A Critical Analysis of the Impact of Globalisation on Sustainable Development in Africa

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Abstract
This paper concerns itself with analysing the influence of globalisation on sustainable development in Africa. The paper highlights how globalisation negatively impacts on the economy, education, agriculture, politics, international relations between Africa and non-African countries. The unequal effect of globalisation has preponderantly distorted third world economic development. There is lack of infrastructure in almost every sector of the economy. Poverty, accompanied with its consummate terminal deceases has been rife. The agricultural sector is drastically affected. The education sector is poorly funded. Income per capital has been on the downward trend with no meaningful result from policy changes. The paper notes that sustainable development is the key to a robust foreign policy. Thus, it is imperative for African governments to look beyond narrow policy implementation processes and rather focus on implementing programs and projects that have strong linkages that will ensure the attainment of Sustainable Development in Africa. This must be backed by the needed political will, since too often; the problem is not the difficulty to design 'good' policies but the needed will to translate policy intentions into reality.

Keywords: Globalisation, Development, Liberalisation, Sustainable Development

Introduction
The persistent and glaring reality of the influence of glablisation that has developed in the recent years, impacting on the

development strides of developing countries like Africa is a huge motivation to this analysis of the impact of globalisation on sustainable development in Africa. The world has entered a different phase, a phase or era that is quite different from every other ever known to humans. This era is the era of globalisation, it is popularly depicted as the shrinking of the world. In this era, humans can interact on a greater level than ever, see each other, hear from one another, receive packages from one another as if they are together in same place, however, far apart, they may be. People may be in Makurdi, Nigeria and may appear as if they are together in Bauchi State or Ghana or India, or even Japan. Globalisation constitutes a limitless reality, it is beyond social, cultural, economic as well as political boundaries; its scope is the integration of the unique ways of thinking and customs of distinguished ethnic cleavages and world cultures. It is, nevertheless, a fascinating reality that stands contested irrespective of its certainty of progress and developmental import. From various corners of the world, the nagging question is, will globalisation usher in equal development or has it created equal development for both the North and the South hemisphere? Put in another perspective, will the same development process be experienced in Africa as it is in other developed countries like USA or Europe? This is quite doubtful, especially Marxist scholars who say that it will lead to a more widening gap between the rich and the poor countries.

Conceptual Analysis

Globalisation is understood as the "intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring miles away and vice versa."[1] This definition embodies some interrelated ideas, of

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1. Giddens, A. *Runaway World: How globalization is Reshaping our Lives. (*New York: Routledge, 2000)

"accelerating interdependence"[2], of "action at a distance" and of
"time–space compression."[3] The implication is that ideas are
shared and absorbed by different peoples or groups regardless of
geographical limitations.   That is why Akindele and Bassey
defined globalisation as a concept that is used interchangeably
with internalisation and liberalisation. To them, globalisation is
the transcendence of the economic, social, cultural, political,
environmental constraints across territories. The idea is that
globalisation has been able to create a symbiotic relationship
among nations and economies.[4]

Although it is perceived ined that globalisation has created more
problems to Nigeria than other nations. To them not everybody, of
course see globalisation as a threat, while some condemn it as the
mother of the world's ills, others hail it as the panacea for most of
the World's problems. This ongoing debate may seem irrelevant to
majority of mankind, many of whom have only a hazy idea of what
globalisation is all about. But whatever your view point,
globalisation does affect you already and it will probably affect
you even more in future. Globalisation has thus created growth
and wealth for some countries, while the reverse is the case with
others, like Nigeria. This explains why Agundu notes that
globalisation as a concept has redefined the concept of time and
space in relation to the interaction of people and nation-states
through economic exchanges. In this sense, globalisation is the
"phenomenon of increasing integration of nation-states through
economic exchanges, political configuration, technological

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2.   Ohmae K. *The End of the Nation State: The Rise of Regional Economies*,
(London: Harper Collins, 1995).

3.   Akindele, T., Gidado, T. and Olaopo, R. *Globalisation, Its Implications and
Consequences for Africa*. Department of Political Science, Obafemi
Awolowo University, 2002.

