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# HARVARD MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM- 2023

KEYNOTE SPEECH (REMARK)

Leading to make a difference: the fundamental importance  
of human development

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




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1. Understanding the Human Development Paradigm
2. Understanding Continental & National mega-trends, as well as major challenges impeding Human Development
3. Understanding that Human Development requires a comprehensive & collaborative approach
4. Conclusions

# I. UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM IS CRITICAL (1/6)

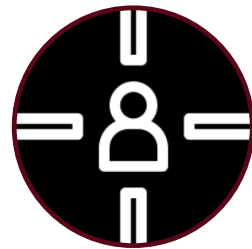
**Goes beyond  
narrowly  
defined  
economic  
development**

## It covers the full flourishing of Human Choice

-  ■ Stable governance
-  ■ Democratic Participation
-  ■ Personal Security
-  ■ Accessing Technology
-  ■ Food and Nutrition Security
-  ■ Having Essential Infrastructure
-  ■ Healthy Living
-  ■ Knowledge, skill and mind-set change through education & training
-  ■ Social support programs
-  ■ Income through economic growth and expansion

## I. UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM IS CRITICAL (2/6)

It emphasizes the need to put people – their needs, their aspirations, their capabilities at the **center of development efforts**



**It requires the rejection of any biases or discrimination by class, gender, race, nationality, religion, community, or generation difference**

# I. UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM IS CRITICAL (3/6)



**It is a broad approach to improve Human well-being, which covers all aspects of Human Life, for all people.**

IN

In this Paradigm  
or Approach  
Development is  
therefore:

High % ↑ and % ↓ Low  
income countries

Now ⌚ and in the ⌚ Future

- Creating an enabling environment for people to enjoy
  - Long →
  - Healthy 
  - Creative & Innovating Lives 

# I. UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM IS CRITICAL (4/6)

**Humanity forgets this powerful truth in pursuit of primarily material and financial wealth.**



Even blessings from God in the bible, in which I believe, take on multiple forms, and are not limited to material and financial wealth:

- Long-life
- Respect
- Children
- Good health
- Cattle, productive land, rain, water for pasture, etc.

# I. UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM IS CRITICAL (5/6)

**Human  
Development is a  
process of  
enlarging people's  
choices:**



## Essential Choices

1. Long and Healthy life
2. Creative and Innovative Life by acquiring knowledge and skills
3. To have access to resources needed for a decent and dignified standard of living

## Additionally

1. Political, economic and social freedom
2. Opportunities for being creative and productive
3. Enjoying personal self-respect and security and guaranteed human rights.

# I. UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM IS CRITICAL (6/6)

## Human Development thus has two sides

I. Formation of Human Capabilities

2. The use people make of their acquired capabilities:

The difference between and amongst countries in development is therefore a difference in human capabilities.

### Human Development encompasses

- Economic growth
- Trade relations
- Decent and dignifying employment
- Political freedom
- Cultural values

### From the perspective of people

- Unlocking the power of Africa's people is fundamental to achieving a brighter future for its citizens and to advancing national, continental and global economic growth and development.



## II. UNDERSTANDING CONTINENTAL & NATIONAL MEGA-TRENDS, AS WELL AS MAJOR CHALLENGES IMPEDING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

As contemporary, Political Leadership- You, Ministers- **should understand the global and national mega trends and challenging context**, in which you are operating, to bring about Human Development.

### A. African Mega-trends (Broadly)

- African baby boom
- Accelerating urbanization- megacities
- The expansion of internet and digital penetration.
- The increasing effect of climate change and biodiversity loss.
- Growing movement towards international cooperation and groups –
- BRICS plus
- G-20/ AU
- The rise of local innovations and entrepreneurship
- (Many advances led by women and young entrepreneurs)

## II. UNDERSTANDING CONTINENTAL & NATIONAL MEGA-TRENDS, AS WELL AS MAJOR CHALLENGES IMPEDING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

### The six megatrends for Human Development

i. Africa's people will be young

- As much as 60% of Africa's people will be under 25. Youth bulge.

ii. Africa's cities will be crowded

- Advantages and
- Disadvantages

iii. Africa's vulnerability to climate change and biodiversity loss.

