

NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND CONFLICTS ON SUSTAINED DEVELOPMENT IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

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Abstract

The main purpose of this paper is to critically examine the root causes of political instability and conflicts in some poor countries in the Global South. This paper discovers that over the years, these poor countries in the Global South after their independence are still battling with serious conflicts, political and economic instability which have created serious untold hardship, insecurity, unemployment, illegal migration, poverty, and high rate of death in these countries. This paper observes that some of these countries include; Nigeria, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Somalia, Cameroon, Colombia Afghanistan, Pakistan etc. This paper discovers that poor governance, ethnicity, social inequalities, political infighting and unemployment are the major causes of political instability and conflicts in the Global South. Employing the methods of hermeneutics and critical analysis which involve interpreting the cases of political violence and conflicts and critically analyzing the impacts on sustained development in the Global South, this chapter argues that if there is no appropriate major put in place to curb these conflicts, there can never be a sustained development and peace in the Global South. This paper concludes that to reduce the likelihood of conflicts in the Global South, it is essential to promote inclusive development, educate the leaders properly, reduce inequalities and tackle unemployment in the Global South.

Keywords: Political instability, conflict, global south, development, sustainability.

Introduction

Political instability and conflicts are common phenomena in some developing countries of the world today. Boko-Haram insurgency in Nigeria, AL-Shabaab group in Somalia, Ansaru group in Sudan, election violence, herder and farmer's clashes, various agitations and Fulani herdsmen attacks are some of groups causing unrest in the Global South. This paper discusses that these conflicts arise as a result of the inability and unwillingness of the governments of these developing countries to adequately address the needs and grievances of their populations. These incessant and unresolved conflicts have affected the peaceful co-existence of these poor countries and have prevented the affected countries in attaining sustainable development over the years. The effects of these challenges are so disastrous that if appropriate measure is not put in place to put a stop to this menace, sustainability will be a mirage in the Global South. For clarity sake, the focus of this chapter is to critically examine the concepts of political instability and conflicts and the negative impact they pose to sustainable development in the Global South.

Understanding the terms Global North and Global South

The term Global South was first used by Carl Oglesby, a political activist. In his writings in the liberal Catholic Magazine *Commonwealth* cited by (Jorge: 2023), Oglesby argued that the war in Vietnam was the culmination of a history of northern “dominance over the global south.” In 1991, after the breakup of the Soviet Union, the term Global South gained momentum which marked the end of the Second World. Although, the common term used when referring to developing countries that had yet to fully industrialize was “Third World” which was coined by Alfred Sauvy in 1952 in an analogy with France’s historical three estates: the nobility, the clergy and the bourgeoisie. The term First world referred to the advanced capitalist nations: the Second World referred to the socialist nations led by the Soviet Union; the Third World, to developing nations, many at the time still under the colonial yoke. (Jorge: 2023) Peter Worsley, a Sociologist further popularized the term and it became associated with countries plagued by poverty and instability. It was the fall of the Soviet Union and with the end of Second World that made the name Third World to disappear in the 1990’s. The term became associated with poverty, instability, and negative stereotypes propagated by Western media. Anne Mahler has it that Global South as a critical concept has three primary definitions.

First, it has traditionally been used within intergovernmental development organizations- primarily those that originated in the Non-Aligned Movement- to refer to economically disadvantaged nations-states and as a post-cold war alternative to “Third World.” In recent years, the Global South is employed in a post-national sense to address spaces and peoples negatively impacted by contemporary capitalist globalization. In this second definition, the Global South captures a deterritorialized geography of capitalism’s externalities and means to account for subjugated peoples within the borders of wealthier countries, such that there are economic Souths in the geographic North and Norths in the geographic South- wherein the South represents an internal periphery and Subaltern relational position-the epithet “global” is used to unhinge the South from a one-to-one relation to geography. It is through this deterritorial conceptualization that a third meaning is attributed to the Global South in which it refers to the resistant imaginary of a transnational political subject that results from a shared experience of subjugation under contemporary global capitalism.(Anne, 2023)

