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# Alternative EU Marshall Plan with Africa

Part One: Major challenges facing Sub-Sahara Africa



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## 1. Prologue

The African Marshall Plan with Africa is the buzzword and future music in Germany today that is caring currency in the incumbent government of CDU/CSU and this idea will redefine foreign aid to Africa permanently. Aid in Africa was meant to alleviate poverty on the continent, but it has become a synonym for poverty and (in global terms) underdevelopment. The aim of international aid was to try and make the world a better place in post-colonial countries. Aid has been flowing to Africa since the 1950s and NGOs went to Sub-Saharan Africa in their thousands to fight fatal illnesses, alleviate famine, provided water sources, and provided teachers to facilitate education as the symbol of sustainable development.

Yet despite the trillions of dollars in AID that is still flowing to Sub-Saharan Africa, there is nothing to show in terms of intended infrastructure development. These countries are worse off today than during the colonial era. Aid has been mismanaged: it does not reach out to intended beneficiaries: as a result the poor have become poorer, and the rich have become richer. In a nutshell aid, has been totally mismanaged in unprecedented levels. It is siphoned to buy military equipment, to finance white elephant projects and indulge in massive corruption. Most African governments are over bloated, governments use aid as recurrent expenditures, dubious infrastructure deals, and corrupt projects activities. The guaranteed 50 billion dollars donor money annually perpetuates corruption thereby inducing a vicious cycle of corruption.

A paradigm shift is necessary to redefine the whole question of aid to the Sub-Saharan Africa. The concept of aid to developing countries must be revised. Rather than giving free financial assistance to some corrupt governments which use foreign aid to pep up their recurrent expenditures and for personal use, another form of cooperation is compelling. It is for this reason that a new form of EU Marshall Plan with Africa has been proposed by the German government. Its main aim is to alleviate poverty in the Sub-Sahara Africa: poverty the main driver, push and pull of migration.

In the light of the present wave of migration, which reached its peak in 2015, about one million migrants entered Germany, some of whom came from the African continent. A new fundamental shift is therefore required to address African economic, social, and political issues with the proposed EU Marshall Plan with Africa. Most African migrants are fleeing their countries because of the poverty and personal insecurity caused by poor government management of their economies and autocratic governance. The Mediterranean Sea cannot continue to be a death trap for African people seeking a new life in Europe. Some African

governments have failed their young people whose only hope now is migration to European shores risking hazardous journeys over the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea seeking “some kind of future” that is not available in their respective countries. Many migrants are escaping wars, conflicts, climate change induced poverty and social violence.

The German government is the mastermind behind the proposed EU Marshall Plan with Africa that intends to develop new economic and social strategies to replace the Cotonou Agreement with a fresh and new partnership agreement regarding the African continent. The aim is to seek sustainable solutions to new challenges facing the Africa continent. Africa’s potential must be identified and must offer solutions for young Africans. African solutions must be found in Africa and by Africans on the African continent.

<sup>1</sup>The original USA Marshall Plan also known as the European Recovery Program and was the brainchild of United States Secretary of State George C. Marshall. The new EU Marshall Plan with Africa in its verbatim sentence defines itself as follows: “The focus of the African Marshall Plan will be on fair trade, more private investment, more bottom-up economic development, more entrepreneurial spirit and above all more jobs for the young and growing African people in the continent.”

The EU Marshall Plan with Africa’s formulated aims, and objectives are to strengthen African ownership and to reduce donor dependency and to bring hope to marginalized communities. The African countries and the European countries must be partners that engage with each other at eye-level; on the same page, and never on a donor-recipient relationship. The EU Marshall Plan with Africa should not be defined by time frame as was the case with European Recovery Program but as on-going engagements in critical major developmental projects including much demanded EU technical cooperation.

The first part of this document highlights issues related to the African continent. Identifying challenges bedeviling Africa helps in planning a strategy for cooperation between the two continents. In the background we should never lose sight in issues regarding migration and the suffering it causes, especially in North Africa. Many Africans are trapped into slavery, suffer thousands of deaths in the Mediterranean Sea and are victims of human-trafficking

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<sup>1</sup> The original Marshall Plan *was crafted as a four-year plan to reconstruct cities, industries and infrastructure that was heavily destroyed during the war and to remove barriers between European neighbours as well as to foster commerce between those countries and the United States of America.*

and other forms of human exploitation induced by migration. The central focus of this document closely examines the plight of women in African communities, especially in rural areas. An alternative Marshall Plan with Africa should actively assist rural women to help themselves mostly in their communities. Women are the niche in Africa that bears the brunt of poverty, famine, and underdevelopment. The development of rural communities depends on being able to afford projects that bring sustainable and durable communal set-ups such as durable housing, clean water & sanitation, food securities, and security generally.

The second part of this document is to make concrete recommendations to the European Union on how the Alternative EU Marshall Plan with Africa can reach out to the communities that need such assistance. The proposed Alternative EU Marshall Plan with Africa, unlike Foreign Aid, should be utilized mostly by project-oriented NGOs or European expertise in major areas needed by the rural communities, agricultural production, availability of water and sanitation, and renewable energy. The Alternative EU Marshall Plan with Africa becomes an empowerment incentive to uplift marginalized communities that need durable and sustainable development.

The current EU Marshall Plan with Africa document from CSU-Honourable Minister Gerd Müller and his team of experts emphasise the need for young Africans to see Africa as their own continent which has all the answers to their social, economic, and political needs. Young Africans must see a bright future in Africa. In 2050, the population of Africa will have doubled to two billion. This factually means that the continent must create 20 million jobs every year. Job creation and ownership to durable and sustainable projects will indeed stabilize African communities. Solutions to African problems that bedevil African growth are in Africa and will be done by Africans with the European and African technical knowhow already available to transform lives durably and sustainably. It must be crystal clear to Africans and African governments that African development is solely in the hands of Africans.

Key words: International Aid, Poverty, Climate Change, Alternative EU Marshall Plan, Migration, Women Empowerment

## **2. Poverty elimination in the South-Sahara-Africa**

According to the World Bank Report of 1996, Sub-Sahara Africa is the poorest region in the world. About 45 to 50% of the population have the lowest income and live below the poverty datum line. Of the 28 poorest countries in the world, 27 countries are from SSA. The indicators of poverty are inadequate access to employment opportunities, inadequate physical assets such as land and capital, and minimal access by the poor to credit even on a small scale, inadequate access to the means of supporting rural development in poor regions, inadequate access to markets where the poor can sell goods and services, low endowment of human capital, destruction of natural resources leading to environmental degradation and reduced productivity, inadequate access to assistance for those living at the margin and those victimized by transitory poverty, and lack of participation; failure to draw the poor into the design of development programs.

The World Bank report of 2015 estimates that 726 million people live in extreme health. Definition of poverty in Business Dictionary is a condition where *peoples' basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter are not met*. Absolute poverty is synonymous with destitution and occurs when people cannot obtain adequate resources to support a minimum level of physical health. Poverty has decreased in developed countries, whereas in African it is just the opposite. A continent endowed with so much mineral wealth, it would appear as if the gold and diamond wealth is a curse itself and not a blessing!

Poverty is multidimensional: it is an accumulation of variables such as lack of education, no access to basic facilities such as health, clean water, sanitation and security, food insecurities leading to hunger and starvation and lack of nutrition. It is worth mentioning that continental conflicts play a role in perpetuating poverty. The magnitude of poverty in SSA can only be reduced with considerable improvement in African governments commitments and ownership of poverty reduction programs and policies to support and achieve the desired goals. Very few African countries realize and identify poverty and its subsequent reduction and elimination as the primary government policy objectives. African governments must lead the cause to make poverty history in the African continent.

The main advocates in reducing poverty are United Nations, EU countries and the World 'Bank. The former Prime Minister Tony Blair and his government made his mark when he came up with a powerful slogan: "let's make poverty history in the African Continent." This mantra seems to be overtaken by the influx of refugees and migrants in European shores and globalization generally.

