

CLIMATE CHANGE AND LIVELIHOODS: THE SURVIVAL DILEMMA OF THE POOR INDEED IN A DISPENSATION OF DECLINING INSTITUTIONAL EFFICACY

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ABSTRACT

Climate is a nodal factor defining global balance and livelihood. These two, through effective policy intervention, account for the attainment of better and stable social environment. Informed by field observation, content analysis and intuitive insights, this paper examines the nexus between climate change and livelihood among the poor-indeed, insisting that beyond the vagaries of nature, human actions accounts for the greatest percentage of the “climatic challenges” and “social shocks” confronting the modern world. While men have rarely explored much of the economic and human-benefitting developmental potentials of the globe, their negative activities have defiled it all. With rising artificial violation of the socio-climatic milieu and consequent detonation of global peace, concerns have grown towards addressing the challenges faced by human-inhabited portion of the globe. Among the over 200 treaties and solutions so far canvassed by climatologists, environmental activists, victims and analysts towards attaining sustainable development, ‘deliberate actions by governments and extra-state institutions’ occupy pride of place. Regrettably, across the developing region, what is seen is more of “propaganda” in place of “performance” of the “declared intentions”. It is against this backdrop that this paper examine ‘the plight of the poor-indeed in a dispensation of declining institutional efficacy in delivery and management of climate-related policies’.

Keywords: Climate, Livelihood, Policy Delivery, Declining Institutional Efficacy, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Sustainable Development, the Survival Dilemma of the Poor-Indeed

INTRODUCTION

There exists a bi-directional symbiosis between climate and livelihood. While climate defines, and is defined by, the entire ecosystems involving both animates and inanimate, livelihood, consummates the expression of human existence. It covers the entire requirements of man for a measurable decent living, embracing social, physical, mental, political and natural facets of life. It is the social air through which interactive living is sustained. Attainment and sustenance of decent livelihood, a subject of nature and social environments, is dependent on the degree and resilience of climate change. Establishing a nexus between climate change and poverty as indexes of livelihood, UNDP once submitted that climate change is one of the defining challenges of our time.

Receding forests, changing rainfall patterns and rising sea levels ...exacerbate[s] existing economic, political and humanitarian stresses and affect human development in all parts of the world... it hits the world's 2.6 billion poorest people the hardest (http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/environmentandenergy/strategic_t hemes/climate_change.html?page=5)

That the world, and the poorest of the people, seems threatened today has more to do with institutional capacity decline that has resulted from artificial symbiosis within the social milieu of policy management and governance than nature. Left unaffected by human intrigues, the natural order of existence will ever remain predictable as the rising and setting of the sun. However, human action, accounts for the greatest percentage of the “shocks” and “problems” confronting the modern world. While men have rarely fully explored the globe, the negative impact of their activities defiles its entirety. As at the close of the twentieth century, accumulating scientific evidence supports the proposition that gases resulting from human activity were already changing the global climate (Anderson 1998).

Upon this realization, concerns have grown on the challenges faced by the human-impacted portion of the globe with analysts drawing attention to some of the issues calling for urgent action of men and institutions in moderating the negative serendipities of human-environment symbiosis (see Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 1998). At about the end of the twentieth century, Bashiru in an article titled: ‘the new world order...’ noted: “countries of the industrialized and those of the third world alike quivered under a tensed atmosphere...” (Bashiru in: Caron, Gboyega and Osaghae 1992). Indeed, while not directly or exclusively focusing on climatic challenges then, Bashir did scratched the surface of what was to become an intimidating challenge of climatic uncertainties that was going to confront the global community in not too distant future. As it is, the greatest challenge facing the world today, according to the Millennium Development Goal, is the scourge of extreme poverty associated with changing climatic conditions.

Predictions are that if there is a global temperature rise of 2° Celsius, global cereal production will fall drastically from 300 million tons to 180 million tons. That, if carbon emission status is not reduced to a renewable and carbon free level, as envisaged through Clean Development Mechanism (see World Development Report 2010) coast lines will be washed away threatening human lives and property. Indeed, these have had some negative impact on the attainment of the first millennium development goal in several parts of the globe. It has equally been conjectured that:

In the face of heavy storms, drought and other natural disasters, it will be a herculean task to achieve the second millennium development goal, which says we should achieve; free universal primary education (Srem, 2011).

Srem noted that apart from these disasters forcing students to stay back from going to school to help their parents in times of crises, displacements arising from natural disasters such as witnessed in recent history of Typhoon Haiyan in Philippines and other places are clear indication of how climate change can affect programmes aimed at human development. The implication from the above shows that the gravest challenge facing the world today is first and foremost unfavourable outcomes of climate change, as these human-triggered natural disasters often compromise the two ever best-defined most fundamental goals of poverty reduction and human development (see National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action On Climate Change for Nigeria (NASPA-CCN) 2011). Whereas, the compromise results from deliberate neglect of natural order by human agencies, little practical attention is seen to have been directed to their remediation. Hence, among the solutions canvassed so far, deliberate actions by governments and institutions occupy pride of place. Howbeit, what has been observed, particularly across the developing region, is more of “propaganda” in place of “performance” of the “declared intentions”. Against this backdrop, this paper examines the plight of the poor indeed in a dispensation of declining institutional efficacy in delivery of climate-related policies.

THEORETICAL CONSIDERATION

Across history, and since the Brundtland Commission (cited in Kates, R. W, Parris, T.M and A.A. Leizerowitz 2005) first defined sustainable development, there has been effort at ensuring continuity of life at its best possible. Dozens, if not hundreds, of scholars and practitioners have articulated and promoted their own alternative definition; yet a clear, fixed, and immutable meaning remains elusive. This has led some observers to call sustainable development an oxymoron: fundamentally contradictory and irreconcilable. However, in attempting to know what is it that is to be developed sustainably, recently, the scope has been expanded to even include human development, with emphasis on values and goals, such as increased life expectancy, education, equity, and social justice as well as wide-ranging opportunities among others. Also, there have been those that canvassed the view that to develop society encompasses the values of security and well-being of national states, regions, and institutions as well as the social capital of relationships and community ties. Providing a generic conceptualization, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development attempted a further expansion of the standard definition with the widely used three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental (Kates, R. W, et al 2005). This, to The Johannesburg Declaration means “a collective responsibility to advance and strengthen the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development—economic development, social development and environmental protection—at local, national, regional and global levels (World Summit 2002). Sustainable development is that “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (United Nations General Assembly, 1987: 43).

