

Delegation from

Represented by

São Tomé and Príncipe

Marta Caramel and Giacomo De Lorenzi

Position Paper for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

São Tomé and Príncipe acts in the interests of solving the two topics proposed, which are: the Sustainable Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Access to Modern Energy in Least Developed Countries.

I. Sustainable Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation in Sub-Saharan Africa

Introduction

The United Nations resolution, planned on the 29th of July, 2010, asserts the existence of “Drinkable water and sanitation services right as a human primary right for life and human rights full pleasure” (Introduction, Testella). The guarantee of drinkable water's availability, sanitation facilities and health life-style, with the increasing of states' profit on providing for basic healthy and hygienic conditions, is one of the current universal challenges. Developing a less developed state demands new heights of multilateral action based on evidence and built on shared values, principles, and priorities for a common destiny (art. 14, Secretary-General's synthesis report). Infant mortality social gap and the low life expectancy at birth are nothing more than disturbing badge of a society in need of equality, economic, technological and medical improvement. In Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) all these sectors are not enhanced, since their dependence on access to modern sanitation structure. Beforehand many project, as Target 7C of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), World Bank's financing, have already been undertaken by International Organizations and many supplementary Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have been instituted in order to follow the above-listed

targets, like Sanitation and Water for All, Un-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water, International Labour Organization, World Water Council.

Policy of São Tomè and Príncipe

We gained the independence in 1975. Hereinafter, scanty interest in development at first, and many regime's swings later, have provoked unreliability and discontinuity, with an unavoidable result: general depletion. We note a downturn caused by drought and mismanagement, key factors of the damage in the exportation of agricultural products. Safe accesses to drinkable water are necessary to help the economic growth, arrested by the debt increase in these years, supporting services in all the three economic sectors. On the strength of collected data about health in our state, as 49.16 deaths/1,000 live births for infant death (CIA world factbook), common terms to all SSA states, we consider the action of the international community necessary in order to face the HLPF's topics.

Description of the issue

Many organization have been established in these years for the debate issued by HLPF; lot of them are under the control of the World Health Organization (WHO). The WHO has been concentrated on this topic since its creation in 1948 and its core functions are set out in the 6-year-period Twelfth General Programme of Work. A list of goals and strategies was drafted considering the new 2014-2019 project, as the HLPF's activities list compiled in 1992 and called Agenda 21 (HLPF sustainable development). These issues are: “...provide harmonized water quality management guidelines and supporting resources; strengthen the capacity of Member States to most effectively manage water quality to protect public health; facilitate the implementation of water quality and health activities through partnerships and more effectively inform decision-making...(chapter 2, WHO's 2013 meeting)”; “....meet primary health care needs, particularly in rural areas; control communicable diseases, protect vulnerable groups; meet the urban health challenge and reduce health risks form environmental pollution and hazards...” (chapter 6, Agenda 21). To fulfill these missions they improve coordination and cooperation between relevant authorities in establishing,

implementing and maintaining efficient systems for assessing water quality and in addition, for the harmonization of national policy and arrangements, they also try to assist Member States in conducting economic evaluations of their water quality management options (chapter 2, WHO's 2013 meeting). There are not domestic initiatives to improve these angles in our state, but according to the country's course of action of nonconformity to global conflicts but of cooperation with all organizations, states and projects, that would help our economy, there would be many proposals we could subscribe to, if we were not be concentrated uniquely on our economic crisis solution. Those strategies are obstructed by some edges, as states self-concentration on private economic recession, disagreement between regions, which do not support South-South agreements, adverse climate and environment, the spread of illnesses caused by the insufficient investments of the colonial power on colonies development before their independence, and population unawareness of sanitarian and health problems.

Solutions

Ambitious targets of the new agenda post-2015 will require political will and action on all fronts: domestic and international, public and private. Aid and trade, regulation, taxation and investment, are then recommended to support the issue. The whole International Community should help developing states sharing not only resources and goods but also and mainly advice and experiences. Each developed state has, in this sector, the possibility of investing part of its knowledge in states that need support. Every SSA state should adhere to above-listed projects, doing the best of its possibilities; should prefer South-South cooperation rather than Foreign Direct Investment, prevent a mistreatments and enhance bilateral covenants of regional collaborations; should promote a campaign for awareness, raising the intelligent employment of sanitarian structures and services, and should assure enduring government with permanent objectives, following the suggestions of the international community. North-South partnership should be stipulated among SSA states and developed state, in order to import machineries and technologies for the water desalination and for

energy production. The payment would happen through goods instead of money (contract terms would be established privately between the involved parts). Thus thanks to improved irrigation systems, agriculture would be developed; moreover it would be supported by a possible contract between SSA states which are in the same development band, entering the Global Market with communal productions. Along these lines, the odds of getting a benefit for industry would be raised. Such desalinations would be supplied by photovoltaic system, financed by the Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (which has allocated 5 million Euro since 2010 to begin investments on renewable sources in African States), World Future Council and the World Bank, adopting the recent Development Agency of Abu Dhabi's project of a Solar Industrial Desalination.

