

## DEBATE

### **Jalal ABDELATIF, Head of Capacity Development Division, United Nations, Economic Commission for Africa**

I will be quick, but I have two questions. My name is Jalal Abdel Latif from Ethiopia. It is good news to say that the world is waiting for Africa to feed the rest of the world. I hope this will not be a misplaced hope. Is Africa ready for this? Are you asking for an African agricultural revolution? If we look at today's African agricultural structure, land, labour, soil, and testing, it is below expectations. There is 45% malnutrition in Africa. The soil stress from lack of water is serious. There is low technology intervention. Are we putting huge demand on Africa that will not be met?

The second question is on technology and the emergence of mobile phones and satellites. Think of mobile phones as a farmer's tool, not a mobile phone. There is no soil data in Africa, soil has not been tested, land has not been mapped and land titles are not charted. There is chaos there, and it is wonderful that Africa can feed the world, but before that, it has to feed itself. I am asking you, are you guys waiting for an African agricultural revolution like what happened in Asia?

### **Miguel Ángel MORATINOS, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain**

I agree that when we are discussing global governance and the future global governance, food security and water security should be included. Before, these kinds of conferences discussed war and peace, border disputes and hegemony. However, we bring to global governance security issues that include food and water security, so there are new concepts of security. I was very interested to hear about when Kemal mentioned the fragmentation of the whole system.

We are all obsessed with the reform of the Security Council of the UN. However, there is no real launching of debate in the UN family about UN reform that includes development agencies and organisations and how we are going to adapt to the reality of these new worlds. In September, we approved the 17 SDGs, which is extraordinary and fantastic, but how are we going to implement them? Is it with the same institutions? Do you think the institutions already exist and are capable of delivering, so that in 2013, we would be able to say, 'Let us go to another system?' There were MDGs and then SDGs. Maybe in 2015, we are not achieving our goals, and we will call them sustainable and efficiency DGs.

In order to achieve that, maybe we should start to change the agencies and the organisations involved in development. I hope that that will be part of UN report. President Obama rightly presented to the Security Council for the first time, not on traditional issues of hard security but on Ebola. Why do we not introduce in the Security Council reform the other security elements and threats that we are confronting. My question is, how do we think? Will we continue to have the FAO, WFP, the International Fund for Economic Development (IFAD) and all these organisations that are competing with each other? In the end, there is a lack of coordination in order to achieve our goal.

### **Jean de KERVASDOUE, Emeritus Professor, CNAM**

Une remarque – une réponse, plutôt, et deux questions. La réponse est à vous, monsieur Dervis ; vous avez dit : y a-t-il des innovations ? Oui, il y en a une qui n'a pas été évoquée, qui est pourtant essentielle, qui sont les OGM. Comme vous le savez, 90 % du soja mondial est OGM, 70 % du coton mondial est OGM, et on sait que les pays d'Afrique utilisent beaucoup plus facilement ces innovations que ne le font les européens, et notamment les français.

Une question à vous, M. Terrab, et puis une question à vous, M. Stamoulis : il se trouve que j'ai commencé ma vie il y a un demi-siècle en construisant des barrages en Afrique et en essayant de développer la culture attelée au Niger. Il se trouve aussi que je connais un peu le Maroc et assez bien le Sénégal, et que, cinquante ans après, on peut dire que les progrès dans l'agriculture traditionnelle sont très limités ; et donc, dans vos remarques tout à l'heure, M.



Terrab, qu'est-ce qui ferait changer, dans la décennie qui vient, ce qui ne s'est pas produit durant un demi-siècle ? C'est la première question.

La question à vous, M. Stamoulis : vous avez, comme souvent, quand on parle d'eau, parlé d'un problème très spécifique mais qui n'est pas le problème général, qui est le problème des zones semi-désertiques ou désertiques. Or le problème de l'humanité, ce n'est pas le manque d'eau, c'est l'excès d'eau ; et quand on regarde les catastrophes environnementales de ces cinq dernières années, la plus grande catastrophe est une inondation au Pakistan qui a couvert 40 % de la surface de la France, qui a déplacé 20 millions d'habitants et qui a tué on ne sait combien, mais des dizaines de milliers de personnes. 80 % de l'humanité vit à 300 km de la mer et dans des zones de delta, donc des zones inondables. Ma question est : qu'est-ce qui devrait pouvoir permettre de réguler les inondations des grands fleuves et, ce faisant, permettre l'accès d'une partie de la population de l'humanité à l'eau potable, mais également aux égouts ?