Ranging from artificial creation (roads, embarkations, ports engineering and construction) by humans to natural calamities, the vulnerability of cities and people to hazards and disasters has been a subject of increasing academic interest, (Ologunorisa 2009). More importantly, whether in natural order (rainfall, storms, volcanic eruptions, floods and other natural calamities such as the flooding in Niger Delta and along Rivers Niger and Benue, Chad Basin, and the Philippine's Typhoon Haiyan); whether institutional (urban re-planning, urban renewal and modernization)' whether infrastructural or industrial land conversion as witnessed in Ajaokuta; or land acquisition for construction of dams, road, ports and administrative headquarters by various levels of government, or exploration of mineral resources as obtained in places like the not too popular 'Ijesha gold mining communities' (Akinola, 2000), the mining of precious stone in Ijero Ekiti, oil-mining in Niger Delta; or various unregulated quarry explorations across Nigeria, the effect of climatic alterations on the poor, who loses natural gifts of nature in addition to hazardous pollution of the atmosphere is quite devastating. To worsen the situation, the manifest observation of inefficient institution and the corresponding ineffective policy intervention to address most of these problems suggests that the livelihood of the poor has always been the opportunist cost of social adjustment and development (Agbaje 2013). Concerning the welfare of the poor, the fundamental principles of sustainable development are often readily sacrificed.

Reviewing the works of Chambers 1995, Jeffry Bury 2004 and Trouw 2007, on the nexus between man and some of the resources determining his livelihood, Duong et al (2013) identified four different types of capital forming changes in livelihoods- *Produced capital* (savings, convertible liquid assets, earned income, pensions, transfers from the state, other remittances, infrastructural components as buildings, transportation, electrical <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1023%2FA%3A1005627828199/lookinside/000.pngservices>), *Human capital* (skills, education, knowledge, ability to labour, health); *Natural capital* (non-renewable resources- minerals, forests, soils, and renewable ones- ecosystem services and nutrient cycling); *Social capital* (stocks of mutual trusts or beneficial connections for people). While three (natural, social and human capitals) are directly connected to the discourse of this paper, a change in natural capital affect almost all facets of human life including produced capital. For it is from natural and human capitals that all other capitals derives and these are the ones most threatened by negative climatic development.

In their study of vulnerability to climate change, Kelly and Adger (2000:325-352) identified what they termed "architecture of entitlement", focusing on social, economic and institutional factors that influence levels of vulnerability within a given community which either promote or constrain options for adaptation. Based on their analysis of Vietnam and other experiences, these analysts went further to propose four response strategies to mitigate the impact on the most vulnerable: poverty reduction, risk spreading through income diversification, respecting common property management right, and promoting collective security. Rather than see poverty reduction and institutional adaptation as independent factors in combating the challenges of climate change, this paper interrogates the theoretical linkage with a conjectures that: climate change has become a constant challenge to be mitigated mainly by deliberate institutional adaptive mechanism if mass poverty is to be tackled and the poor indeed salvaged. Why address climate to address poverty? Marxian paradigm of development places the object of development within the prefix of climate. Land and all that issues therefrom represent the object of labour. It is from there that men and society, deploying appropriate instruments and means of labour, appropriates their living. In absolute term, man is materially made from the dust. Hence, to Ratzel:

Man is [or should] always [be] conscious of his environment, and particularly of the forces in that environment over which he has so little control, which often seem to control him (Ratzel cited in Emrys Jones 1972)

Beyond the environment-deterministic view of man and social being however, the responsibility upon man and institution as the central goal of science is to “superinduce” a new nature that will make attainment of unthreatened, better and enhanced livelihood a possibility for men and society. Where the capacity of institution towards ensuring effective policy intervention suffered a noticeable decline, men and institutions will fail to positively coexist with, and/or readapt nature. As we are currently witnessing, social instability and perils will become the fatal consequence of the resulting wreck and poverty (Nikitin 1983) arising from climatic disruptions. Therefore, to attain sustainable development, Ratzel, a strong proponent of environmental determinism of social existence, submitted that man must live on the land nature has given him submitting to the law. The danger, as the world witnesses today is that, men, in the absence of mitigating institutional mechanisms, have not only defiled the land, they have in contradiction of the natural survival instinct disregarded the laws governing their relationship with nature and have thereby endangered their own lives and living.

Not bothering on technicalities that lies beyond the scope of this paper, Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1998), identified issues on which concerns have been raised calling for urgent policy and reform action. These, among others, include:

- enhancement of energy efficiency in relevant sectors of the national economy;
- protection and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases;
- promotion of sustainable forest management practices, afforestation and reforestation;
- promotion of sustainable forms of agriculture in the light of climate change considerations;
- research on, and promotion, development and increased use of new and renewable forms of energy, and of advanced and innovative environmentally sound technologies;
- limitation and/or reduction of methane emissions through recovery and use in waste management, as well as in the production, transport and distribution of energy;
- and above all, encouragement of appropriate reforms in relevant sectors aimed at promoting policies and measures which limit or reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

On the part of the Nigerian Ministry of Environment, constituent elements to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, within the framework of the National Policy on Environment include the following:

- Development of a National Action Programme to Combat Desertification and mitigate the effects of drought towards the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) in Nigeria;
- Integrating public awareness and education on causes and dangers associated with drought and desertification, as well as the constraints of the CCD
- Strengthening of national and state institutions involved in drought and desertification control programme.

- Promoting sustainable agricultural practices and management of water resources including water harvesting and inter-basin transfers.
- Encouraging individual and community participation in viable afforestation and reforestation programmes using tested pest and drought-resistant and/or economic tree species;
- Encouraging the development and adoption of efficient wood stoves and alternative sources of energy.
- Establishing drought early warning systems.
- Involvement of the local people in the designing, implementation and management of natural resources conservation programmes for combating desertification and ameliorating the effects of drought.
- Intensifying international cooperation and partnership arrangements in the areas of training, research, development and transfer of affordable and acceptable environmentally sound technology and provision of new and additional technical and financial resources;
- Inventorizing degraded lands, and implementing preventive measures for lands that are not yet degraded or which are slightly degraded.
- Adopting an integrated approach to address physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of desertification and drought
- Intensifying cooperation with relevant inter and non-governmental organizations in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought;
- Strengthening the nation's food security system;
- Establishing, reviewing and enforcing cattle routes and grazing reserves (NASPA-CCN) 2011)

Though, the government laid the requisite framework for institutional intervention both at national and state level, the impact on corrective mechanism has not been much felt beyond responses to emergency. Grassroot awareness on preservation, prevention and adaptation to climate change remains very weak.

