budget in 2005/06 to less than 18 percent in 2011/12) and the embezzlement of significant amounts of money bound for northern Ugandan districts by officials in the Prime Minister's Office between 2011-2013 (Green 2013). These problems have been exacerbated by the growing number of districts being created – more local government structures are coming into existence with decreasing amounts of funding to support them.

3. Poor leadership ethics and lack of good governance

Most government leaders in Africa lack moral values but portray a different image to the people and the media. People that grew up with no moral values cannot change when they are in leadership positions. Leaders in Africa lack ethics and this affects the control of government resources, people that are entrusted with the responsibility to take control of public funds need to be of high ethical value. Good governance in Africa can only take place if leaders are ethical and innovative. Leaders in Africa ascend to leadership positions because they want to have the powered of controlling resources. The control of government funds by the caliber of leaders Africa has today leads to the collapse of many government institutions.

Lack of ethics is also manifested in executive interference. The independence of the Ugandan judiciary is guaranteed by Uganda's 1995 Constitution and judges have the security of tenure (World Bank 2009. During the first two decades of the Museveni Government, this arrangement was largely observed by the GoU and a range of judgments issued during the mid-2000s which undermined or criticized GoU policy was nonetheless respected by actors in the executive. Since the dawn of the multi-party era, however, executive interference in judicial matters and police officers' ignoring of judgments overturning arrests of opposition leaders or closure of media houses has been increasingly commonplace (Green, 2013).

4. Youth unemployment in Africa

Youth unemployment in Africa is currently seating at different levels and each country has high levels of youth unemployment. The average youth unemployment in Africa stands at 55.75 percent, this shows that African leaders are failing to develop systems that will create a sustainable economy (Atti and Gulis, 2017). The youth in Africa are struggling to find employment and business opportunities. Youth unemployment affects human capital development and national productivity.

5. Lack of leadership succession planning

Africa lacks ethical leaders and this affects succession plans. This also affects the machinery of public policy in the continent. Change of government leads to the suspension of policies, projects and programmes. Lack of effective policy implementation affects the economic growth of the African economy. There is a lack of intention and political will to implement progressive policies in Africa. The vision and policies presented by leaders during the election campaigns remain rhetoric (Oyeshile, 2017). Current leaders and the succession plan contribute to the decline of the African economy. Africa, therefore, needs a generation of leaders that will change the status quo (Holzinger, Kern, and Kromrey, 2016).

6. Conflicts and insecurity

Conflict is another major challenge to Africa, it's the conflict that divides Africa into different compartments and creates disharmony among the communities, and creates underdevelopment. The need of the hour is that African Union, civil society, educational institutions, think tanks, and charismatic leaders should come along and joins hands for the reconstruction and resurgence of a new Africa free from conflict and full of peace and development (Hilal, 2014). According to Asefa and Huang (2015), the conflict trap, analyzed by Collier (2007), shows how certain economic conditions make a country prone to civil war and to the ensuing cycle of violence, from which it is difficult to escape. His study found that countries are prone to civil war when faced with a combination of low income, dependence on primary commodity exports, and poor governance that is not inclusive, along with high-income inequality (Asefa and Huang, 2015).

Conclusion

The paper established amongst others that, responsible leadership and accountability are necessary to achieving good governance and development in Africa and Uganda in particular. Therefore, there is need for government to be more accountable and responsive to achieving democratic governance and reduce tensions among political, regional, and ethnic groups. Since the UN 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all 193-member states, governments and researchers are increasingly trying to monitor performance in sustainability. It is observed that Africa and Uganda in particular lag behind in the achievement of development goals. There are obviously challenges as identified above. To effectively tackle the problems of governance and public service delivery, African countries need to adopt appropriate policies and strategic plans for policy implementation.

Recommendations

1. Building Peace and development framework in Africa: Peace is a precondition for development and prosperity in any region of the world. Africa needs good leaders against racial discrimination and corruption which is called in international politics. Peace-building is necessary for Africa's development.

2. Building strong institutions: The conditions of a well-functioning government are to build strong and viable institutions. The administrative framework of governance must be proactive and sustained with modern technology and human capacity building.

3. Investing in Agriculture: Investment in agriculture is arguably the most important starting point in addressing hunger and extreme poverty, and in lowering income inequality between rich and poor, between rural and urban, and between men and women. Evidence shows that Africa's inequality is mainly drawn along these lines and that, in each case, the majority of the disadvantaged are either directly or indirectly engaged in agriculture as a livelihood.

4. Infrastructural development: Infrastructure development has long been identified as a key determinant of growth, and of its sustainability. The new SDGs also underscores the importance of infrastructure for the sustainability of growth. Most African countries are limited in their ability to fund major infrastructure projects, especially in the face of competing social investment needs. Private sector participation in infrastructure financing has been limited due to its long payback period and, in some cases, due to investors' perceived risks of political instability. As a result, investment in basic infrastructure sectors such as energy, transportation, telecommunications, and water and sanitation has been undesirably low across the continent and must be improved.