- Contributing less than 4%
- But 35 of the 50 countries most at risk from climate change effect are located in Africa.
- Extreme weather events- drought -heavy floods -storms – excessive heat and cold
  - Data/early warnings
  - Center of Innovation
  - Zoonotic diseases- like COVID global health crises

## II. UNDERSTANDING CONTINENTAL & NATIONAL MEGA-TRENDS, AS WELL AS MAJOR CHALLENGES IMPEDING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

### The six megatrends for Human Development

iv. Africa will move quickly into digital technology

- Software
- Cloud and
- Internet service has grown at 47% in the last five years

With appropriate investment in infrastructure, upskilling, and education, Africa's immense working-age population could position the continent as a leader in digital services.

v. The region will be opening-up to move international cooperation.

- More cooperation but reduce their reliance on international support and aid money.
- AfCFTA
- Political and Trends of Powershift

## II. UNDERSTANDING CONTINENTAL & NATIONAL MEGA-TRENDS, AS WELL AS MAJOR CHALLENGES IMPEDING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

### The six megatrends for Human Development

vi. Africa will be more source of innovation and entrepreneurship.

- Digital payments (e.g. M-Pesa)
- Digital Health care platforms.
- Women in Africa are twice as likely to start an enterprise as women in other geographies.

In addition to ICT based digital hubs: entrepreneurial innovations-include

- Energy
- Health services
- Pharmaceuticals
- Sustainable agriculture and land use
- Africa's Agri-food sector could grow helping to solve the challenges of food shortage related to climate change. Africa could even evolve into a food basket for Europe and the Middle East.

## II. UNDERSTANDING CONTINENTAL & NATIONAL MEGA-TRENDS, AS WELL AS MAJOR CHALLENGES IMPEDING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

### B. Current major crises that pose challenges to Human Development Progress.

I. Already unfolding crises

2. Crises that last for longer periods like ten years from now, at least and become most severe.

**Supply-chain disruption and associated crises.**

Sticky core inflation

#### Cost of living crises-

- fertilizer price hike
- food price hike
- energy price increase
- fuel further interest rate hike (strengthened USD)
- raising the risk of debt distress
- prolonged economic downturn
- a vicious cycle for fiscal planning.
- house rental hike
- Extreme weather events

## II. UNDERSTANDING CONTINENTAL & NATIONAL MEGA-TRENDS, AS WELL AS MAJOR CHALLENGES IMPEDING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

### The consequence

**Higher cost of foods, energy and housing, causing lower real income, will result in trade-offs in essential spending.**

- Worsening health and wellbeing outcomes for communities that retards Human Development Progress.
- Both affordability and availability of basic necessities can stoke social and political instability. End of last year and this year alone the increase in fuel price led to protests in an estimated 92 countries, most of which are developing countries.

## II. UNDERSTANDING CONTINENTAL & NATIONAL MEGA-TRENDS, AS WELL AS MAJOR CHALLENGES IMPEDING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The sense of collective and personal insecurity continues to be felt most actively in already vulnerable states for various reasons.

- 8 coup d'états in three years alone
- Widespread violence has grown personal security at stake and involuntary migration rises

A combination of **extreme weather events and constrained supply** could lead the current cost of living crises into a **catastrophic scenario of hunger and distress** for millions in import-dependent countries (Now 50 Billion USD) or turn the energy crises **towards a humanitarian crises in the poorest and emerging economies.**

## II. UNDERSTANDING CONTINENTAL & NATIONAL MEGA-TRENDS, AS WELL AS MAJOR CHALLENGES IMPEDING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Global food supply crises- the lagged effect of fertilizer price hike- the impact of extreme weather events (flooding, draught, storm mudslide, freezing etc.) may cause a decline in harvest and livestock death exacerbating the already fragile food and nutrition security.

