



AGI's Fridays: "What Link(s) Between Developmental State and Capable State? Attempts Response from Public Policies: the Case of Health Policies"

The 8th session of AGI's Fridays took place on 16 May 2011 at AGI headquarters in Dakar on the theme: **"What Link(s) Between Developmental State and Capable State? Attempts Response from Public Policies: the Case of Health Policies"**. In partnership with the IRD, the session had as keynote speakers Dr. Fred Eboko, a researcher at the IRD UMR 912 Marseille INSERM-IRD U2, a specialist in public policies in the fight against HIV AIDS in Africa, and Prof. Olivier Nay, a researcher at the CERAPS, Lille, expert on international governance and the sociology of the institutions. Fifteen participants (experts, representatives of international organizations in Africa, representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited in Senegal, teachers and researchers, young researchers) participated in this round table.

The meeting provided an opportunity to question the notions of Developmental State and Capable State in terms of public health policies. Deliberately anchored in the logic of the Tunis consensus which places the state and its **interventions in the heart of the development process, this AGI's Friday session has included the analysis of public policies** in an operational perspective. Dr. F. Eboko and Prof. O. Nay first presented the research project "Governance and AIDS in Africa: universal access, national differentials. Limits, Challenges and Prospects". This project focuses on a comparative analysis of public policies in the fight against HIV AIDS in African countries [from the examples of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Senegal] and considers the mechanisms of design, decision making, and implementation, in order to understand how the production of knowledge affects public action.

The two main interventions have raised several lines of research (developed in a Discussion Paper , to be published):

- The link between Policy and Politics within a Developmental state
- The issue of stakeholders in development policies
- The interrogation of policy processes in development policies;
- The issue of multi-level regulation.

The discussions that followed were about the questioning of the role of public policies in view to strengthen the capacity of the state. They questioned the notions of ownership, legitimacy and effectiveness in these public actions. They came back more heavily on the notion of governance and its interaction with the one of government to achieve a Capable State.

The session concluded with the commitment of the Africa Governance Institute to further think on this subject with the institutions as a starting point.

See more on www.iag-agi.org/spip/-Thematics-.html