However, the concept North-South in a global context is used to describe a grouping of countries along the lines of socio-economic and political characteristics. Countries that are developed are considered as Global North countries, while developing countries are considered as Global South. The Global North generally correlates with the Eastern world, while the south largely corresponds with the developing countries and the Eastern world. The two groups are often defined in terms of their differing levels of wealth, economic development, income inequality, democracy, and political and economic freedom, as defined by freedom indices. (Wikipedia, n.d.) Global North states tend to be wealthier and less unequal. They are

developed, and export technologically advanced manufactured products. A developed nation is defined as one where citizens have easy access to quality healthcare and education, advanced technology and infrastructure, diverse and well-balanced economic sectors, such as industrial, service, and agriculture, and a relatively high gross domestic product (GDP) and GDP per capita. The examples of developed nations include the United States, the United Kingdom, and the majority of Western and Northern Europe, such as Germany, France, Denmark, and Sweden. (Investopedia.com)

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Global South is a term that broadly comprises countries in the regions of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia (without Israel, Japan, and South Korea), and Oceania (without Australia and New Zealand. (Wikipedia, n.d.) Meanwhile, a nation is typically considered to still be “developing” if it does not meet the socioeconomic criteria with the developed nations. These are most often countries with a lower income, an underdeveloped industrial base, a lower standard of living, and a lack of access to modern technology. (Investopedia) Countries of the Global South have been described as newly industrialized or are in the process of industrializing, and are frequently current or former subjects of colonialism. (Wikipedia, n.d.) They experience a lack of jobs, food, clean drinking water, education, healthcare, and housing.

Challenges Confronting the Sustainable Development in the Global South

Southern states are generally poorer developing countries with younger more fragile democracies that are heavily dependent on primary sector exports. Many states in the Global South share a common history of past colonialism under Northern states. Over the years, most countries in the Southern state have been faced with a lot of developmental challenges which have prevented them in achieving sustainable development. Most of these countries typically experience poor infrastructure, unemployment, high level of illiteracy, dense population, technology gap, income inequality, insecurity, high death rate, political and cultural marginalization, ethnicity, higher levels of poverty, civil wars, election malpractice, illegal migration, human trafficking, food insecurity, climate change, cases of genocide, impact of Covid-19, absence of innovation, excess borrowing, hunger, incessant kidnapping and killings and challenging living conditions compared to the wealthier nations of the Global North. It is no doubt that the root causes of the challenges are political instability and conflicts which have remained the hallmarks of life on the countries in the Global South, basically on the African continent in these six countries; Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, and DRC.

Although, projections indicate that by 2030, three of the four largest economies will belong to Global South countries, with China and India leading the way. Also the combined GDP of the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) already surpasses that of the G-7 nations. Moreover, political actors from Saudi Arabia, and Brazil, are increasingly playing influential roles in the global affairs, (*drishtias*). But the question today is, what is still preventing other Southern states from having sustainable development or impressive growth that some of the members have enjoyed in recent decades? Nevertheless, so many scholars have attributed the causes of these challenges and the gap that exist between the North and

South to globalization and the history of imperialism and colonial Rule particularly evident in African countries. Yet others have reacted to this position arguing that the Global South has actually gotten poorer, relative to the North, since globalization. However, this paper argues that the root causes of these challenges are as the result of political instability and incessant unresolved conflicts that the Southern states faced since their independence. These two problems have seriously held the Southern states basically majority of African countries from having sustainable development. And that is why some of these countries despite so many measures put in place to have sustainability have failed to develop economically, socially and politically.