**All the above causes growth and widespread violence and puts personal security at risk and involuntary migration rises.**

Therefore: for developing economies, there is a risk of further escalated economic distress and downturns and tougher trade-offs

- Vicious
- Stubbornly high inflation
- Stagnant or declining growth tare
- Liquidity shocks
- Strengthened USD
- Civil Strife
- High debt stress
- Further high energy price etc.



## II. UNDERSTANDING CONTINENTAL & NATIONAL MEGA-TRENDS, AS WELL AS MAJOR CHALLENGES IMPEDING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

### Conclusion

These crises may force countries to reduce fund allocation for critical human development sectors like:

- Health education, food and nutrition, security, critical infrastructures like rural roads, electricity, drinking water supply and as result weakening the continents growing potential
- High inflation and rising living cost at this time of heightened political uncertainties increase the likelihood of civil disobedience and civil strike that causes further Humanitarian crises.

**What can we do?**

### III. UNDERSTANDING THAT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

**Whole of Government, delivery as one.**

#### **i. Adapting a whole-of-government approach**

- **One-stop government**
- **Joined-up government**
- **Whole of government**

- For delivery of public services as one.
- For our purpose today, I have chosen the term whole-of-government approach.

### III. UNDERSTANDING THAT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

#### i. **Adapting a whole-of-government approach**

- In recent years, there has been a change in emphasis away from structural devolution, disaggregation, and single-purpose organizations towards a more integrated approach to public service delivery.
- The movement from isolated silos in public service delivery to formal and informal networks is a global trend driven by various societal forces such as the growing complexities of problems that calls for collaborative responses.
  - The increased demand on the part of citizens for more personalized and accessible public services, which are to be planned implemented and evaluated with their participation.
  - The opportunities presented by the internet and digital technologies to transform the way the government works for the people (people centric).

### III. UNDERSTANDING THAT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

#### i. Adapting a whole-of-government approach

- Examples of coordination mechanisms:
  - Electronic-government council
  - Agricultural and food systems transformation council
  - Export promotion and delivery council
  - Mega projects delivery council
  - Sekota declaration council on nutrition
  - National security council etc.

- The vertical and horizontal fragmentation; which is typical of public institutions, constitutes one of key challenges of one slip government implementation.

**The issue is, are we willing to overcome existing power structures and build a culture of cooperation and collaboration with or without legal provisions?**

### III. UNDERSTANDING THAT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

#### i. Adapting a whole-of-government approach

- Building trust among the lead ministries and departments is therefore the key to successful delivery is one.
- Despite widespread support for whole-of-government, there remains major problem in overcoming departmental silos, reducing fragmentation and enhancing coordination and collaboration.  
US-Africa strategic food security partnership initiative- how US government is challenged?
- Understanding that whole of government doesn't mean reorganizing government agencies into a single large unit. Instead it focuses on engaging existing agencies in joint binding constraints solving without realignment of formal authorities.

### III. UNDERSTANDING THAT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

#### i. Adapting a whole-of-government approach

##### It means:

1. One agreed upon strategy
2. Joint leadership, commitment and vision
3. One funding/consolidated funding
4. Focused on systems transformation by addressing systemic bottlenecks
5. Focused on sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness

- Countries like: Singapore, Korea, Japan, Ireland, and Finland to name few:
  - Have been most effective in accumulating Human capabilities thereby reaping many lasting social economic benefits.
  - Transcended political cycles
  - Coordinated very well across governments
  - Designed policies and programs that used and expanded the evidence base
  - Many have managed to achieve significant transformation in just a few decades

### III. UNDERSTANDING THAT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

#### i. Adapting a whole-of-government approach

##### E.g. Ethiopian Nutrition Program

Recognized that **Nutrition is much wider issue than food supply and distribution.**

- **Clean water, sanitation, access to health services, education, nutritious food** production, trading and processing, rural electrification, rural transport and roads, **the empowerment of women** in poor, remote and rural communities, majority Ethiopians, were critical to reduce stunting.
- The government designed **common strategy**, stressed the importance of **coordination, horizontal across ministries and public bodies and vertically between federal, regional and local/ municipal authorities.**

- **Results based approach** when allocating resources and spending on nutrition value chains, sectors converged and worked towards a common goal.

