

## **A – Required changes as regards governance for African development**

### **I. Recommendations**

- Governments. Should carefully develop national policies and analyse all development policies, including trade, and should strengthen their capacity in these endeavour.
- NGOs/CSOs. Re-position themselves through capacity development in meaningful engagement with stakeholders, policy formulation and analysis, monitoring, evaluation and staff development.
- Regional Economic Blocs. Should be strengthened and create more space for active engagement with NGOs/CSOs.

### **II. (1<sup>st</sup> point requiring to be changed)**

The general perception is that African Governments do not actively engage all national stakeholders, particularly civil society organizations, in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of national development policies. The governments, it is perceived, rather show much insensitivity to the needs of the poor by “blindly” accepting and implementing externally imposed policies. For example, in the area of international trade. Also, it is perceived that several African governments attend donor meetings and similar conferences without adequate preparations.

To address these issues, civil society calls for more transparency and accountability from governments. Rather than the cosmetic approach to civil society participation in national development policies, it is about high time that governments give due recognition and acceptance of civil society as real complementary partners in development. For example, governments must make conscious efforts to include civil society in international trade talks.

### **III. (2<sup>nd</sup> point requiring to be changed)**

NGOs/CSOs have played and continue to play key roles in national development. However, several NGOs/CSOs have continued to lag behind in current development trends and analysis. Whilst several African governments have not shown serious commitment to active engagement with NGOs/CSOs, there is a general perception that several NGOs/CSOs continue to lack advocacy skills to be able to engage meaningfully with their governments. Further, several NGOs/CSOs continue to exhibit “amateurist” approach to development issues, lack of transparency and accountability.

To change and improve the situation, NGOs/CSOs must seriously do internal reflections and inflections. They must do serious organisational SWOT analysis, strategic thinking and planning and form strategic alliances.

Further, NGOs/CSOs must capacitate themselves to be able to take full advantage of the seemingly small openings with governments and international partners. The doors would then open wide enough later.

### **IV. (3<sup>rd</sup> point requiring to be changed)**

The general perception is that African sub-regional economic blocs are just extensions of the

“talking shops” of the continent’s leaders at their summits. Again, these sub-regional economic blocs lack intra and inter coordination. Further, the level and content of their engagement with civil society leaves much to be desired.

## **B – International engagements for African development**

### **I. Recommendations**

- Donors/Development Partners. Should be more flexible, improve and expand their technical and funding support for NGOs/CSOs
- Regular engagement with civil society and commitment to implement agreed decisions and actions.

### **II. Present situation**

International development assistance is strongly skewed towards relations with African governments. The bi- and multi lateral approaches with national governments leaves very little or no room for active engagement with civil society organisations.

In the area of NGO/CSO funding applications to international development institutions, missions, etc., the key challenge has been what civil society sees as generally “inflexible” funding requirements.

Admittedly, the lack of several NGOs/CSOs’ transparency and accountability has also contributed in a large measure to the difficult relations with donors and partners.

To cite a few examples, the Embassy of Japan in Ghana in March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2002 collaborated with the Ghana Association of Private Voluntary Organisations in Development (GAPVOD) to organise a “Workshop for Better Collaboration between Civil Society in Ghana and the Government of Japan”. I, Charles Abbey, was (and still am) the Chairman of GAPVOD and played no small role in this workshop. This was a very well attended workshop that was well captured by the Ghanaian media. During the discussions, civil society advocated with the Government of Japan to reconsider its position after Ghana opted for HIPC and support with the construction of the Malam Junction to Mankessim Highway. This was well received by the Government of Japan and today this highway is among one of the best in Ghana and Africa. Very unfortunately, the follow up with civil society suddenly ended when GAPVOD was left out of the invitation to TICAD III. Not even my two meetings with the then Ambassador and his immediate successor and top officials at the Embassy could change the situation. This worthy activity needs to be revived.

Next was civil society participation in the “Ghana – Japan Business & Economic Forum”, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2002. This was also a very well organised and attended forum that included GAPVOD. I represented GAPVOD. The whole meeting missed valuable inputs from the non-profit private sector (NGOs/CSOs) as civil society organisations were not invited to make a presentation. There are civil society organisations that also contribute to the economic development of Ghana.