Poverty in Africa is inherited from one generation to the next. The level of literacy is low because of less access to education; clean water and sanitation, poor housing conditions and increased levels of diseases and pandemics, no access to health facilities: these are all consequences of poverty. In most countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa, the gap between the very few rich and the majority poor is very wide and dangerous as tensions start to increase. The poor young people, out of destitution, easily resort to petty to high social crimes and the young women and girls see prostitution as the means and destiny to sustain their livelihoods.

The World Bank's main objectives are to eliminate poverty in Africa by 2030. We are currently nine years away from now to 2030. Again, this is a mammoth task that needs cooperation of all governments concerned together with the EU and UN to fight poverty effectively. Natural and human resources are in abundance in Africa to eradicate poverty. These natural resources should be harnessed to bring sustainable development to communities who are custodians of these resources.

Community development is the key to improving the lives of people in rural communities, but communities and villages must work together to implement strategies that improve their living conditions. Reachable access to cleaner water sources and offering farmers the know-how to improve food-security, provide good education by building schools and durable housing, to create road infrastructure, to enhance access to better primary and referral health care by building clinics and hospitals is a big step in eradicating poverty in Africa's disadvantaged in semi-urban and rural communities.

Africans must take the lead in reducing poverty by showing willingness to do so. The EU Marshall Plan with Africa must facilitate leadership in reducing poverty using indicators such as increased agricultural inputs, climate change/environmental sustainability, youth and women empowerment, basic infrastructure such as availability to clean water and sanitation, improved health facilities, energy, and road infrastructure. The failure of many African governments to define poverty reduction as their central objective is SSA's shortcomings. Donor institutions including the Bank, must accept some responsibility for this failure because of their willingness to continuously lend despite the weak commitment of some African governments to poverty reduction.

African countries must know that eradicating poverty in communities is good economics and good politics. Understanding the challenges of poverty and poverty elimination programs to improve community living in rural areas is the primary responsibility of African governments; this must be at the centre of any economic and social development.

## **2.1 Poverty, hunger, and health: Let us make poverty history.**

It is possible to make poverty history in Africa within 10 years. The EU Marshall Plan with Africa contends this as possible. Africa has massive expanses of agricultural land. SDG 1 & SDG 2 & SDG 3. But most of the population of Africa is poor or chronically poor because of non-availability of arable land, water, and sanitation. According to the World Bank Report, giving land to rural populations can eliminate poverty. People living in poverty cannot afford to have enough food, making it impossible to live healthy lives.

The Borgen Project: *Jordanna Packtor* characterises Africa as the place with the poorest population on Earth. Poverty is linked to hunger, malnutrition, and disease due to lack of necessities: Seventy-five percent of the world's poorest countries are in Africa. This includes countries as Zimbabwe, Liberia and Ethiopia. The Central African Republic was ranked as the poorest in the world with a GDP per capita of \$656 in 2016.

According to Gallup World, in 2013, the 10 countries with the highest proportion of residents living in extreme poverty were all in Sub-Saharan Africa. Extreme poverty is defined as living on \$1.25 or less a day and, in 2010, 414 million people were living in extreme poverty across Sub-Saharan Africa. According to the World Bank, those living on \$1.25 a day in 2010 accounted for 48.5 percent of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Approximately one in three people living in Sub-Saharan Africa are undernourished. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations estimated that 239 million people (around 30 percent of the population) in Sub-Saharan Africa were hungry in 2010. This is the highest percentage in any region in the world. In addition, the U.N. Millennium Project reported that over 40 percent of all Africans are unable to regularly obtain enough food. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 589 million people live without electricity. As a result, a staggering 80 percent of the population relies on biomass products such as wood, charcoal, and dung to cook.

Of the 738 million people globally, who lack access to clean water, 37 percent are living in Sub-Saharan Africa. Poverty in Africa results in more than 500 million people suffering from waterborne diseases. According to the U.N. Millennium Project, more than 50 percent of Africans have a water-related illness like cholera. Every year, Sub-Saharan Africa misses out on about \$30 billion as productivity is compromised by the scarcity of water and sanitation. This amount accounts for approximately five percent of the region's gross

domestic product (GDP), exceeding the total amount of foreign aid sent to Sub-Saharan Africa.

Due to continuing violence, conflicts and widespread human rights abuses, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that 18 million people are of great concern to the agency, including stateless people and returnees. Fewer than 20 percent of African women have access to education. Uneducated African women are twice as likely to contract AIDS and 50 percent less likely to immunize their children. Meanwhile, the children of African women with at least five years of schooling have a 40 percent higher chance of survival.

Women in Sub-Saharan Africa are more than 230 times more likely to die during childbirth or pregnancy than women in North America. Approximately one in 16 women living in Sub-Saharan Africa will die during childbirth or pregnancy while only one in 4,000 women in North America will die under such circumstances. Mostly children under the age of five die every year from malaria. Malaria deaths alone account for 90 percent of all malaria deaths worldwide. Eighty percent of these victims are African children. The U.N. Millennium Project has calculated that an African child dies from Malaria every 30 seconds, or about 3,000 each day. <https://borgenproject.org/10-quick-facts-about-poverty-in-africa/malaria>.

## **2.2 Women empowerment**

To empower women is to fuel economic growth and reduce poverty, a strong incentive for policymakers to invest in women's health and education. To achieve effective change, women must be included in all key decisions and community development. The scholarly article that was written by Lucy Scott in 2012 views women as an important part of international development agenda. Empowering of women is enshrined as global development objectives in the <sup>2</sup>MDGs. Scott says women disempowerment and poverty go together. Poverty can only be reduced if there is an increase in female empowerment. To effectively reduce poverty, we must, she says, first look at the root causes of disempowerment and this, she stresses, is the unequal position of women in society in relation to men.

Lucy Scott advocates that development agencies should focus on strategic gender needs and remove institutionalized discrimination to be affected through collective action and

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<sup>2</sup> (UN) Millennium Development Goals also known as MDGs.

bottom-up struggles. Development activities, she says, facilitate the achievement of strategic gender needs by uniting women, raising their awareness, and encouraging mobilization so that women receive what they are entitled to and begin to overturn the structures within society.

An article published by the Credit Suisse Research Institute, confirms the argument made by Lucy Scott about poverty eradication through empowerment of women and girl-children. It is not just a moral imperative, but it also makes sound economic sense to empower women because this can make a vast contribution to economic growth. The two pillars of economic growth are education and health and both genders should have equal access. The entry point will be to improve in the following: Spend more money on health and education! Healthier women are economically more productive, and they earn more. Focus on getting girls and young women into secondary and tertiary education to boost the potential of the female labour force. This will help to avoid damage to economic growth caused by educational inequality, better quality schooling and improvement of school infrastructure. Improve access to birth control. This contributes to reduce poverty levels, equal access to good jobs, executive positions, and political offices. Through better education, women become more conscious of family size, and in return this leads to smaller families with more resources and life chances, says the report from the Credit Suisse Research Institute.

### **3. International Aid to Africa is Dead Aid**

International Aid is not a blessing but a curse in South Sahara Africa. Harvard educated economist Dr. Dambisa Moyo characterises International Aid to African countries as Dead Aid! She unflinchingly confronts foreign aid as financial flows that has impoverishing Sub-Saharan Africa instead. Third and fourth chapters of her book entitled “Dead AID” Dambisa Moyo gives her pertinent insight as to why Aid is not working in Africa. She provides strong evidence of failed international aid in Africa and suggests that there is a third way for solving Africa's problems which excludes foreign aid.

Aid, according to Moyo, encourages corruption in African countries. It corrupts civil societies and foments conflicts and wars in several countries in the continent. She says it reduces savings and investments that are inflationary, chokes the exports sector and causes bottlenecks due to low absorption capacity. Dambisa says aid makes Africans lazy and leads to over bloated public sectors which are ineffective. Above all, she maintains that it leads to

western donors having the power to call the shots. She categorically says foreign aid in Africa should be understood as truly dead AID and must stop forthwith.

