Making the World Fit for the African Child: Honouring Promises, Promoting Commitment and Ensuring Accountability

Professor Adebayo Adedeji
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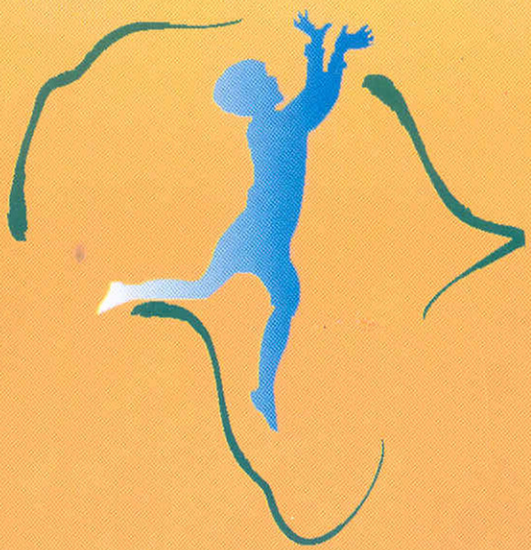

The African Child Policy Forum
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Preface

I am pleased to present herewith the speech given by **Professor Adebayo Adedeji,** at the International Policy Conference of the African Child Policy Forum, 21-22 May 2004, at the Conference Hall of the African Union on The African Child and the Family organized by the African Child Policy Forum.

Professor Adedeji addressed the question of the way forward for African economies, taking account of lessons learnt from past development strategies. He said that the bright future envisaged in the child-rights treaties had proven elusive. Pervasive lack of accountability and the three-decades long Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) of the 'Washington Consensus' were mostly responsible for this. The SAPs had pushed aside the agenda of poverty reduction and equity and supplanted that with a ruthless market economy. "The world of the African Child", says Professor Adedeji "is now more unfit and unsafe than ever." African governments have to pursue development paradigms that focussed on human development and security. Human-cantered development requires people's participation. But the democracy that emerged during the 1990's ('low-intensity democracy'; also referred to as 'donor democracy' –window-dressing to satisfy aid donors) didn't give enough room to people's participation. Aid has failed to promote sustainable development, although countries with good governance has benefited from aid. Rich countries have to commit to abolishing their agricultural subsidies and to providing free access to life-saving drugs. The Millennium Development Compact afforded a possibility for genuine partnership. It wasn't too late even now to change course. If we did so with determination we may yet achieve 'an Africa fit for children.'

Several areas of work are suggested in Prof Adedji's address, and some of these will be tackled by our organization in its future programme of work. In particular the Forum will seek to trace out the parameters of a pro-poor, human-rights based development strategy to alleviate child poverty. What would such a policy imply for investment policies? The Forum's project on Children and the Budgets will address this question. Several African countries will be studied to elicit comparisons and best practise. National and regional symposia will be conducted once the results become available. Bearing in mind that all of the Forum's research must contribute to advocacy on behalf of children, the results will also be disseminated through the mass media.

Assefa Bequele, PhD.
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Honouring promises, promoting commitment and ensuring accountability

By Professor Adebayo Adedeji, CFR

The African child and promises

In May 2002, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a document entitled 'A World Fit for Children' – a world in which all children get the best possible start in life in their homes and have access to quality basic education, including primary education that is compulsory and free to all, and in which all children, including adolescents, have opportunities to develop their individual capacities in a safe and supportive environment. This implies the promotion of the physical, psychological, spiritual, social, emotional, cognitive and cultural development of children as a matter of national and global priority. The document was preceded by many seminal declarations, conventions and charters on behalf of children and their rights, notably the

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989;
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990;
- International Labour Organization Convention on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973 and Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination for Worst Forms for Child Labour, 1999;
- Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict; and
- Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

All these charters and conventions are reflected in the UN Millennium Declaration from which emerged the Millennium Development Goals (MDSs), 2000-2015. The MDGs consist of 8 goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators. They are based on the recognition of the urgent need for a road map with concrete and ambitious goals. The achievement of these goals requires determination at the national level and partnerships among the rich and developing countries to exit from human poverty.

