

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind



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Youths can Guarantee Healthy Transition

For the last few decades Afghanistan has been going through a very difficult time. The country has been largely influenced by insecurity, and the incapacity of the leaders to guide the nation towards integration and prosperity has added fuel to the fire. The insecurity and instability have always hampered the initiatives for betterment and development. They have also influenced the human resource within the country and thus blocked the opportunities towards their capacity and character building.

Nevertheless, it is important to note that though different sorts of problems have dominated the Afghan society, the performance, vigor and the spirits of Afghan youth have never disappointed. Among difficulties and disappointments it is encouraging to find many of them motivated towards education and positive life and hopefully if they are given the chance to reign over the important institutions, they will be able to bring about many positive changes.

Their recent role in media, modern education and information technology has convinced many that they have the potential to guarantee a prosperous future but there should be more efforts on the part of government for their improvement so that they are able to compete on the regional and international levels and become confident enough to stand on their own.

It is always important that the youth should be motivated and appreciated for their achievement. Being emotional in their behavior, youngsters can be best guided through appreciation and gratitude. Appreciation has the capacity to unfold the potentials and divert them towards great achievements.

Moreover, appreciation of the positive achievements can also initiate a positive competition among the youngsters and they strive to vie for those achievements instead of getting caught in negative competition and losing their way.

Thus, positive competition will not only support them in developing their own potentials and skills but will also provide benefits to the society as a whole. Educated youngsters will be motivated if they find that their talents are being observed and being valued.

The developed countries of the world have a great respect for the contribution of youth and the educational institutions, particularly the universities play a dominant role in their societies. Most of the youth are hired directly from the universities and they do not have to run after the jobs once they complete their education.

The coordination between the educational institutions and public and private institutions are very strong and they fully understand one another's requirements; therefore, they prepare accordingly and do not have to face the issue of unemployment to a large extent. Currently, Afghanistan is producing many educated youth but it should also have mechanism wherein these youth are compensated in their own professions; otherwise, their education may be wasted.

Afghanistan has the opportunity of making maximum benefits from its youth as its 60 percent population is below the age of 25. Many of them have the tendency to bring about positive changes in the society as they seem tired of instability and war.

However, there are many others who have been victimized by the ongoing conflicts and instability and do not see any hope to come out of the quagmire. However, Afghanistan has an opportunity to use such a large number of human resource for a better tomorrow.

Without the contribution of the youth in Afghanistan it would be very difficult to see a healthy transition towards a democratic country and better economy as youth can have the real understanding for such a system and can work for it. They are being educated within a system that at least have some sort of structure and function, while the old generation did not have such an opportunity as they were going through civil wars and chaotic instability.

However, without a comprehensive strategy it would be really difficult for Afghanistan to make any achievement regarding the development and the improvement of the youth and their roles within the society. Afghan authorities need to design comprehensive policies in this regard and also design the ways to achieve them.

Promises alone and separated actions would not bear any fruit and the youth would remain in the situation that is not favorable for their growth and capacity enhancement.

Afghanistan has to prepare itself for providing higher education based on modern techniques and methodologies, better exposure opportunities, and ultimately job opportunities to this large number of people, which is the only way to make them play positive role.

Every year a large number of youngsters complete their education and strive to find employment so that they are able to earn a livelihood and at the same time support their families and country.

Some of them even turn to social evils and particularly they are recruited by the terrorists as they are not able to find proper job opportunities elsewhere.

Therefore, they should be provided chances so that they are able to play a positive role in the society instead of becoming a burden or part of problem.



Trump's Strategy for Combating Terrorism

By Hujjatullah Zia

Barack Obama's impassioned and eloquent speech in Egypt was seen as the advent of a new era. His emphasis on human rights, freedoms and mutual understanding between Islam and West was particularly noteworthy and inspiring. He said, "I have come here to seek a new beginning between the United States and Muslims around the world; one based upon mutual interest and mutual respect; and one based upon the truth that America and Islam are not exclusive, and need not be in competition."

Instead, they overlap, and share common principles - principles of justice and progress; tolerance and the dignity of all human beings."

Since George W Bush launched the War on Terror in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks, US foreign policy has been largely shaped by the determination to confront militant violence across the Middle East and beyond. In his last year in office, Barack Obama dropped more than 26,000 bombs - the vast majority of them over Muslim-majority countries.

Following the United States' two catastrophic wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Obama's election represented hope and a new beginning towards recalibrating US foreign policy and rethinking its position in the world.

This was particularly important in rehabilitating US relations with Islamic world. Despite the hope generated by his famous 2009 Cairo speech promising "a new beginning" to America's relationship with the Muslim world, Obama's presidency did not fulfill the public expectations. The lowlights of his administration's actions on human rights include: the large scale use of drone strikes outside active war zones, sale or supply of far more weapons than any administration since World War II, failure to close Guantanamo Bay, and a complete lack of leadership on the unprecedented refugee crises across Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

Yet despite all its failings, Obama did not intend to trigger a sense of fear and hatred, through harsh rhetoric, between Islamic world and the America. He stated the truth in attractive way as, "freedom in America is indivisible from the freedom to practice one's religion," and added, "Islam is a part of America. And I believe that America holds within her the truth that regardless of race, religion, or station in life..."

Moreover, the election of a black president was in and of itself good news for the United States and for the world which bespoke of non-discrimination.

In other words, a black man in the white house was a unique milestone in the history of America and the world believed that it would be the end of discrimination on the grounds of one's race, color and creed. But still streams of blood were shed on the basis of their racial and religious backgrounds. For instance, terrorist groups killed Muslims and non-Muslims alike and some Muslims were insulted since members of terrorist networks happened to be Muslim.