No doubt, continued neglect of climate regulations mostly on the part of governments have resulted into worsening living condition of the inhabitants of the world generally and of the poor people in the less-developed regions in particular. It must be noted that the quest for desirable change has also been met with a correlate of institutional neglect and capacity decline. Findings indicates increasing worry about the quality of adaptive responses, and decline in the impact that societal values, governance structures, and institutions for resolving conflicts have on mitigating negative impacts of climate change (see https://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/IPCC_WG2AR5_SPM_Approved.pdf)

But, bad as it is for the entire global community, due to institutional neglect, the poor indeed everywhere are the worst-hit. Climate change has not only made the environment more unbearable for the poor who, due to their poverty, could not provide alternative conveniences, it has made attainment of mass-benefitting economic growth and good livelihoods very rare and living very tedious. Analysts are in agreement on substantial evidence which suggests that weak institutions have various undesirable effects on economic and social growth (Mauro, 1995; Bardhan, 1997; Leite and Weidmann, 1999). Equally,

empirical literatures universally agreed on the view that improvements in the quality of institutions and better policy delivery, among others correlates higher economic growth and better standard of living (see Acemoglu et al. 2001, Hall and Jones 1999 and Pande and Udry 2006 cited in Global Development Network (2012). So, if natural order is increasingly being defiled, economies are not growing and aggregate as well as individual development is becoming unattainable, then, there is the:

...need to move the frontier of the rule of law [beyond mere policy prescription] and delve deeper into the channels through which the rule of law and institutions affect the entire development process. This also covers the overall relationship between the rule of law, governance, institutions and the... capacity of the state [to manage among others its environment and environmental policies] (Global Development Network 2012).

Combating climate vagaries constitute a great drain on national, community and individual resources. To address this suggests the need to examine the logics of appropriation, production and distribution of national and world resources. It is a known fact that there exists an asymmetric order of distribution of resources both within nations and across the globe. It was once a common knowledge that the developed countries (DCs) with a population of about 20 percent of global estimate undertakes over 80 percent of world production and control about the same percentage of the global wealth, while the collectivity of less-developed countries with estimated 80 percent of world population oversees about 20 percent of world production. Due to money laundering and associated capital flights, the less-developed countries (LDC) control less than 20 percent of world resources. While, going by 2010 Cancun Agreement, developed countries were collectively responsible for greater portion (estimated at 85%) of annual global emissions (see also Grubb 2003), every portion of the globe faces the increasing climatic threats from the resulting environmental refractions. It thus suggests that with resource poverty and ineffectiveness of remediating measures/policies in the LDCs, the poor people therein, on the worst note, are the chief carriers of the burdens of global production-induced environmental hazards. Apart from major climatic disruptions such as volcanic eruption and major landslides that seems very rare in certain regions of the world, more than the developed regions, the LDC needs the most urgent climate-remediating measures.

To avert the growing destructive consequences of increasing global warming, series of conferences have been held and treaties well articulated and signed across the globe. In particular, the developed countries in the North, through deployment of better production techniques, afforestation, reforestation and greenization of their cities and dwellings, are making concerted efforts at reducing negative consequences of climate change. However, insub-Saharan Africa, where climatic conditions favour, as of now, growing trees of economic value across towns, cities and rapidly receding forests without much added cost, apart from occasional propaganda, not much evidence of similar effort have been noticed towards forest conservation, afforestation and reforestation. Where it occurs at all, mainly in the cities, it is seen as mere esthetic decoration by most political regime holders and not as remedy towards averting worsening climatic disorders and its associated environmental degradation and hazards. Thus, across sub-Saharan Africa, while esthetic tree planting is on the increase in major cities, efforts at remediation of the effects of hazards of climate change of which incidence of poverty is a real threat has not been sufficiently addressed in the rural area. Till date indiscriminate bush-burning for various purposes ranging from

land cultivation to animal hunting is on the increase, Tree-felling for various purposes including energy need goes on unabated even when alternative sources are either untapped or are being wasted as evident in gas-flaring. The challenge, therefore, according to Robinson et al (2006) is that greater attention should be directed to the overall nexus between institutions, growth and natural resource endowments and utilization. More importantly, towards ensuring a good balance, Robinson reiterated that politicians should be discouraged from taking advantage of resource riches to raise the value of being in power. They should be prevented from unnecessary expansion of the public sectors, bribing voters, offering them well paid but unproductive jobs, and granting inefficient subsidies and tax handouts (Robinson et al. 2006), and conducting extravagant political campaigns as witnessed in the events leading to 2015 general election in Nigeria particularly by the then ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP). Rather than engage in frivolous spending, genuine efforts should be directed to making them more responsive in channeling the gains of resource riches to environmental renewal and sustenance.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SURVIVAL DILEMMA OF THE POOR-INDEED

Diverse institutions are involved in remediation of climate challenges across the globe. But, it will take self-critique by the global south, such as attempted here, and as in many other analyses, to accurately identify the problems, estimate the impact and ensure development and impartation of appropriate and specific climate-poverty targeted remedies. Anchored on content analysis and reasoned observations of diverse institutional measures and interventions, there are still several challenges relating to the nexus between climate change and incidence of poverty. Attempt is made hereunder to (a) identify some of the problems, (b) provide empirical indicators of their manifestation, (c) state the observed impact on the livelihood of the poor, and (d) suggests corresponding remedies.

- **Lack of due attention to receding forests**

Empirical Evidences: Though, the Convention on 'Healing the Ozone' proposed self-restoration upon global adoption of corrective measures by 2050, in the recent times, changing and declining rainfall patterns and weather-related problems have been identified in the main to constitute a major challenge to sustainable development not only in Nigeria but in the entirety of sub-Saharan Africa. Desert encroachment has led to poor harvest, and involuntary social and communal migration and struggles over lands in places like Plateau, Adamawa, Benue, Zangara, and Nasarawa states in Nigeria with many families displaced from their native places of settlement and regular occurrence of bloody clashes between the farmers and herdsman.