Where are we on the MDGs? There is no doubt that substantial progress has been made in improving the lot of children during the past decade. Millions of young lives have been saved, more children are now in school, and more efforts are being exerted to protect them from abuse. But these efforts pale into insignificance because they fall far below expectations. They have fallen short of targets and even the limited progress which has been recorded has proved unsustainable, as many structural obstacles have persisted. Thus the decade of the 1990s which started with the great promises of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child failed to deliver on its promises. The bright future for children envisioned by the conventions, charters and protocols proved elusive. African children fell most by the wayside compared to children from the other developing regions of the world.

The causes of this unfortunate under-performance are manifold. At the centre of the vicious circle is the persistent lack of commitment to translate the blueprints into implement able plans of action, to accord them the highest priority and to make adequate resources available for their full implementation. These deficiencies flaringly reflect poor governance and accountability in poor countries and the lack of commitment by rich countries. On both sides, the pervasive lack of public accountability and transparency and the unwillingness to put 'the money where the mouth is' are

also responsible for the failure to put together appropriate and effective institutional follow-up and monitoring mechanisms. Then in the last three decades we saw a narrow focus on the development paradigm of structural adjustment (the so-called Washington Consensus (W.C). The SAPs (structural adjustment programmes) pushed away, except theoretically, the issues of equity and poverty reduction, and blindly supplanted the social economy with a ruthless market economy. It is now accepted that the three decades of the SAPs delivered very little growth and whatever growth that happened was concentrated among the higher strata of society so that income distribution and poverty worsened. The combined and cumulative effect of the failure to honour the promises fell on the children in terms of increases in infant mortality, youth illiteracy, and affliction with preventable diseases. The world of the African child is now more unfit and unsafe than ever.

Without mincing words, a polity, which is demonstrably and habitually weak in its commitment on strategic policies and is unable to deliver fully on programmes, is not providing good governance, Usually, the democracy in practice in such a polity is 'low-intensity democracy', not genuine democracy. Real democracy requires accountability, commitment, transparency and strong institutions. It also requires halting and reversing poverty and inequality through the vigorous pursuit of a holistic and sustainable human development paradigm.

The imperatives

There is no gainsaying the fact that until African governments begin to pursue development paradigms that focus on human development and security, the interest of the African child will remain compromised. Similarly, until there is a more secure and equitable international environment which leads to the emergency of positive relationships between poor African counties and rich countries in terms of trade and development the interest of the African political economy will remain subordinated and that of the child will continue to be unprotected. The UN Millennium Declaration (UNMD) is loud and clear on the imperative of upholding the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the national and global levels. These are entitlements of the world's people especially the most vulnerable, and, in particular, the children of the world. Indeed, in many ways the UNMD reminds me of the ECA Khartoum Declaration of March 1988, which asserted interalia that the interest of the African political economy will remain subordinated and compromised and the interest of the child will be unprotected unless and until human development becomes the sole focus of public condition the only final measure of development the Khartoum Declaration asserted. The human dimension is the sine qua non of economic recovery. There can be no real structural adjustment or economic recovery in the absence of the human imperative.

And how is that imperative defined? It means that the vulnerable and the improvised, the uprooted and the ravaged, women, children, youth, the disabled, the aged, the rural poor, the urban poor, every group and individual of the society who is in some way disadvantaged, must be given paramount consideration in the socio-economic development process. That is a sacrosanct principle. And in the service of that principle, health, education, welfare and all related social sectors become indispensable components of every national programme. 1

Unfortunately, African governments failed to operationalize the paradigm shirt that the Khartoum Declaration had advocated and which the ECA encapsulated in the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programme (AAF-SAP) in July 1989 and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation in February 1990. Nor did the international community do more than take benign notice of that part of the Khartoum Declaration which urged a real shared partnership between it and Africa. The idea of a mutual pact advocated by the Declaration fell on deaf ears. The international recovery continued to be threatened on every front

by catastrophic debt, collapsed commodity prices, stagnating concessional flows and crippling terms of trade.

Like the special UN programmes for Africa in the 1980s and 1990's, similarly the UN Millennium Declaration expects increased action by rich countries such as expanding trade by providing greater access to the markets of developed countries, by relieving debt, by transferring technology and by providing increased aid. The question now is whether the international community will play ball this time around. Or will the culture of doing too little too late persist?