Encore une fois, on s'obnubile sur des questions de manque d'eau. Ce que vous avez dit est vrai, c'est-à-dire que le premier prélèvement, c'est l'irrigation, mais en général, une irrigation... Je vais prendre juste les chiffres de la France : en France ruissellent et/ou s'infiltrent 176 milliards de mètres cubes ; nous perdons 171 milliards de mètres cubes – c'est l'eau qui retourne à la mer, donc c'est « de l'eau perdue », et l'irrigation, c'est seulement 3 milliards. 3 milliards, c'est tout à fait négligeable. Encore une fois, on s'obnubile sur les problèmes de manque d'eau, alors que le problème de l'humanité, c'est l'excès d'eau.

**Jonathan FRIED, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the WTO; former Associate Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade ; former Senior Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister, Canada**

I will be very brief and invite the panel, in the spirit of your question on technology, to comment on the contribution of science, including genetic modification, to yield. Does that have to be put aside in light of global public opinion? Second, I would like to comment on education about food security, because we have witnessed in recent times too many people equating food security with food self-sufficiency. The way to feed the world is to increase the flow of food and everybody should contribute. Just to take Canada as an example, we produce 150% of the calories that our population needs. We would be delighted to provide that to the rest of the world if permitted. I am not sure the global governance system facilitates the movement of food to strengthen food security.

**Kemal DERVIŞ, Vice President and Director of Global Economy and Development, Brookings Institution, former Minister of Economic Affairs of Turkey**

Jonathan, maybe in the trade negotiations, one has to include the banning of export taxes on food.

**Mostafa TERRAB, Chairman and CEO, OCP Group**

I will very briefly relate the two questions, the one that was asked about whether we are expecting too much from Africa and the question you posed, because they are related. When I mentioned Africa feeding the world, I was trying to say that the figures show that it is inevitable. The real question is, how is it going to happen? I see the risk of a massive intervention to have Africa move quickly to feed the world. We have seen it before. Africa has massively contributed to industrial development in the rest of the world through supplying commodities, but has it led to human and economic development in Africa? That is the problem.

You ask why it did not happen during the past 50 years. We will see and witness a massive intervention, but it will be very much like the commodity intervention of the past 100 years. That is making Africa the low-cost producer of food commodities. Then we will move to land grabs and things like this. It is not that this is not happening today, but we may move to that kind of non-adapted agriculture to Africa. However, I believe that will create a huge security challenge because it does not resolve the issue. Again, it is the same way with the commodity curse that has been created in many African countries. It does not resolve the basic problem of economic development in Africa.

It is about the type of intervention. I am suggesting that today, we have time to think of a massive intervention. However, in terms of investment in agriculture that is adapted to the small farmer and very importantly to the ecology of Africa, we have to maintain Africa's biodiversity in agricultural product. We must not import the type of products that are not adapted to the African soil, because we can see major disasters in terms of the replenishment of soil nutrients. The question is, are we going to anticipate and do the right thing, or do what we have done over the past 50 years and try to adapt Africa to serve the rest of the world?

**Arkebe OQUBAY, Minister and Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia**

If I may add few points to what Jalal said, he raised a very important issue. It means that first, we need to focus on the goal that Africa will be able to feed itself. Without feeding itself, it cannot provide surplus to the remaining part of the world. Having said this, the key issue of how it can feed itself is also a major political issue and challenge for African policy makers. This brings us back to the point that African countries should focus on the transformation of agriculture. The key issue is, they have to focus on transformation of agriculture, even countries that have abundant petroleum resources. In the final analysis, they have to diversify the economy. The key issue is that as Africans, we *have to focus on transformation of agriculture*.

Secondly, there are no shortcuts and miracles will not happen in a year or two. We need a *long-term perspective*. We need intervention in education, infrastructure and all dimensions. Without a holistic approach, it is impossible to bring long-term changes.

The third element is, we also need to *focus on the poor*. We may have few billionaires in Africa, but we also have a big proportion of poor people. The issue of shared growth and inclusiveness is a very important policy issue and it is also an important part of the solution to the broader issue of security. I am not strictly talking about food, but this includes political security and safety issues, which we are witnessing world-wide.