Effect on the Poor: For their subsistence, the poor more than any other factor of production depends on land and its resources. But due to undesirable climate changes, the poor are increasingly being forced out of their native land of livelihood. This in turn has led to several climate-induced communal armed struggles. In the event, the poor loses farmland, food crops, dwellings as well as social capital and ultimately gets poorer, while some loses their lives.

Suggested remediating measures: As yet, Nigeria in particular, and other countries in sub-Saharan and Africa generally have what it takes to initiate timely recovery of their livelihood. With several rivers, streams and lakes, the corrosive impact of desertification can be mitigated, if proactive measures are adapted to take proper advantage of water resources rather than responding to the negative effects of their overflow. There is the need by contiguous

nations around the Lake Chad to take more effective measures towards managing the Lake and adjoining dams for better advantage of the farming and herd-keeping populace.

- **Continued excessive production of green gasses and consequent continued disruption of climatic order**

Empirical Evidences: Aside from ever-present gas flaring across the Niger Delta, as of now, bush burning by peasant farmers, and open air burning of recyclable refuse, seized fake drugs and contrabands by various regulatory agencies remains a great challenge in Nigeria. To compound the problem, while there is a growing decline in average annual rainfall, which the national meteorological agency in Nigeria has predicted will suffer further decline in the current year 2015, as at August, incidence of unimaginable flooding is already on the increase.

Effect on the poor: For Nigeria, two climatic dangers have been predicted for the year 2015. The first is lesser rain leading to drought and low harvest. The second is flooding. The two compounds hunger as poor harvest results from poor rainfall, and destruction of farmland and crops results from flooding. On the whole, the poor, who often live in slums and lowlands, bears the brunt of resulting inflation and demographic displacements. There are indications from the February 2015 submission of the National Bureau of Statistics that inflation has been on the increase in Nigeria. With sudden massive rainfall, and the reported release of excess water from Cameroun's major dam into the River Benue, predictions are that massive flooding will be a regular menace in Nigeria in 2015. Communities in the banks of Rivers Niger and Benue are already feeling the impact. As the end of July, 2015, the Nigerian meteorological agency has placed the whole set of states in North East, the entire South West, South East and South-South on red-alert. People likely to be affected are already being advised to seek alternative accommodation should evacuation become necessary. The question is: will farmers and poor settlers also move their farmlands and crops? Without official assistance, which for most times is rarely widespread, there is the fear of how best the poor could adjust to such sudden situations and compulsive relocation? Due to climate-induced struggles and displacements, the number of IDPs in Nigeria is rising by the day.

Suggested remediating measures: There should be greater emphasis towards citizens' education on the need for carbon reduction through adoption of better techniques for waste-conversion and farm practices. On the part of the government and corporate entities, rather than destroy seized and other worn-out items through open air burning, setting up appropriate agency to test and ensure recycling of such could be a better way to save the society from the attendant pollution. Beyond efforts at national level, getting to the grassroot with relevant information on flood prevention and controls as well as setting up appropriate communal-based structure will ensure better and safe environmental consciousness among the citizenry. Above all, governments should see to it that buffer dams are properly constructed, just as better land use orientation should be entrenched to discourage people settling on extreme low lands. Attempt to build or settle on waterways should henceforth be effectively regulated.

- **Negative impacts of illegal mining**

Empirical evidences: Untimely death, life-depreciating accidents and hazards have become the pastime of the poor seeking to irk a living from crude mining practices no matter how dangerous this endeavour may have become. The danger is, even when these are known to, and are at times facilitated by politicians and major stakeholders in government, little, or no attention is paid to Environmental Impact Assessment by these mining syndicates. As recently revealed in many of the quarries and other mineral mining sites in Northern, Midland and Southern Nigeria, host communities derives less benefit from these mining activities that takes place on their homelands. Many of them lacked facilities for primary education, clean water, medical services and even security. As many of the communities complained, all efforts to get mining companies to help in some regards often yield no result. Observation from creeks in Lagos, Niger Delta through the mid-land to the Saharan north, where minerals are crudely mined, revealed increasing opening-up of the earth surface and environmental pollution. To worsen the ordeal, much of these explorations are facilitated for the gains of few privileged individuals with little or nothing accruing to the state to address some of the basic environmental and social needs of the society.

Effect on the poor: Failure to intervene with appropriate regulation in the existence and operation of illegal mining as hotpots of several environmental hazards has led to increasing shortchange of the poor hosting communities. In some of the cases across Nigeria, the poor loses their land, vegetation and portion of the national resources on their native land to these rich illegal miners. Apart from encountering low wage, many of the workers at such sites loses their lives in the course of production just as communities around the mining sites get poorer in land/farm wealth, vegetations and health.

Suggested remediating measures: From Niger Delta to the Sahara, at present, many of the communities from where minerals are illegally mined have access only to few modern social amenities provided through the activities and assistance of faith-based and multilateral and humanitarian institutions as no help comes from many of the illegal miners. Government should assume greater role in regulation and control of mining activities to take greater advantage of the vast deposits of diverse mineral resources that abound across the country. This will contribute to diversifying its dwindling revenue base. In doing this, government should take more serious steps towards Environmental Impact Assessment of mining activities with a view to regulating its negative consequences and mitigating its effects on the poor through provision of appropriate social amenities.

- **Poor attention to the nexus between environmental conservation, land use, human habitat and livelihood**

