

SUDAN: THE AFRICAN DIMENSION

His Excellency the Ambassador of Sudan

[Mr. Tagelsir Mohamed Abbas](#)

Embassy of Sudan in Greece

The previous Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.) Conferences have suggested the dedication of this conference for restructuring an educational framework that will efficiently handle bio-environmental issues. To that effect a plan for "structuring" has been intimated to model "a bio-syllabus and new curriculum materials for pre-school, elementary, middle, and higher levels of education, as well as colleges and universities." "Advanced nations" have been recommended "to undertake a world-wide educational campaign through communication satellites to increase public awareness on issues of bios."

For us in Africa, and perhaps for most of the people of the Third World, the suggested approach is far from being practical and cannot attain the aspirations of the B.I.O. because the perspectives through which Africans view threats to bios are very different and more pressing.

If bios in the realms of the advanced nations has been threatened by the adverse effects of the highly technological practices in the form of toxic materials, residues, pollution and atomic wastesödirectly man-made factorsö bios in many places in Africa faces the threats of drought and desertification, which are natural or indirectly caused by man. Those threats, however, greatly exceed the available means to combat them in almost all the African countries. To achieve desirable results, therefore, in combating those threats, a different approach has to be employed in Africa and the Third Worldöan approach different from the one envisaged for the advanced nations.

Drought and desertification have been plaguing the continent extensively in the later decades of this millennium, accelerating to an alarming degree in the last two decades. The invasion of the desert on arable land has threatened man and all other forms of life. Year after year failures of rain claimed an incalculable number of lives. Drought and desertification however are not the only enemies of bios in Africa. Poverty, ignorance, diseases and human frictions are but a few others to be added to the list. Measures, therefore, to be employed in tackling these threats to bios in Africa have to be different from those stated.

While the call for the restoration of bios in Africa has to have a different approach, in essence it does not or should not contradict or jeopardise the call for launching the International University for the Bio-Environment (I.U.B.E.). The two vocations or approaches are complementary. The focus is different. To achieve this, there must be a global vision as well as a focused one on regional bases as warranted. To launch this unified vision, we need to contemplate the following:

- The need for establishing a central body to perform the central planning, and to lay down feasible programmes for the future work.
- The need to set up a special group dedicated to the study of problems facing man and animal life in developing and less developed countries and to suggest the best ways to combat these difficulties, via alternative approaches and without repeating the same problems encountered in the developed countries.
- The need to diversify the composition of that body so that geographical diversity and different shades of opinion may enrich our programmes.
- The need to endow that body with enough abilities and facilities to fulfil its role.
- The need to streamline priorities in various directions, to suggest the necessary task forces for campaigning and to monitor implementation in a way to be reflected in the coming conference.
- The need to harmonise and synchronise all efforts exerted, with similar efforts currently undertaken by international, regional and autonomous organisations and to assume the spirit and attitude of complementarity with their efforts.
- The need to make use of international, regional and sub-regional forums for worldwide and region-wide sensitisation. Special attention here is to be given to the UN and its specialised agencies, with particular emphasis on UNEP, UNDP, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organisation of African Unity, the Arab League, the Association of Islamic Conferences, the South East Asian Nations, the World Council of Churches and so on.
- The need for making use of the existing leagues, unions of universities, leagues of poets and writers, advocates, parliamentarians as well as cultural, musicians groupings, in promoting the awareness about the goals of the B.I.O.
- The need to approach the proper organs of the various governments with the view of incorporating the necessary materials about the B.I.O. in the educational curriculum.
- The need to publish periodicals disseminating the literature of the B.I.O. and monitoring the progress achieved.
- The need to examine the institutionalisation and means of funding the work of the B.I.O. since the time has been due to commence the phase of implementing the ideals and goals of the B.I.O.

His Excellency **Tagelsir Mohamed Abbas** studied at the University of Khartoum and Columbia University, New York, and joined the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1961. Since then, he has represented his country in Egypt, Belgrade, Nigeria, Romania, China, Djibouti, and Uganda, most recently directed the Africa Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and is currently the Ambassador of the Sudan to the Hellenic Republic.