



## AGI FRIDAY

### What link (s) between Developmental State and Capable State? Attempts response from public policy: Example of Health policies

#### I- CONTEXT

Within the framework of its activities of policy advocacy and dialogue, and operational reflections for the implementation of the principles of developmental governance, the Africa Governance Institute will organize at its headquarters in Dakar, on May 16, 2011, from 9:30 am to 12.30 am, a special session of its AGI Fridays programme on 'What link (s) between Developmental State and Capable State? Attempts response from public policy: the example of health policy '.

#### II- JUSTIFICATION

The reflection on a Developmental State has an important place in African Governance Agenda. Vector and catalyst for effective development of States and Peoples of Africa, this Developmental State must act "authoritatively, credibly, legitimately" in promoting "industrialization, economic growth and expansion of human capabilities..." and (be) "able to construct and deploy the institutional architecture within the State and mobilize society towards the realization of its developmentalist project" (Edigheji, 2010; ECA 2011). In other words this is a 'State that puts economic development as the top priority of Government policy and is able to design effective instruments to promote such a goal (Bagchi, Amiya Kumar, 2000; Mkandawire, 2001, Akwetey, 2010, ECA, 2011). Then, it raises several questions: what is a capable State? What are the structural properties that can characterize it? What correlations can be established between developmental State and capable State?

Taking advantage of the AGI Friday session which will be held on May 16, AGI engages a thinking process that aims to answer to these questions. In order to avoid generalizations and dispersion, this session will be structured into three approaches:

- A public Policy Approach ;
- Political Processes Approach ; and
- Political Institutions Approach.

The May 2011 AGI Fridays session will focus on the first perspective, with the illustration field of public health policies and specifically the fight against HIV / AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. On another level, the session also aims to extend the debate launched by the AGI and some of its partners (ANRS, IRD, FPAE, IDEP, ECA, UNAIDS, Global Fund, WHO, ...) <sup>1</sup> on the production of an

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<sup>1</sup> This AGI Friday session is also an occasion to gather participants of the research project "Governance and AIDS in Africa: universal access, national differentials. Limits, Challenges and Prospects ", jointly coordinated by the AGI and the IRD and financed by the ANRS (CI ANRS 12251).

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expertise in these sectoral policies (scholarly expertise / profane expertise), and their impact on the mechanisms of appropriation of public actions, and consequently on the capability of the State.

The purpose of this discussion is finally to facilitate the articulation between knowledge clusters and clusters of activities at different levels of governance, and to enable Africa to make its voice heard on an issue of global governance.

### **III- FORMAT**

1/. Introduction by a representative of AGI, 5 minutes;

2/. Round Table moderated by a facilitator

- Several Key speakers / 1H ;
- discussions moderated by a facilitator, 2H;

3/. The synthesis document will be distributed and published in English and French on the AGI website.

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