

# THE ROLE OF GOVERNANCE, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH SUDAN

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## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

**The Role of Governance;** Governance has to do with the manner in which responsibility is discharged. Such a responsibility may be acquired through election, appointment, or delegation in the public domain, or in the area of commerce (i.e., corporate governance) (Mbaku& Smith, 2012).

**Sustainable development:** it refers to a mode of human development in which resource use aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment so that these needs can be met not only at present but also for generations to come (Todaro,2010).

The Governance as the exercise of political, economic and administrative authority in the management of a country's affairs at all levels (UNDP, 2006). For UNDP governance "comprises the complex mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, mediate their differences and exercise their legal rights and obligations. Union Development Agency, defines governance as the ability and capacity of a government to fulfill its mission (Mbaku& Smith, 2012). According to Brinkerhoff, the design and implementation of governance reforms in post-conflict states target three areas; reconstituting legitimacy, re-establishing security and rebuilding effectiveness (Ranz, 2009). According to Brinkerhoff & Derick, (2008) a government is essential to providing security, justice, economic, and social functions and to channeling the will, energies, and resources of both the indigenous population and the international community (Ranz, 2009). Good governance is related to a set of values such as participation, accountability, responsiveness and rule of law by (World development report, 2011).

Sustainable development refers to a mode of human development in which resource use aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment so that these needs can be met not only at present but also for generations to come (Todaro, 2010). Community development takes place only when local community people are committed to investing themselves and their resources in the effort (Bartelmus, 2012). Therefore the goal of identifying assets is to empower residents to recognize and make use of their abilities to build self-reliance and take control in the transformation of their community (Jacob, 2009). Chung, (2009) suggests that when the focus is inside, rather than outside, it puts residents in control. Consequently, the development of the community is dependent upon, and a direct result of, the power of the people (Grobe, 2011). Sustainable development requires building ones well-being without creating problems for others in the future and it call for careful planning of resource use so that future generations do not suffer the lack of enough resource use because of the present users. Sustainable development is measured using availability, stability, freedom and Quality(Todaro,2010).

### 2.1.2 Sustainable development

The 1987 Brundtland Report defined sustainable development as "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Bartelmus, 2012). At the heart of this concept is the belief that over the long term, social, economic and environmental objectives should be complementary and interdependent in the development process. In 1992, the Rio Summit established sustainable development as the guiding vision for development in both industrialized and developing countries, and for international development co-operation (Chung, 2009).

Sustainable development is not just about the environment. It entails balancing the economic, social and environmental objectives of society; the three dimensions of sustainable development integrating them wherever possible, through mutually supportive policies and practices, and making trade-offs where it is not possible (Donovan, 2009).

This includes, in particular, taking into account the impact of present decisions on the options of future generations (Jacob, 2009). The pursuit of sustainable development thus requires policy changes in many sectors and ensuring coherence between them (McMaster and Pollard, 2011). However, sustainable development has often been interpreted narrowly as an environmental issue without implications for more than a small group of society (Boulanger, 2008). In many countries, the responsibility for sustainable development issues has been given to environmental ministries and departments — often amongst the weakest and least influential in government. This has hindered the necessary process of cross-sectoral policy integration (Grobe, 2011).

Thus, while sustainable development is a universal challenge, practical responses can only be defined nationally and locally (World development report, 2011). Approaches to sustainable development reflect the diversity of the social,

economic and environmental challenges faced by developing countries (Grobe, 2011). This is why there are many interpretations of sustainable development, deriving from different values and interests in different societies (Donovan, 2009).

Achieving sustainable development will require deep structural changes and new ways of working in all areas of economic, social and political life (Jacob, 2009). This will include promoting pro-poor economic growth and reforming fiscal policies which negatively affect the poor or promote environmental damage (Grobe, 2011). In the longer term, countries will have to ensure that their net wealth (including natural, manmade and human capital) remains constant or increases (World development report, 2011). This will require ensuring that market prices reflect the full social and environmental costs of production and consumption (Boulanger, 2008).

Issues of inequity and inequality of access to assets and resources need to be confronted. For example, it may be necessary to reform land tenure policies so as to increase access to disadvantaged and marginalized groups. Equally, it may be important to strengthen social capital and formal safety nets to cope with both external and domestic shocks (Grobe, 2011).