Over a trillion dollars has for the past 60 years been given to African countries in Sub-Saharan Africa as *Development Aid*, but there is nothing of significance in relation to the economy and infrastructure development to show for it. What did AID do tangibly to improve the lives of the general African people? Despite this aid, there is only galling poverty, and a yawning gap between a minority of extraordinarily rich and most of the population are abjectly poor. A complete rethink must be undertaken how aid should be given and for what purpose. Giving aid to corrupt governments is retrogressive if that financial assistance is corruptly mismanaged and subsequently finds its way back into European banks in private bank accounts.

Moyo argues that high incidence of acute and abject poverty in Africa is directly proportional to increases in development aid, a marked decrease in Africa's economic growth. In a nutshell, criticism of **Foreign Aid** is becoming the buzzword in mainstream political, social, and economic global discourses and has gained significant resonance. However, EU Marshall Plan with Africa is not international aid, but another form of engaging Africa economically, socially, and culturally.

### **3.1 What is the alternative to development Aid?**

Developing countries should chart their own future and rely less on foreign international aid. It is without doubt that foreign aid is hurting countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, creating dependency, and undermining long-term sustainable growth. Much as Africans want to take control of development into their own hands, they still need technical know-how, however. This is where the EU Marshall Plan with Africa comes in handy as an alternative to development aid. The EU Marshall Plan with Africa promises cooperation with democratic African governments not as donor – recipient level but as equal partners talking at the same eye-level-contact. (Abschaffung der Gießkannen Prinzip)

Development needs technical know-how from first world countries to make positive and sustainable development in affected communities of the SSA possible. The aims and goals of a hugely different alternative form of foreign aid should be to make individuals and communities in developing countries self-sustaining. "Assist us to help ourselves." This is a new form of development that stretches horizontally over a long-term basis. These are areas where the EU Marshall Plan with Africa can make transformational community development sustainably. It should be a development that identifies mega macro projects at inter-national

level, projects such as energy and transport. (See EU Marshall plan with Africa: The Club of Rome document)

In July 2015, the World Bank and the IMF launched a new initiative to assist countries in economic transition by strengthening their tax systems. There is enough evidence on the ground to suggest that if developing countries increased their tax collecting systems just by 2% to 4 %, the amount they could raise would be higher than the foreign aid they are now getting from international money lenders. *“A strong revenue base is imperative if developing countries are to be able to finance the spending they need on public services, social support and infrastructure,”* said World Bank boss and Managing Director, Christine Lagarde. *“But experience shows that with well-targeted external technical support and sufficient political will, it can be done,”* she said. One of the pillars of WB/IMF is to create a dialogue with developing countries by developing and implementing Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment TADAT, a diagnostic tool to help member states evaluate and strengthen their tax policies. This is an area where the EU Marshall Plan with Africa could give their expertise to African countries that need such assistance.

Sustainable Development Goals SDG, has targets and indicators to strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including international support includes offering technical expertise to developing countries to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collections. This argument therefore fits well with the WB/IMF initiatives about <sup>3</sup>TADAT.

Nadia Masud and Boriana Yontcheva characterize two aspects of development aid: bilateral aid and Non-Governmental-International-Organisations, in short NGOs. The NGOs aid flows have positive impact when one examines the selected Human Development Indicators such as child mortality rates and education. NGO aid has helped to reduce infant mortality and has improved primary education and life expectancy. Bilateral or foreign aid, on the other hand, is given to governments to assist in the implementation of SDGs. This aid is, in some cases, redirected by receiving governments to compliment ongoing investment needs and domestic recurrent expenditures.

Hilma Shindondola-Mote argues that most African countries lack fundamental factors that make a country's economy strong. *They have small foreign exchange reserves, a trade balance deficit and poor governance of national incomes. Many also have high domestic and foreign debt, and high reliance on foreign direct investments in domestic stock exchange*

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<sup>3</sup> TADAT Tax Administration Diagnostic Tool

*markets. Most African economies are too weak to withstand negative external influences and to weather economic shocks*, she said. Debt relief will be negotiated on merit. Alternative EU Marshall Plan with Africa will not be forced to individual African States. Therefore debt relief should be given to countries willing to be part of EU Marshall with Africa's diverse programs.

### **3.2. Fair-Trade in Africa and not Aid.**

Fair Trade is a modern phenomenon, a recent term. Fair Trade examines trade agreements and assists producers from developing countries to get fair prices for their products to eliminate poverty in their lives. Fair trade enables farmers to maintain ethical treatment of workers in their production environments. Fair trade means improving the farm production and not rely on chicken pieces from the EU that undermine the local production in African farming production. Fair Trade also means assessing environmental sustainability in the production of products such as tea, coffee, cotton, flowers, gold, sugar, and cocoa. The World Free Trade Organisation, also called (WFTO), set up 10 principles that must be strictly followed in their day-to-day work and monitoring to ensure compliance with the principles stipulated in the document. This is an area where African economies are short-changed. (e.g. exporting chicken pieces to African countries instead of strengthening their domestic production)

### **3.3 African natural resources are looted and do not profit Africa's indigenous populations.**

The continent of Africa is blessed with trillion dollars' worth of natural resources, but the African population is blighted with extreme poverty and unending ethnic conflicts. Author Tom Burgis in his book; "The Looting Machine", writes about modern colonialism in Africa. He examines the staggering wealth, the rampant violence and the abject poverty which characterise many mineral rich countries in Africa today. This has become a pattern that is causing economic and environmental devastation across the continent.

Tom Burgis characterizes the looting of Africa's natural resources as another form of modern colonialism, citing countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, and Angola as the classical examples. The new beneficiaries of mineral wealth are the African leaders themselves together with the international corporate companies which make huge profits that do not in any form improve the lives of the general population in those countries. African governments together with multi-national companies, wield massive mineral wealth

and political power which constitutes, he says, it is a straight line from colonialism to modern African elite exploitation.

Burgis notes that Angola is a country rich in mineral oil wealth and yet between 2007 and 2010 a sum of 32 billion US dollars, a quarter of the GDP (gross domestic product), disappeared from the national coffers and no government official was made accountable for this loss of national revenues and wealth. It is the elite people in government that reject any accountability in the loss of national revenues, but instead would purge any dissenting voices that challenge such looting of that magnitude. The former colonial masters managed to merge both politics and commerce to control the economy of their respective former colonies. These scenarios make the Sub-Saharan continent the poorest and yet the rich in terms of its natural and human resources.

Angola is not the only classical example of the looting of natural resources by the national elite and various transnational mining corporations. Zambia's copper was looted in the same way by a British company called Vedanta KCM. It was accused of looting Zambia's copper resources in a report that exposed massive tax evasion and mis-declaration of profits, environmental devastation, and gross abuse of Zambian workers.

The World Bank Report of 2018, "The Changing Wealth of Nations", exposed chilling evidence of how African countries have become poorer because of rampant looting of its minerals, oil, and gas extraction the profits of which do not go to the improvement of the lives of the general population. On the other hand, it is the World Bank policies and practices which are oriented towards foreign loan repayments from developing countries through TNC profit repatriation. The transnational TNC repatriation of profit revenues sustains the looting. The yawning gap between production costs and the profit margins are excruciatingly wide apart.

The World Bank survey data of from 2009 to 2015, concludes that Sub-Saharan countries lose an estimated \$100 billion dollars of Adjusted Net Savings because it is the only region with periods of negative levels averaging a negative 3% of gross national income. (GNI) The depletion of natural resources is a key driver of negative Net Savings. Working together with EU, progressive African countries can lobby the EU in Brussels to give pressure to countries that are holding to looted revenues in European Banks and other institutions world-wide. Morally it is unacceptable to condone criminal actions of African elite that deposit their looted

money in European banks. The looted African countries revenues are in trillions of dollars, if recovered could assist in financing mega projects that could benefit the continent sustainably.