The incalculable cost of inaction

Even before the unfolding tragedy of the 1980's – Africa's 'lost decade' – the state of Africa's children was poor. However, it's worth underlining that during the two post-independence decades (1960s and 1970s), socio-economic trends were generally positive. Per capita real incomes rose sharply in many counties; education and health services expanded rapidly; and, an increasing proportion of the population gained access to potable water and sanitation. Children's health and welfare improved commensurately. These trends were halted and then revered in the 1980s. A number of internal and external factors were responsible for this deterioration: (i) recurrent drought, which brought in its trail the endless battle to save life and to ameliorate suffering; (ii) a virtually continuous process of desertification, partly as a consequence of the recurring droughts and partly due of over-cultivation, overgrazing, deforestation and haphazard irrigation; (iii) external dependency of the African economy, especially on the export of a limited number of primary commodities.

The catastrophic drop in export trade and values in the late 1980s resulted in the escalation of the deficits of the current account of many counties and in dramatic increases in their external debt. The slump, the worst the world has seen since the Great Depression, came at the heel of the Great African Drought Disaster of 1983-4. There were also plagues of destabilization, internal unrest and civil strife. Not only did the prolonged periods of domestic warfare weaken the capacities of households and governments to meet the basic needs of children' they traumatized them, as hundred of thousands of children were conscripted into the warring bands and millions were displaced.

Impoverisation was the result. Unfortunately, the structural adjustment policies that African countries were obliged to implement took them further away from the path of sustainable human development. These policies had the worst devastating impact on the social sector (education and health) which was treated as a soft sector by SAP and was accordingly subjected to the most severe cutbacks. Yet this sector constitutes the livewire of children, youth and women.

For the children it has meant an unfortunate slow down in the progress achieved in the reduction of infant mortality. According to the UNDPs *Human Development Report 2003,* sub-Saharan Africa as a whole had been able to reduce infant mortality (per 1000 live births) from 136 in 1970 to 107 in 2001 – i.e. by 21.3 percent. However, this regional average befogs reality as 16 countries' scores are above the 100 figure. Indeed, countries like Sierra Leone (182), Niger (156), Angola (154), Mali (141) and Guinea-Bissau (130) still have very high infant mortality rates. As regards under-5 mortality rate (U5MR) the average in 2001 was 172 (per 1000 live births), as against 223 in 1970. Eighteen African countries were still way above the sSA average, which in turn was almost double the average for developing counties as a whole and more than four times that of East Asia and the Pacific and five times that of Latin America and the Caribbean. The U5MR is the principal indicator for measuring human progress. It is a major end-result of the development process because it is

the product of a wide range of inputs on nutrition, health and the health of mothers. Specifically these are:

- The level of immunization and oral rehydration therapy (ORT)
- Availability of maternal and child health services (including parental care);
- Food and income availability in the household;
- Availability of clean water and safe sanitation.

The U5MR is also important to cite as it is not susceptible to the fallacy of averages. It presents a holistic picture of the health status and the general economic condition of children and of society as a whole. It is for these reasons that UNICEF has chosen it as its single most important indicator of the state of a nation's children.

Closely related to high infant and child mortalities was the reducing level of primary school enrolment in the 1980s. The commitment of the 1990 World Summit for Children to universal primary education – Education For All – by the year 2000 turned out to be a pipe dream in sub-Saharan Africa, with a net primary school enrolment ratio of 56 per cent in 2000/01 – the lowest among all the regions of the Third World. Similarly, the Alma Ata Declaration of 1977 of health care for all by 2000 was realized in sSA. Curable infectious and parasitic diseases such as diarrhea, malaria, measles, dysentery, pneumonia, guinea worm, meningitis, cholera, influenza hepatitis and tuberculosis remained pandemic at the dawn of the new millennium. HIV/AIDS disaster is exacerbating the threat to survival. As infected people progress from asymptomatic stage to the symptomatic stage and eventual death, its impact on families and communities is already enormous and will not doubt increase. Severe economic losses will be sustained, coupled with the increased burden of medical care. In many African societies, AIDS-orphaned children will become commoner, with some of these children actually playing the role of heads of families; in addition to child-soldiers, Africa will be burdened by child heads of households.

The bitter reality of Africa today is that the grip of poverty has tightened since the 1980s. Life for the average Africa has indeed remained short and brutish. Thirty sSA countries have the lowest human development index in the world, and 38 the highest human poverty index. And while absolute poverty declined globally from 70 percent in 1960 to almost 30 percent by the year 2000, in sSA the opposite has been the case. The region has paid and continues to pay very dearly for pursuing inappropriate development paradigms, and for the pervasive lack of democracy. Even though it is acknowledged that sustainable human development requires the full and effective contribution, creativity and ownership of policy and programmes by the people, yet this was precisely what was lacking in the 1980s and 1990s. The focus of attention was not on how to build sustainable human development but how to achieve short-term economic growth. While growth is no doubt important, it is by itself insufficient, and, unsupported by human development, economic growth can easily become a force for inequity and maldistribution of income.

