THE IMPACT OF FOREIGN RELATION ON ECONOMIC POLICY IN AFRICA

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Foreign refers to the conduct of human affairs by peaceful means, employing techniques of persuasion and negotiation (Barnett and Duvall, 2010). It usually refers to international diplomacy, the conduct of international relations through the intercession of professional diplomats with regard to issues of peace-making, trade, war, economics, culture, environment and human relations (Berridge, 2005). Diplomacy is typically carried out by government officials, who use bargaining, negotiation, and other peaceful means to negotiate treaties, trade policies, and other international agreements, including agreements to prevent, limit, manage, or settle conflicts (Claude, 2012).

Foreign relations are often thought of as being concerned with peaceful activity, although it may occur within war or armed conflict or be used in the orchestration of particular acts of violence, such as seeking over-flight clearance for an air strike (Lake and Powell, (eds) 2013). International treaties are usually negotiated by diplomats prior to endorsement by national politicians (Lake and Powell, (eds) 2013). In an informal or social sense, diplomacy is the employment of tact to gain strategic advantage or to find mutually acceptable solutions to a common challenge, one set of tools being the phrasing of statements in a non-confrontational or polite manner (Barnett and Duvall, 2010). Foreign relation is measured by the following pillars;

- **Peace diplomacy**

Underlying Country's peace and security diplomacy is the recognition of peace and stability as necessary pre-conditions for development and prosperity. A country should have a conviction that its own stability and economic wellbeing are dependent on the stability of the sub-region, Africa and the rest of the world (Berridge, 2005). The objectives of this pillar are to: Promote the resolution of conflicts by peaceful means; Collaborate with other African countries to strengthen the conflict prevention, management and resolution capacity of regional institutions, including the EAC, IGAD, COMESA and AU with the aim of promoting sustainable peace and development. And to support peace efforts by the African Union and the United Nations through contributing troops and providing leadership in peacekeeping missions within the continent and globally (Claude, 2012).

- **Economic diplomacy**

Countries' quest for a peaceful and stable environment is linked to its socio-economic development and prosperity, and that of the region (Choi & Choi, 2008). A robust economic engagement is necessary to secure the Country's regional and overall economic objectives. The objectives of this pillar are to: Increase capital flows to the Country; Support export promotion and investment by enterprises within the region and beyond; Promote the country as a favorite destination for foreign direct investment, tourism, and conferencing; Expand access to traditional markets and explore new destinations for the Country's exports; Enhance technological advancement by exploring new sources of affordable and appropriate technology (Claude, 2012). And Strengthen regional economic communities and organizations to serve as competitive spring boards to emerging and global markets (Cohen & Westbrook, Eds. 2012).

- **Diaspora diplomacy**

The Government should recognize the huge and untapped potential of her citizens abroad which can contribute to the country's national development agenda (Claude, 2012). The Diaspora pillar aims to harness the diverse skills, knowledge, expertise and resources of the citizens living abroad, and facilitating their integration into the national development agenda (Guzzini, 2009). This informs the Diaspora Pillar which seeks to harness the contribution of citizens living abroad through the implementation of the National Diaspora policy (David and Powell, (eds) 2013).

- **Environmental diplomacy**

The Environmental Policy underscores that environment and natural resources are valuable national assets upon which the country's sustainable development is anchored. Countries recognize their enormous stake in the sustainable management of its own natural resources, those of the region and the world. Countries are encouraged to champion the strengthening of UNEP and UN HABITAT in prioritizing the global sustainable development agenda; Promote compliance with the relevant national, regional and international environmental legislation, regulations, standards, and other appropriate operational procedures and guidelines; Promote the integration of environmental management into national and regional economic activities, including agriculture and tourism to minimize negative impact on the environment and promote research as a mechanism to encourage innovation and reduce adverse environmental impacts.

- **Cultural diplomacy**

It is through cultural activities that a nation's idea of itself is best represented. A country's cultural diplomacy should aim at increasing awareness of her cultural richness and to generate interests in the country's cultural heritage. There should be respect and recognition of cultural diversity and heritage; Promotion of cultural exchanges and partnerships and promotion of global intercultural dialogue.

2.1.2 Conflict resolution

Conflict resolution is a general term that describes efforts to prevent, limit, contain, or resolve conflicts, especially violent ones, while building up the capacities of all parties involved to undertake peace-building (Muigua, 2011). It is based on the concept that conflicts are a normal part of human interaction and are rarely completely resolved or eliminated, but they can be managed by such measures as negotiation, mediation, conciliation, and arbitration (Gleick, 2012). Conflict resolution also supports the longer-term development of societal systems and institutions that enhance good governance, rule of law, security, economic sustainability, and social well-being, which helps prevent future conflicts (Leung, 2009). A closely related term is peacemaking, although peacemaking tends to focus on halting ongoing conflicts and reaching partial agreements or broader negotiated settlements (Stiftung, 2014).

