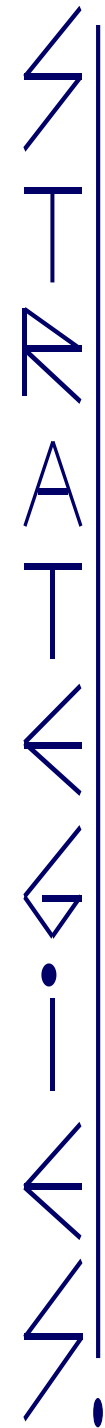


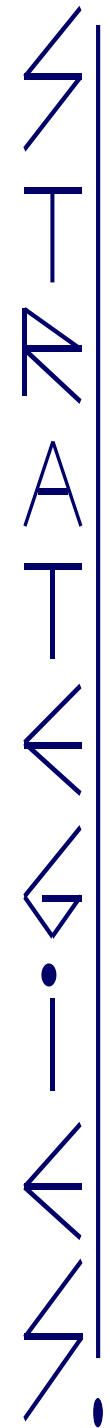
Political Transformation in Africa

Which Way Forward?



Key points

- Introduction
- Political Transitions – An Opportunity for Transformation
- Building Functional States in Africa
- Recommendations for Development Cooperation



votre référence en leadership et management

Introduction



African States are not Delivering for their Citizens



Water

About **387 million people** lived without access to basic drinking water services in SSA (2020)

About **73% of** population in SSA did not use safely managed drinking water services in 2017



Electricity

In 2022, **600 million people** lacked access to electricity on the continent, 98 percent of them located in sub-Saharan Africa.



Jobs

15 – 20 million youth enter the job market every year for about 3 million jobs created in the formal sector (ILO. WEF)

In the Face of a Clear Demand for Democracy...

Preference for Democracy: About **67%** of respondents across 20 countries in 2021 and 2022 expressed a preference for democratic governance.

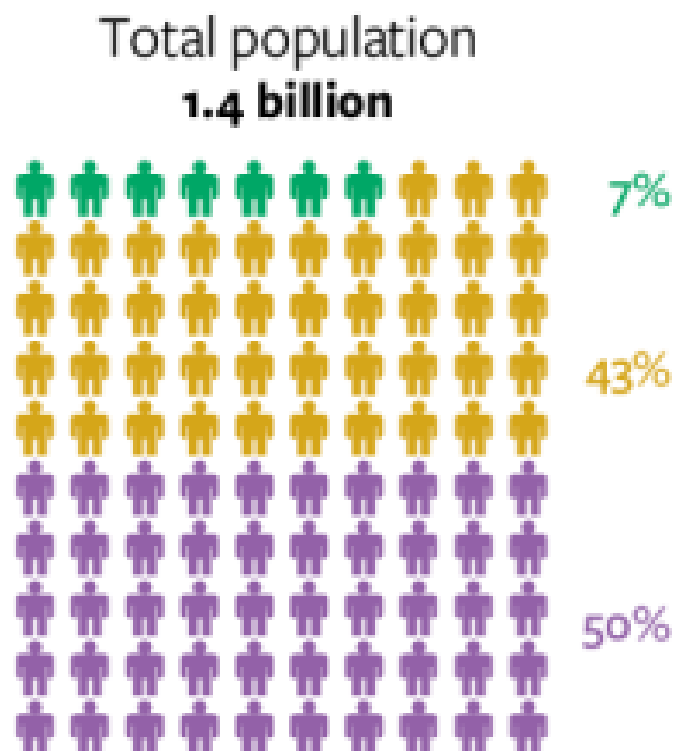
Support for Democratic Norms: Media freedom: **67%**, Parliamentary oversight of the president: **65%**, and Presidential term limits: **73%**.

Declining Satisfaction with Democracy: Only **38%** of Africans are satisfied with how democracy works in their country.

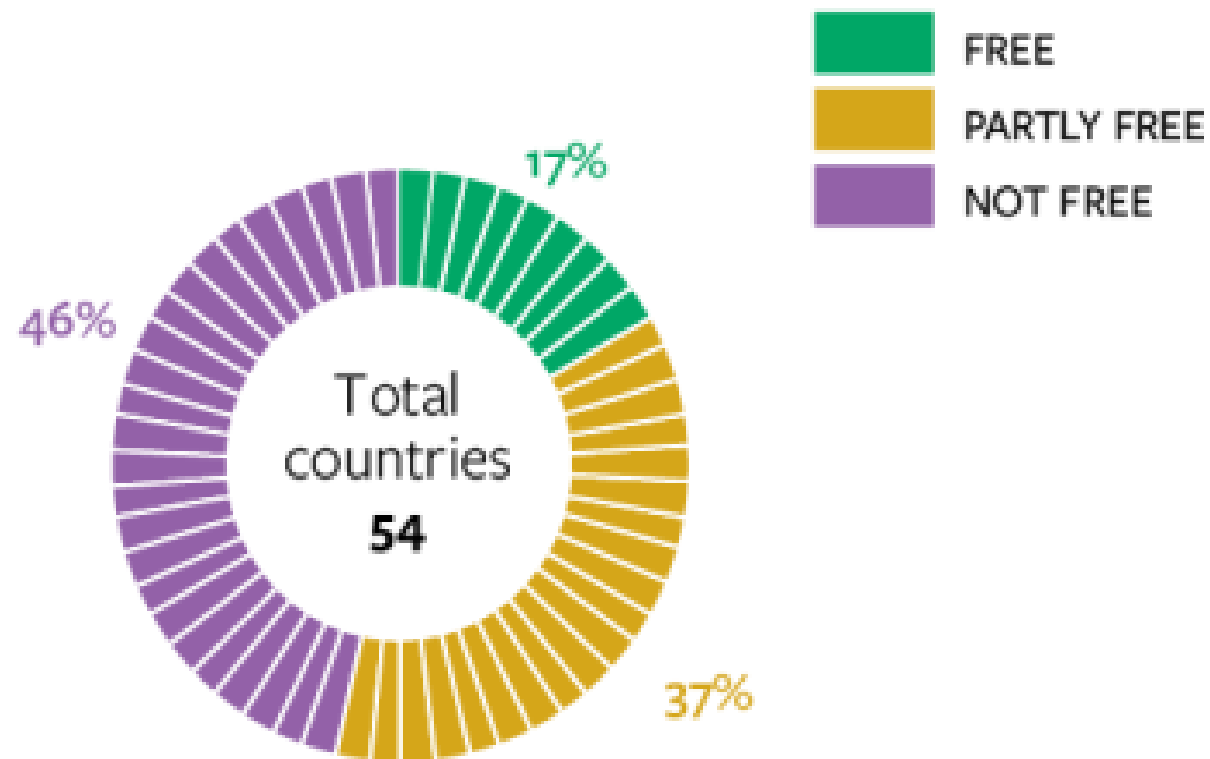
Military Intervention: While **67%** still reject military rule, this represents a decline from previous years. A slim majority: **53%** would accept military intervention if elected leaders abuse their power

