

Pretentious Global Thinking - Dismal Local Action

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"...is this not a precious home for all of us earthlings? Is it not worth our love? Does it not deserve all the inventiveness and courage and generosity of which we are capable to preserve it from degradation and destruction and, by doing so, to secure our own survival?"

BARBARA WARD (1914 -1981) and RENÉ DUBOIS (1901 -1982)

The simple but profoundly relevant slogan of our times, "Think Globally, Act Locally" signifies the necessity of melding holistic thinking with practical action to bring about global social and environmental harmony. Acting to protect the environment at the local level, while keeping an eye on the global perspective, is truly the most effective remedy available to heal our ailing planet.

With the continuously intensifying environmental degradation in many countries as a result of irresponsible human activities, the planet's precarious ecological balance is tipping towards the point of no return. Aggressive assault on ecosystems, with far reaching consequences is spreading across the globe at an ever increasing speed. Globalization is pressing ahead with its contaminating junk into all corners of the globe complicating social, economic and environmental problems. The only viable option to reverse this trend and avert global environmental catastrophe is the effective utilization of local action that encourages sustainable ways of making human activities compatible with the processes of nature.

Acknowledging the world's environmental problems and putting in place, laws, regulations and international treaties can only be effective if it is followed by practical action. Taking concrete action that produces effective results requires intelligent soul searching, genuine desire to effect change and a firm resolve which demands inconvenient, sometimes painful; but healthy sacrifices than what has been forthcoming from both the developed and developing world so far. However, action at the local level, in many of our world's developed as well as developing countries leaves a lot more to be desired.

To make the world a better place for all, the wasteful and decadent way of life entrenched in the West at the expense of the poor will have to be significantly altered. Excessive consumption, life-degrading exploitation of resources and unnecessary expansion of markets for redundant goods and services are neither ethical nor sustainable. Eventually such a system is bound to collapse and the consequences will be catastrophic. The current economic failures, social discontent and collapsing global financial markets affecting even the most solid economies of the world with unprecedented consequences offer a glimpse into the ultimate destiny of this unsustainable path.

On the other hand, the developing world will have to give utmost priority to establishing true democratic governance which promotes sustainable development and acknowledges the urgent need for environmental stewardship. Local initiatives that protect ecosystems and promote sustainable living practices will have to be developed and implemented. Otherwise, no amount of pledged capital, treaty or good-will is going to slow down our collective downward spiral towards disaster.

Unfortunately, at great risk to the environment and humanity, we have not yet been able to eliminate the elements of arrogance in the developed world, and ignorance in the developing world. Our collective progress as human beings is severely undermined as nations vainly scramble to gain dominance over each other. For various narrowly focused self-interest related reasons, developed nations, and recently China and India, are callously undermining global environmental integrity by continuing on a path that is harmful to the planet's inhabitants -- humans as well as other living things.

The developing world on its part, in a futile attempt to doggedly imitate the West keeps making ignorant decisions instead of learning from past mistakes. Oblivious to the severe environmental disasters it is inflicting on itself; it enables the developed world (China and India included), in collaboration with the local elite, plunder and contaminate environmental resources with no regard to the ultimate consequences.

In the name of development, natural resources are overexploited with little or no consideration for ecological stability, continuity and carrying capacity. Soils, water, air, food and landscapes are degraded and contaminated to supply raw materials and expand markets for the ever increasing wants of powerful nations and the local elite. Life in general -- human as well as other life forms -- is carelessly endangered in an obsessive quest to compete in a global market place, which emphasizes the need to maximize profit ignoring all other aspects of human existence.

In our world today, many "third-world" rulers, for various political and economic reasons, are elevated to power by the manipulations of powerful nations without any regard to the needs and desires of the people they are supposed to lead. This situation is producing extremely hazardous dictators both in social and environmental terms. These dictators have, at their disposal, advanced human rights suppressing, ecosystem devastating, life crippling technologies made available to them through foreign capital and aid. In the obsessive quest to preserve economic and political interest, they are supported and encouraged, deliberately and/or inadvertently, to undermine the strength and effectiveness of emerging democratic institutions.