5. Industrialization: Africa needs to be proactive in creating an enabling environment within which enterprises of all sizes and sectors can develop, create jobs and pursue technological innovation and cooperation, coupled with sound governance and policies to reduce barriers to international trade and foreign direct investment (FDI). This will go along way in creating job

opportunities, increased production capacities of local industries; thereby increasing income and reducing poverty level among people.

References

African Development Bank Biannual Report (2023), Africa's economic growth to outpace global forecast in 2023-2024

African Development Bank Report (2015) Growth, Poverty and Inequality Nexus: Overcoming Barriers to Sustainable Development. https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/ADR15_chapter_8.pdf

Anyanwu, J. C. (2011), "International Remittances and Income Inequality in Africa". Working Paper Series N°135. African Development Bank.

Asefa, S.& Huang, W. (2015). *The Political Economy of Good Governance*. Kalamazoo, MI: W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research,2. file:///C:/Users/DR%20ANAM/Downloads/up15sapeogch7bg%20(1).pdf

Atti, E. &Gulis, G. (2017). Political determinants of progress in the MDGs in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Global public health, 12* (11): 1351-1368.

Chancel, L., Cogneau, D., Gethin, A., and Myczkowski, A. (2019). 'How Large Are African Inequalities? Towards Distributional National Accounts in Africa, 1990-2017'. https://www.parisschoolofeconomics.eu/docs/cogneaudenis/wid_working_paper_2019_13_africa.pdf (accessed in January 2023)

Collier, P. (2007). *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries Are Failing and What Can Be Done about It.* New York: Oxford University Press.

Duursma, A., Twagiramungu, N., Gebrehiwot, B. M. & De Waal, A. (2019). Introducing the transnational conflict in Africa dataset.

Economic Development in Africa Report (2021). https://unctad.org/press-material/facts-and-figures-7#:~:text=The%20pandemic%20has%20led%20to%20increased%20poverty%20levels%20in%20Africa&text=While%20in%202019%2C%20478%20million,was%20projected%20without%20the%20pandemic.

Guariso, A. & Rogall,T. (2017). Rainfall inequality, political power, and ethnic conflict in Africa.

Hilal, A. W. (2014). Constraints and impediments of good governance in Africa: future prospects.*Afro Asian Journal of Social Sciences, 5* (5)1

Holzinger,K., Kern,F.G.&Kromrey, D.(2016).The dualismofcontemporarytraditional governance and the state: Institutional setups and political consequences. *Political Research Quarterly, 69* (3): 469-481. https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/africas-economic-growth-outpace-global-forecast-2023-2024-african-development-bank-biannual-report-58293

JICA Research Institute (2021) Development Challenges in Africa Towards 2050. https://www.jica.go.jp/jica-ri/publication/booksandreports/jrft3q00000029i2-att/TICAD_Africa_2050_JICA-RI.pdf

Kayizzi-Mugerwa, S. (2001), "Globalisation, growth and income inequality: the African experience". Working paper, N°186. OECD Development Center.

Mbaku, J.M. (2020). Good and inclusive governance is imperative for Africa's future. https://www.brookings.edu/research/good-and-inclusive-governance-is-imperative-for-africas-future
McGuirk, E. & Burke, M. (2020). The economic origins of conflict in Africa. *Journal of Political Economy, 128* (10): 3940-3997.
Minocha, O.P. (1994). Good Governance: New Public Management Perspective'', *The Indian Journal of Public Administration*, pp.270-273.
Mireille, A. M., George, M. W. & Lucy. D. (2014). *Effective Governance in Challenging Environments*.International Peace Institute (2014) Stable URL: http://www.jstor.com/stable/resrep09546.5
Moscona, J. (2019). *The management ofaidand conflictin Africa*. WorkingPaper, MIT.
Osemeka, I.N. (2020). Political Leadership and Conflict Resolution in Africa: Reflections on Leadership and Institutions in Africa: 171.
Oyeshile, O.A. (2017). Ethnic conflict resolution and development in Africa: the ontological, ethical and political imperatives. НауковізапискиНаціональногоуніверситетуОстрозькаакадемія. Серія: Культурологія,(18): 143-152.
PSC report (2021). *Poor governance in Africa hampers progress*. https://issafrica.org/pscreport/psc-insights/poor-governance-in-africa-hampers-progress.
Rotberg, R. I., & Rachel, M. G. (2007). *Strengthening African Governance: Ibrahim Index of African Governance, Results and Rankings 2007*. Somerville, MA: World Peace Foundation, Fletcher School, Tufts University.
UNCTAD, (2021), Inequality in Africa. https://unctad.org/press-material/facts-and-figures-7#:~:text=The%20pandemic%20has%20led%20to%20increased%20poverty%20levels%20in%20Africa&text=While%20in%202019%2C%20478%20million,was%20projected%20without%20the%20pandemic.
Wil, H. (team leader), Ria, B., Jonathan, F., Rose, N., Lydeke, S. & Natascha, W. (2016). Policy Review Good Governance: Uganda Country Study Report Commissioned by the Policy and Operations Evaluation Department (IOB), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
World Bank (2017) Sub-Saharan Africa Data, https://data.worldbank.org/country/ZG