Understanding the terms Political Instability and Conflict

Collins English Dictionary defines political as relating to the way power is achieved and used in a country or society, and Instability as the quality of being unstable. Political instability is a function of a lack of consensus, which may arise as a result of colonial influence, a failure to materialize the sense of 'nationhood' in the citizenry, dictatorship, economic instability or foreign influence. (The encyclopaedia of world problems & human potential) Political instability arises as a result of the inability of the government and society in general to adequately address the grievances of the population or particular subset of that population. The source of those grievances can be internal, external or political depending on the circumstances. (Adeyeri, 2013) Adeyeri citing Ofiaga further states that;

In such situation, patterns of conflicts or interaction also become more complex. Political instability needs to be better understood and disaggregated into its various forms, because disconnect alone, however, does not necessarily generate political instability, individual and mechanisms must be present to articulate the grievances and mobilize the aggrieved to demand redress from government, as tensions mount within a society. (Adeyeri, 2013)

Also, frequent changes in governments, internal dissensions, disputes and involvement in border clashes may equally result to the political instability of countries. It may result in social, ethnic or national disintegration and provide a barrier sustainable development. It is a condition whereby a country is going through political turmoil. However, on the other hand, the term conflict usually refers to a condition in which one identifiable group of human beings in a given environment (whether tribal, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religions, socioeconomic, political, among others) is engaged in conscious opposition to one or more identifiable human groups because these groups are pursuing what are or appear to be incompatible goals. (Adeyeri, 2013) Conflicts are common and unavoidable in all human society. All over the world, conflicts occur because society is made up of people with differing interests and values. (Adeyeri, 2013) Conflicts usually result into massive violations of human rights in some case. The most salient feature of conflicts is underdevelopment, a factor that further fuels conflict. Conflict has also been described as disagreement on the procedure of distributing power and resources in an organization. (Adeyeri, 2013) Over the years, the developing countries have been confronted with varied crises and violence. In Africa for instance, the high rate of terrorism, farmer herder

clashes and kidnapping is quite perturbing. These conflicts have affected the foundation of most African countries unity and corporate existence. Wars in some part of Asia, the Russian invasion, war on Gaza, coups, insurgencies and killings in some parts of Africa have left serious untold hardship in the Global South. Millions of people in the Global South have been displaced and properties destroyed as a result of endless conflicts in these countries. Political infighting and conflicts in some parts of Africa like, Nigeria, Somalia, Mali, and Guinea etc. have led to total collapsed of many big industries and companies in those areas. The nature of political power in many African states, together with the real and perceived consequences of capturing and maintaining power is a key source of conflict and political instability across the continent. In the words of Arriola, it is the frequently the case that political victory assumes a “winner-takes-all” form with respect to wealth and resources, patronage, and the prestige and prerogatives of office. (Adeyeri: 2013) The state of life in most countries in the Global South is worse than the Hobbesian state of nature where the life of man was “poor, solitary, nasty, short and brutish.”

Background on the Main Conflict Actors in the Developing Nations of the South

Boko-Haram: This group’s official name is Jama’atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda’awati Wal-Jihad. They are the people committed to the propagation of the Prophet’s Teaching and Jihad. This name Boko-Haram was nicknamed by locals in its town of origin and main stronghold, Maiduguri, which literally means “western education is forbidden, “but figuratively conveys that “western civilization is forbidden.” (Mwangi e tal, 2014) The history of Boko-Haram is fraught with debates, but there is a wild agreement that it was radicalised in 2009 following the government clampdown that led to the killing of over 800 people, including their leader, Mohammed Yusuf. Later Abubakar Shekau took over after the death of Yusuf as the leader of the group. This group is the cause of bombings, killings, abduction, incessant attacks on school children and destruction of properties in the northern states in Nigeria. The group also disrupted the movement of goods and services in the states like Maiduguri, Adamawa, Yobe, Benue, Jos, Kaduna and Katsina. Their deadly activities and abductions led to the closure of schools, churches and displacement of people in these affected states.

