

## **2009 UNU/UNESCO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBALIZATION**

### **Session 3: Africa and Governance: Improving Socio-political Cohesion**

#### **Summary of Views of Chair of Session, Goolam Mohamedbhai**

Good governance is recognised to be an important factor for socio-economic development in Africa, and during the Leadership Forum earlier during the Conference, President John Kufuor of Ghana emphasised the importance of leadership at all levels in Africa for coping with globalization.

From the series of interesting presentations made during this session, the following issues emerged:

- The need for effective management of conflicts in Africa to avoid situations that occurred in, for example, Congo, Rwanda and Liberia.
- The lack of good governance in the extractive industry sector in Africa's resource-rich countries.
- The inappropriateness of traditional institutions impacting economic development in Africa, and the need for developing more appropriate institutions to maximise gains and minimise losses from globalization.
- The importance good governance in global health to deal with infectious diseases that often threaten human security in Africa.

Several interesting issues were raised by the respondents and from the floor during discussion. One of them was the importance for political decision makers and academics to overcome the existing disconnect. Yet another was the need to have strong pan-African unity to cope with globalization. A discussion also ensued on the quality of political leadership, past and present, in Africa. The feeling was that the leaders of the 1960's were more united and committed to a common objective of achieving independence, whereas those of today had to deal with the many varied social and economic challenges of their respective country.