A robust social economy founded on the values of sharing, trust and mutual obligation has virtually disappeared. Yet this is crucial for the alleviation of poverty and for sustainable human development. Popular participation, which fosters commitment and ensures accountability, was completely absent. Whenever development policies and programmes are designed at a level removed from the people, the local community perceives the initiatives as being politically motivated, intended to buy legitimacy rather than assist in alleviating poverty.

Two fundamental propositions about a human-cantered development paradigm need restating. The fist is that it is the people who breathe life into policies, programmes and projects and it is the

people alone who can give substance and sustenance to them and adjust them as may be needed. Thus, development is not about things, It is not just about economic aggregates and indicators. It is about people and their ownership, whatever policies, programmes and projects are intended for their development. As we painfully and publicly acknowledged in the African Charter for Popular Participation (CPP) in Development, crafted in Arusha in February 1990, the motivation of the African people and their organizations to contribute to their own betterment and participation in the development process has been curtailed and their collective and individual creativity undervalued and under utilized. Hence, the ACPP came out forcefully to affirm that 'nations cannot be built without the popular support and full participation of the people, nor can the economic crises be resolved and the human and economic conditions improved without the full and effective contribution, creativity and popular enthusiasm of the vast majority of the people.' 2

Unfortunately, all these warnings fell on deaf ears. The 'low-intensity democracy' that emerged during the 1990s was/is not strong enough to put in place a genuine people-centered development paradigm. The *Economist* christened it 'donor democracy' – just enough fair voting, multi-party systems, and respect for human rights to satisfy aid donors. The assertion has no doubt an element of exaggeration, but rhetorics apart, most of Africa is still saddled with excruciating poverty despite evolving democracy. More than ever before, more Africans are today living below the poverty line. And the most vulnerable of these are children (ages 1-14) and youth (ages 15-29) who between them constitute 70 percent of the population, 46 percent below 15 years of age and 26 percent in the 15-29 age group.

Vulnerability results principally from dependency, insecurity, lack of empowerment and access to resources and power. Children are vulnerable because they lack any independent source of income, and being minor, have their well-being and future in the hands of their parents, families, government and society. Youth are vulnerable for more or less the same reasons as children. But they also suffer grievously through lack of employment, which has reduced a large proportion of them in a state of hopelessness and helplessness.

Unemployment and poverty go hand-in-hand. And since young families come from the youth, they are unable to provide their children with their basic needs. Dependent children with dependent parents and non-caring and non-delivering governments and society provide the ideal breeding ground for a social situation known as 'anomie' – a vacuum created by the breakdown of traditional norms which have yet to be replaced by anything more viable. Anomie is in turn the breeding ground for crime, drugs and moral laxity. All of these feed into each other and into that dreaded disease – HIV/AIDS.

The Millennium Development Goals: Can they reverse the gear?

With such an overwhelming legacy of human development deficits and the certainty that the situation will get worse if historical trends continue led the United Nations to usher in the third millennium and the twenty-first century with the Millennium Development Declaration. There are 8 goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators aimed at substantially reduction of human poverty within the first two generations of the century. It challenges individual counties as well as the international community at large. It may have been thought that the declaration, coming after the Global Democracy Decade of the 1990s, would have been preceded at the preparatory stage with public discourses in all the member states of the United Nations among all stakeholders, parliamentarians, political parties, and civil society. In Africa this would have also included community-based organizations engaged in debates and consultations and making

recommendations that could have been taken into account during the final preparatory process. By so doing, genuine national ownership could have been claimed. Perhaps it did happen and I failed to take notice.

Secondly, immediately after its approval by the Millennium Session of the General Assembly and its adoption at the largest ever gathering of heads of state and government, the Millennium Development Compact should have been subjected to endorsement by the parliaments of all member states. In so doing, not only would ownership have been further strengthened, but also a firm and irrevocable commitment made by all concerned to the attainment of the MDGs. The public having been so engaged would then be in an unassailable position with undisputed responsibility to monitor the implementation of the different goals in their respective countries and thus endure transparency and public accountability.