II. Access To Modern Energy In LDCs

Introduction

One of the most pressing challenges nowadays is achieving global access to Modern Energy (ME) in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), that are the “poorest and weakest portion” of the international community. This effort consists on providing sustainable sources of clean, reliable and affordable energy for basic cooking, lighting, communications and mechanical power necessities in the forms of electricity, gas and power. There are currently 48 states, that account for 880 million people, divided between Africa, Asia and Central America. They are banded together in a official list created in 1971 by the UN General Assembly in order to bring ME to those countries, usually described by equal specific economic, health and political situations: they depend on an external import of energies and goods; people's life is always in danger due to an inaccurate employment of energies resources, that in this case are wood, gasoline, charcoal and gas; the energy lack for machineries limits doctors' assets, reducing therefore all medical procedures to hours of sunlight and prevents right preservation of drugs; they often suffer from governance crisis and political

instability. Then, as education and human rights are threatened too, the International Community has already started to debate this topic establishing many projects.

Policy of São Tomè and Príncipe

São Tomè and Príncipe has been a LDC's member since 1982. As all other list members, we have been judged with regard to these following criteria: The Human asset index (which size up children mortality, secondary school enrollment, adult literacy and population undernourishment); The Economic vulnerability index (that measures the structural vulnerability of countries to exogenous economic and environmental shocks); The Gross national income per capita (an indicator that provide information on the income status of a country); the Instability of exports of goods and services; Victims of natural disasters; Instability of agricultural production. Since that first evaluation we have been working firmly to improve our situation.

Description of the issue

“Access to affordable, reliable and renewable energy and related technologies under mutually agreed terms and conditions and the efficient use and distribution of energy will be critically important in enhancing productive capacity, which is key to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development” (Istanbul conference). The International Development Strategy for the second UN Development Decade for the 1970s incorporates special measures in favor of the LDCs. With a view to exactly tackle that emergency and to reinvigorate the pledge of development and transformation, the International Community met in Istanbul, Turkey, for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 9-13 May 2011, discussing the aim of providing a major opportunity to deepen the global partnership in support of LDCs. Developing countries lag far behind in expanding access to modern energy services to accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, which has been substituted since 2015, after Rio+20 Conference, by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), whose efforts are even more ambitious than their predecessor. The new framework will tackle not only ‘MDG type’ challenges such as poverty

eradication, but also issues such as climate change, peace, security and renewable energy, which are not achievable through public finance but also feasible through public-private, domestic-external cooperation. The Goal 7 on ensuring success to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, is a clear instance. Unfortunately proposed methodologies have not been efficient yet. Nevertheless many projects as International Energy Agency, Sustainable Energy for All and World Health Organization, are working in order to decisively change these situations.

Solutions

“Those of us from Africa, where this need is the greatest, where this represents the most serious constraint on our ability to achieve our development agenda, that we must all now concentrate on that and invite our partners to work with us on this problem” (Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, 20). Like to Mrs Sirleaf's speech, National Community should take part in international conferences with burning interest, participating for instance to the UN's 3rd conference on financing for development (Addis Ababa, July 2015). Moreover, a campaign to raise awareness and meeting to call upon governments attention on modern energy, should be held for the topic resolution. In order to guarantee the priority of LDCs benefit, these countries should preferably stipulate Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), that have already met success in developing areas. Thank to its wide-scale application and its long run, this model of agreement has already assisted many LDCs in their development of infrastructure and communications. All agencies that have financed projects and arrangements till now should move their investments from advanced areas to a hard pressed ones, supporting the relationships and the communications between isolated villages and the employment of safe machineries, that are used for daily activities like cooking and working. In conclusion to concentrate on the Modern Energy sector, providing for gas pipeline, cooking stoves, as Solar Cookers and Ovens (projects of the Solar Cookers International), condensate air refrigerator and new lighting systems is necessary; we should invest in renewable energy in order to reduce environmental damages.

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