Ansaru: This group is officially titled the Jama ‘atu Asril Muslimina Biladis Sudan. The group was established in 2012, after an attack by Boko-Haram who killed civilians who were mostly Muslims. The sect’s mission differs from that of the Boko-Haram because it is against the killing of innocent people. Boko-Haram’s activities and that of Ansaru group have perpetuated violence across northern Nigeria since 2009, aiming to rid the country of any “Western influence.” These groups were declared as foreign terrorist organizations by the United States in 2013. (Mwangi e tal, 2013)

IPOB: IPOB stands for the Indigenous People of Brafra. Another separatist group found in 2012 by Nnamdi Kanu, a British Nigerian political activist. (Ezeador, 2022) its base is in South East Nigeria, known as Biafra. It was formed due to political discrimination and marginalization of the people of Biafra. (ndi Igbo) The group began to manifest violently when the government of Nigeria under the leadership of Muhammadu Buhari declared the group as

terrorists and the extradition of their leader from Kenya. The eastern part of the country insists that unless their leader is released, sit-at-home order will not be lifted. The negative impact of this order is that many businesses in the eastern part are collapsing gradually and marauding robbers have used this opportunity to attack, kidnap and kill innocent successful investors, making the states unsafe for the people in those states.

Al-Shabaab in Somalia: Somalia, one of the most impoverished countries in the world has seen militant groups come and go in its decades of political upheaval. Al-shabaab, or the “Youth,” is an Islamist insurgent group based in Somalia. It was formed in the early 2000s in the capital city of Mogadishu. The current leader of this group is Ahmed Diriye, also known as Ahmed Umar Abu Ubaidah. Al-Shabaab seeks to establish an Islamic state in Somalia. This group remains the principal security challenge in war-torn Somalia. According to Claire et al, Al-Shsbaab controls large parts of the country’s south and continues to mount lethal attacks against international forces and civilians in the region. (Claire et al,) Al-Shabaab say Claire et al,

Broadly seeks to overthrow the central government, expel foreign forces from Somalia, and ultimately establish an Islamic state in accordance with its version of sharia. In Al-Shabaab controls in Somalia, it enforces its own harsh interpretation of sharia, prohibiting various types of entertainment, such as movies and music; the sale of khat, a narcotic plant that is often chewed; smoking; and the shaving of beards. Stoning and amputations have been meted out to suspected adulterers and thieves. At the same time, the group bans cooperation with humanitarian agencies, creating a harrowing challenge in the face of unprecedented droughts.

Al-Shabaab has benefited from several sources of income over the years in Somalia, including other terrorist groups; kidnapping, piracy and extortion of local businesses.

Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan: This group was initially known as *Janjaweed*. This group was accused of violating human rights while exacerbating existing tensions. According to Nicole, Sudan is currently facing humanitarian crises caused by its past instability. Years of war and displacement have left many Sudanese without access to essential services like healthcare, education, or clean water; food insecurity also threatens millions. (Nicole, 2023) The conflicts in Sudan have left hundreds of thousands dead while displacing millions from their homes.

Hezbollah in Latin America: Conflicts and terrorism are not new to Latin America. For decades, the Tri-Boarder Area of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay have been the hub of Iranian and Hezbollah activity in Latin America, capitalizing on large Lebanese and Shiite Diaspora communities. (Celina, 2023) Hezbollah in mid-1980s established its presence in Latin America. It set up illicit enterprises to fund its operations in the Middle East and has expanded into cryptocurrency mining. Hezbollah carried out major terrorist attacks in Argentina and

Buenos Aires in 1990 and 1992 respectively. The bombings in Argentina in 2001 were the worst acts in the Western Hemisphere. Argentina became the first Latin America country in 2019 to designate Hezbollah as a terrorist group, followed by Honduras, Paraguay, Colombia and Guatemala.

Factors Responsible for Political Instability and Conflict in the Global South

Political and Institutional factors:

Weak Institutions: Weak government characterized by weak institutions is likely to make it possible for conflict onset and sustenance. (Douglas, 2021) Weak government is likely to have weak military, one that is ill-prepared to handle rebellion. Here weak government connotes government that is unwilling, not committed and not able to attend to the needs of their people. It also means government that has failed to create peaceful, equal and a well playing field for its citizens. When a government fails to stand on justice, treat its citizens equally, create jobs, maintain law and order, addresses crises and find lasting solutions to end conflicts, it is certain that the institutions will be weak because those bodies or agencies with the responsibility of making laws are controlled by the corrupt leader in an extractive political institution.

