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By

LAMINE CISSE



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Security and Energy Security: Global Challenges

Emerging Regional Security Issues

I) Introduction

The word "security" originated as a military term. Over time, however, the true meaning of the word has changed and it has become more frequently used in a variety of contexts. For example, human security postulates all active and passive measures which aim to prevent citizens from suffering economical, social, environmental, health, food and political distress. In short, societal security. It involves a global approach of security issues, but it also implies governance, good management, solidarity and development. It is in this context that energy, in all its forms, holds a prominent place for an individual's access to integral well being. I am going to try to develop these themes by first approaching the energy potential of Africa, the continent to which I belong. Then, discuss the sources of conflicts created by natural resources; the strategy of emerging countries such as China and India in Africa and finally the measures required for normalization of the situation.

II) Africa Energy Potentials

Africa is endowed with vast and diverse energy potentials, her Oil and Gas reserves are estimated at 60 billion barrels and 11.4 trillion cubic meters respectively, mainly concentrated in the north and west regions of the continent. These represent approximately 5 percent and 6 percent of the total world reserves respectively. The southern regions host the bulk of her coal reserves estimated at over 55,000 million tons, while the eastern regions display tremendous geothermal potentials especially along the Great Rift Valley. In Kenya for example, there is a park strangely called “Hell's gate national park”, where the heat from the 345 degrees hot plasma, deep below the rift valley, manifests in strange rock formations, amidst spouts of hissing steam and nearby lakes that bubbles as if on the boil. Africa's uranium deposits estimated at over 600 Kilotons are one of the largest in the world, with South Africa, Namibia and Niger republic currently ranked among the 10 leading global producers of uranium. In its Western, Central and Eastern regions, Africa also hosts some of the largest river Courses of our world – The Nile, The Congo, the

Niger, the Volta and the Zambezi river systems. This makes Africa's hydroelectric potentials most attractive, especially as a renewable energy source. The hydroelectric potentials of the Democratic Republic of Congo alone are estimated to be sufficient for over 300% of Africa's current energy consumption.

Despite all these impressive resources, Africa is embarrassingly behind in many areas including energy production. Out of the 900 million people that reside in Africa, fewer than 25% have access to electricity.

III) Natural Resources, Source of Conflicts

Raw Materials = War Materials; True or not, disputes over natural resources often turn into political tensions between countries as well as internal conflicts. The existence of such internal conflicts is evident in almost every corner of the continent, where populations share a similar story. They find themselves trapped in the middle of violent wars and are often subjected to substantial abuses. Instead of serving as a gateway to prosperity, these natural resources end up being the source of unbearable miseries.

As new natural resources are being found, new tensions and potential conflicts arise.

The gulf of Guinea, for example, has tremendous potential in terms of vast untapped oil reserves. This area has one of the world's largest deep-sea oil reserves, along with sizeable reserves of natural gas.

3.1) Water sharing: Another natural resource that can spark potential conflict is water sharing. High population growth, environmental degradation, unstable economies and insecurity, contribute to potential conflicts.

3.2) Example of energy conflict prevention:

Senegal-Guinea Bissau

1.1 million barrels of heavy crude were discovered in waters offshore southern Senegal, originally claimed by Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. The two Countries went in front of an independent tribunal and the International Court of Justice in 1985 and 1991. Senegal won both cases. Then, Senegalese authorities have

accepted to give to Guinea Bissau 20% of the profit from oil exploration and fishing through a joint development agency.

This type of cooperation has proven to be an effective diplomatic approach to eliminate potential regional conflict that is motivated by energy exploitation.

IV) From Win-Win to Lose-Lose, the Energy Greed of Emerging Countries

China and India represent the two most populous countries in the world, and their demand for energy is unprecedented. In addition to their population effect, both countries have experienced rapid economic growth in recent years (the population of China is 1 billion and some; this some is equivalent to the population of U S A and France combined).

The increased rate in Sino-African trade has created a threat to the United States' predominant position in Africa. Energy security is China's number one concern because energy represents the backbone of its economy. They need oil to fuel homes, factories, cars, war machines, and others. Over the last few years China has

crafted new foreign policies that focus on the control of Africa's natural resources. Africa now supplies approximately one quarter of China's energy imports. China has greatly increased its investments throughout the continent in booming sectors.

How does the Chinese strategy work?

China has penetrated African countries with rich natural resources at a very fast pace by first increasing its trade with those countries and forgiving them their debts. Then, it increases aid to those countries, builds roads, schools, hospitals, stadiums, and other infrastructures. They are probably going to build the Conference Hall of African Unity in Addis Abeba Ethiopia, which is composed of 53 African countries. China wins the trust of the local population and the government by using its monetary power. It creates great leverage to be able to negotiate exploration and exploitation contracts that would outbid many western multinational firms. On the other hand, they set up partnership with European oil Companies to exploit the resources in some African countries. At the end of the process, China has great influence in these countries by controlling the nation trade and major energy resources. China also exports manpower and technical

expertise to these countries to train local businessmen, officials, and students. The reason of this policy is to support the 1.3 billion people; the consequence is that China's economy is likely to make it a superpower in our life time.

Despite China's effective foreign energy strategy, it does not seem too concerned for issues of good governance, foreign economic policy as well as Western arms embargoes against some countries.

I believe that China's strategy represents a weakness in the long run.

First, the supposedly win-win situation between China and its African partners might end up being lose-lose due to the devastation of civil wars and post war insecurities. The current state of affairs in Sudan, Somalia and Chad are a perfect illustration of this lose-lose-situation. Wars in these countries have negative effects on multinational firms. Transportation routes are not secure, thereby affecting Chinese energy import. The rapid and fierce competition between China, India, the United States, and European Nations is creating new potential conflicts in Sub-Sahara Africa.