4.   Akindele, R.A., and Bassey E. A. Selected- *Readings on Nigeria's Foreign
Policy and International Relations*.

advancement and cultural influences"[5]. He also emphases that, in spite of the vagueness of the concept, what remains constant is that in the vast and expanding literature on globalisation, majority of contributions seem inclined to focus on the economic dimension. It is thus inevitable that globalisation stresses the influences of varying factors on the economic strength of organisations and nation-states.

Sustainable Development

For Lynn and Kahle, sustainable development can be defined as the practice of maintaining the productivity by replacing resources used with resources of equal or greater value without degrading or endangering natural biotic systems.[6] UNESCO considers Sustainable development as an organising principle for meeting human development goals while simultaneously sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services on which the economy and society depend. The desired result is a state of society where living conditions and resources are used to continue to meet human needs without undermining the integrity and stability of the natural system. Sustainable development can be defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.[7] Also, sustainable development binds together concern for the carrying capacity of natural systems with the social, political and economic challenges faced by humanity. Meanwhile, sustainable development was defined by the Brundtl and Commission as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of

5.   Agundu, O. Tersoo. *Social and Political Philosophy in the Age of Globalisation*. (Abuja: DonAfrique Publishers, 2019).

6.   Lynn R. Kahle, Eda Gurel-Atay, (Eds) *Communicating Sustainability for the Green Economy*. (New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2014).

7.   Finn, Donovan. *Our Uncertain Future: Can Good Planning Create Sustainable Communities?*. (Champaign-Urbana: University of Illinois, 2009).

future generations to meet their own needs".[8] Some authors see the diversity as undesirable, for example Lélé, argues that:

> Sustainable Development is a metafix' that will unite everybody from the profit-minded industrialist and risk-minimising subsistence farmer to the equity-seeking social worker, the pollution concerned or wildlife-loving First Wonder, the growth-maximising policy-maker, the goal-oriented bureaucrat and, therefore, the vote-counting politician.[9]

Other authors like Maurice Strong and Babara Ward argue that sustainability is not something to be defined but to be declared, since "it is an ethical guiding principle".[10] In other words, sustainability is what should be pursued by every individual and by extension, all nations.

How Globalisation Impacts on Sustainable Development in Africa

While globalisation offers many opportunities to developing countries and Africa inclusive, it also presents a number of challenges. Globalisation has brought up new challenges such as, environmental deteriorations, instability in commercial and financial markets, increase inequity across and within nations. What is viewed as a challenge depends very much on whether one is a proponent or an opponent of globalisation. Fierce supporters of globalisation are Brettonwoods institutions and their close affiliates - IMF, the World Bank and WTO- among others, which are often called to task to defend their conviction against opposing

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[8.] WCED (World Commission on Environment and Development) (1987). Our Common Future. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989).

[9.] Lélé, S., "Sustainable Development: A Critical Review", *World Development*, Vol. 19, No. 6, 1991.

[10.] Viederman, S., "A Dream of Sustainability", *Ecological Economics*, Vol. 8, 1993.

scholars and politicians from the developing world.[11]

Most importantly, those countries which fail to adapt to modern competition with the pace risk being left behind and, henceforth, may suffer from world marginalisation. One may blame it on Africa, for instance, that after being at par with the world's now fastest growing economies just five decades ago, she is still the world's slum. To counter these adverse possibilities, the IMF gives the following advice: implementation of sound macroeconomic policies, better governance, legal and financial reforms, privatisation, price liberalisation and infrastructure investment. And as we have noted in the previous section, some countries opted to effect the recommendations with calculated reservations and have been more successful than those which embraced the wholesale without modification. Some critics have considered most of these recommendations to be recipes of the developed countries' agenda to dominate Africa.[12] In other words, every recommendation of IMF is rather targeted at continued impoverishment of Africa than liberalisation of the African economy.