#### **4. EU is the biggest exporter to Sub-Sahara Countries: Chinese players cannot be ignored.**

The European Union is the biggest exporter in Sub-Saharan Africa, is estimated to be a quarter share of the total exports. This is followed by China that has a 17% share of the total. Hilma Shindondola-Mote gave a detailed account of the foreign economic influence on Sub-Saharan Africa of China and the rest of the western world at the Bremen Africa Conference in May 2018. The stock of Chinese direct investment in Africa was 32 billion US dollars in 2014, which is about 5% of the stock of <sup>4</sup>FDI on the Sub-Sahara continent. Mote-Shindondola says, of the 30 billion US dollars received by Africa from outside the continent, 1/6 was from China. China is deeply involved in infrastructure development, but with almost complete disregard for the poor governance existing in such countries as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, and South Sudan, to name only a few.

China is a late player in development and trade with African countries. Its contribution in major infrastructure development can no longer be underestimated or ignored. What may be a source of friction regarding the China-Africa partnership is China's practice of bringing their workers with them which frustrates local jobseekers. There are now an estimated one million Chinese workers in Africa. Silently, China is colonizing Africa through aid. African countries that receive infrastructure development from China default in debt repayment. Clandestinely the African countries are then required to give up institutions of interest as collateral: This kind of debt repayment has happened in Zambia; it poses a threat to national security.

The effective role that the EU can play in Africa is the supplying much needed structural, economic, and social development which is both durable and economically sustainable. Much of Sub-Saharan Africa's needs are, said Mote-Shindondola, robust, all-weather roads, rail and air connectivity and communications infrastructure that will link products with global markets and enable the respective governments to collect tax and tariffs to boost their domestic revenues. The EU should further extend its willingness to invest massively in those Low- and Middle-income countries to improve power infrastructures. (Club of Rome; EU Marshall Plan with Africa) This would vastly better the lives of rural communities. The trade

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<sup>4</sup> Foreign Direct Investment

assistance that Africa needs is that of value-addition to its natural resources. This will make it possible to generate opportunities for the young unemployed Africans on the continent.

The expansion of Chinese FDI to Africa appears to be harming the economic prospects of the European countries who have always packaged their FDI assistance to African countries with the need for good governance and respect for human rights. It is therefore becoming obvious that EU countries would prefer to ignore some of these democratic values in their competition against China for Africa's natural resources. Trade with European countries is invaluable to Africa. Europe should have preference to engage with Africa because they are neighbour continents that should have mutual interests in developing the continent and in reducing donor dependency by eliminating African poverty and hunger which is the main cause of mass migration.

## **5. Citizens in transit: Major causes of migration**

According to Terre des Femmes, over 65 million global citizens are in transit. This number represents citizens who are displaced internally and externally. Half of this number are women and girls. In 2015 alone, over 1 million refugees entered the borders of Germany seeking refugee status, most of them came from Syria fleeing a bitter Arab Spring conflict in their home country.

To quote the Terre des Femme document verbatim: "Women just like men are forcibly displaced from their homes because of war, terror, crisis, poverty, discrimination or because they fear religious as well as political motivated persecution. However, women and girls also flee because they face human rights violations in their home countries merely because they are women. (Gender-specific reasons) Gender violations can be e.g. gender inequalities, female genital mutilation, early marriages or forced marriages.

Women, when fleeing are the most vulnerable people. They are subject to all sorts of criminal acts and in most cases might be sold as slaves without their knowing. A small number of women refugees do manage to reach the shores of Europe and curiously, Germany is their favoured destination. Terre des Femme" demand special attention to be given to women in transit and to those seeking refuge in Germany.

The stringent laws regarding asylum seekers make even genuine cases of women fleeing gender-based violence in their countries of origin extremely difficult. "It is of greatest consolation that the Federal Republic of Germany recognizes gender-based violence as one of the reasons why African women flee their countries of birth. The German immigration laws

recognize and make it explicitly clear that the reasons why women flee can be women specific, and therefore an EU holistic approach is required to standardize the Asylum laws on women in transit as per the Geneva convention.

#### **(a) Causes for Migration: push and pull factors of migration**

There are four major causes influencing migration. Political, social, economic, and ecological factors are the main forces driving migration. Rising community conflicts and violence in most countries of Africa are common because of land dispute and ethnic or religious intolerance. These factors have led to increased levels of migration, can also be push and pull factors mainly dictated by the economic, political, climate change and social conditions:

**(i) Political reasons:** The political migrants are forced migrants; they leave because they fear for their lives with their families. In most countries in Africa conflicts are the major causes of displacements either internal or external. People yearn for freedom to worship or living in a country that will give them freedom to speak freely without fear of persecution. The availability of career opportunities or better paid jobs or abundance of food could be considered pull factors for migration to a new country. In each of these cases, a people will have greater chances to pursue a better life as compared to their home country of origin.

**(ii) Social reasons are** also called internally displaced migrants. They are people forced to leave their environment because of famine, environmental disasters in the region such as volcanoes or subsequent floods and drought. In some cases, governments in conjunction with international investors initiate large scale projects in those places leading to the evacuation of villages to make way for the intended national and international projects. These internal displacements are common and typical in most African countries. Inequality of incomes, inequality in access to land, and inequality of regional availability of public services also lead to migration in the country.

**(iii) Economic reasons:** People migrate to other places because of pull factors: economic migration is a pull factor. Migration is mostly determined by factors that attract them to migrate such as employment, higher wages better facilities such as housing and amenities, better health services, education for their children and better conditions of living and work. Their places of origin do not offer those living conditions and they prefer to leave their places of origin to eke out a living elsewhere where regular wages and salaries are guaranteed.

Economic migration is as old as mankind making it challenging to stop the movement: it can never be stopped. Those countries that give the pull to migration should review their legislation policies in a human manner because migration has become a global challenge.

There are established facts that migration can positively be of benefit to those host countries in as much as the lending countries. In some cases, migrants bring with them most needed expertise, skills and semi-skills that is of vital importance to the host countries' economies. Migration is also made possible by invitation of host countries because of demand for specific skills.

#### **(iv) Laws on asylum seeking in German Federal Republic**

Any person who seeks asylum in Germany can be granted it if she/he flees political prosecution in their home countries. An asylum seeker can stay in Germany if he or she is granted political asylum, refugee status, or subsidiary protection given to them by the agency that proves without doubt that she/he is indeed a genuine asylum seeker.

#### **(b) Women in transition and laws on asylum seeking in Germany and the rest of Western Europe**

According to the German Asylum Law: Section 3a2 (6) women can get asylum in Germany in accordance with the specified immigration law that recognises reason for asylum. Section 3c of the same section it also recognizes persecution executed by non state agents: that is societal rituals and traditions. Since 2005 the German Government recognized gender based specific persecution as reason for getting asylum. This law however limits women in various ways: they are unable to integrate fully into society because the law prohibits full integration, but at the same time, are not deported in accordance with the Section 60 Paragraph 7 of the residence Act and are not granted the full residence permit and full rights: a double bind.

Women in transit are protected by the international conventions too. According to the Geneva Convention, women in transit have the right to asylum if their lives are in danger in their home countries. They have gender-faced specific reasons for fleeing their home countries. The gender-based persecution according to Terre des Hommes is subdivided into three categories:

- *Politically motivated persecution or persecution because of a certain ethnic or religious status. During this form of persecution, gender-based violence is practised. Under this type of persecution, such as abduction and enslavement or sexualized violence on, for example, Yezidi women through militant groups of the so-called Islamic State in Iraq.*

- *Gender-specific persecution as a mean to enforce societal and state norms and moral ideas. Forced abortion or stoning be examples of this type.*
- *Gender-specific persecution as an expression of the societal understanding of the subordinate role of women in society, which is explicitly or implicitly accepted by the state. This kind of persecution can be, for example, female genital mutilation, forced and early marriages as well as trafficking in women and girls.*

Lori Heise, in her contribution to “crimes and Gender” says the following: *gender-specific violence and discrimination on women has never been treated with the same seriousness as other human rights abuses. If a person is murdered because of his or her political affiliation, the world justifiably responds with outrage. But if a woman is beaten and allowed to die because she is female, the world dismisses it as a cultural tradition.*

#### **(i) Terre des Femmes Commitment**

Women’s refugee rights have been an important part of our work at TERRE DES FEMMES. Since 2016 TERRE DES FEMMES has a new independent department called “Women’s Refugee Rights”. We stand up for the human rights and the protection of refugee girls and women in Europe and Germany. We furthermore seek to support refugee women during their societal integration in Germany.