Human right abuses, which eventually lead to social, economic and environmental degradation are deliberately instigated or ignored to safeguard interest. Anti-democratic actions against poor people, causing social blight, environmental degradation, and human suffering are tolerated as long as the benefits of powerful

nations are not compromised. Environmental injustices in the form of displacement, contamination and resource exploitation inflicted on helpless populations are deliberately overlooked to protect the Western dominated global political and economic order.

With the essential elements necessary for checks and balances conveniently sabotaged to safeguard foreign interest, society's ability to protect human rights as well as the environment is severely compromised. The hijacked 2005 election in Ethiopia is a prime example, where a brutal dictator has been propped up for the past six years through the underhanded manipulations of the West and China against the will of the people.

Autocratic rulers, who have no capacity to acknowledge and honor people's basic rights, cannot be genuine environmental stewards. Their lack of vision and inability to see beyond their self interest has created and continues to generate severe social and environmental pain that is going to require unprecedented determination to rectify.

While the absence of vision and the abundance of unfettered greed characteristic of many of these so called rulers could be considered to be part of the problem, they are, for the most part, subdued and pretentious actors in an arena where the domineering power and greed of powerful nations are forcefully displayed. In many cases, they are hand-picked puppets who have been groomed to implement programs that primarily safeguard foreign interest. Thus, they are more accountable to foreign powers than to their own people and the environment. The overall programs they implement in their respective countries are calibrated in a way that is more conducive to their masters than to the people they claim to lead and the environment they pretend to protect.

A typical example of the globally dysfunctional aid-provider and aid-dependent relationship of a "third world" nation with the developed world (and recently with China, and to some extent India) is the government of Ethiopia's Meles Zenawi. A man who for all his arrogant transgressions on human rights as well as environmental wellbeing is considered to be an evil incarnate by his own people. In direct conflict to the views of the people he presumably leads however, he is embraced by foreign powers as their most trusted agent to safeguard their interest in Africa.

At the 2009 Copenhagen environment themed spectacle, then in Oslo at the 2011 Energy Summit, again in Durban at the end of 2011 and in May 2012 at the Washington - Camp David G-8 Summit, Meles and his ilk showed up, in effect, to promote a begging and compensation agenda. Taking advantage of the global nature of environmental issues, they seized the opportunity to extract as much guilt-induced aid from the Western world as they could, which as usual, they will squander. Contrary to the image they try to project internationally, their action at the local level is anti-environment and anti-democracy.

Pretending to acknowledge the need for global thinking, Meles uses every opportunity to accuse others for his own shortcomings while making little or no effort on his part to address and solve local problems. In actual fact, he is responsible for facilitating many of the social, economic and environmental disasters in the country.

In collaboration with his Manager of Environmental Protection Authority, Tewolde Berhan Gebregziabher, Meles in the past twenty years enabled the severe pollution and destruction of ecosystems and devastation of human lives. A few examples are: The toxic contamination of Lake Koka; the farmland gobbling sprawl, environmental devastation, air pollution and toxic contamination of the city of Addis Ababa and other urban centers; the ecosystem degrading alteration of natural processes through the erection of mega dams; the expansion of environmentally insensitive mining activities such as the Lega Dembi gold mines; and the displacement of entire communities from their ancestral homelands in Gambella, Southern Peoples Nations and Nationalities and Beni Shangul to make way for dams, foreign-owned bio-fuel and cash crop farms.



Toxic contamination of water bodies such as Koka Lake is becoming more and more prevalent in many areas. The unchecked industrial and municipal waste disposal in the name of "development" is denying people access to potable water. The short-sighted response to the contamination of free clean water has been the proliferation of bottled water companies. Poor people are given the choice between drinking contaminated water and buying water. Those who cannot afford to choose are condemned to suffer. For those with scarce means, it is an additional financial burden and daily life inconvenience which adds more pressure on their already overburdened existence.

Follow the links below to watch the Lake Koka catastrophe & learn more about Lega Dembi gold mine:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUqgUR4qI98> (Part 1)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTUEjL8OhII..>(Part 2)

<http://ethiopianimes.wordpress.com/2011/08/27/>

Meles' pretentious gestures are motivated by his desire to exact revenge on the Ethiopian people. His hidden hatred, resentment and contempt towards Ethiopia and anything Ethiopian, combined with his obsession to cling to power at any expense are wreaking havoc on the country, its people and its environment.