The Challenge of Expansion and Liberalisation of International Trade

A major hallmark of globalisation is the liberalisation of trade policies, and the expansion of international merchandise trade. For example, as Chinery-Hesse notes, the value of world merchandise trade had more than doubled from a little more than US$2 trillion, in 1980, to US$4 trillion in 1994. Countries that diversified their exports and opened their economies to imports and investment have grown faster than countries that continue to export only basic commodities and raw materials, or that maintain protectionist

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[11]. Muthoka, Sila and Muthuri, Evan and Oginga, "Globalisation in Africa: An Overview" Jared University of Nairobi - https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/65474/ MPRA Retrieved 4th September, 2022.

policies.[12] The available statistics suggest that Africa is in the latter category, as it is visibly stuck at the periphery of the globalising world economy. The region's current position in the global economy is characterised by a small and declining share of world trade, and concentration on the production of primary exports and importation of non-primary products.

The Challenge of Information Technology
One other aspect of the globalising challenge facing Africa is in the field of information technology. It has been argued that if Africa fails to adjust successfully to the information society of the future, the continent's competitiveness will be severely disadvantaged in the emerging global economy. Globalisation has produced a proliferation of applications requiring a diverse range of communication technologies. Convergence and cost reduction have created opportunities for leapfrogging. On the other hand, while the new information infrastructure opens up new opportunities, African countries lag far behind countries in Asia and Latin America in using information technology to spur development.

The Challenge of Regional Trading Arrangements
Alongside globalisation and its accompanying effects, a shift towards regionalism is also occurring, posing another kind of challenge to Africa. This means that the world has seen at least as much fracturing as merging, as analysed by Sideri and Fischer in their recent studies.[13] Despite the multilateral agreements reached under the Uruguay Round, the growth of regional trading arrangements (RTAs) has accelerated, with new RTAs being established, the membership of existing RTAs expanded, and

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12. Ouattara, A. D., "The Challenges of Globalization for Africa". At the Southern Africa Economic Summit sponsored by the World Bank, (Harare, Zimbabwe, 1997), Pg. 197.

13. Sideri, S., "Globalisation and Regional Integration", *European Journal of Development Research*, 9, 1: 38-82, 1997.

formal links established between different RTAs. African countries are not included in the major RTAs, such as the European Union (EU) and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which encompass their major exports markets. This has potentially important implications for the African countries. African countries will be in an especially vulnerable position if competing trade blocs turn inward looking, with each adopting protectionist policies towards non-members.[14] Although African countries are involved in a number of RTAs in their own regions (Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) being among the largest of these groupings), the general experience of these RTAs has been disappointing.[15]

Globalisation and Socio-Economic Development in Africa

Globalisation has ensured the socio-economic growth of many developing countries in many important fields such as economic and trade processes, education and health systems and culture effects. It can be seen that, globalisation has certain advantages such as economic processes, technological developments, political influences, social and natural environment factors. It has a lot of benefit on our daily life. Globalisation has created new opportunities for developing countries such as, technology transfer, greater opportunities to access developed countries' markets, growth and improved productivity and living standards. This can be felt in areas like Economic and Trade Processes Field, Education and Health Systems and Culture Effects. To the proponents of globalisation especially for African's development, there is a big risk to those countries which continue to implement

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[14]. UNCTAD, "Trade and Development Report, Geneva", UNCTAD, 1995.

[15]. Maduagwu, M., "Globalization and its Challenges to National Cultures and Values: A Perspective from Sub-Saharan Africa". A Paper Presented at International Roundtable on the Challenges of Globalization University of Munich, March 1999.

economically unfavourable policies, over and above the external
shocks that global forces expose them to. Countries that refrain
from prudent policies may not improve economic efficiency to
levels that match international competition. Such countries will
soon be out-competed as the most efficient producers are
favoured; the weaknesses of their internal structures will be
exposed and exploited to their disadvantage; policy mistakes will
be punished. Due to speedy flow of information in a global
economy and high capital mobility under globalisation, their
exchange rates destabilised