*Empirical evidences:*With disarticulated planning and poor attention to the nexus between environmental conservation, human habitat and livelihood, governments yet seems less worried that urbanization further removes the poor that lives in cities away from the land, the ready source of their livelihood, thereby increasing the tendencies towards their social extermination. It is observed that the increasing spate of urbanization and gentrification is making life harder for the poor who very often than not bears the brunt of modernization through social, economic and demographic displacements in favour of the rich (Agbaje 2013). Though, wherever they live,

the rich routinely require the presence and service of the poor to maximally enjoy their wealth and status. But, very often, when planning or re-planning cities, little consideration is extended to meeting the basic needs (feeding, housing, transport, medical and means of children education) of the poor who unavoidably lives and work in the neighbourhood of the rich. Evidences abound in Ikoyi, Victoria Island, FESTAC town, Lagos Mainland, Abuja, and many other major cities in Nigeria that despite the inseparability of the poor from the rich in terms of natural livelihood, social policies and provisions tend to create a wide gap between them. Artisans and petty traders, hawkers, garden keepers, commuters, domestic aids such as drivers, security guards, etc due to inconsiderate gentrification, are increasingly being displaced from the environment in which they daily source their socioeconomic needs. As a result, they live far away from the centre of the town where they are daily needed, only to spend more money out of the peanuts they receive on transport to and fro the centre of the town; spend more time in traffic, and eat less for most part of the working hours due to high cost of living in city centres. In Abuja for instance, many of the workers that daily converge at the city centre lives in Keffi, Lafia and other settlements in Nasarawa state, just as workers in Lagos Mainland and Island lives as far as forty (40) or more kilometers away in Ibafo, Mowe, Ifo, Arigbajo, and some Ikorodu, Ijede, Agbowo, Sagamu and Ijebu-Ode. At times, these poor workers daily spend average of between four and eight hours in traffic to get to their places of work and return home after work. Evolving urban centres has priced life and living out of the reach of the poor who daily must converge at the city centres, either as aids, or servants. Those who chose to live as house-helps of the rich are either separated from the rest of their families, or altogether compelled to give-up the thought of raising any, while several others due to work pressures lacked the time and resources to properly ensure safe-upbringing of children and other dependants already raised.

Effect on the poor: As modernization intensifies and life-enhancing infrastructures improved upon, owing to increased cost of living and policies of social seclusion and exclusion, the poor are increasingly being driven away from the environment where they could make the best of their lives enjoying the best of social facilities provided with the resources of the state of which they are citizens. In most cases, they are driven to less-developed and rural areas where there are lesser social, educational, health, communication and energy facilities. As it is presently, despite the high esthetic development of vast area of the Nigerian Federal Capital Territory (FCT), and other state capital cities, there are communities within the FCT and outskirts of state capitals that are without hygienic drinking water supply, electricity, good roads, health facilities and schools. Contrary to the age-long wisdom of Pheidon of Corinth on communal land allocation and land use, observations in such cities as Lagos, Abuja and other major centres in Nigeria reveals that several millions of the poor who chooses to hang-on around such urban centres have less access to stable means of livelihood and social existence. Due to poor land planning, they also do not have access to land in their immediate neighbourhood where they could possibly grow some food crops and erect moderate shelters to meet their immediate daily needs. Hence, until the recent push, it is not uncommon to see people take abode under bridges, along fencing of government properties, in abandoned caravans, uncompleted buildings and in sites under construction. Due to poor habitat planning and policies, the poor are increasingly being excluded from all the social advantages of being citizens of their respective states or nations.

Suggested remediating measures: Naturally, land use policies should not promote the exclusion of the poor from social life, but rather their emancipation. Consideration should be given to the fact that life is naturally constructed in such a manner that the rich cannot live without the aid and service of the poor, just as the poor cannot without the benevolence of the rich. Every form of land-use policy that gives no consideration to establishing a habitation of the poor not too far from the settlement of the rich will not augur well for social symbiosis. Urbanisation policy makers should note that after certain measure of expanse of land dedicated exclusively as settlement of the elites, a small portion should be established nearby as backyard communities where the lower rung will live close enough to be able to service the need of the rich community. That was the basis for the establishment of such communities as Maroko, Makoko, Iwaya, Ajegunle, Okokomaiko which used to be proximate low-cadre settlements to various developed centres at Ikoyi, Victoria Island, Mainland, Apapa etc in Lagos during the colonial and immediate post-independence era. The poor citizens that lived in those not-too-distant backyard communities then were there to service the daily needs of those rich and highly placed elites in the city centres. But, an average lower cadre worker in Abuja and Lagos today, lives several kilometers away from the city centre at which they must converge daily for their daily work. This is excruciatingly painful. In line with the current efforts towards establishment of mass transit system in Lagos and Abuja, where backyard communities could no longer be provided within the city centres, state-assisted or subsidized means of mass transportation should be pursued as a matter of urgency by both federal and state governments while other social amenities are improved upon in the hitherto socially excluded dwelling communities of the poor. To promote social harmony and limit rising negative reactions of the poor to frustrating life experiences, rather than concentrates on planning for the good of rich at the city centres only, as societies are dispersed social amenities should equally be spread to all. Much of the prevailing problem of insecurity in the rural north and middle belt in Nigeria is due to over-concentration of security architectures and planning on city centres. This is the reason insurgents and hoodlums could operate in some communities for over two to three hours without desirable official intervention. In all future planning, backyard communities should be considered as necessary ancillaries of the city centres.

- **Failure to mitigate the impact on the poor of climate-related structural distortions inbuilt in booming globalization**

Empirical evidences: Despite developmental advances in the global system, not enough attention is paid, especially in the least developed countries generally, and in sub-Saharan Africa particular, to remediation of the structural, economic, and climate crises in-built in booming globalization that further complicates living for the poor (MDG and climate change 2010-www.germanwatch.org). Global connectivity is increasing the asymmetric nature of economic competition and social inequity. For instance, dependence on imported food items has led to increasing neglect of the need to assist local producers and farmers to improve environmental management and conservation, imbibe better land cultivation and resources usage. At present, most of the peasant farmers are left on their own struggling to make a living under very harsh socioeconomic and environmental conditions. Evidently, until now the need to teach and adopt advanced techniques in food production, processing, preservation and marketing has not

been duly focused. It was reported in recent time that many of the agricultural commodity exports from Nigeria to Europe were placed under several conditions and some banned reportedly due to poor production quality. Largely, due to poor assistance from government, poor preservative mechanism and lack of accessible means of transportation, much of the crops produced by farmers are also lost on the farms. Owing to delinkage between the farmers and city-based local markets, Nigeria markets are dominated by foreign goods that could be best locally sourced.

Effect on the poor: Moving across different states in southern Nigeria, it is either gullies have cut off communities in the East and South-South, or apart from foot path, there are no roads at all to embark on bulk transport of farm outputs. With a de-link between the city-based consumers and the local sources, what is yet to be witnessed, as of now, is the rich importing their instant meals from other countries across the world. External sourcing of food ingredients that can be produced and sourced locally has become a norm among the rich. With apparent neglect and non-patronage of local produce, the scourge of poverty on many of the poor citizens despite labouring so hard as farmers is ever-growing.