Records of his guiding principles over the past twenty years show that he views the world through a narrow ethnic biased lens proving that he lacks the capacity to appreciate the beauty and necessity of diversity. An incessant advocate of ethnic division, he has deliberately instigated animosity to fester between ethnic groups in a bid to retain power and ensure the hegemony of his ethnic minority rule.

Systematically coordinated heinous "crimes-against-humanity" continue to terrorize and subdue communities around the country. The Anuak massacre in Gambella, the war crimes in the Ogaden, the harassment and collective punishment unleashed on the Oromos, the Amharas and other ethnic groups are a few examples of the atrocities perpetrated by his ethnic regime.

For more on the human rights abuses and genocide in Ethiopia check the following links:

<http://www.mcgillreport.org/genocide.htm>

<http://www.countercurrents.org/mountain180110.htm>

<http://www.genocidewatch.org/ethiopia.html>

His administration is ruthlessly destroying the country's environmental resources in the same manner it ruins the lives of its human subjects. Ethnic division combined with extreme greed, decadent consumerism and corruption endorsed by his administration at all levels, are facilitating the quick depletion of renewable and non-renewable resources in a nationwide binge for instant gratification at huge social and environmental cost.

Obstinate policies he promotes specifically designed to exert absolute control over the helpless population have created social, economic and environmental disruptions triggering the rapid degradation of ecosystems. Toxic contamination of landscapes, fast depletion of natural resources and utter degradation of ecosystems are ruining the lives of many while obscenely enriching a few. With much uncertainty about the future as a result of misguided policies, the poor are forced to focus on how to survive for the moment exerting immense pressure on the environment.



A corrupt urban development policy purposefully focused on squeezing as much loot out of land to enrich and empower the ruling ethnic elite is making the city of Addis Ababa and other urban centers increasingly unhealthy for human habitation. In addition to displacement, homelessness, extreme poverty, expansion of slums and high unemployment rate; air pollution, soil, water and food contamination; open sewers and unsanitary disposal of human waste/garbage are exacerbating the effects of poverty, making life unbearable for much of the population.

The plunder-enabling situation created by Meles is attracting easy profit seeking companies/countries with no ethical or environmental conscience. As if the wanton destruction of the country's human, natural and economic resources is not enough, a much more sinister form of colonialism, known as "land grabbing" has been allowed into the country in the name of development. Albeit only at its inception phase in the country, it is already causing severe social and economic hardships for many communities.

In addition to the livelihood disruptions it is causing on communities, the careless use of artificial fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals associated with this process is bound to cause irreversible damage to the environment. In the absence of effective institutional capacity and lack of environmental regulatory enforcement capability due to the absence of sufficient funding, unavailability of trained manpower and the unchecked prevalence of corruption at all levels, outsiders, in collaboration with the local elite have been given free rein to contaminate and degrade the country's environment with impunity.

For more on the land grab issue follow the links below:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/mar/21/ethiopia-centre-global-farmland-rush>

<http://www.internationalrivers.org/africa/ethiopia/gibe-iii-dam-fueling-landgrabs-ethiopia>

<http://addisvoice.com/2011/10/what-indian-companies-do-in-ethiopia/>

More than anything else, soil erosion should have been recognized as the greatest threat to the future well-being of the nation and its people. The murky, heavy silt-laden waters seen passing through most waterways testify to the fact that the soil erosion rate is extremely high in many parts of the country. This situation is directly related to the land policy pursued by the government as it provides little, if any, guarantees for land ownership.

Erosion, smallholder farming and the rush to generate electricity. Nature sending a clear message that is stubbornly ignored. Who will feed the farmers uphill when the fertile soil is completely washed away? Is the ridiculous idea of buying food from abroad to feed the nation with income generated by selling electric power/ fertile land to foreigners a choice that a leadership with genuine concern for the country's future would make? With increasing food prices, the country will not be able to afford buying food from abroad to feed the whole population. Ethiopian farmers have the capacity to feed the nation if government stops interfering in their lives.



Uncertainty about the future of land holding has led to negligence and misuse where smallholders have no motivation to invest manpower and resources on a piece of land they perceive can be taken away by the government at any time. Consequently, farmers tend to quickly exploit the resources on the land instead of conserving the soil and preserving the resources. With an increasing population dependent on land out of which a significant portion is reliant on foreign aid on a continuous basis, policies and incentives that help improve land management practices should have been given priority.