Conflict resolution includes the various on-wiki spaces for discussing conflicts, as well as the formal and informal roles played by community members (e.g. mediators, admins, Arbitration Committees) (International Alert et al. 2011). The aim of conflict resolution is to enhance learning and group outcomes, including effectiveness or performance in organizational setting (Samuel, 2012). Properly managed conflict can improve group outcomes (Green, 2012).Conflict resolution patterns are often according to Desivilya *et al.* (2005) related to a dual concern model divided into concern for self and concern for others (Leung, 2009). Further different conflict management approaches are based on these two motives, some focusing more on concern for self or concern for others (David, 2012).

Conflict resolution in the high stress environment of the operating room (Somerville, 2012). Scott, (2011) concludes that conflict is inevitable, especially in highly stressed environments. Therefore, he believes, professional organisations and employers have a responsibility to recognise that people approach conflict differently and should provide opportunities for multidisciplinary audiences to learn and develop conflict management skills and thereby change their interpersonal environments (Segal & Melinda, 2011). Therefore, it is important to identify effective conflict management strategies for conflict resolution (Victor, 2012). The methods of performing conflict resolution in the traditional are as follows: mediation, adjudication, reconciliation, arbitration and negotiation. It also includes employing extra-judicial devices and usage of legal maxims to persuade or convince the disputants about the implication or otherwise of their behavior.

- **Need for management**

The need to achieve sustainable development calls for sustainable management of natural resources in the region through engaging all the relevant stakeholders (Kameri Mbote et al., 2011). It has been persuasively argued that in environmental conflicts where there is high level emotional intensity, several of the early casualties in verbal and non-verbal skirmishes are tolerance and communication with people stopping to listen to those espousing contrary views and begin associating exclusively with like-minded supporters (Fiske, 2011). It is imperative to look at each of the approaches with an aim to identify their efficacy in managing natural resource conflicts and disputes (Hossein Abadi, 2011).

- **Judicial mechanisms**

With the objective of settling disputes in a more justifiable manner, national governments and the constitutions of most nations establish institutions; judiciary organs of the government. It is the natural mandate of courts of law to entertain disputes (Fiske, 2011). Courts in Somalia and even elsewhere in the world have encountered a number of problems related to access to justice. These include high court fees, geographical location, complexity of rules and procedure and the use of legalese (Hossein Abadi, 2011). The court's role is also 'dependent on the limitations of civil procedure, and on the litigious courses taken by the parties themselves' (Kameri Mbote et al., 2011). Courts thus play an important and indispensable role in achieving sustainable development which means conflicts must be dealt with effectively (Abadi, 2011).

- **Negotiation**

Negotiation is a process that involves parties meeting to identify and discuss the issues at hand so as to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution without the help of a third party (Hamilton, 2014). It may be argued that negotiation is by far the most efficient conflict management mechanism in terms of management of time, costs and preservation of relationships and has been seen as the preferred route in most disputes (Hamilton, 2014). Negotiation can be interest-based, rights-based or power-based and each can result in different outcomes (Abadi, 2011). However, the most

common form of negotiation depends upon successfully taking and the giving up a sequence of positions (Amendola, 2011). Negotiation can be used in facilitating the effective management of natural resources based conflicts (UNESCO-IHP, 2014).

- **Mediation**

Mediation is defined as the intervention in a standard negotiation or conflict of an acceptable third party who has limited or no authoritative decision-making power but who assists the involved parties in voluntarily reaching a mutually acceptable settlement of issues in dispute (Muigua, 2011). Mediation has been defined as a continuation of the negotiation process by other means where instead of having a two way negotiation, it now becomes a three way process: the mediator in essence mediating the negotiations between the parties (Moore, 2009). It is also a mechanism worth exploring as it has been successfully used to achieve the right of access to justice for parties (Mwagiru, 2011).

- **Arbitration**

Arbitration is a dispute settlement mechanism. Arbitration arises where a third party neutral (known as an arbitrator) is appointed by the parties or an appointing authority to determine the dispute and give a final and binding award (Chau, (2007). Its advantages are that parties can agree on an arbitrator to determine the matter; the arbitrator has expertise in the area of dispute; any person can represent a party in the dispute; flexibility; cost-effective; confidential; speedy and the result is binding (UNCITRAL, 2008).

There is an influence of diplomatic relations on conflict resolution because the implementation of these pillars provides a guiding framework for diplomatic engagements. This will further guide the country as it pursues its vision of becoming peaceful, prosperous and globally competitive while promoting sustainable development (Welsh, 2014). Effective diplomatic relations, support and effective coordination in the conflict management process stimulates parties favoring the peace agreement to meet their commitments and thereby diminishes the possibility of hostility (Muigua, 2011). In most cases it is important for the strong diplomatic relations as it leads to commitment with international peacekeepers, whose presence can "deter defections from the peace treaty (Doyle and Sambanis, 2006). Shokouh Abadi, (2011) adds that diplomatic initiatives as attempts by outside parties can transform a conflict by enhancing communication between warring parties and providing information about the conflict that can help generate movement toward negotiated outcomes. In addition, the outside parties can tie information to explicit carrots or sticks by linking diplomacy to possible economic or military interventions.

REFERENCE

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