Corruption: Corruption in developing economies has detrimental impacts on socioeconomic development. It retards economic growth. It also leads to social displeasure, protests, strikes, political violence and instability in the country. When funds meant for public use are diverted or embezzled and public officials abuse their power for personal gain, it affects the poor masses of the society. This will increase the chances of conflicts as citizens demand transparent and accountable government. The outbreak of conflicts in most developing counties are caused by failure of leadership. Most leaders in developing nations are so corrupt. Their mission basically is not to serve their people but to embezzle the public funds for their own selfish interest. That is why these leaders fight to retain power so that they will continue to squander and misuse the funds made for developing their countries. Elections in these countries are always manipulated because those corrupt leaders will never allow committed and responsible leader to take the power because of those things they benefit. No wonder Julius adds that how the state is managed is important to the emergency of conflict within a state i.e public response to how public funds and revenue are utilized. (Julius, 2015) when a country is managed by a committed leader that has the willingness to lift his country out of poverty, the country will enjoy sustainable development. This is because; the leader's focus and major interest will be basically on how to move his country forward. What will be in his mind are things that will bring growth to his country and not things that will destabilize the country.

Extractive political institution: This is an institution that extracts the income and wealth of the citizens for its own benefit. These institutions are rampant in Africa. They enrich the elite, and their wealth forms the basis for the continuation of their domination, suppression and oppression. Those controlling political power find it more beneficial to use their power to limit competition and promote monopoly so that they will have their own share. This has negative effect on the economic growth of the developing countries. Unless these poor nations transform

from extractive political institutions to inclusive institutions, development will be a mirage. This is because, growth under extractive institutions are not stable due to political infighting and the desire to extract public wealth.

Elitism: This is the major problem facing the poor nations of the South and the cause of political instability and conflicts in the Global South. The elites sit tight, and never want to leave the power. The elites embezzle the public fund; use it for their own egoist benefit, the looted money then serves as their weapon for sitting “tightism”, because nobody will challenge them due to the public fund they are lavishing

Political Discrimination: Unequal power discrimination may lead to discrimination against certain communities. Groups that are politically excluded look for ways to access power, and depending on what is at stake, these groups may perpetrate violent acts. (Douglas, 2021) Presently some African countries are facing serious conflicts as a result of political discrimination and tribalism. In the words of Achebe, the major objection to the practice of tribalism is that it exposes the citizen to unfair treatment and social injustice. The incessant kidnapping, killings, infrastructural damages and insurgency in Nigeria are as a result of political discrimination and marginalization. These groups out of frustration and anger wake up and decide to cause chaos and unrest resulting to serious conflicts. Some group of political elites in Africa wants to be in leadership by all means without having what it takes to be a true leader. Political leaders in Nigeria have made politics a do or die affairs, and have turned the country into a lawless state; making life so difficult for the poor masses. The eagerness to retain power has led to serious conflicts in many African countries, and this has affected the socio-economic development of these countries. Furthermore, the domination of access to state structures and resources by any one leader, group or political party to the exclusion of others exacerbates social divisions. Adinoyi *et al* citing Lindeman argues that the ability of post-colonial states in Sub-Saharan Africa to maintain political stability depends on the ability of the ruling political parties to overcome the historical legacy of social fragmentation. (Adinoyi *et al*, 2015)

Socio-economic Factors:

Poverty and Unemployment: There is this adage that says “A hungry man is an angry man.” Also, an idle mind is a devil’s workshop. One cannot beat a child and asks the child not to cry. Unemployment rate in most developing countries is high and perturbing. The reason is that the leaders of these poor countries have failed to provide a level playing field for the citizens to innovate and display their talents. The developing countries in the global North have young people who have innovative ideas and as well talented, but the problem is that these leaders do not care about them. These youths are ready to engage in something meaningful that will help to lift the country but, unfortunately the leaders are not willing to do anything. No wonder Achebe in his small but epoch making book *The Trouble with Nigeria* four decades ago laments that the trouble with Nigeria is simply and squarely a failure of leadership. (Achebe, 1983) this also applies to most African countries. The political leaders of these nations are the cause of

these unrests in their countries. Nations fail to develop when they have corrupt political leaders at the corridor of power. This is because, his motive and vision to become a leader is to embezzle the public funds for their own selfish interest.