The volume of water carried by rivers from the highlands has shown dramatic increase in recent years causing severe damage to the country's rudimentary infrastructure. With reduced vegetative cover and the soils eroded, the land has lost its capacity to soak, slow down and release gradually the large amount of water received during the rainy season resulting in high volume flash floods with destructive outcomes. This is directly related to deforestation and clearing of steep sloped areas for cultivation.

Dam building and despoliation of fragile ecosystems is continuing without sufficient understanding about prevailing watershed conditions and the ultimate consequences of altering ecological processes. With huge quantities of fertile top soil constantly eroding out of the highlands and carried through denuded landscapes that are losing their capacity to retain moisture, newly completed dams, and those under construction, may well become obsolete within a short period of time.

The artificial lakes created at the expense of voiceless tribes will be filled with silt spawning increased social, economic and environmental disasters. As the overstated promises of a better life cannot be fulfilled, people will still be hungry and the amount of electricity generated will most likely be unreliable. Eventually, such projects will prove to be another big loss for Ethiopia and its people who will pay dearly in environmental, social and financial terms. On the other hand, those who took part in the planning, management and construction of these projects -- foreign governments, individuals as well as the local elite -- will be handsomely rewarded at the expense of Ethiopia's poor.

The effects of the drought the country routinely faces, supposedly caused by climate change that Meles and Tewolde tend to put emphasis on, and blame the developed world for making it worse, could be averted if they paid attention to the people's needs and devised effective and appropriate mitigation measures. Through their demented view, the only way out of this predicament is to incessantly whine, beg for assistance and point fingers at others and nature for their own failures.



Reducing the soil erosion rate along with preservation and rehabilitation of the painfully scarred landscape should be the most important priority for a regularly drought affected country. With watersheds severely degraded, and continuously deteriorating, the result of expensive dam building will eventually prove to be disastrous.

Their inability to bring about food self-sufficiency after twenty years in power in a country that possesses tremendous agricultural potential illustrates the disgraceful failure of their obstinate policies. Local actions which concentrate on the conservation and judicious utilization of natural resources, soils and water could have saved human lives, stabilized ecosystems and produced sufficient food to avert the effects of drought.

Unbiased assessment based on thorough resource inventory and analysis to determine suitability for different types of land-use can help make informed decision about the most efficient use of the country's diverse resources. Integrated development strategies with eco-tourism, forestry, cottage industry, animal husbandry, fruit and vegetable production could help ease the population pressure on the land allowing regeneration for efficient and sustainable production.



The Blue Nile falls during and after the rainy season. It is clear how the future of the country is washed away as a result of severe soil erosion. Wisely utilizing the country's tremendous tourism potential to generate income would be the least disruptive choice. Despoiling its natural resources will eventually lead to more disasters.

Programs that provide know-how, technical assistance and incentives for smallholders to practice agricultural intensification methods along with ownership guarantees could go a long way. The assumption that maximizing cereal crop out-put as the only way out of the hunger predicament, while nature provides an assortment of abundant

bounty if well managed, should be given due consideration. If allowed to freely explore what works for their specific conditions, smallholders have the capacity to change their lives and feed the nation.

The country is dangerously hanging on the edge as the unsustainable exploitation of its resources intensifies. Raw material output through the unsustainable exploitation of resources is showing a sharp increase. The rapid, unplanned and devastating plunder has elevated the country to the rank of a fast growing economy bringing delight to foreign exploiters. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increase and the construction boom have been applauded as indicators of development without taking into account the real effect on the country's resource base and people's livelihood.

Focused mainly on maximizing foreign currency earnings, such growth is putting the country's future in a vulnerable position with resources such as soils, water, vegetation and other biological life support systems quickly diminishing. In reality, while raw materials are supplied on an unsustainable basis to foreigners showing rapid increase, the country's natural reserves are dwindling at a much faster pace than the rate of regeneration.



Deforestation to satisfy the growing fuel wood and charcoal demand is continuing at an ever increasing speed. With no alternative sources of energy developed, the country's scarce forest resources are disappearing. Land grabbers exacerbate the problem by clearing wooded areas for crops, negatively affecting the workings of fragile ecosystems.