Furthermore, the African Development Programme (ADP), under the leadership of Charles Abbey, accepted and worked with an Intern from Japan for nearly one year. During this period, the Japanese Intern Mr. Akira Kondo, worked with ADP in micro-finance for women engaged in food production and marketing. Mr. Kondo was exposed to the importance of rural and cultural aspects of development. Mr. Kondo later came back to work in Ghana as a

JICA Volunteer. ADP is proud to have contributed in this international development cooperation. In addition to working with government institutions, JICA and the Embassy of Japan could explore the possibility of improving and expanding such initiatives with civil society organisations. And, conscious efforts should be made to link Japanese CSOs with Ghanaian and African CSOs.

I advocate for the improvement and expansion of the good Japan ODA for Ghana that would include active consultation with and participation of Ghanaian NGOs/CSOs. **Please see Annex below.**

### **III. (Specific Question)**

- To what extent will JICA and the Embassy of Japan ensure that my participation in the Nairobi workshop improve and expand Ghanaian and Japanese NGO/CSO relations?
- To what extent will the Embassy of Japan facilitate G-8 countries' active consultation with and participation of Ghanaian NGOs/CSOs? Helping to move away from what seems to be very marginal and cosmetic engagement with civil society?
- Aid Effectiveness and Paris Declaration. I am reliably informed that there will be a big international conference in Ghana next year (2009) on the effectiveness of aid (and Paris Declaration?). Will Japan be part of this conference? Will Japan collaborate with C-CfA to ensure that the Voice of African civil society organizations are heard? Until 2009 for this conference, what role is Japan playing to ensure the effectiveness of aid to Africa, including the Paris Declaration?
- **Prepared and submitted by Charles Abbey, Ghana. 28<sup>th</sup> August 2007**

## **ANNEX**

### **3. ODA Country Policy toward Major Recipients**

#### **Japan's ODA in Ghana**

##### **1. Basic Policies**

###### **(1) Ghana's Position in Japan's ODA**

Japan is providing assistance to Ghana, taking into account the following factors.

- 1) Ghana is a principal country in West Africa and has a major political voice in the region.
- 2) Ghana has been promoting structural adjustments and actively engaged in economic reforms since 1983.
- 3) Following presidential and parliamentary elections, Ghana completed its transition to civilian rule in January 1993. The presidential and parliamentary elections of December 1996 were conducted very fairly and with great transparency, and the

- country continues to make positive, sure progress in the democratization process.
- 4) Ghana maintains good relations with Japan.
  - 5) Ghana's development policy is demonstrating the country's ownership of its economic and social development by advancing certain specific development targets; its policies are in accord with the orientation of the DAC's new development strategy, and Ghana is in a situation where aid can be focused with priority on implementing the new development strategy.
  - 6) With its low per capita GNP (\$390 in 1997), Ghana is in great need of assistance.

Ghana is the 22nd largest recipient of Japanese bilateral aid (based on cumulative net disbursements up to 1998) and the third largest in Africa. In addition, Japan is the largest aid donor to Ghana (as of 1997).

## **(2) Priority Areas for Japan's ODA**

On the basis of studies and research concerning development conditions and tasks in Ghana and its development plans as well as policy dialogues between Japan and Ghana, including the High-Level Mission on Economic and Technical Cooperation sent to Ghana in March 1995 and subsequent policy dialogues, Japan has given priority to assistance in the following areas.

- 1) Improvement in the area of basic human needs
  - a) Water supply  
There is inadequate access to fresh water, especially in provincial cities and rural areas. Providing support to secure drinking water supplies through development of city water supplies, groundwater and other means, in order to improve the availability of safe water and reduce women's labor of fetching water.
  - b) Education  
Providing support aimed at enhancing basic education in order to develop the human resources essential to medium- and long-term economic and social development. Providing support for the education of women, as the lack of basic education among women is especially prominent.
  - c) Population control, AIDS prevention and children's health  
Ghana has a very high population growth rate, which is a factor impeding its economic growth. The rapid spread of AIDS in recent years is a problem that must be addressed urgently. Providing cooperation tailored to these problems as well as contributing to measures to improve children's health in order to prevent infection.
- 2) Agriculture  
Small-scale farms are the principal types of farms in Ghana and productivity has fallen, due to unseasonable weather and soil deterioration. Providing aid for increased food production in order to boost food productivity and support for the transfer of small-scale irrigation technology, the repair and expansion of irrigation facilities, and the strengthening and enhancement of post-harvest work (storage, distribution and processing).
- 3) Roads and power generation  
While road construction has been designated a priority investment area and is advancing comparatively well, the lack of roads in rural areas and deterioration of main arteries are impeding the transportation of agricultural products and other goods. In addition, electric power demand is growing rapidly, in step with economic

development, yet there is also a serious electric power supply shortage caused by a shortage of rain. Providing support for repairing main arteries, constructing roads in rural areas, and building electric power facilities.