Marginalization, Ethnicity, Inequalities and Tribalism: political and economic inequalities trigger grievances that in turn can result to conflicts. Just as the IPOB in eastern Nigeria. The marginalization the region faces has led to insecurity and killings in that region making development stagnant and the region violent.

Imperialism and colonialism: Africa was the victim of colonization. In his book *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, Walter says that Europeans made a grab for whatever they thought spelt profits in Africa, and they even consciously acquired many areas not for immediate exploitation but with an eye to the future. The gap that had arisen during the period of pre-colonial trade gave Europe the power to impose political domination on African. (Walter, 2009) lamenting on the social injustice colonialism had brought in Nigeria, Orji (2023) argues that the British had persuaded the various ethnic groups into a forced unification for their selfish interests, perhaps to use the riches of the south to develop the north and get the best of its resources for onward repatriation to their home country. He further maintains that it has been proven that the country Nigeria is blessed with abundant natural human resources, however, these resources are taken for granted and misused by the destruction of lives and material goods resulting from ethnic crises. These ethnic crises he states were planted by the colonial masters for their selfish interests. Regrettably, our leaders who are supposed to disentangle the situation are now using the opportunities to gather resources, power, and wealth for themselves and members of their ethnic group at the expense of the persons who do not belong to their ethnic group. (Orji, 2023)

The Impact of Political Instability and Conflicts on sustainable development in the Global South (Africa)

The inequality among global economies has kept countries, basically in the Global South poor. The economic and political instability have affected various economies of the developing countries. For instance, there was a time when Nigeria was the giant of Africa and was in the same GDP level with China. Today, china's GDP has grown far and the giant of Africa's economies has collapsed. The question remains; why did these poor countries like China, India, Singapore suddenly became rich nations? The answer to this question is this; when the political institution of a country is weak, corrupt and extractive, it will affect other institutions of that nation. Nations that are stable have better economies than nations at war. The per capital income of stable countries are far better as that of the countries that are experiencing conflicts. In the same vain, countries that are stable have more educated citizens, innovations and depend less on foreign aid. The number of conflict fatalities says Douglas in African continent as in 2021, basically in these countries Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, DRC and Kenya were Sudan (17, 991), Nigeria (15,329), DRC (12,173), Somalia (10,847), and Ethiopia (6,538), which accounted for 76.3percent of the continental total. (Douglas, 2021) The terror groups such as Al Shabaab, Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and Boko Haram in these countries. In

Africa, countries like Nigeria, Ethiopia, Sudan, DRC, and Somalia have the highest number of deaths, infrastructural damage, food scarcity, hardship, instability, and unemployment because of the ongoing conflicts in these places. For instance, Sudan's history of instability has had an indelible mark on its current state affairs. Conflicts over the years have torn the socio-economic fabric of these countries leaving these nations impoverished. Decades of political unrest, warring factions and humanitarian crises have resulted in fragile economies, weak institutions, and deep social divides in these developing countries. Research has it that countries that are peaceful and stable have sustained development. Their per capita income is more than four times as high as that of the countries that experience conflicts and political instability.

The General Impact of Political Instability and Conflicts on Socio-economic Development in the Global South

Conflicts in the developing countries have negative influence in agricultural productivity and investment in the developing nations. Conflict can adversely affect socioeconomic development of any country in different ways. For instance, in many developing countries, conflicts have disrupted the supply and distribution of inputs and outputs, create price shocks and cause massive displacement of labour. The impact of Farmer-herder clashes, Boko-Haram insurgency and incessant kidnapping and killings have affected farmers in Nigeria leading to shortage of food supply and high cost of foods in the markets. Due to these incessant killing of farmers, those left are afraid of going to their farms due to the fear of insecurity. These activities of the unknown gun men in some countries in Africa have displaced so many farmers making them refugees in another country, chased many foreign investors away and also led to the collapse of many industries. The conflicts have severely reduced cross-border trade with Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. The vandalization of oil pipe lines by the militants in the Niger-Delta in Nigeria since 2008 till date has resulted to oil spillage which has caused serious environmental pollution and destruction of aquatic animals in that region. All these compounding challenges make socioeconomic development and agricultural investments too difficult to maintain in these poor countries. It is very shameful and painful that most developing countries known for production of cocoa, palm oil and other agricultural produce are now going backward in agriculture as a result of conflicts.