Effects of Globalisation on Africa's Development

The concept of globalisation, as it is generally being propagated in
the West, namely, as (invisible) forces operating beyond human
control that are transforming the world, is deceitful propagated in
this form, globalisation might be an attempt "to justify the spread
of Western culture and of capitalist society". Maduagwu admitted
that:

> Globalisation is the direct consequence of the
> expansion of European culture across the planet
> via statement, colonization and cultural mimesis.
> It is also bound up intrinsically with the pattern of
> capitalist development as it has ramified through
> political and cultural arenas". [16]

The effect is that Western culture has become the standard by
which all other cultures must be measured, or as puts, "every set of
social arrangements must establish its position in relation to the
capitalist West".[17] For the critics of globalisation, it is mere
deception to suggest that globalisation is a self – propelling social
dynamics. However, Maduagwu described it as an economic

[16.] Maduagwu, M., "Globalization and its Challenges to National Cultures and
Values: A Perspective from Sub-Saharan Africa".

[17.] Adesoji, A.A., "Globalization of the Media and the Challenges of
Democratisation in Nigeria". *Nebula, Vol. 3.No. 4,*2006.

sphere being directed by the World Trade Organization (WTO), with its underlying goal of economic liberalisation; in political and cultural spheres, through the powerful means of information technology, dominated by the West.[18] The weak cultures may not be able to resist the forces of globalisation but the third world countries should not be unaware of the "hidden agenda" of globalisation. The apparent truth about globalisation is that it is the latest under current principle of economic exploitation of the Third World by the technological advanced countries, particularly of the West. It is no wonder that third world scholars have concentrated their reaction to globalisation to its economic dimension.

For the Third World, the conclusion of the Uruguay Round negations and the establishment of the WTO have risen to a new world order extending far beyond traditional international trade relations. The situation in Africa today is so pathetic as a result of the gradual admittance of Western culture at the detriment of our own culture. Africa has consequently changed from a land of culture, nature; of tradition and rural setting where the cockcrow signals the dawn of a new day, to a land of urban dwellers with all the evils associated with it. Not only this, the formal ways of life of the African origin has been altered in much diversity, take for example African traditional religion, with all it has to offer, is driven to the background. It is the Western religion that is now promoted. The worship and belief of our gods and goddesses has been washed away by the belief and worship of one God. The basis of our religion is the root of our behavior and hence our belief and trust has been replaced by what we have been told is better than what we have; we have stolen the trust and belief in ourselves.[19]

[18.] Maduagwu, M., "Globalization and its Challenges to National Cultures and Values: A Perspective from Sub-Saharan Africa".

[19.] Boateng, E. A., "Environmental Quality Aspects of Development" in Adepoke, O. S. (ed) *The Environmental and Sustainable Development in Nigeria* (74-79) Nigeria FEPA, 1990.

On the social front, the problems are endemic. Crime is promoted daily as a result of globalisation popular among this is the cybercrime all over the world, armed robbery is also accorded a professional status for young men and women. Fear rules the night of African man and despair rules the day. The man in public office turns corruption to his god. Pages of newspapers and magazines are filled with scandalous reports of one corrupt practice or other. Nigerian newspapers for example, reported daily occurrences of public office holders' involvement in bribery and corruption. Even those people that supposed to protect the law are indicted of one corruption or the other.[20] Societal restrictions on sex are no longer there. Married men and women compete with bachelors and spinsters on sex game. Even the younger one now go to the internet to choose their spouses without the usual affinity and affiliation of courtship. Adultery to modern African is conquest. Fornication is "enjoyment." Hotels and brothels make fortunes for them. Besides this our education is no longer delivered in the traditional way but now in the cellular and secular style and form. Our indigenous and civic /moral education that promotes obedience, brotherhood, love, respect for elders and constituted authorities is now thrown to the background in favors of the western education.[21]

The foreign culture embedded in Western education has dealt a serious blow to African culture and has even almost wiped off our culture. The situation has reached an alarming rate that most Africans do not see anything good in locally made goods except imported foreign goods. No matter the quality of the goods, unless Nigerians see the stamp of made in England, Japan China etc on it, they would not be satisfied. Western education has produced a set

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[20.] Heaps, C., Humphreys, S., Kemp-Benedict, K., Raskin, P. And Sokona, Y., "Sustainable Development in West Africa", Stockholm Environment Institute, Boston, MA Holmen, H. (2000), The Unsustainability of Development, International Journal of Economic Development, Vol. 3 No.1, 2001.