Sustainable development has important political, institutional and capacity implications. At the national and local level, it requires cross-sectoral and participatory institutions and integrating mechanisms which can engage governments, civil society and the private sector in developing shared visions, planning and decision-making (Boulanger, 2008). Governments, corporations and development co-operation agencies will also need to be more open and accountable for their actions (Jacob, 2009). Innovation and investment in actions which promote sustainable development should be encouraged (Boulanger, 2008). More generally, economic planning and policy-making will have to become more participatory, prudent and transparent, as well as more long-term-oriented, so as to respect the interests of future generations (Grobe, 2011). Sustainable development is measured using the following attributes;

- **Availability**

Availability means the ability of the services to be readily available or access to available resources like lean and safe water, education and food (Todaro, 2010). This attribute answers sustainable development in the economic aspect (Grobe, 2011). Development is deemed sustainable if people have access to clean and safe water and other basic necessities, their ability to access resources that can meet their needs without compromising the ability of the future generation to access these is always evidence of sustainable development (Boulanger, 2008).

- **Stability**

This answers the sustainable development questions on the environment whereby environmentalists maintain that for development to be accepted as sustainable, meeting the needs of the current generation should not interfere with the steady progress of environmental factors like rainfall distribution and growth of features like forests as well as existence of natural water bodies (Grobe, 2011). This is the ground zero for both environmentalists and development practitioners as they all agree that development in whatever aspect should aim at improving the standards of the environment if it is to be agreed as sustainable (World development report, 2011).

- **Freedom**

Freedom means having the power or right to speak or think as one wants. It's the power of self-determination attribute to the will, the quality of being independent of fate or necessity (Todaro, 2010). This focuses on the social aspect of development whereby the development of a society/ community should not interfere with the social freedoms of people (Grobe, 2011). People should live freely without anyone interfering with their social freedoms in terms of what they do and how they do it, in fact, they should feel that development is done for them. This means that development should only be considered sustainable if it respects and responds to people's social freedoms (Donovan, 2009).

- **Quality**

In manufacturing, a measure of excellence is brought about by strict and consistent commitment to certain standards that achieve uniformity of a product in order to satisfy specific customer or user (Grobe, 2011). Sustainable development is based on having quality resources which means that for it to be effective, there must be quality resources and needs (Donovan, 2009). Jacob, (2009) suggests that quality leads to a perceived sustainable development improvement of the people.

There is a relationship between Capacity building and Sustainable development because capacity building empower people, organizations and society to systematically stimulate and develop their capabilities over time to achieve social and economic goals since capacity building is the development of knowledge, skill and attitude in individuals and groups of people relevant in the design, development and maintenance of institutional and operational infrastructures and processes that are locally meaningful for sustainable development (UNDP, 2010).

### 1.9.3 Governance

Governance has to do with the manner in which responsibility is discharged. Such a responsibility may be acquired through election, appointment, or delegation in the public domain, or in the area of commerce (i.e., corporate governance) (Mbaku & Smith, 2012). Therefore, good governance is taken here to mean condition whereby such responsibility is discharged in an effective, transparent, and accountable manner, while bad governance is associated with maladministration in the discharge of responsibility (Mbaku & Smith, 2012). Good governance entails the existence of efficient and accountable institutions—political, judicial, administrative, economic, corporate and entrenched rules

that promote development, protect human rights, respect the rule of law, and ensure that people are free to participate in, and be heard on, decisions that affect their lives (Brinkerhoff & Derick, 2008).

Through good governance, a new generation of enlightened leaders is aiming to reverse that trend (Ranz, 2009). Respect for human rights and democratic principles, honest and good quality administration, and protecting the rights and freedoms under the rule of law are concerned with values that apply equally to every state and citizen (World development report, 2011).

Democracy, for example, is a universally recognized ideal, based on values common to people everywhere regardless of cultural, political, social, or economic differences (IPU). These transcend the functional importance of aspects of good governance, such as for sustainable development (Mbaku & Smith, 2012).