Having said this, it also brings us back to some critical issues we need to raise. One is that countries should have their own national policies. The key intervention that ultimately brings change is not at the level of international order, but it is primarily within national borders. Countries need to have a very solid national policy that will help us to achieve this. Without that, the international community or order will not take place.

The second aspect is, in terms of international economic order, we have to understand that it is not fully conducive to poor countries, to less developed countries. For instance, agriculture is subsidised in Europe. This has an effect on African agricultural outputs, and the international trade order does not support the poor. We have to make sure that there is an international economic order that will be helpful to less developed countries or conducive to Africa. This will be important.

There needs to be development assistance. As we all know, advanced countries have agreed that they will contribute a specific percentage of their GDP. This was about 0.7%. Only 1-2 countries are fulfilling their commitments. The remaining advanced economies are not doing this and are in fact also struggling to cope with the post-financial crisis economic situation. Development assistance could help to boost agriculture in countries in Africa.

On the last point mentioned, the problem of water shortage, flooding etc. is linked to climate change. We do not get the right water at the right time and in the right place. Reversing this trend requires a very concerted international position and international coordination. There is a need to ensure that every country plays an important role in climate protection, both the poor and rich.

**Mohamed LAICHOUBI, Former Minister of Labor and Social protection, Former Minister of Youths and Sports, Algeria**

Si vous permettez, je retiendrai l'intervention du ministre-conseiller éthiopien sur une question précise : nous avons vu la question de la souveraineté évoluer, c'est-à-dire la question sécuritaire, la question du commerce, la question des finances, et, timidement, la question de la santé. Cela veut dire que maintenant, il y a des questions qui prennent une dimension régionale, un traitement régional, et il y a un effort. C'est là le premier point ; or, on sait maintenant qu'il y a



un lien direct entre les catastrophes naturelles, la faim et la migration. Cela veut dire que la question de la faim ne devient plus qu'une question ou des ressources, ou de la sécurité alimentaire uniquement nationales, mais ses effets sont des effets internationaux.

Là, nous avons deux expériences assez intéressantes à étudier : la première expérience européenne, l'Union Européenne, des pays qui ont décidé d'élargir un espace de souveraineté, et donc de collaborer avec un développement et des politiques sectorielles, structurelles, pour améliorer le niveau de chaque pays – première expérience. Deuxième expérience, qu'on n'étudie pas suffisamment : toutes les projections chinoises et l'approche chinoise, celle de la route de la soie ou la façon dont ils travaillent maintenant, les politiques du gagnant-gagnant, pas uniquement de l'aide au développement mais d'aller sur les structures et les assises du développement.

Ma question, et en même temps ma conclusion : est-ce qu'on ne devrait pas réfléchir assez rapidement, que ce soit à l'échelon africain ou à l'échelon international, à des tentatives de politiques régionales sur des questions qui sont essentielles ? Merci.

**Jean-Yves CARFANTAN, Senior Consultant, AgroBrasConsult**

Je ne fais ni une question, ni un commentaire, ni une remarque, je fais une invitation. Je viens d'un pays qui est probablement la seule *success story* en matière de développement agricole en conditions tropicales depuis cinquante ans. Je suis dans l'agriculture brésilienne depuis trente ans, mais au ras du sol, avec les agriculteurs. J'invite, dès qu'ils le veulent, les partenaires africains à venir voir pourquoi ça a marché. Il y a beaucoup d'éléments qui ont été évoqués sur le plateau. Il y a des choses à découvrir concrètement. Nous avons des difficultés au Brésil, mais il y a un secteur qui marche, qui est devenue une des composantes essentielles de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Venez nous voir.

**Kemal DERVIŞ, Vice President and Director of Global Economy and Development, Brookings Institution, former Minister of Economic Affairs of Turkey**

Peut-être qu'on peut demander à Thierry si ce ne serait pas une idée de se réunir au Brésil, un de ces jours. Dernière question rapide.

