Background

Theme
- Responsive and Accountable Leadership for a Peaceful and Prosperous Congo: Voices of the Diaspora

Session goals
- Discuss Congolese perspectives and recommendations to improve economic and political policies in the Congo with members of the international community
- Initiate an ongoing exchange of ideas and cooperation for an effective Diaspora involvement in peacebuilding strategies
- [Share Congolese Diaspora’s willingness to engage in the actual economic development of the Congo]
Introduction

- Good governance implies competent management of a country’s resources and affairs in a manner that is open, transparent, accountable, equitable and responsive to people’s needs.

- Paper Objectives
  - Present a conceptual framework of a good governance
  - Demonstrate the role of an improved governance in building democratic institutions and bringing about economic development in the Congo
  - Provide peacebuilding strategies for the Congo
Presentation Organization

- Part 1 discusses the concept of good governance
- Part 2 discusses the application (or misapplication) of governance in the context of the Congo
- Part 3 provides strategies for the implementation of good governance in the Congo
- Part 4 discusses Peacebuilding Strategies for the Congo
- Conclusion and recommendations
Good Governance Concept

- Governance is defined as the exercise of authority (political, economic, or administrative) to manage a country’s resources and affairs.
- Governance comprises the mechanisms, processes, and institutions through which citizens and groups:
  - Articulate their interests
  - Exercise their legal rights
  - Meet their obligations and
  - Mediate their differences
Governance in the Congo

"We know that the promise of the D.R.C. is limitless. We will help you build a strong, civilian-lead government that is accountable and transparent, an independent judiciary, a professional military that respects human rights, a free press, and an active and engaged citizenry. A society whose institutions respect the rule of law"

"I think that student leaders like yourselves are the ones who have to speak-out for the progress that you seek. Speak-out to end the corruption, the violence and the conflict that have for too long eroded opportunity across this country. Together you can write a new chapter of Congolese history"

---U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; Kinshasa, August 10, 2009
Source: The Voice of America, www.voanews.com
Governance in the Congo (Cont.)

US$390 million governance program - UNDP
Governance in the Congo

- Five strategic governance components in the Congo
  - Political
  - Administrative
  - Economic
  - Local
  - Legal and security issues

Source: UNDP  [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)
Governance in the Congo (Cont.)

- **Goals**
  - Lay the groundwork for the emergence of a strong state capable of boosting national unity and reconciliation
  - Ensure the security of its people and their property
  - Increase citizen access and participation in the political system
  - Improve the performance of government administration and government agencies
  - Enhance the accessibility and quality of public services
  - Ensure transparency and accountability in the management of public resources and services
Evaluating Governance in the Congo

- In the light of the Good Governance framework, Congo fails the test of Good Governance
  - Exercise of authority (political, economic, or administrative) to manage a country’s resources and affairs—Congo known for its mismanagement

- Governance comprises the mechanisms, processes, and institutions through which citizens and groups
  - Articulate their interests---basic needs not met
  - Exercise their legal rights---corruption and co-opted judiciary
  - Mediate their differences---lack of democracy, and consensus in decision-making processes
Good Governance Strategies for the Congo

- **Executive Branch of the Government**
  - Fund parliamentary commissions sufficiently and cooperate with their investigations
  - Strengthen the judiciary by supporting legislation to guarantee the independence of the courts
  - Raise salaries of civil servants above the poverty level
  - Create a National Program in Support of Governance to coordinate all “good governance” activities
  - Promote accountability and transparency in the management of natural resources
  - Implement the decentralization plan and effectively empower local entities
Good Governance Strategies for the Congo (Cont.)

- **Legislative Branch of the Government**
  - Revisit/renegotiate mining contracts signed during wars
  - Create a permanent parliamentary commission on natural resources to review mining and forestry codes and management of mining revenues
  - Create a trust-funds earmarked for development-related projects

- **Judiciary Branch of the Government**
  - Promote transparency by enforcing anti-corruption laws
  - Prosecute corruption charges at all levels
  - Move towards judiciary independence

[Adapted from Intl Crisis Group, 2006]
Peacebuilding Strategies for the Congo

- Principles
  - A responsible transformational leadership in the Congo should emerge through democratic elections
  - A plan for peace in the Congo and the Great Lakes region should take into consideration the fundamental principles of territorial integrity

- Peacebuilding Strategies for the Congo
  - Establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission
  - Implement Justice-Reparation Process
  - Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Congo
  - Establish and Promote Democratic Institutions
  - Establish a national and truly republican army
Concluding Remarks

- For many years, Congo has been operating in the culture of impunity
  - Mechanisms of accountability are the cornerstone of good governance
  - It is known that the culture of impunity corroborates corruption, favoritism, tribalism, regionalism, and nepotism
  - These mechanisms of accountability are long overdue in the Congo and must be enacted upon
  - Impunity ought to end while prosecution and reparation ought to be imposed through an independent judicial system that is equitable and fair
Concluding Remarks (Cont.)

- **Good Governance**
  - Openness, transparency, accountability, and equity in conducting public affairs constitute the golden rule for good governance.
  - Efficient and effective management of “public resources” entrusted in the hands of public servants must be institutionalized in the Congo.
  - Rule of law, population participation in governance, responsiveness, consensus-oriented as characteristics of good governance can only be restored by a transformational and responsible leadership, which is currently lacking in the Congo.
Good Governance (Cont.)

- Despite many seminars organized on good governance in the Congo, this subject still remains a myth that must be overcome.

- A transformational and responsible leadership for the Congo may be a dream today that will become a reality tomorrow provided that Congolese themselves commit to real change.
Thank you!