Thirdly, although the declaration is based on the assumption of international cooperation in meeting the goals, there is no evidence on the role of developed countries committed themselves to. Indeed, no specific commitments were made. Their obligations have been couched in vague and general terms such as the promise 'to work together to meet concrete targets for advancing development' and 'reducing poverty by 2015 or earlier', actions to reduce debt and increase aid, trade and technology transfers to poor countries', 'granting full access to markets' etc.

While it is admitted that the MDGs will not be realized with a business-as-usual approach in poor countries, concrete evidence of new approaches in international cooperation is sorely lacking. There are plenty of viewpoints on what constitutes key forms of support from developed countries, but not binding commitments. Instead there are reaffirmations of some old agreements, which have been observed more in the breach than performance for more than a generation. The reaffirmation of the commitment to increase ODA to the 1970 target of 0.7 percent of gross national income is a typical example of business-as-usual, one as likely to be continued to be ignored. In any case, the era of obsession with aid is now passé. What African countries need is not more aid but more trade. As President Museveni recently put it, 'aid without trade is a lullaby – a song you sing to children to get them to sleep'. Aid to Africa has had an inglorious record. Development aid has failed to promote sustainable development. Poor countries that have been extravagantly aided have grown no faster than those left unaided.

Recent findings show that countries with good political governance (rule of law, personal and community security, people-centred democracy and zero tolerance to corruption and to the culture of impunity from the high and mighty) and good economic governance (good and effective economic and financial management, effective institutional framework, low inflation, stable currency, budget surplus, freer trade, a culture of transparency and public accountability, and an effective bureaucracy) have benefited from aid. Thus while good political and economic governance will go a long way to enhance the effectiveness of aid, it will take a while to reach this stage in many counties. In any case, the expectation of more generous aid is not likely to be met in view of the so-called 'donor fatigue'. What Africa needs most urgently is fair and freer access to the markets of developed countries for its agricultural products, particularly food.

Therefore, making MDGs credible and implement able requires the following three commitments from the richer counties:

- First, the immediate abolition of agricultural subsidies on all tropical and semitropical commodities. Linking this with the Doha Round will only further jeopardize Africa's ability to meet the MDGs.

- Second, governments of the richer countries must continue to put pressure on their country's pharmaceutical companies to provide free access to live-saving drugs by African countries. The much-needed medicines and vaccines must be made available in adequate quantities and at affordable prices. The agreement reached on this before Cancun must be vigorously implemented.

- Third, the only way to achieve the MDGs is to establish a positive relationship between trade and development so that developing countries can receive a better share of the benefits of trade. [The Cancun collapse of September 2003 came as a great shock particularly in view of the rising expectations created by Doha ministerial declaring that affirmed poverty reduction goals and commitment of making the interests of poor countries central to the trade negotiations]

Turning yearning into reality

While there is a global consensus about the imperative of achieving the goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration, the road map for achieving them must incorporate a bottom-up rather than the top-down approach implicit in the MDGs. It is only in this way that each country will be able to set its own priorities among the eight goals and the 18 targets. Each country will also need to identify changes in governance and institutional reforms required for enhancing national capacities to achieve the goals and targets. It is important for the future of humanity to press forward relentlessly towards achieving these eight goals. But the eight goal – developing global partnership – must be given more teeth and a sense of urgency that implementing the various targets under this goal deserves.

All countries – developed and developing – have for decades been pursuing MDG-type goals and many of the targets. The additionality which the millennium declaration has brought is the need for a new political momentum. Unfortunately, more then three years since the beginning of the millennium there is no discernible evidence of momentum. Unfortunately, more then three years since the beginning of the millennium there is no discernible evidence of momentum. Perhaps the Millennium Development Compact advocated by the UNDP's *Human Development Report, 2003,* if it becomes reality, could start the ball rolling again. The *HDR 2003* has introduced differentiations among poor countries in terms of their capacities to achieve the goals if progress and momentum fail to develop. Sub-Saharan Africa is shown to have the lowest capacity for achieving the goals among all the regions. Indeed, it is postulated that on the basis of current efforts it will take sSA until 2129 to achieve universal primary education; 2147 to reduce extreme poverty (by one-half); and 2165 to reduce child mortality by two-thirds! And as far as hunger is concerned, no dates could be set, since on current trends hunger will in fact increase.

