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Gambari tells Africa to speak out on Libya

UN/AU Joint Special Representative in Darfur, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, has urged African leaders to speak out on the current situation in Libya.

Speaking in an interview with the Daily Trust in London, Prof. Gambari said the voice of Africa should be heard on the political crisis in the North African country. "All African countries without exception should speak out", he said that if they stand on principles and on the side of the people, they would never go wrong. Whatever is happening in Libya, the fact of the matter is that it is an African country that has helped in the liberation struggle and

identified with Africa's aspiration for unity." Prof. Gambari who stressed that the age of

sit-tight leaders was over, warned that the current clamour for democracy and political reforms in the Arab world could be replicated in South Saharan Africa if its leaders failed to listen to their people and identify with their aspirations.

"At the end of the cold war, it was Eastern Europe. Now you have the Middle East. After a small gap, it could be Southern Saharan Africa".

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Chief of Section
Kwabia Boateng

Editor

Yinka Adeyemi

Production Assistant
Meseret Arega

Experts challenged to produce indicators for measuring, tracking progress on sustainable development in Africa

The Director of the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSD) of ECA, Mr. Josue Dione, opened a two-day workshop on Sustainable Development Indicator Framework for Africa with a call on participants to come out with concrete recommendations on measuring and tracking progress on sustainable development in Africa in a more systematic and effective manner.

He told the Information and Communications Service (ICS) of ECA that the work-

shop forms part of the regional preparations for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20 to be presented and hopefully, endorsed by the African Union Heads of State Summit of January 2012.

It is organised by ECA, in partnership with the AUC, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with participants from the NEPAD Agency

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Gambari tells Africa...

"People will begin to demand respect for their human rights and for their voices to count in terms of governance of their countries," he said.

He advised African leaders to ensure good governance and address issues of corruption and transparency not by what they say, but by what they do.

He, however, declined to comment on whether Libyan leader, Col. Muammar Gaddafi should stand down, arguing that the UN Secretary General has already spoken and believes AU would soon make a statement on the issue.

Prof. Gambari emphasized the relevance of the Peer Review Mechanism as provided in the NEPAD where a country's affairs are reviewed by its peers with emphasis on accountability and good governance.

Describing the mechanism as the 'most creative' in the NEPAD document, the international civil servant said it should be made compulsory so that all African countries would be reviewed, assessed and rated by their peers.

Source: Africa News, March 9, 2011

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Experts challenged...

as well as from the Regional Economic Communities.

Mr. Dione recalled out that in line with its mandate ECA launched the production of the Sustainable Development Report on Africa (SDRA) in 2004/2005. It is a medium for monitoring and assessing sustainable development in Africa, and for promoting a balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development.

Source: Special to ECA

Towards an African consensus statement for Rio+20

A source at the ongoing workshop on institutional and strategic frameworks for sustainable development in Africa assured ICS of ECA that participants are close to a set of clear "sustainable development concerns that Africa would like to see reflected in the outcomes of the 2012 Rio+20 Conference.

Convened to prepare Africa's effective participation at the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), the workshop has brought together experts and negotiators from among key stakeholders for concrete proposals.

Mr. Josue Dione, Director of FSSD, ECA who has been leading some of the discussions, told participants that the workshop is an "opportunity to examine and adequately define the institutional framework for sustainable development in Africa, taking into account existing institutions at regional and sub regional levels"

Source: <http://www.ttkn.com/science-environment/towards-an-african-consensus-statement-for-rio20-9498.html>

Upcoming Event

- AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development: Theme: Governing development in Africa.

24-29 March 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- Conference on mobilising investment in infrastructure and agriculture in Africa - NEPAD-OECD Ministerial Conference, 2011.

26-27 April 2011, Dakar, Senegal

- African Youth Forum
1-9 April 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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