The needs of the elite and international consumers are cheaply met with much of the raw materials produced in the country shipped to foreign markets. In this situation, Ethiopians are finding it increasingly difficult to compete with wealthy nations to meet their basic needs. Staple food items such as grains, vegetables, oils and meat are becoming prohibitively expensive to afford for the average family.

Unable to cope, a large proportion of the population is at the mercy of aid donors and charitable organizations to survive. On the other hand, a small minority vampire elite class is enjoying all the conveniences of modern life by literally sucking the country dry

in collaboration with foreigners. In the long run, this arrangement will render the nation even more destitute and permanently dependent on foreign alms.

The development model subscribed by Westerners and stubbornly pursued by the inept leadership has created more problems than solving old ones. As the institutions created to safeguard Western interest (such as the World Bank) along with the Chinese government, promote the building of capital-intensive and grandiose "white elephant" projects which only benefit a few and facilitate the quick exploitation of resources, the quality of life for the average Ethiopian has shown no significant improvement. Dams, power lines, highways, factories, urban sprawl, luxury hotels and high rise buildings are cited as achievements. Despite the immense capital input however, the country's misconceived development policies have miserably failed to produce tangible results to improve the living conditions of the average Ethiopian.

The reality on the ground indicates that paternalistic and narrowly focused intervention based on the "we know what you need" model are negatively affecting the delicate social, economic and ecological balance in urban and rural communities. As a result, a significant proportion of the population is subjected to destitution. The lives of urban dwellers are shattered on a continuous basis with the ill-conceived land lease policies causing massive life disruption and displacement. Rural communities which used to have barely enough land to meet their farming, grazing, fuel wood and other resource needs are now landless as their land has been leased to foreigners. The normal way of life in many areas has been turned upside down as pollution subjects many communities around the country to various kinds of inconveniences and debilitating diseases.

The number of homeless people and street children in cities has dramatically increased. More people are continuously dependent on food aid than any other time in the country's history. Unemployment, prostitution, illicit activities, drug abuse and corruption are on the rise. The moral fabric of the nation is in tatters and its religious institutions have been desecrated to a point where their relevance has been severely damaged. An unprecedented rate of outmigration and "brain drain" are negatively affecting the country, as a large proportion of its untrained and trained manpower leave their homeland in search of a better life abroad.

A continuously increasing number of people are pushed into the pit of poverty while the leadership obstinately pursues the unbalanced goal of maximizing foreign market output. Following the development model imposed by the "developed" world, despite consistent evidence of its global failure, the country is generating more destitute people while it keeps boosting its unsustainable exploitation of natural resources regardless of the consequences.

Poverty has been allowed to build a permanent home and the country's poor are held hostage in a crazy rush to create wealth that benefits foreigners and the elite. The majority poor citizens of the nation are left behind, landless, homeless, diseased, malnourished and with diminishing resources to fend for themselves. The depressing and shocking disparity obvious everywhere in the country, where a few have a lot more than what they need and a large majority subsist on the bare minimum, is a sobering reminder of the reality on the ground.

Those who benefit from the system, foreigners (including supposedly respectable governments) as well as locals, try to justify the current destructive surge by pointing at some superficial achievements seen here and there. However, the country is still desperately poor with old problems unsolved and with new, complicated and persistent problems emerging on a regular basis.

The simple truth is that after twenty years in power, the incompetent regime has failed to put a dent on poverty. Its unwise and treacherous collaboration with foreign powers and multi-nationals is subjecting the people to more hardship. In general, life for the poor is steadily deteriorating, while the rich enjoy a luxurious lifestyle by any standards as they squander the country's resources in an unbelievably despicable and decadent manner.

According to Forbes Magazine (2011), the country is third among the five saddest countries in the world. The 2011 Corruption Perception Index of Transparency International puts the country at the rank of 120 out of 182 countries suggesting widespread and endemic corruption. The Washington, D.C. based organization, Global Financial Integrity (GFI), released on 15 December 2011 a report on illicit financial flows from developing countries over the decade ending 2009.

According to their conservative estimate, the country loses more money than it gains through export. The report states "Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries on earth. Plagued by famine, war, and political oppression, 38.9% of Ethiopians live in poverty, and life expectancy in 2009 was just 58 years. In 2008, Ethiopia received US \$829 million in official development assistance, but this was swamped by the massive illicit outflows. The scope of Ethiopia's capital flight is so severe that our conservative US \$3.26 billion estimate greatly exceeds the US \$2 billion value of Ethiopia's total exports in 2009."