Over the years, the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean experience divergent forms of political disorder; from insurgent groups vying for territorial control in Colombia and cartel violence fuelling the rise of vigilantes in Mexico, to the suppression of dissent in Nicaragua and Venezuela. (acleddata.com) apart from conflicts in this region, gang activity stemming from drug trafficking is wide spreading, generating instability across El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Brazil, and more. This has directly threatens public safety and security of these countries. The incessant conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa have negative influence in agricultural productivity and investment in those areas. More so, in many developing countries, conflicts have disrupted the supply and distribution of inputs and outputs, create price shocks and cause massive displacement of labour. The impact of Farmer-herder clashes, Boko-Haram insurgency and incessant kidnapping and killings have affected farmers in Nigeria leading to shortage of food supply and high cost of foods in the markets. Due to these incessant killing of

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In the words of Rana and Sarwat, the politically unstable environment affects sustainable development through irrational political and economic decision making which reduces private investment, public sectors programs, pattern of public spending and economic growth. (Rana and Sarwat, 2019) It has adverse effect on sustainable development. For instance, in Africa, bad government policies have affected many businesses leading to decline of many industries in that country. Also, the inability of some leaders of these countries in Africa to prioritize education, encourage innovation, create job opportunity for the youths, provide social amenities, create a well playing field for businesses to flow, give listening ear to those that are oppressed, ensure lasting solution to the crises in some communities has contributed negatively to the sustainable development of that country. The high Inflation rate that these poor countries experience has been found to negatively affect the sustainable development in developing economies. It has brought serious abject poverty which has led to high rate of death in these developing countries.

The Way forward to Overcoming Political Instability and Conflicts for Sustainable Development in the Global South

Sustainable development is the most debatable concept with respect to its operationalization. It is captured by genuine saving rate. (Rana and Sarwat, 2019) Political instability and conflict hurdle the sustainable development of the developing countries. For these developing countries to be sustainably developed like those progressive states in the Global North, a lot of things need to be put in place. Leaders of these countries must stand up and say no to corruption, this is because some of the causes of these conflicts are internal. They are mostly caused by the political leaders of the developing countries. In the developed world for instance in the United States, the citizens could keep politicians in check and get rid of ones who would use their offices to enrich themselves. But, in the developing nations, it is not so. The citizens have no power to do so because of the fear that they may be killed. So, for these poor countries to have sustainable growth, the citizens of these countries must wake up and over throw the corrupt political elites during elections and vote in committed leaders that will address the challenges confronting their nations. This is what the citizens of the developed nations did to achieve huge successes and progress. As Acemoglu and Robinson put it; United States became rich because their citizens overthrew the elites who controlled power and created a society where political rights were much more broadly distributed, where the government was accountable and

responsive to citizens, and where the great mass of people could take advantage of economic opportunities. Therefore, for sustained development to take place in developing nations, their citizens must wake up and use the strategies used by the citizens of the developed world to fix their countries.

Secondly, during elections that will usher new leaders, the citizens must thoroughly investigate to know the type of leaders they are choosing. This is because, if they choose leaders who are not innovative and responsive, it is certain that these countries will remain poor because innovation is one of the engines of prosperity. Lack of innovation leads to underdevelopment, as Acemoglu and Robinson put, the engine of technological breakthroughs throughout the economy was innovation, spearheaded by new entrepreneurs and businessmen eager to apply their new ideas. (Acemoglu and Robinson, 2012) So, the leaders of the developing countries must make it a priority to invest in their citizens irrespective of their backgrounds and tribes. One striking thing about the developed nations is that the governments of these countries invest on their citizens from all sorts of backgrounds and all walks of life, not just the rich and the elite. All forms of discrimination must be jettison. This will go a long way to help reduce all forms of Mediocrity, corruption and injustice in the system. Everything will be based on merit and will help the citizens to work hard because; already they are sure that the government will provide incentives for them.

