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The Emergence of Congolese Society: Conciliate the Interests of Society,
Community and the State

For several decades, the perspectives on emergence have been at the center of numerous debates at both national and international level. The challenges posed by the emergence of the modern world in general and the DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) in particular cannot remain on the fringes of what is now known as the conciliation of societal, community and State interests. This includes cultural interaction, sharing of traditional knowledge, speed in communication, increase in exchanges, permeability of borders, culture shock, globalized businesses, and the triumph of supercities. It also involves building a united State, transforming the exchange structure and transitioning from Keynesianism to Neoliberalism. Africa continues to face many challenges in reaching an acceptable level and pace of growth to boost its development and sustainably reduce its poverty. That is why the region is implementing more initiatives to bring a radical change by initiating a series of structural and sectoral reforms. Such endeavors work to reverse the current trend and start a balanced transformation matching the scale of change in order to reach a welcomed economic stability. All political speeches, public projects and programs must be based on a vision of transformation whose final goal is to create a society through inclusive growth and development. In doing so, it prioritizes community and State as they are fundamental actors in reaching equality in society.

Moreover, it is true that the improvement of State interventions in order to answer the concerns of emergence is a persistent quest which challenges a variety of degrees in all societies. However, in Africa, we have noticed that "bad governance" means corruption, tribalism, nepotism and so many other vices. These have grown to such proportions that it has totally altered any conceptualizations of justice and the well-being of the people that made so many sacrifices in order to free themselves from the colonial yoke. That is why D.R. Congo has not remained on the sidelines. Though it still faces many challenges, as most other countries do, this country in Central Africa has a rich and diversified potential in terms of natural and human resources. These challenges do justify their low-level ranking with regard to key indicators such as societal reconciliation while keeping in mind sustainable development. In order to talk about this "bad governance", we have to talk about these vices that prevent the real emergence of Congolese society. It is only through this conversation that we will be able to propose a solution that can

be applied to the entire society to reconcile its interests as well as those of community and state.

Regarding all of the above, corruption and tribalism appear to be major contributors preventing the emergence of Congolese society. These vices encompass several others, but we have elected these two as representative to present life.

On the one hand, our country is a victim of corruption of the national scene. As a result, awareness of it suffers. Although to achieve a good emergence it is necessary that the contributions of each party be based on their specialties and abilities. As such, emergence will not succeed when people are placed arbitrarily. On the other hand, tribalism is in full swing right now. Already, from a point of view aiming towards emergence, our societal interests totally contradict themselves in practical terms. How can one see an emergent society when it is absolutely impossible because the interests of all will not be reconciled. This will be a real disadvantage. We must move away from tribalism for the benefit of the whole, since by wanting tribalism at all costs we cage ourselves up without knowing it. Even our hero PATRICE EMERY LUMUMBA said in his letter to the Congolese youth that: "in a strong and united Congo there must not be a Bangala, Batetela, Lokele, Muluba youth but simply youth, because our role is to be the flag bearer of the peaceful revolution." By this we understand that in general there must be unity between us as brothers in order to see our desire for emergence succeed.

Indeed, we must share our cultures and interests to reach the emergence of our Congolese society. There are many ways for each actor (state, society, community) to support this desired outcome. Beyond all that, however, coexisting is the strong point in achieving our goals. To definitively break the cycle of violence and ensure lasting peace in the country and region, it is increasingly clear that a new global approach addressing the underlying causes of conflicts must be thought out and implemented. "National cohesion" is thus evoked by almost all branches of the Congolese population, as well as by regional and international communities, as one of these innovative approaches. This is how a cohesive society works for the well-being of all its members, reducing disparities and avoiding marginalization.

It covers three major assets:

- Greater cohesion between different groups in society, through networks of relationships, trust and a sense of identity

- Fight against discrimination, exclusion and various inequalities, especially those that are extreme
- Increased upward social mobility

For all these reasons, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is united in its resolve with all those who have contributed to the achievement of national cohesion. This is a determining factor for the survival of the DRC and a key factor in its emergence and progress in sustainable human development. UNDP is also committed to decisively pursuing efforts to strengthen national social cohesion in order to position the country on the path of economic emergence, of course, but also of its political and social emergence. For that, we can only hope that the post-2019 Congolese agenda will be the mirror of the political will. The responsibility of the Congolese State is to do well in areas such as social protection, economic growth, sustainable and inclusive development, long term management of natural resources, issues of justice, equality and equity, respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The relevance of this question that we have examined with much consideration is also justified in this particular historical period. The challenges and risks of the current political, economic and sociocultural situation in the DRC constitute crucial issues facing the country's governance in building the nation-state and mobilizing it to achieve a shared vision of its future. These are, in particular, regional conflicts, tendencies and centrifugal political inclinations, fragility in the roots of democracy, legitimacy and stability of institutions as well as social and ethno-regional dissensions. Some see the high stakes in the democratic process of decentralization as risky because of poorly managed empowerment processes for the regions. This risk weakens societal harmony, nation-building, rebirth, and the country's emergence.