[21.] Annan, K. *Interventions: A Life in War and Peace*. (Allen Lake, Great Britain, 2012).

of Africans with colonial mentality. Most educated Africans do not allow their children to speak their native language; instead, it is English all the time. Even when somebody comes from their village and speak the native language to the children, they would answer in English and tell you they understand it but they cannot speak it. The overall result is that Western education has actually Westernized Africans to the extent that they can no longer be regarded as people who have culture.[22]

Most Africans now see African cultural way of life as uncivilized, primitive and ancient. We could see from the foregoing that globalization has not only broken our religion, education, but also individual lives, families, relationships, situations and societies. The typical man no longer eat with his bare hands from the calabash-dish but with silver made spoons and golden plates and finger like looking stainless forks and knives. He does not sit on the floor with his traditional mat decorated with local decoration but relaxes on an easy armchair stirring a beautifully made flat table as dinning furniture; the concerned Africans for the factors responsible for these undesirable trends.[23] From this, we could see that the effect of globalisation is more profound on our youths who are rapidly losing touch with their cultural values as portrayed by their alien culture and bizarre dressing, dancing, language and so on which invariably affect other aspects of social life.

Other aspects of the problem/effects of globalization are reflected in immodest, nudity, individualism, consumerism, and it has created a lazy and corrupt elite group in Africa. These problems are orchestrated by Africa's dependency on alien and unreliable legal codes that hinder self- determination in adjudication and

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[22.] "Sustainable Development". UNESCO. 3 August 2015. Retrieved 6 September 2022- https://internationaljournalofresearchcom.

[23.] Owusu, E., "Africa, Arts and Climate Change: Promoting a 21st Century Revolution", in Agyeman-Duah, (Ed.), *Pilgrims of the Night: Development Challenges and Opportunities in Africa*, Ayebia Clarke, Oxford, 2010.

dispute resolution because it relegates the communitarian nature of African societies to the background. Globalisation also implies the imposition of western style democracy that is unclear to many and too expensive for developing economies to run further orchestrating Africa's dependency status. It is this dependency that has paved the way for the cultural imperialism permeating Africa under the guise of globalisation. To ensure perpetual; dependency on the west, militaristic intimidation and economic sanctions have become the everyday weapons as indicated by the attempts to muzzle Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe some years ago.

Towards a Sustainable Development in Africa

At the heart of pursuing development in Africa is to expand infrastructure, build resilient public institutions, reduce poverty, develop new technology, create more employment, reduce maternal and child mortality and develop and implement climate change adaptation strategies.

Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction

How to manage the demographic dynamics of Africa's population is critical to the achievement of the SD in Africa. Populations in the region have been growing steadily over the past decade compared to the world average. For instance, between 1994 and 1995 alone, population growth in Africa was around 3%, twice the world average. Growth rates in individual countries varied from 2.6% in Senegal to 3.4% in Niger. The pattern with regard to biodiversity shows escalating use of natural resources, rising pollution levels and climate change, and it must be borne in mind that this feedback can trigger aggravation of the initial problems.[24] While population growth might be positive, there is a corresponding challenge with the nature of the population growth dynamic. However, progress is still needed in related aspects like infrastructure, quality of education, completion rates, enrollment

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[24.] ILO Global Estimate of Forced Labour 2012. Retrieved from https://org>lang-en 10 March, 2023.

in secondary and tertiary education and teaching capacity. The necessity of education is to transform and improve the conditions of both the learner and the community towards Sustainable Development (Association of African Universities).