Moreover, the "war on terror" gave the desired fruit neither in Bush nor in Obama's administrations, although the Taliban's founder Mullah Muhammad Omar passed away, al-Qaeda's leader Osama bin Laden and Omar's successor were killed in Pakistan under Obama's authorization. To our unmitigated chagrin, the escalated militancy still inflicts heavy casualties upon Afghan nation and the innocent men, women and children are bleeding due to violence and insurgency. After all, once a peaceful Iraq has changed into a war-torn country. That is to say, the terrorist networks and militancy are believed to increase.

During his short but impassioned inauguration address, Donald Trump listed just one specific foreign policy objective for his administration: The battle against "radical Islamic terrorism", which he pledged to "eradicate from the face of the Earth." Terrorism is a highly challenging issue before Trump's administration. He has vowed to continue the "war on terror" began during Bush's presidency when there was no sign of the self-styled Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

But his first approach which is signing Muslim bans has triggered a nationwide backlash. The order seems to fly in the face of the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees which updated the post-World War II Refugee Convention of 1951, and other international human rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, or national origin. President Trump has publicly stated that his order will protect national security.

But the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, acknowledging states' legitimate interests in maintaining public security and combat terrorism, has warned against the effects of making exceptions, or, in his words, "the erosion of long-standing refugee protection principles." While the order does not bar all Muslims from entering the US, barring immigration entry from seven majority-Muslim countries, especially when paired with his national security team's record of Islamophobia, leaves no doubt that Muslims are the target of this order. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, or ICERD, to which the US is bound, requires states parties to "guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, color, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law."

It is believed that the war on terror has been ushered in with wrong policy which stems from simplistic view of Islamic world. In such a case, the battle against the "radical Islamic terrorism" is unlikely to come to fruition unless a more effective strategy is adopted.

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Africa's Decade of Industrialization

By Li Yong

In today's interdependent global economy, Africa remains a weak link. If the world is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, thereby completing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it must help Africa accelerate its development by promoting rapid and responsible industrialization.

Africa is by no means destined to lag behind the rest of the world economy. On the contrary, it could easily become a global economic powerhouse - and within the next decade. But, to fulfill its economic potential, Africa must industrialize. The importance of this has been stressed repeatedly at recent international forums, including last August's Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), and the G20 summit in Hangzhou, China, the following month. For the first time, the G20 placed industrialization in Africa - and all of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) - on its agenda. The African Union's Agenda 2063 also supports this drive.

The recent UN General Assembly resolution declaring 2016-2025 the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa is yet another push in this direction. The organization that I represent, the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), has been tasked with operationalizing and leading the implementation of the concomitant program, including mobilizing the needed resources.

All of these declarations and commitments are an important first step. But they will mean little unless they are translated into concrete and effective action that advances African industrialization, creates jobs, and fosters inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development.

The question is how.

The short answer is money and action. We must challenge the international community and development partners to back their words with real financial commitments. And we must build partnerships to operationalize programs that will enable Africa to become the world's next main engine of economic growth. Such programs must recognize and tackle the acute challenges the continent faces. The economic growth experienced in recent decades has not been structurally driven, sustainable, or fully inclusive.

Indeed, growth rates vary widely across the continent, and not all Africans are benefiting. Though the middle class in Africa has expanded markedly in recent years, generating a consumer boom and boosting domestic investment, many people still struggle to make a living. Unemployment rates are high, especially for young people and women - a reality that drives many Africans to head north.

To keep them home, Africa's economies must move beyond producing raw materials to build dynamic and competitive manufacturing sectors with higher value added.

Here, Africa must draw on the opportunities presented by participation in global and regional value chains.

New and innovative industrial-development strategies, as well as carefully tailored measures to attract foreign direct investment, must be introduced. Of course, to develop

such strategies and participate effectively in industrial value chains, Africans need knowledge. Investment in education and skills training is imperative to facilitate successful and lasting industrialization.

By understanding and drawing on proven innovations from around the world, Africa could leapfrog more developed countries technologically, building the capacity to produce more sophisticated, higher-value goods.

Knowledge of other countries' experiences will also help Africa to avoid the pitfalls of unbridled industrialization - particularly environmental damage. Africa must ensure that its industrial-development strategy includes effective environmental safeguards.

Africa is well placed to industrialize. Beyond its massive natural-resource endowments, the continent has a favorable demographic profile (its rapidly growing population means that it will soon have the world's largest workforce) and high urbanization rates.

It also benefits from a highly educated diaspora. But industrialization is never automatic. Governments must step up to address market failures, while planning, implementing, and enforcing industrial policies that address the shortcomings of previous ineffective versions. They must then institutionalize these new policies in national and regional development strategies.

To succeed, governments will need adequate capacity, competence, and legitimacy to mobilize and interact with all stakeholders, thereby creating an attractive investment climate. The necessary reforms will open the way for public-private partnerships, which can provide investment for infrastructure development and maintenance. They will also facilitate cooperation with international organizations and development finance institutions, which can provide additional funds, while helping countries to upgrade their productive capacity.

A recent report, prepared for the Hangzhou G20 Summit, features a number of recommendations for Africa.

It suggests support for agriculture and agribusiness development and linking them with other sectors, as well as measures to boost resilience to price shocks. Furthermore, the report emphasizes the need to deepen, broaden, and update the local knowledge base, invest in energy- and material-resource efficiency, and promote green technologies and industries. Other recommendations relate to trade and regional integration, leveraging domestic and external finance, and promoting what it calls the "New Industrial Revolution."

My numerous meetings with African leaders and visits to dozens of countries across the continent have convinced me that Africa is committed to industrialization. I

n fact, the process is already underway in many countries, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, and Senegal. By offering our commitment and support, we can enable these countries to realize inclusive and sustainable development for the benefit of everyone. (Courtesy Project Syndicate)

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