Twenty-one years go (1983) as part of the commemoration of the silver jubilee of the ECA, the Commission published a preliminary perspective study of Africa for the period 1983-2008. 3

The study was based on two scenarios – a historical trends scenario and a normative development scenario, the first the business-as-usual scenario under which existing socio-economic trends and patterns continue, while the second is the normative development or the 'willed-future' scenario. The outcomes that emerged from the historical trends scenario was described as horrendous – poverty, hunger, disease and dependence would be pandemic. On the social side, all services would deteriorate in terms of quantity and quality, with the proportion of the population having access to education, health and water falling. As I advocated in my introduction to the study 'another future must be designed for Africa. The normative development scenario which provides

an alternative that will ensure the future of a brand new generation of free and happy children and adults of prosperity and modernity is the only choice. This willed future is what we can proudly bequeath to our children and grand children by the year 2008.' 4

That was twenty-one years ago. Throughout the twenty-one years we failed to pursue a normative development path. Inevitably, the horrendous consequences of our failure are now staring us in the face. Had we abandoned the historical-trends scenario, sub-Saharan Africa would today be in the same league, at least, as the Arab States and Latin America and the Caribbean which are deemed capable of achieving the MDGs on target. But it is not too late to learn the necessary lessons from our chequered history and seize the new opportunity provided by the millennium declaration to leap frog into the 21st Century. The New Partnership for African's Development (NEPAD) which was crafted by African leaders in 2000 and has been warmly welcomed by the G8 provided a unique platform for internalizing all the goals and targets of the millennium declaration. And the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) provides the instrument for monitoring progress. It is the mandate of the APRM, interalia, to encourage participating states to ensure that their policies and practices conform to agree political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards. If we do this with determination, a 'world fit for children' may yet emerge in Africa – perhaps not by 2015 but certainly long before 2115.

Footnotes

1. See Adebayo Adedeji et al (Eds), *The Human Dimension of Africa's Persistent Economic Crises* (London 1990) in which the full text of the Khartoum Declaration can be found at pages 377-391.

2. ECA, 'African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation,' Arusha, 1990, p. 19.

3. ECA and Africa's Development 1983-2008. A preliminary perspective study (Addis Ababa) April 1983

4. Ibid. p. 2

PROFESSOR ADEBAYO ADEDJI

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Professor Adebayo Adedeji—B.SC (Economics) London, **MPA** (Harvard), PhD (Economics) London, Doctor of science D.SC (Econ) Honoris Causa (OAU), LLD Honoris Causa (Dalhousie University, Canada), University of Zambia and University of calabar (Nigeria), Doctor of Literature (D.Litt) honoris causa, (ABU) Doctor of science (D.Sc) Ibadan university and Ogun State University -- has had a singularly distinguished academic, managerial and national and international, diplomatic and political career having served his native country, Nigeria, Africa and the international community for over four decades (1950-1991). At the age of 36, he had become full professor at the University of Ife, now Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU). In 1971, he was appointed as Cabinet Minister responsible for economic development and reconstruction. He was the founding and pioneer chairman of the Nigeria National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) and the **pére de la** CEDEAO – the father of ECOWAS – which he established in May 1975.

In 1975, he was appointed as Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, and served in that capacity until July 1991.

Upon leaving the United Nations, Professor Adedeji established and is currently heading the African Centre for Development and Strategic Studies (ACDESS) – a non-governmental, not-for-profit think tank which is dedicated to multi-disciplinary and strategic studies on and for Africa.

Professor Adedeji is the author and architect of numerous publications and reports including: *Africa Within the World: Beyond Dispossession and Dependence; The African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AAF-SAP) (1989); Africa Charter for Popular Participation (1990); and Comprehending and Mastering Africa Conflicts (1996).*

Professor Adedji's contribution to development theory, strategy and policy suitable for Africa and other developing regions have been cogently presented in Prof. S.K.B Asante's book *African Development: Adebayo Adedeji's Alternative Strategies (London & Ibadan, 1991)* and in a book of essays written in his honour, entitled *Issue in Africa Development: Essay in honour of Adebayo Adedeji at 65 (Heinemann, Ibadan 1996)* and edited by Bade Onimode and Richard Synge.

The African Child Policy Forum

is a knowledge based policy and advocacy centre committed to the promotion and realization of child rights and welfare in Africa. The Forum is a non-profit independent institution founded in 2003.

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