A three-year empowerment project “CONNECT”, financially supported by the ‘Aktion Mensch,’ has started within the framework of the new department. CONNECT is thought of as a companionship program with newly arrived women in Berlin. The project’s major goal is to accompany such women settling in Germany and support their participation in society.

#### **(ii) Commitment of Die Linke towards gender-based asylum seeking**

**The Linke Party** welcomes the advances in international jurisprudence which means that gender-based violence on women and their subsequent persecution are now much in the purview of the Geneva Convention and causally connected to several other national and international laws representing sound grounds for successful refugee status.

It is in this complex context that **Die Linke party** wants to engage and work for the legal rights of women by improving their life-situation in the Federal Republic of Germany, especially in the asylum-seeking processes. However, it is lamented that the statutory instruments that process the asylum seekers in Germany often differ and are in contradiction to each other. The discrimination of lesbians, for example, is a gender-specific reason to

flee. But because in most cases the processes are deeply male-gendered, such persecutions may not be recognized in Germany and other European countries.

However, **Die Linke Party** wants to go beyond just giving asylum or refugee status to women in transit. Women can take this golden opportunity in exile to have access to further education to improve their lives by acquiring skills that could improve their lives remarkably. Most women were denied access to education in their countries of birth simply because they were girls. To prepare and empower them for any eventuality, it is necessary to assist them to help themselves. Formal and informal education is the fundamental method of empowering women in transit. Forms of education; vocational and otherwise should be made available to them. Lifelong skills are a major step towards their personal development in the event they are repatriated back to their countries of birth.

## **6. Prostitution: Germany is a disgrace of Europe.**

Prostitution is legal in Germany and sex industry pays taxes to the national revenue. This means, that the government recognizes sex-work as ethical and that it has become an industry of its own. Germany's prostitution industry is a multi-billion-Euro business which is booming and increasing. There are about half a million prostitutes in Germany who serve 2 million men every day. Germany has the highest number of prostitutes per capita than any other country in the Europe.

Prostitution has been tolerated for an exceedingly long time in modern Germany. Previously, the 1927 law on prostitution was meant to combat venereal diseases as well as to decriminalise this activity. It gave prostitution rights to sex workers, and these were further extended by a statutory act of 2002. This new law improved social security by allowing sex workers to engage in contracts with their employers and to pay contributions into the national social security networks to obtain health insurance and pension rights.

However, this industry has its own shortfalls, criminal activities flourish in such milieus, sex trafficking of young women is a major problem; they are exploited by criminals and forced to work in brothels and on the street. Drug consumption is widely used in brothels and sex shops. Most of the women who work in the sex industry come from East European and some African countries and constitute a percentage of 70%. Most of them do not want to pay tax because they stay in the country for only a noticeably short time. The yawning gap between the workers' pay and the profit returns is enormously high. The managers of the sex industry generate billions of tax revenues. The state views the contracts between consumers and the client as completely ethical work if government taxes are paid.

Die Linke Party characterizes prostitution as the manifestation of patriarchy and reflects its dominance in prostitution. The system of prostitution helps to preserve the existing power gap between women and men. Prostitution is based on a patriarchal notion of sexuality and sexual satisfaction of men is seen as paramount. It factually means it must be basically available to quench men sexual desires at any time and place. What is disturbing is that it is permitted by law and completely legal. Prostitution is incompatible with gender equality and violates human dignity, especially that of women. Prostitution is a source of violence by men to women. Prostitution promotes racism and sexual violence. It also encourages the trafficking of women from Africa or eastern European countries.

The prostitution industry violates the UN Declaration on Human Rights because a woman's rights are excessively violated in brothels and sex shops. However, prostitutes should not be criminalized. They need to be protected and they must be helped to exit from the trade and to be empowered to get alternative sources of income. The Linke Party considers the use of women for the satisfaction of men as a human rights violation which must be banned or prosecuted. Those who should be prosecuted are the men who fuel the demand. It is for this reason that the Die Linke Party calls for a complete ban on the trading of sex. This ban includes the concept of sex work as a taxable work-ethic.

### **6.1 Why is Germany a favourite destination of potential prostitutes?**

A documentary was aired on ARD, Germany's public-broadcasting station; it was called *Sex-Made in Germany*. The film was made in part by bringing hidden cameras into brothels over the course of two years. "Sex is cheaper than anywhere else," one brothel owner in Berlin says on camera. "Germany is the biggest whorehouse in Europe, no question," said a Danish customer, quoted in *Die Welt*.

It is a disturbing to realize that the flourishing sex-industry in Germany potentially attracts tourism. The presence of thousands of legal brothels and street-sex-zones are as common as discount supermarkets. The large number of sex shops means that the prices of cheap sex are dropping due to the competitiveness of the disgraceful sex market. There are 3000 red-lights streets and zones in Germany, including 500 brothels in Berlin alone. The sex industry massively boosts the tourism industry. Germany's sex industry is encouraging tourists coming from those countries where prostitution is illegal. In Germany alone one million men pay for sex every day.

Women come from Eastern European countries with Germany as their destination to make easy money quickly before returning to their home countries. Some of these Eastern Europe countries belong to the European Union and travelling to Germany is made easy by the open borders. Germany is a haven both for Eastern European and African women to make easy money through the sex-industry. Sex tourism boosts and totally disregards the atrocities related to the sex-industry. In some cases, thousands of women from Eastern Europe and Africa are duped or forced to work in brothels and sex shops.

It is not easy to fully understand the plight of these women as they often do not speak German and some of them are not allowed to integrate in the German population. This is the point where women will be abused both financially and sexually. The violence and cruelty of the trade leaves most women physically and emotionally impaired.

Some African women migrants prefer Germany as their destination because of the chances they have to get easy money to support their families in their home countries. They know German laws do allow sex work and since most of them have no educational background, prostitution is the only trade they can engage in to subsist relatively well. In some cases, the journey to Europe was made possible using the money they borrowed from relatives. In this way they incurred a large debt to facilitate their journeys to Europe and this debt must be paid back in a specified time. The pressure to repay their debts forces them to enter the sex industry. The message went around many African countries that in Germany prostitution is legal.

## **6.2 The position the Linke Party towards prostitution in Germany**

The sex industry removes all dignity about a woman and of women. Women literally become sex-slaves, a status which is legally recognised by the German government. Women who work in the industry are emotionally, physically, and socially violated and these nurtures the superiority of male patriarchy.

If the State of Germany bans prostitution and revokes the 2002-act that legalises prostitution, the number of sex trafficked women from Eastern Europe will begin to drop. Germany will cease to attract those African women migrants who target Germany as their preferred destination because they see prostitution as the easiest way to get money without the necessary permit documentation.

This is the grey area where governments should work together to find solutions and alternatives to sex work. Africans rural communities with exceptionally low incomes should be the direct beneficiaries of the new EU Marshall Plan with Africa. This will improve

women's lives in their respective countries of origin so that they do not consider sex work as an option during migration.

## **7. Depopulation of Africa and brain-drain**

The term “brain drain” designates or defines the international transfer of human resources and mainly applies to the migration of relatively highly educated individuals from developing countries to developed countries. Loss of professional skills has an adverse effect on the development of the continent of Africa. Numerous doctors, nurses, engineers, professors, and other top skilled professionals are deserting Africa. It is a tragedy that such professionals could have invested their skills to better their own people and their own continent of origin-Africa. The push and pull factors of this brain drain are wide-ranging and complex and depend on African misgovernment. Professionals are forced to leave because of various reasons such as political instability and conflicts leading to wars and uncertainties. Higher wages elsewhere and better living standards and opportunities for one’s family are the major driving factors behind their decision to emigrate.