Money spent on only evidence based tried and tested methods and evidence based interventions adopted to local context. The importance of real time data and well functioning systems was recognized early, early success and codified and shared as best practices.

### III. UNDERSTANDING THAT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

#### ii. The need for a comprehensive approach

**If our leadership is to make a difference we have to approach it comprehensively as whole of government coordinated movement.**

The necessary condition for human development and economic growth include specifically the need for:

- Stable and good governance
- Genuine and democratic participation e.g. Ethiopia's successes and failures
- Personal security (communal security in communal society)



### III. UNDERSTANDING THAT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

#### iii. Peoples' participation and ownership

People today have an urge- an impatient **urge- to participate in the events and processes that shape their lives.**

- **It's a big opportunity if properly nurtured in a responsive national framework** and it can become a source of tremendous vitality for human development and economic growth.

- **It clashes if the system of governance is inflexible, exclusionary and discriminatory.** It can dissolve into anarchy, ethnic violence or social disintegration.
  - e.g. Failed state countries.
- Benevolent dictatorship

### III. UNDERSTANDING THAT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

**A World Bank study shows:**

**Only 16% of economic growth is explained by physical capital (like machinery, buildings, other infrastructure)**

**20% from natural capital**

**No less than 64% can be attributed to human and social capital.**

- For equity, decent and dignified job opportunities, access to productive assets, social spending, gender equality, good governance etc.

**An active civil participation and ownership is necessary condition.**

### III. UNDERSTANDING THAT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

**Citizens expect their government to ensure an improving equality of life by building their capabilities and giving equal opportunities for all by their democratic and willful participation.**

#### **Access to**

- Affordable healthcare
- Education
- Food and nutrition security
- Decent and dignified job creation and employment
- Safety and security (both personal and communal)
- Efficient and effective public services
- Inclusive, no marginalization and exclusion (no one left behind)
- Provision of essential infrastructures

### III. UNDERSTANDING THAT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

**For citizens government's perceived, responsiveness to the needs and quests of citizens is fundamental to maintaining citizen satisfaction and political stability.**

i. Food and Nutrition is Central

- There is a central importance of a stable food (nutritious food) supply and developing a climate resilient Agri-food system.

ii. The need to maximize technological innovations as a means to ramp-up progress and impact across human development delivery as one approach.

iii. Optimizing Public expenditure for human development.

- Adequate income-earning opportunities properly directed public spending on human priority needs- **are essential components of the path to human development.**
- Past development experience shows that markets alone cannot ensure good human development; neither can over extended public sector spending as it is not sustainable.

### III. UNDERSTANDING THAT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

**Hence, restructuring and optimizing is absolutely necessary specially in an uncertain time we are in today.**

#### **Examples:**

- i. Freezing military expenditure and directing to productive sectors.
- ii. Halting capital flights, combating corruption, reforming state own enterprises, reducing internal policing
- iii. Shutting down prestige white elephant projects for the wealthy
- iv. Better balance between
  - Curative hospital and primary health care
  - Universities and primary schools
  - Urban and Rural areas where the majority lives.

## IV. CONCLUSIONS

- As you are political leaders, my conclusion is that if the obstacle to human development occur, **it is too often a lack of political commitment followed by political action rather than mainly to resources or technical barriers,** even though, these are necessary.
- The whole government approach's success lies on **how a cabinet and its different standing committees and commission function in collaboration and coordination in a comprehensive manner.**

**I thank you!**