Exploring Governance Capabilities of African leaders in Strengthening Public Institutions for Inclusivity in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa Agenda 2063 given the COVID-19 experience.

Ukertor Gabriel Moti (Ph.D.), CMC-AF (Professor of Public Sector Management and Governance)
Department of Public Administration, University of Abuja, NIGERIA
+2348033114425; +23490954318577
ukertor@yahoo.com; gabriel.ukertor@uniabuja.edu.ng
Introduction

Agenda 2063

Well governed, peaceful and cultural centric Africa

Empowered women, youth, and children

Transformed, inclusive and sustainable economies

Improvements in living standards

Integrated Africa

People
End poverty and hunger in all forms and ensure dignity and equality

Sustainable Development

Plan
Protect our planet’s natural resources and climate for future generations

Prosperity
Ensure prosperous and fulfilling lives in harmony with nature

Partnership
Implement the agenda through a solid global partnership

Peace
Faster peaceful, just and inclusive societies
Rules of the game

Collection of rules and practices embedded in structures that make action possible

Stability and meaning to social life

Norms, traditions and practices
State of Institutions in Africa (Nganje, 2020)

- Existence and persistence of weak institutions
- Predatory leaders
- State capture/Control
- State curse: Reliance on state structures for wealth
- Witchcraft Economics
Empowerment & Inclusion

**DIVERSITY**
Presence of differences

**EQUITY**
Fair access, opportunity, and support

**INCLUSION**
Genuine sense of belonging and value
Markets
Land
Housing
Labor
Credit

Services
Social protection
Information
Electricity
Transport
Education
Health
Water

Spaces
Political
Physical
Cultural
Social

Ability + Opportunity + Dignity
Social Exclusion (Das and Espinosa, 2020)

- Attitudes, beliefs, perceptions, taboos, rituals, superstitions, stigmas
- Women, Youths, the Vulnerable, people living with disabilities
- Pro-poor development
- COVID-19 Experience
- FGM, Albinism
Factors that enable or constrain economic empowerment of the vulnerable:

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<th>Direct factors</th>
<th>Education, skills development, and training</th>
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<td>Access to quality decently paid work</td>
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<td>Address unpaid care and work burdens</td>
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<td>Access to property, assets, and financial services</td>
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<td>Collective action and leadership</td>
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<td>Social protection</td>
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<th>Underlying factors</th>
<th>Labour market characteristics</th>
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<td>Fiscal policy</td>
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<td>Legal, regulatory and policy framework</td>
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<td>Gender norms and discriminatory social norms</td>
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Attempts at Empowerment and Inclusion

Ethiopia: Growth and Transformation Plan 2


Ghana: National Shared Growth and Development Agenda 2

Rwanda: Vision 2020; Uganda: Second National Development Plan

Less explicit on women, youth and people living with disabilities
Continental level

- AU: Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) – Fund for African Women - 5 Goals
- Mobilise financial resources to support development programmes and projects for women.
- Support women’s initiatives to fight poverty, close the gender gap, and halt the marginalization of women.
- Share experiences and best practices on economic, political, and social empowerment of women.
- Facilitate the dissemination of information on activities led by African women.
- Strengthen the capacities of Africans in leadership, management, and entrepreneurship (AU, 2020).
Summary of Main Issues

1. Africa has seen significant progress towards social inclusion in the past few decades, in many areas moving at a pace faster than seen globally.
2. Some groups and areas have been left out of the progress in Africa and continue to remain at risk. Social inclusion helps us understand who is left out, from what, in what ways, and why.
3. Social inclusion draws attention to the drivers of poverty in Africa and explains that while we need to focus on poverty, this is only a starting point to end the exclusion.
4. Structures and processes that aid and abet social exclusion often have historical and cultural roots, which institutional strengthening and reforms need to deal with.
Summary of Main Issues

5. Areas that are affected by conflict and fragility stand out as having the poorest outcomes related to social inclusion. Conversely, peace and security matter for social inclusion.

6. Societies incur significant costs from social exclusion. Yet, achieving social inclusion also has costs. Therefore, investing in social inclusion has to be a conscious choice for states and societies.

7. With a strong social contract, social inclusion in Africa is eminently within reach, as hundreds of initiatives across the continent demonstrate.
Strategies for Strengthening Institutions
Three-Step Approach

**Institutional Performance Review** (to improve performance and identify the functions or gaps that require further capacity development);

**In-Country Strategic Institutional Assessment** (require focused, more detailed, and more up-to-date assessments);

**Design of an Institutional Strengthening Framework** (the outputs of Steps 1 and 2 will provide material for the design and subsequent monitoring and evaluation of a results-based institutional strengthening framework)

(ADB, 2014)
Institutional strengthening Initiatives

- Partnership for Higher Education in Africa (PHEA)
- Think Tank Initiative
- African Capacity Building Initiative
- African Institutions Initiative (AII)
- Operational Research and Training Initiative (SORT)
- Development of Social Science Research in Africa
Partner with institutional strengthening and capacity-building agencies

Engage Civil Society Organisations to develop and implement education programmes to assist citizens understand the constitutional and institutional provisions

Adopt an Action Plan and Capacity building Programme targeted at Women, youth and people living with disabilities
41st Roundtable Conference of The African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM)

Africa’s Renewal in the Era of Sustainable Development: Shared responsibility for strengthening institutions

University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa

6th – 9th December 2022