Remediating measures: Some level of official assistance is required to tap maximally into the climatic advantage that Nigeria and other sub-Saharan African countries have to derive maximum yield from their agricultural potentials. While as at now, Nigeria, just as most states in sub-Saharan Africa, cannot compete with the rest of the world in hi-tech production, nothing should preclude the governments from assisting the local farmers and producers to take maximum advantage of that which is readily available within. Rather than resort to added taxation of the poor people as means of diversifying revenue, facilitation of agriculture and cottage industries should be enhanced. Beyond catering for the middle class, greater attention should be focused on how to assist the farmers in rural areas. Emphasis on agricultural revolution could be the key to further accelerating the developmental potentials of the national economy. In the face of the current dwindling oil revenue, tapping into agriculture could be a way out of economic and developmental misery that nations such as Nigeria currently confronts. Along this direction, the Nigerian Bank of Agriculture and Bank of Industry should both be further strengthened. Steps should be taken to itemize items that can be conveniently sourced from Nigerian farmers across state and necessary assistance should be provided in this regard.

- **Poor management of water resources**

Empirical evidences: Equally, despite increasing desertification, poor management of water resources is still a major problem in Nigeria. Across developed communities-towns and cities, rather than take productive advantage of rivers, streams and dams for irrigation to facilitate cottage farming and fishing, these natural gifts are commonly used as dump sites for all sort industrial and domestic wastes ranging from metals to plastic and other communally-generated wastes. Thus, there is a growing increase in the rate of environmental pollution, blocking of water channels and flooding. From the Lagoon in Lagos to Eye in Ojota, Majidun in Ikorodu, Ejinrin in Agbowa-Ikosi, Ogunpa in Ibadan; Osun and Gbonmi in Osogbo, Ala in Akure and several others in cities and towns across Nigeria,

rivers, streams and lakes across the nation suffers similar fate while many starves away as forests are becoming deserts. Water resources in Nigeria are poorly managed and poorly explored.

Effect on the poor: From Lagos to Ibadan, Port-Harcourt to Calabar and Yenagoa, Lokoja to Benue and Onitsha, and across communities along Rivers Niger and Benue, and across Niger Delta generally, either due to blockade of water channels or upsurge in water-flow, or dam collapse, Nigeria has witnessed devastating floods across major cities. Several of such flooding have in the past, and some even recently, occurred in cities and rural areas destroying lives, crops and properties. While much of the land in northern Nigeria is succumbing to the corrosive power of desertification and drought resulting into series of deadly communal clashes between farmers and herdsmen, there is increasing flooding and destruction of national resources across the southern cities and communities along river banks in the North. With poor management and inefficient utilization of water resources in Nigeria, the poor loses all of their natural, productive and social capital. Increasingly, there is growing vulnerability of farmers and the poor to extreme poverty (see Ziervogel et al. 2006 and UNFCCC 2007 cited in Enete and Amusa 2010).

Suggested remediating measures: While, as observed in recent times, across cities in Osogbo, Ibadan and Lagos, government is making appreciable efforts in water channelization and construction of embarkations, effort should be made to educate the citizens on the danger of using water ways, streams, dams, lowlands and swamps located in cities as dump sites. To have a turn-around, as it is currently the case with Jabi Lake in Abuja, government should seek initiatives to convert such natural resource advantages to either resource centres or serve to enhance irrigation for cottage farming or as fish-pounds, etc. If so tapped, this will create employment and alleviate the sufferings of many that are jobless. Where avoidable pollution is discouraged, quite a good number of such water facilities could be explored and treated for public water supply as most cities and towns having such waters within them lack public supply both for domestic and industrial use. Also, as currently being proposed by the Nigerian federal government, construction of dams to receive excess water surges from Rivers Niger and Benue should be more rapidly facilitated. This will enhance the yet least-developed irrigation potential to checkmate the increasing scourge of desertification and associated crises bedeviling northern Nigeria generally and the Nigerian Northeastern zone in particular. Towards planning to take better advantage of these crucial natural resources, increased synergy between government of nations contiguous to Lake Chad, Rivers Niger and Benue is desirable. Within each country, as canvassed by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources on 10 of August 2015, there should be increased collaboration between different tiers of government. And in particular, local governments, which are the closest to the poor, should be further strengthened to assume more active role in educating on and assisting towards pragmatic re-adaptation of such resources.

- **Climate-induced demographic displacement and the increasing social crises associated with the growing phenomenon of internally displaced persons (IDPs)**

Empirical evidences:It is already predicted and presently almost proving to be true that in the absence of effective adaptive mechanism, climate change could result in a loss of between 2% and 11% of Nigeria's GDP, thus causing further hardship for the poor by the year 2020 (NASPA-CCN 2011). In particular, following the increased spate of drought, demographic displacement of people from their native areas of settlement across several states in northern Nigeria, (an area known for its agricultural exploration as the food basket of the nation) there has been speculations about possible serious shortfall in national food harvest. Following climate-related social discontent and land struggles in the North, there is growing movement of displaced inhabitants southward or from farmlands to major cities. This is leading to occurrence of land disputes and several deadly clashes across rural areas in the Nigerian middle-belt region. Worse hit are areas around Kaduna, Plateau, Nazarawa, Niger, Benue, Adamawa, Taraba, Kebbi, Zanfara states. There is no evidence that if the drought and drift continue, this will not spread further southward. Even in their socially-neglected rural-base, increasing occurrence of land disputes between Fulani herdsmen and peasant farmers have resulted in wanton damage of properties of high economic and social values in addition to loss of thousands of lives and disruption of socio-cultural cum economic networks. Aside, from insurgency in the Nigerian northeast, climate-induced land-related clashes is the second factor leading to increasing population of IDPs in Nigeria.

Effect on the poor: The poor loses their farmland, crops, family members and own lives. Those who survive ends up becoming poorer as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and social scavengers.