The World Bank Report estimates that African migrants have doubled between 1980 and 2010 reaching 30.6 million. This represents around 3% of the continent’s total population. Approximately half of these African migrants stay in Africa: in Côte d’Ivoire, in South Africa, in Burkina Faso; the most popular destinations. However, the number of African migrants who stay in Africa has decreased steadily over time (from 59% in 1980 to 51% in 2010). There is a growing movement of North African migrants to the Middle East along with Europe as the second most popular destination.

Are professionals who leave their countries regarded as migrants as well? There are indeed migrants, who may not necessarily be refugees but are attracted by developed countries that appreciate their professions. In the year 2000, the United Kingdom went on a recruitment drive for social workers and nurses in developing countries because there was a severe shortage of that profession. One of the countries whose professionals took up the offer and relocated to the UK was Zimbabwe. The United Nations Report of 2013 shows one in nine Africans with a tertiary education, 2.9 million people, were living in developed countries in Europe, North America and elsewhere. This is a 50% increase in the past 10 years, more than in any other region in the world.

In some cases, professionals are not invited to these developed countries per se. Most migrants study in developed countries and never come back. Most African students prefer to

go to America as their preferred destination. A report from the New York-based Institute of International Education concludes that ambitious African youth perceives the US as having better quality higher education and can access numerous scholarships available for talented students. As of 2014, there were 31,113 students from Sub-Saharan Africa, comprising 4% of the 886,052 international students in the US. The top Sub-Saharan African countries of origin are Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, and Ethiopia. The UK came second, being the first choice of 6% of Nigerian and 4% of South African students and the most popular second choice for students from Sub-Saharan Africa.

Former South Africa president Thabo Mbeki once commented that Africa's brain drains as "frightening." Africa has lost 20,000 academics and 10% of highly skilled information technologists and finance professionals, he stated. Mbeki estimates that more African scientists and engineers live and work in the USA and the UK than anywhere else in developed countries. Improving living conditions in all aspects African communities cannot be emphasised enough. That said, the lack of development in Africa does not attract its own citizens to see Africa as their home anymore. This exodus is coupled by many other factors such as poor and despotic regimes that do not accommodate dissenting voices.

## **8. Slave trading in northern countries of Africa**

It is estimated that more than 40 million people are living in modern day slavery. Some of them are forced into labour. Millions of people in Africa are taken in as slaves partly to countries beyond the Mediterranean Sea. Slaves are the world's most vulnerable people who initially had the initiative to leave their country or origin to seek better lives elsewhere, only to be taken in as slaves to be sold in the marketplaces. There remains no trace of them when they are bought by slave owners. What makes them leave their countries of origin is obvious. They are fleeing from poverty, conflicts, and various other problems in their country of origin. It is reported that hundreds of Africans are auctioned in slave-markets in Libya for as little as \$400 US dollars per person. This is a shocking danger facing migrants especially when they target Libya as their en-route passage to southern, middle, and northern European countries.

After the death of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, there has been a power vacuum in Libya that has led to lawlessness in the country. Migrants have taken advantage of this transit hub to reach the shores of southern Europe, their destination of choice. Most countries affected are

Nigeria, Eritrea, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Senegal, Sudan and Somalia, Cameroon, Ghana, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

According to ILO, out of a total number of 880,000 forced labourers in European Union Member States, 270,000 (30%) are estimated to be victims of forced sexual exploitation and 610,000 (70) are victims of forced labour exploitation. Women constitute the clear majority of victims (58%) Activists call for people to be more circumspect about what they buy, particularly if they search for bargains. "At the very least prices are an indication for consumers," Anger says. "When something is unbelievably cheap, it's easy to imagine that it's been produced extremely cheaply. At the very end of the chain, there is someone who received even less. If I buy a kilo of meat for four Euros, it can't have been produced fairly."

Anger says that even in Germany, with its relatively robust labour and human rights guarantees, workers are forced to labour under slave-like conditions. The activist names the vegetable farms- and meat-production industry as example. She is calling on the German authorities to do more to enforce existing anti-labour-exploitation laws and to fight abuse by cracking down on the use of sub-contractors as a way of flouting legal protections for workers.

"When people are in serious of existential needs for instance, when they come as refugees to Europe, it's relatively easy to compel them to do slave labour," Anger explains. "For example, people are brought to the plantations in Italy and Spain. That is where our tomatoes and our cucumbers come from, and they are produced under unspeakable conditions. People are forced to work from 12 to 14 hours a day." Often, people are lured to work in Europe with the promise of free lodging and food only to see their already meagre wages eaten away by charges for room and board, water and even "rental fees" for tools. This type of slavery is commonly known as "debt bondage" or "bonded labour."

Although Africans are particularly likely to become slaves, modern slavery is a global phenomenon that comes in different forms and is part of the production process of a variety of goods in places around the planet. Slave labour is used in the production of everything from cotton in Uzbekistan to tea in India to shrimp in South-east Asia. Experts estimate that some \$150 billion dollars (€128 billion) in profits are generated by enslaving people every year.

## 9. Conflict zones in Africa

There has been serious warfare between the Boko Haram and the **Nigerian government** since 2009. Boko Haram is waging a war mainly against the Christian communities in the northern parts of Nigeria. The abduction of 230 girls gave the world at large the degree of seriousness of the Boko Haram conflict in the northern Nigerian region.

Recently the **Central African Republic** rebels have seized several towns and cities and are currently conducting a war of total occupation in the capital city of Bangui. French intervention is mainly being undertaken to protect French citizens living in the country and normally do not want to interfere with the conflict.

**In Burundi**, an attempted coup took place while President Nkuruzinza was on a state visit to Tanzania. The coup failed, however, resulting in mass executions of those who were the organisers of the coup.

**The Democratic Republic Congo** has been wracked with civil war, rebellions, and the presidential assassination of Senior Kabila. Foreign intervention by bordering states in the region has also been a major problem. Most of these conflicts are supported by Uganda and Rwanda. The movement known as the "The March Movement" or M23 gets military and financial support from these two neighbouring countries. The presence of the UN does not seem to make any impact on the ground although it is there to support of Kinshasa government.

**In Libya**, the death of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi and the subsequent fall of Libyan state have made the situation in Libya worse than before the death of Gaddafi. The instability of Libya has attracted African migrants who see Libyan ports as the passage to European shores. The state of lawlessness morphs in many criminal activities that cannot be tackled effectively by the current government. ISIS is currently present in the city of Sirte, hence the US military involvement to assist the government of Libya to gain control of regions taken over by ISIS and other groupings.

In **northern Mali** there is still an on-going conflict between the Taureg ethnic group and the Mali government. The Taureg fighters were initially trained by Muammar Gaddafi during his regime. When he died the Taureg militant groups returned to Mali and took over the state of Mali. They were repelled by the invasion of France and a coalition of African countries in the region. The government is in control of the state only because of the assistance of French

troops. To this date, the Malian government, with the assistance of French troops, is on alert mode, hunting down pockets of Taureg militants.

Since the downfall of General Siad Barre in **Somalia** in 1978, Somalia has never enjoyed a single moment of peace. Serious conflicts have come and gone. At a certain point there was no government to talk about in Somalia until some Somali nationals in the Diaspora organised themselves and formed a state with the assistance of the US troops. What makes the situation in Somalia much more complicated is the presence of the Al-Qaida affiliated al-Shabaab. These rebels have formed different groups with different affiliations making the conflict seriously convoluted.

The causes of these conflicts are extremely complicated. The central government of Somalia is weak and could not exist without the assistance of the US and front-line states such as Kenya, Uganda Burundi, Ethiopia, and other African countries in the area. It would appear as if the presence of the US in Somalia is mainly to fight piracy, guarding ships from Somalian pirates in the Indian Ocean. They also carry out rescue operations inside Somalia. Sadly there does not seem to be an end to the carnage and destruction in Somalia of innocent human lives and livelihoods.