**Philippe CHALMIN, Professor of Economic History and Director of the Master of International Affairs at Paris-Dauphine University**

Ma question est essentiellement pour le représentant éthiopien : pourrait-il nous faire le point sur la situation alimentaire aujourd'hui en Ethiopie ? L'Ethiopie vient de lancer un appel d'offres pour l'importation d'un million de tonnes de blé ; j'ai l'impression que la sécheresse liée à El Niño touche particulièrement l'Ethiopie, donc ce serait intéressant d'avoir un point là-dessus. Et sur l'Ethiopie, j'ai quand même une question : c'est quand même le pays qui, me semble-t-il, a fait le choix, un petit peu, du *land-grabbing*, c'est-à-dire de confier des millions d'hectares à des exploitants extérieurs. Est-ce bien raisonnable, et sur le long terme, est-ce vraiment quelque chose que l'on puisse conseiller ?

**Arkebe OQUBAY, Minister and Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia**

Land grabbing is not a major issue in Ethiopia. We know that 7-8 years ago, land grabbing became a popular word among so-called NGOs and some scholars. In fact, at that time, the issue was raised that land grabbing was being conducted and the key players were the Chinese. However it was not actually the case as it was researched by some research groups. We don't see many Chinese investors in Africa's agriculture till now. Although we find them in the manufacturing sector, like in Turkey and India, but not in agriculture.

In our case, Ethiopia is among the top 15 countries in terms of land area. It is 1.1 square kilometres. Most of the population lives in highlands, but we have a huge lowland area which is sparsely inhabited, so we make it available for commercial farms. We still attract investors, and the land we have allocated for this purpose is only 3.5 million hectares of land and about 10% has been used. That has been deliberately instigated politically.

As I mentioned earlier, this year, we have faced the problem of rain shortage and the problem with rainwater is that it does not come at the right time or in the right place. There was not sufficient water as it is essentially rain-fed agriculture. One of the key transformation agendas is, how do we expand irrigation to cover the most agricultural land? Due to this, we have many farmers affected. But the key difference is that 25 years back, or in the '80s, the country had to look at donors when there was hunger. We now have a system of strategic reserve and we hold some agricultural crops as a reserve. When required, we also buy and import.

This year, the Government allocated US\$ 500 million to support the farmers affected by bad levels of rain. This is to happen periodically and the best way is always to have a reliable strategic reserve. The economy also has to diversify from agriculture to manufacturing. That is why I am saying that African countries should not only focus on agriculture. They also have to focus on developing the manufacturing sector, particularly. That can help with value addition to their agricultural products.

**Kostas STAMOULIS, Director, Strategic Programme Leader, Food Security and Nutrition, FAO**

Regarding the African agricultural revolution, there are very good reasons why the Asian experiment cannot be repeated. A key reason is the variegated agricultural zones in Africa which prevent the mass adoption of a common technology as happened in Asia. That is one point. Regarding the political issue of who will implement the SDGs, which Mr Moratinos asked about, the countries that signed them should be accountable for meeting them. The systems should build an accountability framework and analyse why they have not been met and what the correlatives of success are. In my view, it is not the international organisations that will implement these Sustainable Development Goals.

Regarding the final point about the genetically modified organisms (GMO), we as an organisation have said that GMOs are part of a constellation of options which could be applied when possible. Nothing has been excluded and nothing should be excluded beforehand or on ideological grounds.

**Mostafa TERRAB, Chairman and CEO, OCP Group**

I will be very quick. Mr Carfantan, you are right. Brazil can help and has many solutions and we are looking at that by the way, as you know. Right before this conference, we ran the Atlantic Dialogues in Marrakech, which are centred on South American and African dialogues. There were 20-25 participants from Brazil and we looked at that. However, those Atlantic Dialogues go beyond that, because there are other countries that can offer interesting lessons. In terms of some of its green revolution, India can also help contribute ideas. As for Brazil, let us look not just at agriculture, but the *Bolsa Familia*.

**Kemal DERVIŞ, Vice President and Director of Global Economy and Development, Brookings Institution, former Minister of Economic Affairs of Turkey**

There is the *Bolsa Familia* but Brazil has some problems right now. Thank you very much first of all to the panel and it was very interesting for me also, as I learned a lot. Thanks for the excellent attendance. I apologise on behalf of all of us for not having space for all the questions, but maybe some of them will come back tomorrow during the session on the refugee crisis in Europe. Things are linked, as we know, and I wonder what will happen to the European budgets when they try to provide for the refugees inside Europe. They will help development in Africa and be pushed to increase their defence budgets, but that is a macro-economic question.