Quite clearly, growth and development cannot be achieved in the absence of good governance (Brinkerhoff & Derick, 2008). Among other things, good governance ensures the most efficient utilization of already scarce resources in the promotion of development; enhances participation, responsibility, and accountability; and has the potential to emancipate people from poverty as state legitimacy is recognized and entrenched (Ngware & Kironde, 2010). In fact, any effort to reduce poverty and sustain development must start with, and build upon good governance (Mbaku & Smith, 2012). Good governance can therefore be also regarded as governance on behalf of development-oriented policy (World development report, 2011).

According to Ngware & Kironde, (2010), the government's role to sustainable development is by ensuring that its legitimacy and credibility are intimately tied to a transparent and representative process of policy making by a council of democratically elected community leaders that enjoys legal recognition as an established corporate entity. According to the author, if this is achieved, leaders are likely to be respected and trusted and this can help to bridge divergent interests and ideas which are fundamental for peace building.

Mbaku & Smith, (2012) pointed out that sustainable peace building can be achieved by governments if they develop ability to touch the daily lives of citizens through improved delivery of services. The authors believe that an important characteristic of effective local government is its proximity to the recipients of the basic services it provides. Thus, if government is well-recognized for its role in providing basic infrastructure such as drinking water, waste management, construction of latrines and public convenience facilities, recreational facilities and parks, and local roads, it is likely to unite people to work together for peace (Brandi & Clara, 2008).

Mbaku & Smith, (2012), noted that the government can also ensure peace by strengthening public participation for peace building. Good governance is related to a set of values such as participation, accountability, responsiveness, transparency and transparency by (Brinkerhoff & Derick, 2008). Governance is measured using the following attributes.

#### • **Participation**

Participation approaches may be adopted to foster and institutionalize elements of good governance (EC, 2013). In this situation, inclusive participation and representation, transparency and accountability, and capacity for local dispute resolution are seen not as simply means to fulfill immediate needs but also as ends in themselves. There is some evidence to support links between community-based interventions and progress in governance (World Bank, 2006). Government should be able to allow participation of all the citizens in all the activities.

#### • **Accountability**

Accountability is the process whereby public sector entities, and the individuals within them, are responsible for their decisions and actions, including their stewardship of public funds and all aspects of performance and submit themselves to appropriate external scrutiny. It is achieved by all parties having a clear understanding of those responsibilities, and having clearly defined roles in a robust structure. Both internal and external accountability and reporting structures are attributes of sound financial management (Ranz, 2009). King, (2002) made a distinction between accountability and responsibility by stating that one is liable to render an account when one is accountable and one is liable to be called to account when one is responsible. Accountability, therefore, is enforced by law, policy or statute and responsibility by conduct and a positive relationship with its stakeholders. King 2002 also referred to the latter as Social Responsibility.

#### • **Responsiveness**

This refers to the willingness to help the public and provide prompt service (Mbaku & Smith, 2012). Responsiveness is a core value of the transformed public service. Its application in practice will have a profound effect on the way national departments and provincial administrations operate (Ranz, 2009). The key to implementing the responsiveness principle lies in being able to identify quickly and accurately when services are falling below the promised standard and having procedures in place to remedy the situation (Mbaku & Smith, 2012).

#### • **Rule of law**

Rule of law is an approach that brings together the police, civil society and local communities to jointly take responsibility for and develop solutions to local safety and security (World development report, 2011). The country's laws have to be adopted and respected for de-mining and weapons collection. De-mobilised combatants have to be involved in de-mining as a way to facilitate local reintegration (USAID, 2007). This approach articulates peace building in post conflict transitioning societies.

Drawing on Mbaku & Smith, (2012), on the relationship between Governance, Capacity development and Sustainable, it can be noted that good governance, in all its facets, has been demonstrated to be positively correlated with the achievement of better growth rates, particularly through the building of institutions in support of markets. Recent

empirical analysis suggests a positive correlation between democratic governance and levels of income, investment, human capital, economic liberalization, and distributive income growth in society (Brinkerhoff & Derick, 2008).

Indeed, some analysts, such as Alfred Zack-Williams, have successfully argued that good governance, particularly its aspects of democratic consolidation, is a sine qua non for development. Consequently, the new maxim for Africa in the twenty-first century should be “no democracy, no development” (Mbaku & Smith, 2012). Similarly, United Nations (U.N.) Secretary-General Kofi Annan has said that “good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development” (Ranz, 2009). Secretary-General Kofi Annan has said that “good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development” (Ranz, 2009).