The civil war in **South Sudan** is currently the most convoluted conflict and the bloodiest in Africa. The independence of South Sudan was meant to pave the way to a durable peace between two distinct peoples. Those in the north are Muslims and Arabic speaking and the other people in the south are Black South Sudanese and Christian. Currently in South Sudan war continues between the two ethnic groups. The cause of this situation is due to several reasons: South Sudan has oil reserves. These are known as the Greater-Nile-Oil-Reserves. The other reason for conflict is water and the Nile River. There is no end in sight for this conflict.

*“While the Bubonic plague is still regarded today as the inordinately tragic disease of the fourteenth century in both scale and numbers, it may be said that modern-day conflicts are the self-inflicted plague of our own choice” from unknown source.*

It was hoped that when South Sudan got its independence from mainland Sudan, normalcy was going to return to this war-torn zone of Africa. Civil war began inside South Sudan immediately after they declared independence. The curse of this war is the oil rich natural resources in the region. The conflict is between the Hauthi Rebels and the Arab Coalition bank-rolled by Saudi Arabia. Retaliatory killings and abductions take place daily. The South

Sudan conflict has claimed tens of thousands of deaths. Almost 40 thousand have been injured in the crossfire and millions need urgent assistance of all kinds.

With the assistance of the EU Marshall Plan with Africa, the Die Linke Party will help to activate UN Resolution; 1325. This resolution seeks to find solutions for women who suffer disproportionately in war situations. The problems such as disability, poor living conditions, malnutrition, sexual disease, pregnancy related diseases and intentional injuries in conflict scenarios. Women are at risk of sexual violence and rape in any conflict. The burden of caring for other members of the family makes women particularly vulnerable to these risks and imperils the lives of their children and themselves.

The Security council Resolution <sup>5</sup>1325 (SCR1325) was unanimously adopted by the UN Security Council in year 2000. For the first time the Security Council addressed the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women; recognised the undervalued and under-utilized contributions women make to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The resolution also emphasized the importance of women's equal and full participation as active agents in peace and security.

## **10. Arms trade in the African continent**

According to Washington D.C. African has the greatest number of conflicts in the world. Whereas some conflicts are latent, most of them are active and open hostilities are expressed through armed conflicts. The countries with active conflicts are Angola, Burundi, Chad, Cote d'voire. DRC, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Cameroon, Republic of Congo Senegal, Sierra Leone Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania Zanzibar, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Illicit trading of small arms and the lesser cost of buying them is what nurtures conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The influx of small arms and light weapons is financed by cash and diamonds, oil reserves, minerals such as gold and platinum and, of course, other means. However it is not the availability of light weapons that is the cause of wars in Africa. Small weapons and light arms trigger and prolong these conflicts. The disproportionate number of casualties in Africa due to conflicts is triggered by the availability of small arms and light weapons. These amount to about 7 to 8 million since 2001. and are a major cause in creating the 14 million refugees and asylum seekers of African origin fleeing the conflict regions. Of the 21 million internally

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6 Resolution SCR1325

displaced people in the world, 10 million are Africans, mainly due to unending wars and political instability.

Arms trading in Africa are a business that has existed for centuries. This trade still makes billions of dollars each year and there is no government or NGOs on the continent that can control it effectively. These small arms and light weapons are often in the control of failed politicians, but in most cases, conflicts arise between political parties and communities and small arms are used to determine who wins the conflict.

One can even talk of a gun-culture in some parts of Africa. The global arms industries know exactly where lucrative profits are to be made Africa. Africa has unending conflicts in many regions and the arms trade feeds on them supplying easily available weapons as a means of perpetuating conflicts. Some civil conflicts develop into full scale wars after rebel groups have acquired arms. Sometimes these are seized or stolen from government forces or looted from state armouries or purchased from corrupt soldiers.

Some countries in Africa produce small arms and light weapons; South Africa and Ghana are two of the few African countries known to produce small arms. But their trade is strictly monitored by their respective governments. Their products, however, do not usually end up in rebel groups that will use the weapons in conflict situations. According to Schroder and Lamb, the arms trade in Africa is opaque, amorphous, and dynamic. The methods of smuggling small arms are limitless and the demand for small arms and light weapons is also limitless.

Small arms range from assault rifles and machine-gun to rocket propelled grenades. They are all lightweight, and easy to conceal on their way to the recipients. The brokers and buyers of weapons utilise a triangular production and delivery circuit which makes their availability and delivery easy and safe. Most developed countries are eager to dispose of their out-of-date small arms to African conflict zones because the technology in arms production has advanced, making it possible to dump their out-of-date arms to Africans.

Outside Africa, the countries that produce arms that reach Africa are mainly produced China, Israel and the countries of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation. (OSCE) Specialised globe-trotting arms dealers either fly or ship their consignments illicitly into Africa. The illicit routes in Africa are often also rivers or delivered along the coast. The

transfers are dazzlingly complex, says Schroder and Lamb. They consist of backdoor companies doing the transactions, utilising false paperwork carried out by unscrupulous brokers. Conflicts in Africa have led to intensification of civil wars because of the availability of small arms, without which they cannot be sustained and expanded into full scale war. Inter-community tensions lead to various types of conflict and are caused by such factors as such as mineral wealth, water and disputes on cattle grazing rights, Weak states such as Somalia and the DRC have conflicts due to ethnic tensions which are violently intensified because of the availability of small arms.

Illicit trading of arms has a devastating effect on community development. There are constant deaths resulting from disputes due to the availability of small arms. Deaths and the trauma of victims of violence caused using small arms, seriously impedes meaningful development. Families are displaced and food production is disrupted. According to Schroder and Lamb, military conflict has resulted in approximately 4 million people losing their lives in the DRC. This is an estimated of 7% of the population. In Sudan one million people have lost their lives and six million are internally displaced due to civil war. War induced by the availability of small to medium arms from the warlords.

Armed conflicts disrupt normal democratic governance, contribute to the collapse of fragile states, cause human rights violations, and generate refugees and migration. Communities are internally displaced and are unable to lead normal lives. Conflicts divert scarce resources away from social services and can also disrupt trade. Tourism is impossible in conflict countries. When communities cannot produce food because of civil wars and displacements, they depend on food-handouts from donor agencies. Often these donor agencies cannot reach these communities because armed rebels block them from giving the necessary assistance. As a result, many people die of hunger and malnutrition. Many roads and railway systems are destroyed by militant groups who disrupt forms of communication amongst rural communities and their respective governments.

The consequences of conflicts are pervasive and leave grave psychological scars on populations. Children are left traumatized and become accustomed to the culture of violence. Yet concerning violence on children, it is particularly shocking how child soldiers are recruited by armed militias. The Coalition to Stop the Use of Children as Child Soldiers claims that there are between 120,000 to 300,000 child-soldiers in Africa alone. Conflicts in which child-soldiers are utilised include Angola, Burundi, the DRC, Ethiopia, Liberia,

Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Uganda. These are, however, only those countries that are thought to have the largest number of child-soldiers.

Armed conflicts in Africa are extraordinarily complex and almost impossible to end. Huge profits are made in these conflicts. To some armed conflict is already a way of life, a way of subsisting, especially in zones which have natural resources to protect, such as mineral reserves, water, and land for livestock. Soldiers and guerrillas profit immensely from small arms sales, especially to those who have access to barter system of selling and buying. It is strongly believed that if European countries controlled their "out of date arms" getting into illicit trading to Africa, it can inadvertently reduce conflicts. EU Marshall Plan with Africa is in this context of vital importance: the controlling this scourge of arms trading to African conflict zones begins in Europe. In a noisy gun-shooting environment, there can never be any development.

## **11. Democracies in Africa: Fragile democratic governance in Sub-Saharan continent**

When some countries in Africa became independent (Ghana got its independence as early as 1957), it was thought that Africa with its resources would be able to govern itself better than in colonial times. Africa has the most fragile democracies in the world today. When the colonisers left the colonies, African despots came in to fill the gap left by the oppressors. To some extent, many African rulers have worse governance practices than those during the colonial period. Removing white colonialism to replace it with black elites did not solve Africa's problems, instead escalated the ethnic divisions that were suppressed by the colonisers.