Suggested remediating measure: In the immediate instance, plans should be put in place to ensure as effectively as possible the economic integration of the fleeing populace in their communities of temporary resettlement. This will ward-off the inclination towards engaging in crimes such as armed robbery, stealing, kidnapping and related criminal activities for survival. There is a strong correlation between increasing demographic displacements arising from communal land struggles in the North and the increasing spate of armed robbery, kidnapping and other criminal activities in Nigeria. Observation of those apprehended and paraded on the media, will readily reveal that many of these criminal tendencies are offshoot of demographic displacement, social exclusion and consequent socially-induced desperation of the physically-fit but socioeconomically disempowered poor. Though small-scale, the timely gesture of immediate intervention as recently demonstrated by the Northeast state governments in supporting the daily livelihood of the IDPs should serve as models that can be improved upon by other state and federal governments. All tiers of government should assume more active responsibility in enumeration, profiling and dispensing of such stabilizing assistance making it as communally based as possible to identify the real beneficiaries of victim-support assistance measures. Ultimately, as a way of preventing further communal conflicts and armed struggles, national resources including land should be better managed to guarantee the well-being of all.

- **Climate-related disruptions and changes on the health index of the poor-indeed**

Empirical evidences: The serendipitous impact of climatic disruptions and changes on the health of the poor-indeed cannot be neglected. Avoidable break out of diseases and epidemics of various types due to disequilibrium between

human habitation and ecosystem have become a new challenge that nations in the less-developed regions will have to cope with. Not too long ago, certain communities in Sokoto state in Northern Nigeria suffered serious lead poisoning of their water and crops resulting into several deaths among the rural dwellers that have no access to portable water supply.

Effect on the poor: The poor get poorer, lives shorter span of life and for most of the time in poor health condition.

Suggested remediating measures: Research institutions, should be facilitated to assume greater role in investigation of many of the veiled social and health hazards connected to environmental disruption. Towards this gesture, administration of relief materials and psycho-therapies to IDPs and communities suffering from environmental pollutions and land-related communal clashes should be done with active participation of relevant research teams. During such interaction, researchers should be encouraged and facilitated to obtain data necessary for planning towards effective mitigation through detection of early warning signals.

- **Prevailing institutional failure to ensure effective delivery of climate-related poverty reduction programme assistance**

Empirical evidence: Despite real life evidences that there exists linkage between worsening global climate and aggravation of living condition of the poor thus further deepening their poverty, most palliative measures due to overbearing influence of political patronage hardly have the desired impact on the poor who should benefit from climate-related assistance programmes. In recent time, there are complaints that much of the flood relieve benefits following the 2012 flood crisis rarely get to the ideal beneficiaries. Also, while the government is making serious effort towards improving the manner in which assistance are distributed to the needy, there are still several corrupt bottlenecks preventing the needy from gaining appreciable benefits from such gestures. For instance, due to excessive inclination towards political patronage, most peasant farmers and the affected poor rarely get these facilities directly from the issuing source. More importantly, the poor are almost totally excluded in planning and execution of climate-related official assistance. This failure on the part of the stakeholders to realize that poverty reduction strategies and climate change interventions can't succeed without being rooted in the perspectives, capabilities, and actions of local organizations (“Ecosystems, Climate Change and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Scaling Up Local Solutions”, World Resource Institute) has led to avoidable failure in mitigating the negative effects of climate-related hazards.

Effect on the poor: It is the poor that produces farm crops, loses farmlands, crops, dwelling and capital either to flood or drought or as a result of communal clashes. Owing to corrupt manipulation by officials, very often, the poor is shortchanged when it comes to deriving benefits from official assistance aimed at mitigating hardship suffered as a result of climatic hazards. Based on several undisputed outcries of the masses, it is evident that most assistance incentives are corruptly manipulated and misappropriated by the administrative and political elites, while the poor are excluded and therefore gets poorer.

Suggested remediating measure: While not totally sidetracking the government, until corruption has been reduced to the barest minimum among politicians and public officials, donor agencies should identify communal platforms through which they can interface with the needy for direct dispensing of relieve benefits, subject only to government awareness and supervision. Also, assistance coming from the government should in the same manner be dispensed through similar collaboration with communal bodies. Experience has shown that rather than channeling relieve benefits solely through government outlets or through partisan routes that will favour members of some political affiliation against the others, programmes meant to alleviate the sufferings encountered by the poor as a result of environmental hazard should be administered in such a way that the platform for its distribution is located near, or within the community. Communal-based platforms (that are always available and ready to be so involved) should work in conjunction with the state and or officials of the Assistance Agencies. For attainment of communal harmony and national peace, based on available resources and affordable needs of the poor, government should learn to cater for all citizens irrespective of party, cultural or religious or ethnic affiliation. Above all, there should be better institutionalization of social policy for the poor in Nigeria.

Analysts across the globe were apt in describing the impact of climate change on the livelihood of the poorest of the citizens. In particular, statistics revealed that Nigeria fares very poor in all development indices. Between 1993 and 2003, the share of the population living in extreme poverty (US\$1/day income) rose from 59 to 71 percent, and the share of those living in moderate poverty (US\$2/day income) rose from 85 to 92 percent (World Bank, 2007 cited in Enete and Amusa 2010). While reviewing the impacts that climate change could have on further complicating the existing poor level of development, National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action On Climate Change for Nigeria (NASPA-CCN (2011) categorically stated:

Climate change is the latest challenge to sustainable human development. The scientific evidence is clear: climate change is likely to have negative impacts on efforts to achieve Nigeria's development objectives, including the targets set out in Nigeria Vision 20:2020 and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In particular, climate change will impede efforts to reduce the poverty experienced by the majority of Nigerians.

THE NEED FOR REINVIGORATED INSTITUTIONAL INTERVENTION

Universally, remediation of climate changes associated with the ever-escalating global warming has been centered on increasing de-carbonisation of the world. However, to be more effective, the strategy and the target should be enlarged further. On this note, four major areas of intervention could be readily identified, namely: one, reduction in carbon emission; two, increased effort at greenization; three, appropriate targeting of climate-poor-related development assistance; and four, global sanctioning of irresponsible governing regimes and non-compliant extractive actors that neglects effort at remediating identified climate-related hazards. To achieve these objectives, there are needs for improved social, political, institutional and technical capabilities of all stakeholders. This will call for:

- A re-evaluation of existing climate-related policy prescriptions and interventions to determine areas of deficit. To avoid exaggeration, there are over 200 of such. In particular, in the first instance, adequate attention should be paid to the 2014 Paris Negotiations on post-Kyoto legal framework that would obligate all major polluters to take greater responsibility for remedy.
- Deliberate global and national efforts should be made to discourage and sanction elite-fostering excessive exploration and accumulation that causes environmental degradation in total neglect of efforts at reconditioning the environment for sustainable development. A case in point is the recent well publicized report of alleged theft and secret sale of one (1) million barrels of crude oil per day by some group of Nigerian governing elites, thereby primitively siphoning from the system an estimated \$150billion over some period while contributing nothing towards remediation of the environment from where the stolen oil was explored.
- There should be effective synergy, reorientation and empowerment of communal associations and national agencies having responsibilities for environmental conservation and management. Firstly, this will help towards efforts at checkmating all activities related to oil theft and oil-spillage. Secondly, also it will encourage communal participation in steps to stop further encroachment by rapidly expanding desertification of the already depleted green forests in northern Nigeria and tropical Africa (see https://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/IPCC_WG2AR5_SPM_Approved.pdf). This second measure will include on one hand, increased tree planting in cities, towns and communities as it is presently going on in places like Senegal and some major cities in northern Nigeria. On the other hand, consideration should be given to conservation of existing forests and aggressive forestation of sparsely occupied territories. Alternative sources of energy such as liquefied natural gas, which Nigeria has in abundance, should be developed to discourage indiscriminate tree-felling for cooking among urban and semi-urban dwellers. For Nigeria, immediate effort towards stoppage of gas-flaring through effective regulation and channeling of gas resources to energy and other productive endeavour should further help in this regard. Better land-use and control strategies should be developed and water resources better managed.
- In better understanding of the climate-poor nexus, there should be needed push towards development of remedial policy initiatives and related institutions tailored to the needs of those who primarily suffer some forms of lack due to environmental disequilibrium. As canvassed by Global Development Network (2012), to ensure effective delivery to the needy, there is yet, the need to know more about the mechanisms and channels through which social protection and social policy will, rather than further enrich the governing elites, be made more generally to benefit the most vulnerable in the developing world. On this, local initiatives involving bodies such as NGOs and community development associations (CDAs) should be explored and encouraged not only to demand accountability from government agencies overseeing climate change remediation, they should also demand participation. Faith-based organizations, cultural and/or traditional institutions that are particularly more effective in grassroots mobilization and accountability should be explored and carried along to make greater impact towards addressing climate-related problems.
- Donor agencies and development institutions should by now realize that reliance on government as the sole or principal medium of intervention towards ameliorating the urgent needs of the poor has been part of the problems of

ineffective delivery. Noticing the responsive performance of government in the current crises in Nigeria northeast, we can concede a few exceptions to this failure. But, it should also be noted that this noticed success also is due to the communal nature of the Nigerian northeast challenge. The argument here is that, if most governments in sub-Saharan Africa cannot manage their own resources well to meet the urgent needs of their poor citizens, how well they can manage those delegated to them by other development-assistance agencies remains a big challenge. Donor agencies should therefore move beyond the government to develop alternative frameworks for delivering aids directly to the poor using communal, religious and traditional institutions that most times have been found to be more grounded and reliable than the government, subject only to the monitoring of the latter and other relevant agencies.

- Above all, to mitigate the negative impact of unaccountable elite-fostering resource exploration on the poor, there is the need to begin to match or stake legitimacy of government or regime against achievement in appropriate legislation, enforcement and management of environmental resource and issues. While not encouraging anarchy, leaders and institutions that make ameliorative promises without delivering them should be legitimately jettisoned through effective political struggle by the masses. African leaders have taken their citizens for granted for too long, effective mass but non-violent action and mobilization for democratic sanctioning of non-performing leadership should be considered a credible option for addressing increasing corrupt incapacitation of public institutions and ineffective delivery of climate-related policies, goods and services. Finding solution to the challenges of sustainable development that mirrors the concerns of the poor is now more urgent than ever if social peace and continued mutual prosperity of all is to be guaranteed.

CONCLUSION

The world has been ushered into an era of hyper-affluence in a pervading atmosphere of hyper-poverty and socioeconomic and political uncertainties that has rendered almost impossible the attainment of sustainable development for all. Climate changes or threatening climatic conditions that issued from the cumulative pastimes of the affluent has been a defining feature of the evolving life-threatening global climatic disorder. At the last count, there have been well over 200 treaties on climate exigencies and administration, spanning spatial, technical, material, human, national, regional and global issues with diverse frameworks proposed as solutions towards achieving sustainable development. But, as yet, due to poor implementation of these frameworks, the world is well-threatened having only slight cleavages between extinction and survival. Giving the level of superinduction through human exploratory doggedness, with appropriate institutional targeting and commitment on the part of administrators to fulfilling the themes of the various treaties, the world should by now be a better and safer place for all. But, far from being safe, the world is plugging further into social, economic, political and climatic calamities that weigh more seriously on the weaker elements in the society –the poor indeed. Starting from feeding to clothing, and from housing to social existence, living is becoming unbearable and survival of the poor indeed now more gravely threatened than ever.

With interdependence of the ecosystem and humanity, the world sits on the brink of unmitigated social and climatic disaster that if not arrested with aggressive commitment of all, portends great danger to the human race generally, and the poor-indeed across the globe in particular. To this end, to achieve sustainable development that mutually advances the interest of all, a number of measures must be embarked upon. One, policies should be directed towards reducing the excessive exploration of non-easily renewable elements of nature. The rich countries and men must reduce their excessive greed and unsustainable primitive accumulation. Contrary to their non-commitment to applying the Kyoto protocols, nations and individuals that have taken so much from nature should learn to replenish it for their own continued good and sustainable development of others and the society. Indeed, the plight of the poor, who are on daily basis been pushed to the point of extreme social disasters marked by climate cum resource-ignited ethnic and social struggles should be addressed. How much does an individual need to live a meaningful life, say of 150 years if ever it is possible? If well reasoned, it will be unveiled that the crisis bedeviling the world is a crisis of resource greed among nations and men and their unwillingness to promote remediation through effective institutional intermediation and policy delivery. As neutral arbiters, institutions (state structures at every levels and NGOs of various shades and opinions both local and international) across the globe should raise the concern to address the plight of the poor indeed. Left unaddressed, it is an axiom to conjecture that the quest to escape the uncertainties associated with poverty will leave the aggrieved with no alternative than engage in struggles with those they perceived as their exploiters. This is the current realities across various parts of Africa and the globe. Paradoxically, also in all of these resulting social malady and convulsions, the poor-indeed again suffers the most as victims of climate-related socioeconomic disruptions.

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