Second, the other weakness is: Who knows that China will not do

just like previous "Empires" did. They took all they could, for as little as they had to pay and left the continent; the only difference is that it is no more a case of colonial belongings.

In conclusion, I remind that China with its population and technology advancement, philosophical endurance, and its culture of resistance is a world power, and everybody is convinced. She is unavoidable; she has awakened. French poet and writer Victor Hugo would say "it is a force that goes". It seems that the French have understood the matter given that, Mrs. Lagarde, the French Minister of Economy is supposed to travel to China end of October; another French high ranking authority will be there in November to prepare the Copenhagen Climate Meeting; the Prime Minister will tour around December; and finally, President Sarkozy, himself, will likely be in Shanghai sometime in 2010. Wisdom mandates to strengthen the cooperation between China and Western Countries and Africans as well. Nowadays, this cooperation has to offer better to African countries.

V) Fundamental changes, recommendations

Radical changes are necessary in local, regional, and global policies of energy in order to avoid conflicts, especially on the African continent. Black gold has been the main source of pain for so many African children and now is the time to prevent history from repeating itself. This prevention will require an unprecedented effort and sacrifice from all parties. The crucial changes could be as follows:

1. Change in foreign policies by western countries to reflect lasting partnership. Policies that adapt and adjust with the exporting country's energy, economical, and political programs. Foreign policies should also reflect the interest of exporting nations.
2. Direct investment in the local areas so that locals can benefit from these assets. These actions that take in consideration certain projects of development are beneficial for the government but they are mostly highly appreciated by the direct beneficiary population.
3. Respect for local sovereignty and culture in order to improve support and cooperation of local population. The

multinational firms on the ground should mingle with the different populations and try to learn their cultural values in order to understand their behavior. The game should not be just “pump and go”.

4. Diversification of the source of import. Importing countries always pursue new sources of natural energy in new regions in order to not be dependent of one region. This will insure some type of procurement stability in case of disturbance in an exporting country or region.
5. Commitment to pursue research of alternative energy. Renewable and alternative energy advancement will decrease the dependency from foreign countries with regards to natural resources, in particular oil, uranium, and natural gas. Western countries have the responsibility to lead the green economy concept that will save the world; I have to note the great effort in this matter by some countries such as Iceland, Norway, Costa Rica, Brazil, Columbia, the United States, Germany, England and France.

6. A fair transfer of technology and knowledge to the exporting country. The way it goes now is that the exporting countries mainly the African ones will forever remain under the dependency and domination of importers especially the oil firms and the top consumer nations. President Obama stated in Cairo last June that we should share the benefits of our progress.
7. A more equitable sharing of the benefit from exploitation of natural resources. As of today, the sharing of oil production is not a half/half agreement between the Importers and their partners.
8. More proactive actions from the western countries to prevent conflicts. The secretariat general of the United Nations cannot do it all, considering its actions are controlled by the general assembly which consists of member states and the Security Council that is lead by the 5 permanent members with their veto. Western countries should use their influence in an open or secret manner on certain countries in order to prevent conflicts.

Example, the future water war. This is more important and easier in the moment where there no longer is any Berlin wall behind which to cultivate fear of one's neighbor. On that point, the United States, nowadays, should auto-proclaim the title of the world Universal Mediator on the top of the unanimous cooperation in the international scene; it is a matter of responsibility and rather not the "Police" of the world.

9. Improve transportation routes security. This can be accomplished by implementing better logistical systems, increasing security in local assets, building more pipelines, and investing in more offshore extractions rather than onshore. It needs a full cooperation of all parties involved, meaning the importing countries, the exporting countries and their neighbors. Western countries have the responsibility to enforce better arms transaction or transfer regulations and controls. The majority of arms in third world countries especially in the African continent have its origin from developed nations. The continent

buried an uncountable number of its children because of these arms falling into wrong hands. That brings me to say that the case of Somalia could be solved by force with necessary strength and by sincere negotiations with all concerned and interested parties involved. Of course, acts of terrorism have to be fought by all means, anytime, anywhere; however, this fight should not only be restricted to the exclusive use of weapons or justice but also include throughout scientific as well as social and psychological studies on the reasons and real motivations of the perpetrators. Terrorism has changed our way of living.

10. More western military bases in exporting regions. Even if it is not combat troops, but alert system headquarters in close cooperation with National Armed Forces and Police. It is a matter of protecting sanctuaries.
11. Promote democracy. The universal rules of democracy which lead to good governance constitute the foundation of better management and the practice of human security

which favors individual by guarantying his integral development. Today in some countries, the lack of transparency has reached such a point that people do not know how much their government earns from oil exportation. Democracy, development and security form a tri-phenomenon so every element is related to each other. Without this healthy democracy environment and respect of human rights with as a corollary and element of support, an equitable justice system, the emergence of countries in development particularly in Africa will remain an equation. It should not only consist for the developed countries to criticize the breaches, condemn errors, or express concern after declaration of certain non-profit organizations but instead to support these countries in all their projects of global development processes such as education; healthcare; transport infrastructures: road, rail, sea, and air. This will allow the African continent to go from a potential lose-lose energy situation to a future real win-win.

VI) Conclusion

It is on this last point that my speech ends with a tremendous pleasure and an agreeable duty to thank the organizers of this important symposium, for allowing me to be part of this big event.

I thank you for your attention.

General Lamine Cisse

Senegal