Democracies or western-type democracies are alien to most African societies which were mostly monarchic in nature. Democracy was force-fed to them by their colonial masters. Rulers in most African countries cannot be dislodged from power even though immediately after dismantling colonialism, multi-party democracies spread across the continent. Mengistu Haile Mariam fled Ethiopia for Zimbabwe, Mobutu Sese Seko fled Zaire for Morocco and he died in exile, Mandela defeated Apartheid South Africa with a land-slide victory, Sani Abacha died in office. This impressive achievement can also be called a second Africa's liberation from despots or African Renaissance, but a lot of despots are still in power, sometimes will call for sham elections to cover their obvious autocratic rules.

Nobody ever saw it coming that the black autocratic leadership: (most of them are without ideas) would in the long run, be deadlier than the colonial slavery and servitude. Most countries in the developed world tolerate these despotic rulers for their own economic benefit, making it impossible to undo their regimes by democratic means.

Democracy is a global etiquette of standard and measure of good governance. To be part of this once in a lifetime EU Marshall Plan with Africa, African countries must embrace the core values of the UN democracy. The UN normative framework of human rights are values of freedom, respect for human rights and principles of holding periodic and genuine elections by universal suffrage. These are essential elements for democracy. The UN human rights normative framework's commission of 2002 set out the following elements as guidelines of democracy: respect for human rights and fundamental freedom, freedom of association, freedom of expression, access to power and its exercise in accordance with the rule of law, holding periodic free and fair elections by universal suffrage and by secret ballots as the expression of the people, a pluralistic system of political parties and organisations, the separation of powers, the independent of the judiciary, transparency and accountability in public administration and free, independent and pluralistic media.

## **12. Climate change in the African continent**

The African continent is a casualty of climate change, but African communities are not the direct perpetrators of climate change in any significant proportion. Today we know that about 97% of global warming is due solely to human activities. This has been established by the world's scientific community. There is now no doubt that human civilization is the cause of global warming and climate change. Climate change manifests itself in variations in the upper layers of the earth's atmosphere producing alterations in the solar energy which the earth is receiving.

Global temperatures are rising, the ocean is absorbing the heat noticeably, the ice in the Antarctic is melting and glaciers are retreating almost everywhere on the earth's surface. Furthermore, the oceans have acidified significantly by 30% because of carbon dioxide emissions that are absorbed by the upper layers of the oceans. An estimated 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide are emitted yearly into the atmosphere by the industrialized countries.

In so far as Africa is concerned, how do we explain the existence of the Sahara Desert: Does the Sahara Desert exist due to human activities? One hypothesis suggests that the Sahara Desert was once lush and green and that human activities may have contributed to

its disappearance by tipping the balance which kick-started a dramatic ecological transformation.

Other evidence suggests that the presence of pastoralists with domesticated animals such as goats and cattle grazed across the Saharan grasslands so intensely that they turned everything to scrub and desert. This overgrazing may have reduced the amount of atmospheric moisture and plants that give off moisture to produce clouds and rain, enhancing albedo. This human element may have triggered the end of the humid period more abruptly than can be explained by the Earth's orbital changes and may have been caused by alterations in the atmosphere to the strength and penetration of solar radiation over the Sahara.

Yet another hypothesis suggests that the Sahara would have turned into a desert without any human contribution whatsoever. It is theorised that the African Monsoon got weaker because of the equator moving northwards, degrading the vegetation for a period until a tipping point was reached. This caused the ecological transformations which accelerated the formation of the desert. A shift between green Sahara and a desert constituted or constitutes climate change.

Whether the causes of climate change are due to anthropogenic factors is a question for debate. We cannot escape the fact that humans are the key species which has the greatest impact on the Earth's complex ecology. The Sahara Desert has expanded by 10% in the last century caused by the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation. It is also the largest warm weather desert in the world. The expansion of the Sahara Desert is encroaching on the Savannah ecosystems negatively and this development trend can no longer be ignored.

### **12.1 Climate change and Sub-Saharan Africa**

Sub-Saharan Africa will experience significant difficulty in dealing with climate change. This global phenomenon will affect ecosystems and access to natural resources such as fertile land and water. This will be extremely challenging to Africa's vulnerable societies. The sub-Saharan continent is a region with low adaptive capacity due to poverty, lack of infrastructure services and governments that are accountable.

Africa is therefore a continent that needs special attention in developing adaptive strategies to cope with climate change, protection of natural resources, human populations, and ecosystems. Just like all other continents, the African continent is experiencing a warming trend that is characterised by extreme heat and increasingly unpredictable changes in

rainfall patterns, particularly in the southern cone of Africa where there is a decline in rainfall patterns: On the other hand in East Africa there is an increase in rainfall patterns.

Africa's high rate of under-nutrition and disease can be expected to increase with climate change. Those who are the most vulnerable to climate change are societies which depend on rain for their agricultural livelihoods. The rain patterns have become so unreliable that significant rain may not come for from four to seven consecutive years and may not be enough for meaningful agriculture to even subsist.

The effects of climate change in Africa are well documented and evidenced in changes in temperature that directly affect health, livelihoods, food productivity, water availability and the overall security of the African continent. The Climate Change Vulnerability Index 2015 says 7 out of 10 countries are at risk from climate change in Africa. The decrease in rainfall from the Sahel and southern Africa and an increase in rainfall in central and east Africa is a trend wholly induced by climate change. Weather related disasters have been recorded since the Millennium. There have been floods e.g. in Mozambique, north and east African countries: drought in countries such as Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa, leading to higher mortality rates which have been experienced in most regions in Sub-Saharan Africa because of dwindling weather patterns.

Scientists have noted that there is a gradual disappearance of glaciers on Mount Kilimanjaro in East Africa. This glacier acts as a water tower, but the river flows that feed and depend on this glacier as their source of water supply are drying up. It is estimated that almost 80% of the ice that capped the mountain when it was first recorded in 1912 has disappeared.

### **12.2 Impacts of climate change on women and children in rural communities**

Climate change is mostly felt by women and children because they are the most vulnerable part of Africa's population. Women are the caregivers and are responsible for looking after older people and family livelihoods which makes it extremely challenging to relocate elsewhere. The water scarcity puts an additional burden on women who must walk for hours to fetch water for the family. Children and young people face high risk due to their susceptibility to infectious diseases such as malaria, cholera and such factors as limited movement and food inadequacies. Heat stress, wildfires, malnutrition, diarrhoeal diseases, and flooding are a constant threat to this already impoverished niche.

There can be severe flooding, interchanged with drought, which leads to the destruction of homes and sometimes entire villages. Conflicts over resources are not uncommon and to

some extent this triggers internal and external displacement of communities and migration between countries in Africa. The South Sudan refugees who were residing in a UN camp were living in knee-deep, sewage-contaminated floodwater, forcing some families to sleep standing up so they can hold their children out of the water for days.

### **12.3 Climate change has major impacts on National Security.**

Climate change triggers national security issues and has the potential to cause international conflicts within the continent. Conflicts in Africa occur over the use of already scarce natural resources, fertile ground, and water sources. Access to reliable water sources are a regional and national asset, hence climate change can threaten the peaceful existence of communities due to dwindling rainfall patterns which they may share communally. The UN predicts that water sources are the biggest cause of conflicts in Africa, especially in places where water sources such as lakes and rivers are collectively owed by communities or neighbourhood countries: the Nile River is one cause of conflict example.

Without technical know-how and other forms of assistance from our neighbour continent Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa will suffer hugely from climate change because there is a significant interplay between climate change on one hand and poverty & conflict on the other. About 50% of the poorest communities in Sub-Saharan Africa work in agriculture of which 43% of the land are dry and almost arid yielding a bare and minimum existence. This is a major challenge for future generations. It is therefore an imperative and compelling fact that the continent of Africa needs its neighbour Europe to assist it especially with Europe's technical know-how in tackling climate change for the benefit of both continents.

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