
Germany: Uwe Friesecke

A 4-point plan to develop all of Africa

West German political figure Uwe Friesecke has taken a leading role in outlining development policies for Africa since 1982, when he headed the Club of Life's campaign to save Africa. Excerpts of his speech follow:

In the last 20 years, a dangerous paradigm shift has taken place in the industrialized nations, in which respect for the dignity of man, as it is formulated in all republican constitutions, has been increasingly abandoned.

in Western countries and supranational institutions, such as the United Nations and the World Bank, have tried to justify the vicious economic policies which have led to the crises in Africa and Ibero-America, by spreading the theories of an unscrupulous economic liberalism. The worst theory in this respect is the overpopulation theory of the Club of Rome. . . . Under this theory, each newborn child is not regarded as a blessing, but as an additional burden. Such a view leads to the theory of "useless eaters"

said to be at the origin of all economic problems. . . .

During the recent Synod in Rome, Pope John Paul II issued a call for a "New Solidarity" to face the crises in the developing countries. Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, on the same occasion, demanded the rejection of the destructive economic liberalism of the free market economies, the re-establishment of the unity of economic policies and moral values. . . . This doctrine of defining economic policies along the principles of Christian humanist ethics has a universal character and ecumenical validity. . . .

Africa must show that it is not willing to follow the destructive course of the Western elites, on their way into a new collapsing Roman Empire, but intends, instead, to realize the inalienable human right for development. The African nations cannot tolerate that the World Bank, in its recent yearly report, dictate that they will be even poorer in 50 years than they are today.

Africa needs a Grand Design which enables it, within these coming 50 years, to create modern, industrially and agriculturally developed nations which can sustain a growing population. . . . This means for the political and intellectual elites of Africa, that they have to conceptualize a Grand Design for the role of their continent on the verge of the 21st century, surpassing the local, regional, and ethnic boundary conditions. In aerospace developments, we are reaching out

to the stars, and modern physics with fusion energy has placed the energy source of the interior of the Sun in our hands.

. . . In this decade an African should be part of an astronaut team of NASA's manned mission in space: African nations have to start realizing the obvious economic and development projects.

We think this means the elaboration of a continentwide plan in four areas:

1) West-East and North-South traffic connections and transportation systems.

2) Great projects of water supply to enlarge the area of irrigated arable land.

3) Continentwide communications systems.

4) Development of the energy supply, by using especially nuclear energy.

Industrial development in these four areas has to be the basis for sustained growth in agricultural and industrial production, which will eliminate, once and for all, the infernal circle of poverty and misery. African nations have to start at once to build up science and technology centers, which will serve as a pool for qualifying the population required for the economic introduction of modern technologies on a broad scale. . . .

It is the task of the century for Africa to make the Sahara bloom again. The dangerous movement of the Sahara desert southwards cannot be stopped by simply building some wells and using agricultural hand tools. Using the water reservoirs of Africa, a second Nile has to be planned, and huge energy resources utilized to desalinate sea water. You may object to this, that these demands cannot be realized in practice right now. But this only seems to be the case, because powerful institutions such as the U.N. have de facto forbidden the discussion of the use of nuclear energy, and because the International Monetary Fund does not want to see such development of Africa happening. Therefore, the fight against the IMF, and to realize a New, Just World Economic Order, is the same as the fight for the development of Africa. . . .

Africa's pride lies in its future. The present generation has to look for the intellectual and material resources, the mobilization of which will enable future children and grandchildren in the year 2020 to look back and say: "Look, this is what our parents and grandparents achieved in only 30 years, but they have contributed to the happiness of Africa and the world as a whole."

We must mobilize the political forces to implement the New World Economic Order. Where are they?

In the developing sector, that is clear, as the examples of President Alan García of Peru and President Abdou Diouf of Senegal show. They have to use the debt as a political weapon. But they cannot do it alone. Without reorienting our nations of the Western industrialized sector, toward dropping the IMF policy and replacing it with a classical mercantilist policy in the tradition of Leibniz, Colbert, and the American Revolution, this battle cannot be won.