In such conditions the country has nowhere else to go, but down. The increased raw material output, the cheap land leases, the wide open door policy for foreigners to dump unneeded junk and the unfair opportunities created for foreign companies to take advantage of a captive population have made the country a heaven for outsiders while making it a living hell for the natives. A large number of Non Governmental Organizations are at hand and are used as tension relievers so that the government and

multi-nationals can continue destroying lives by subjecting people to hardship. Foreign powers have their armies of men and women on the ground facilitating even more exploitation paving the way for expanded business opportunities at the expense of the poor.

Companies with unsavory reputation are allowed to set up their easy-profit focused operations bypassing all environmental and social requirements with the least amount of expenditure in the name of job creation, know-how and technology transfer to exploit a desperate population. The return of such devious alliance has been tremendously lucrative for outsiders and their internal collaborators. But Ethiopians are suffering and losing more than what they gain in all aspects. Most of the "help," humanitarian, technical, economic or otherwise provided to the country in the name of development is facilitating its ultimate demise.

The developed world along with the recently power and resource hungry nation of China, and to some extent India, are adamant about quenching their insatiable appetite for resources. To fulfill their need, they are extending their tentacles to remote parts of underexploited Africa penetrating and contaminating ecosystems at an unprecedented rate. Unless such activities are halted and sound development plans devised, which take into consideration a balanced approach to making human activities compatible with the processes of nature, an even more bleak future awaits the nation. The increasingly intransigent leadership emboldened by the encouragement it receives in the form of aid, international recognition and diplomatic support has ignored the call for change. It is stubbornly leading the country towards the bleak future of despair, dependency and permanent poverty.

Over the past forty years humanity set several lofty goals which for the most part failed to hit their mark. Poverty and hunger still affect millions of lives even though large amounts of financial resources are continuously poured into solving them with much of the money squandered. Likewise, goals to slow down global warming (reduction of emissions, pollutants etc.), ensure food and nutrition security etc. will certainly elude humanity unless a comprehensive world-wide paradigm shift is quickly initiated to reverse the current trend.

The assumption that the developed world along with emerging economies such as China and India can continue on the same destructive path while the rest of the world simply waits to absorb the contaminating mess they create cannot be sustained. This is a blatant violation of basic human rights endorsed by the powerful in the world. The idea of shifting the right to pollute, from one region to the other encouraged by developed nations as a solution will only exacerbate the problem. Globalizing environmental degradation through the conventionally accepted model of development pushed by the West, China and India will eventually lead to world-wide devastation. Environmentally friendly, life affirming, moderate and soft technologies that are

appropriate will have to take over if humankind has the desire to be part of the global ecosystem far into the future.

The ability to move forward with the necessary changes needed to address the global social, economic and environmental predicament requires free, ethical, unbiased and bold determination. The pretentious gestures of Meles and his type will only help the developed world and emerging powerful nations continue with current polluting trajectory while subduing the rest of the world to absorb their mess. The funds pledged to combat global warming, increase food security, control diseases, eliminate poverty etc. will only enhance the rate of devastation as the pretentious global thinking of Meles and his friends cannot be translated into effective local action.

If it has genuine desire to bring about harmony to the global environmental front, the West has to be true to the ideals that it espouses and promote a mutually beneficial coexistence with the people of the developing world, not with ruthless dictators. By departing away from what it is currently practicing to safeguard its own interests only as if we live in two different planets, it will have to make radical changes in the way it operates. It will have to make a conscious decision to regard humanity as one family inhabiting our planet and promote true democracy for all, instead of helping suppress, directly or indirectly, people's basic rights.

To avert the global environmental catastrophe that will eventually become a reality unless something is done soon, all nations and all humanity have to play their part in protecting their respective ecosystems, which can only be enabled in a democratic environment. The developing world on its part has to acknowledge the fact that universality is our common trust and protecting the environment is everybody's responsibility. It should genuinely pursue this goal instead of making global environmental and development forums yet another platform through which more aid money is extracted for corrupt activities, suppression of democracy and denial of people's rights. □

Contributed to the "I am Eskinder Nega" movement

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