Environment, Health and Sanitation

For Sustainable Development to be attained there must be conscious efforts towards friendly environmental practices. This must be practiced in tandem with improved health and sanitation. The race to reducing infant and maternal mortality by 2015 is being won in the region. For instance, Mozambique has achieved a reduction of over 70%; Malawi, 68%; and Niger, 64%; maternal mortality rates have also fallen and the fight against malaria has also improved significantly through the distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets in sub-Saharan Africa. By the year 2000, malaria was killing over twenty-nine thousand people in Ethiopia and as part of efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the government introduced a prorgamme to deliver two mosquito nets to every family at risk, alongside a reduction in the cost of malarial drugs by half; within three (3) years of implementation, deaths from malaria were cut in half. There are however, some harsh environmental conditions that tend to affect livelihoods. One such condition is climate change, which has been identified as one of the leading human and environmental crisis in the 21st century (Institute for Security Studies). The institute suggests that Africa is already facing considerable water stress as a result of insufficient and unreliable rainfall that changes pattern and causes flooding. Climate change also negatively impacts on agriculture on which three-quarters of Africa's population depend for their livelihood. The effect is seen in the reduction in unavailable of land for farming, prolonged droughts, and crop failure. The reason for the high impact of climate change could be that as a continent, Africa has probably benefited least from industrial development and exploitation of fossil fuels, leading to

the crisis of human induced climate change and variability.[25]

Agriculture

Available evidence suggests that Africa's SD agenda cannot be achieved without Agriculture taking its rightful place in this process. Programs such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and the declaration of 2014 as a year of Agriculture by the AU all point to placing agriculture in the hub of achieving SD in Africa. Moyo argues that agriculture contributes a significant share to the continent's GDP and the majority of Africa's labor force is employed in Agriculture. In Nigeria for instance, there has been a boost in access to fertilizer with a privatized company Notore, where farmers currently receiving subsidized fertilizer have increased from 20% to 94%. Doreo Partners gives farmers training, credit, seed and fertilizer and helps them to market the product.

Democracy and Good Governance

There appears to be a general agreement that good governance is positively correlated to Sustainable Development. In the light of this assertion, many African governments have made significant strides towards building strong institutions and enhancing participation in governance towards SD. The need for good governance finds expression in the claim by Okereke, that the quality of life of any given society depends not just on the availability of resources but the management of such resources; thus, to achieve SD in Africa, there is the need to invest in the promotion of good governance.[26]

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[25]. Moyo, S., "Africa's Agrarian Transformation: The Efficacy of the NEPAD Agriculture Strategy", in Adesina, J.O., Graham, Y. and A. Olukoshi (Ed.), *Africa and Development in the New Millennium,* (London, Zed Books, 2006).

[26]. Okereke, C., "Sustainable Development and the Role of Good Governance", in Agyeman-Duah, I. (Ed.), *Pilgrims of the Night: Development Challenges and Opportunities in Africa*, (Ayebia Clarke, Oxford, 2010).

Concluding Remarks

It is pertinent to conclude that, Sustainable Development can be achieved in Africa. However, there is need for major policy shifts and implementation of policies some of which have been suggested above. Globalisation succeeded in creating a new class that collaborated with the exploiters. Incidentally, the new class was in absolute control of the political and economic machinery of the state. This collaboration expresses its foreign policies which are to the advantage of the winner. For instance, most African countries implemented the IMF policies such as Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), devaluation of their currency and deregulation with no thought on its impact on the teeming masses. It is also of note that in such domain as on environmental issues, African states adopted a more activist posture whilst in the political and economic domain they have been central to the explosive growth and institutionalisation of bad governance. Globalisation thus transformed the conditions under which state power in Africa is exercised.

In the face of these realities, African foreign policy should best be referred to as the agenda of its ruling elite class (ruling elite agenda) as public opinion play no part in politics and decision making. Consequently, what Africa needs is a new crop of leaders with an orientation to serve the nation than the self or their immediate families. Above all, Africa should endeavour to institute democratic ethos which would lead to recognising the right of the people to elect their leaders and contribute to policy making in order to situate their economic plan to their environment.

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