### (3) Matters for Consideration

- Ghana seems to be proceeding relatively smoothly with structural adjustments. Its economic infrastructure is, however, still fragile, and Ghana's foreign currency holdings have decreased, due to susceptibility of the country's agriculture to weather conditions, a drop in hydroelectric power generation due to a lack of rain, and foreign debt repayments. The implementation of assistance at the macro level should encourage Ghana to make further self-help efforts to reduce its dependency on primary sector products and to improve its debt situation.
- Cooperation promoted under the Tokyo Initiative of the TICAD II talks held in Tokyo should be implemented, and the regional cooperation discussed in the initiative in terms of examining the implementation of projects that benefit not only Ghana but the whole West Africa region.

## 2. The Current Economic Situation in Ghana and Tasks to Be Addressed

### (1) Major Economic Indicators

1997 per capita GNP and GNP growth rates (1990-1997 average)	Real GDP growth rate													
\$390; 1.4% (World Bank figures)	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="911 1055 1050 1099">1993:</td> <td data-bbox="1058 1055 1197 1099">4.8%,</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="911 1106 1050 1151">1994:</td> <td data-bbox="1058 1106 1197 1151">3.6%,</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="911 1158 1050 1202">1995:</td> <td data-bbox="1058 1158 1197 1202">4.5%,</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="911 1209 1050 1254">1996:</td> <td data-bbox="1058 1209 1197 1254">5.2%,</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="911 1261 1050 1305">1997:</td> <td data-bbox="1058 1261 1197 1305">5.1%,</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="911 1312 1050 1357">1998:</td> <td data-bbox="1058 1312 1197 1357">4.6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> (IMF figures)		1993:	4.8%,	1994:	3.6%,	1995:	4.5%,	1996:	5.2%,	1997:	5.1%,	1998:	4.6%
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### (2) Current Situation

Ghana is said to be the sub-Saharan African country where structural adjustments have been most successful, as seen in the economic reforms achieved through structural adjustments since 1983. This suggests that the country has sustained generally favorable economic growth. However, many problems remain in Ghana, including an inefficient public sector, high inflation, a high dependency on foreign aid, and poverty.

### (3) Tasks to Be Addressed

- Implementing fiscal reform, reducing the country's high level of foreign debt and controlling inflation
- Furthering deregulation in certain sectors such as cocoa production, reforming the public sector and building the investment environment
- Upgrading the economic infrastructure and nurturing industry, which provide the base for sustainable economic growth

- Enhancing social services, including the water supply, education, and health and medical services
- Controlling population growth and implementing AIDS prevention measures
- Developing human resources to provide a solid base for economic and social development
- Improving agricultural productivity to achieve a stable food supply and enhancing post-harvest sectors (food storage, distribution and processing)

### 3. Development Programs

The Mid-Term Economic Program (1996-2000)

Major tasks:

- Improving skills and commercial know-how, especially of people in farming villages and laborers in informal sectors
- Improving the level of per capita GDP to \$500
- Achieving an 8% annual GDP growth rate
- Reducing the annual average population growth rate, from 3% to 2.75%
- Enhancing social services in rural areas, including the water and electric power supply services and public hygiene
- Upgrading the economic and social infrastructure and putting legislation on urban planning and land use in place
- Transferring authority over implementation of administrative reform programs and promoting decentralization of power

### 4. Aid Statistics

#### (1) Japanese Assistance

(Net disbursements, \$ million)

Calendar Year	ODA Loans	Grant Aid	Technical Cooperation	Total	Rank of Total Contribution
1998	94	40	16	151	11th
Cumulative through 1998	708	345	167	1,220	20th

#### (2) Assistance from DAC Countries

(Net disbursements 1997, \$ million)

Total Bilateral Aid	1st	2nd	3rd
292	Japan: 70	United States: 44	Germany: 42

#### (3) ODA from International Organizations

(Net disbursements 1997, \$ million)

<b>Total Aid</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>
193	IDA: 225	AfDF: 33	*CEC: 25

\*CEC: Commission of the European Communities