More so, the leaders of the developing countries must make education their number one priority. Education is the number one key for development. It is very pivotal, and a weapon to improve societies. Education can encourage individuals to become more active and engaged members of their communities. It can also provide the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in civic and political processes, and can promote a sense of social responsibility and a desire to give back to the community. (Okpara and Ezeador, 2023) However, the leaders of the developing nations should ensure that education is properly funded, made compulsory and also affordable for the children of the poor. This will go a long way to reduce the rate of school dropouts, illiteracy and illegal migration, human trafficking and other nonchalant behaviours found in most youths. When these things aforementioned are put in place, the act of engaging into crime and violence by most youths will drastically reduce.

Furthermore, the leaders of the developing countries should try and get the strategies and methods the leaders of the progressive world adopted to fix their own countries. But, as a leader, without having the interest of your people first, there is no how your country will progress. Singapore wouldn't have become a stable country if Lee Kuan Yew didn't focus on getting the basic things first. Lee writes; my duty was to give the people hope, not demoralize them. He further states that his biggest headache was the economy- how to make a living for his people. (Lee, 2000) Lee had to create a new kind of economy, try new methods and schemes never tried before anywhere else in the world. It takes a leader who has passion and vision for his country to do that. Lee lifted Singapore from third world to first because he had the passion to liberate his people. He was a committed, incorrupt and responsible leader.

More so, to end political instability and Conflicts in the global South, the leaders of these countries must create job opportunities for their citizens. Many countries in the Global South are known for their overdependence on foreign products and excess borrowing and debts. Most poor African countries borrow money to embezzle and not to produce or invest on their citizens. They consumed everything from the Global North without producing their own. This has resulted to unrests and different kinds of crimes in these countries. When there is job creation, the citizens will not see the need in causing chaos in the country because they are busy with their jobs and when the work, they get huge pay. Unemployment paves way for conflict and crimes, but where there are jobs; citizens will not see the need to attack their governments because they provide a well playing field for them.

Infrastructural development is another thing that attracts sustainable development. Without good roads, uninterrupted power supply, good transport system, good health care system, good water supply system, foreign investors will not come and invest and the existing industries will be collapsing. So, there is a need for these poor nations especially African countries to wake up and fix their countries for sustainable development. No wonder Agundu, observes that Africa's development strategy cannot achieve the desired target if it does not promote local content and intra-continental trade. (Agundu, 2016)

In conclusion, the poor countries in the Global South must diversify their economies. Diversification is tremendously important but unfortunately, it has continued to elude many poor counties of the South. Diversified economy helps to support multiple businesses within it. It creates a sustainable cycle of economic activity. It opens the doors for providing the goods and services a growing community needs. Diversified economy is flexible and not fixed. It is a key element of economic development in which a country moves to a more diverse production and trade structure. Those countries especially the oil producing nations that depended on oil went through hell during Covid-19 pandemic when the oil price dropped. Some of these countries are yet to recover from the effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

Conclusion

From the investigations and explanations so far, no doubt, poor leadership has been the strongest factor that is causing political instability and conflicts in the Global South. Development policies may be conceptualized but without good leaders with a strong political will to implement such initiatives, such policies will never work. This paper has critically examined the various causes of political instability and conflicts in the Global South. And no doubt, politics is the number one major cause of these unrests in the developing countries of the South. Nations become failed state or underdeveloped when they have corrupt leaders. Corrupt leaders make institutions to be weak so that it will favour only them. At this end, the way forward for sustained development in the Global South is for the leaders and the citizens of these countries to wake up and adopt the methods used by the leaders of the developed world and fix their countries.

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