We said to ourselves that the Reinforcement of human progress towards the goal of emergence is absolutely necessary. With regard to factors such as solidifying this progress in the social fabric and of mobilizing for the construction of human development, national cohesion is a cornerstone of emergence for the DRC. National cohesion is built and reinforced with “political, social, cultural, and economic bricks” while emergence is built with economic, political, and sociocultural bricks. All this creates a dialectic dynamic between the two and one must know how to include it within the strategies for country building. To this end, national cohesion and emergence are not sought out for themselves, but for what they bring to a durable and inclusive growth, to human development, and ultimately to the destiny of the Congo. National cohesion and the emergence of a

country interact through their political, economic, and sociocultural parameters. They form between them a “system” of factors reinforcing national cohesion that also works towards the construction of the country’s emergence. The goal of emergence has an important role and a significant impact for the human development of the Congo. This is why emergence must be understood through its fulfillment in economic, political, and social domains, as it encompasses strategies and modes of governance in all three areas. Even seen simply through an economic plan, emergence includes vision, political governance, mobilization of economic actors, and above all social forces. Given the current state of human development in the DRC and of multiple trends, the goal of building an emerging DRC by 2030 or 2035 becomes a lever. Through the criteria of sustainability, inclusion, job creation, the promotion of certain types of industry, an increase in the well-being of populations, positioning within international exchanges, and finally in the conciliation of societal interests, emergence can become tools to fulfill the goals of human development.

Further, we will note that the conciliation of interests creates harmony in all the components of a community. It is through internal functioning as well as through relations with external groups that this harmony is reached, even in moments of existential danger for the community. It comes in many forms: sharing collective identity, sharing history, sharing fundamental group values, defense of the existence of the group, and coming together actively with a vision for the future.

Seeing as the success of the RDC’s emergence is based in large part on its society and community, social cohesion must be understood as both an absence of “fracture” between different social classes that make up a community or nation while also acting as “cement” between these social classes on an economic, social, political, and cultural framework. It is a process towards reaching, living and consolidating an ideal. If we insist more on the conciliation of societal interests, we can avoid what happened in the 1960s, when the search for national cohesion justified different wars, community and social groups’ conflicts, rebellions, and attempts at secession. These were all expressions of ruptures, tensions, and frustrations of certain political and social segments of Congolese society, especially when and if these segments were aware of their ability to impede national cohesion.

Given all these parameters we now understand that the State has a very important role in the conciliation of societal interests needed to attain our country’s emergence. It has at its disposal the institutional instruments that play a crucial role in the reinforcement of that cohesion in order to forge consciousness and the

nation's collective identity. These are notably the administrative machine in a broad sense, including the nation and citizens' security measures that, through operating in an effective and efficient manner throughout all of the country and with its citizens' trust, reinforces their pride in belonging to the same nation-State. Public policies are called not only to play the role of the integrator and unifier of all the different bricks of the country, but also to affirm the equality of rights and equity within the distribution of dividends and progress. The politics of education and communication form a community of values and prepares the actors to move in the same direction toward a shared destiny.

With the notion of emergence understood, the conciliation of national interests becomes necessary for its attainment. The conciliation of interests is, in effect, a multifaceted factor in the emergence of the DRC. On the theoretical level, the interaction of the conciliation of interests with emergence is a dialectic movement. In a way, the conciliation of interests is built and reinforced thanks to "political bricks", "cultural bricks" and undoubtedly "economic bricks" as well. In another way, emergence is constructed through economic, political, and sociocultural bricks. It follows a dynamic of reinforcement and/or mutual reduction. Aside from constituting a needed and reinforced stability within the nation, the conciliation of interests also finds its foundation in the social contract that creates the entire state in the capacity of its political community, that is to say, its constitution. Consequently, it goes hand in hand with the national conscience and the collective sense of history and identity. The conciliation of societal interests does not make any sense unless it brings a greater well-being and sense of individual as well as collective fulfillment to the population. In this capacity, it is connected to the research of social and economic development. This is to say that it must be in the service of human development in the DRC. Because the real development of the DRC lies not the result of correcting efforts nor is it reducible to an abundance of material goods and leisure time but lies in all things that connote heretical opinions that Africa must cast aside. Such an attitude gives sense to the emergence strategy and bestows its impact and significance in the process of human development in the DRC.

In guise of a conclusion, it was easy for us to understand that building emergence in the DRC, is a long-term endeavor that requires political determination, conciliation of societal interests, and for the State to construct or otherwise forge a common destiny. It is true at the national level that there are three large categories of actors that must be brought up: State, private sector, and civil society. Each category includes a certain number of actors that can have a specific role that highlights their importance in this regard. Outside of national actors, the technical

and financial partners also constitute another category that accompanies national efforts towards the emergence of the DRC. Society and State are important factors for long term growth. For this reason, the emergence process is important at the highest levels. In order to understand the importance attributed to this factor, one must simply respond to the question “**With whom do we undertake emergence?**” The response becomes evident: with a society, a decently performing State, and an appropriate profile to carry out the necessary prerequisites for emergence.