... Freedom is Declining

AFRICA: STATUS BY POPULATION



AFRICA: STATUS BY COUNTRY



This inability of African States to meet the Needs and Demands of African Citizens is the major factor driving

Armed Conflict

Ability of terrorist groups to recruit

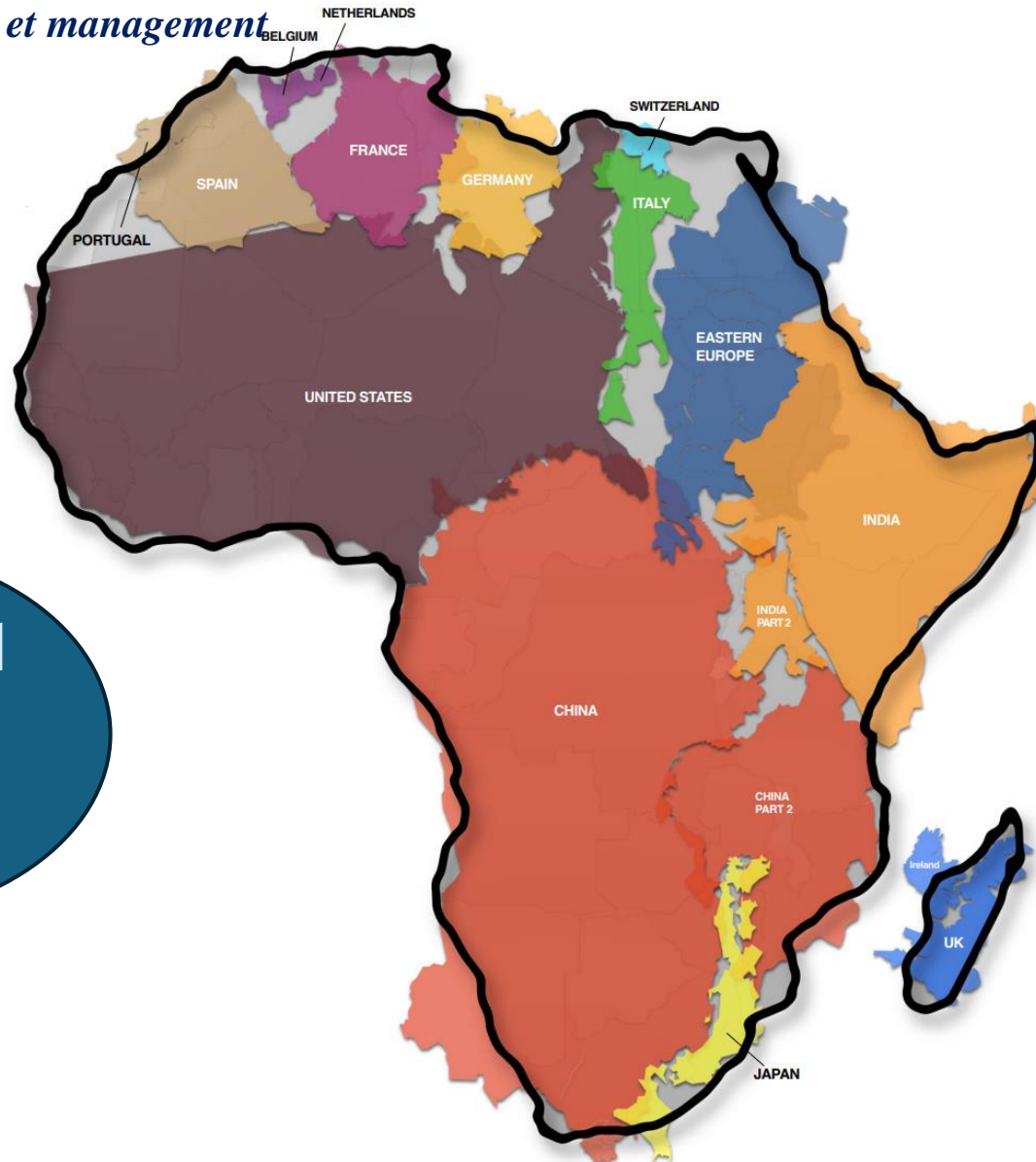
Urban Criminality

Migration

Abrupt transitions – Coups, both military and civilian

Against this Backdrop

The World
needs
Africa!



United States
(contiguous)



Europe



India



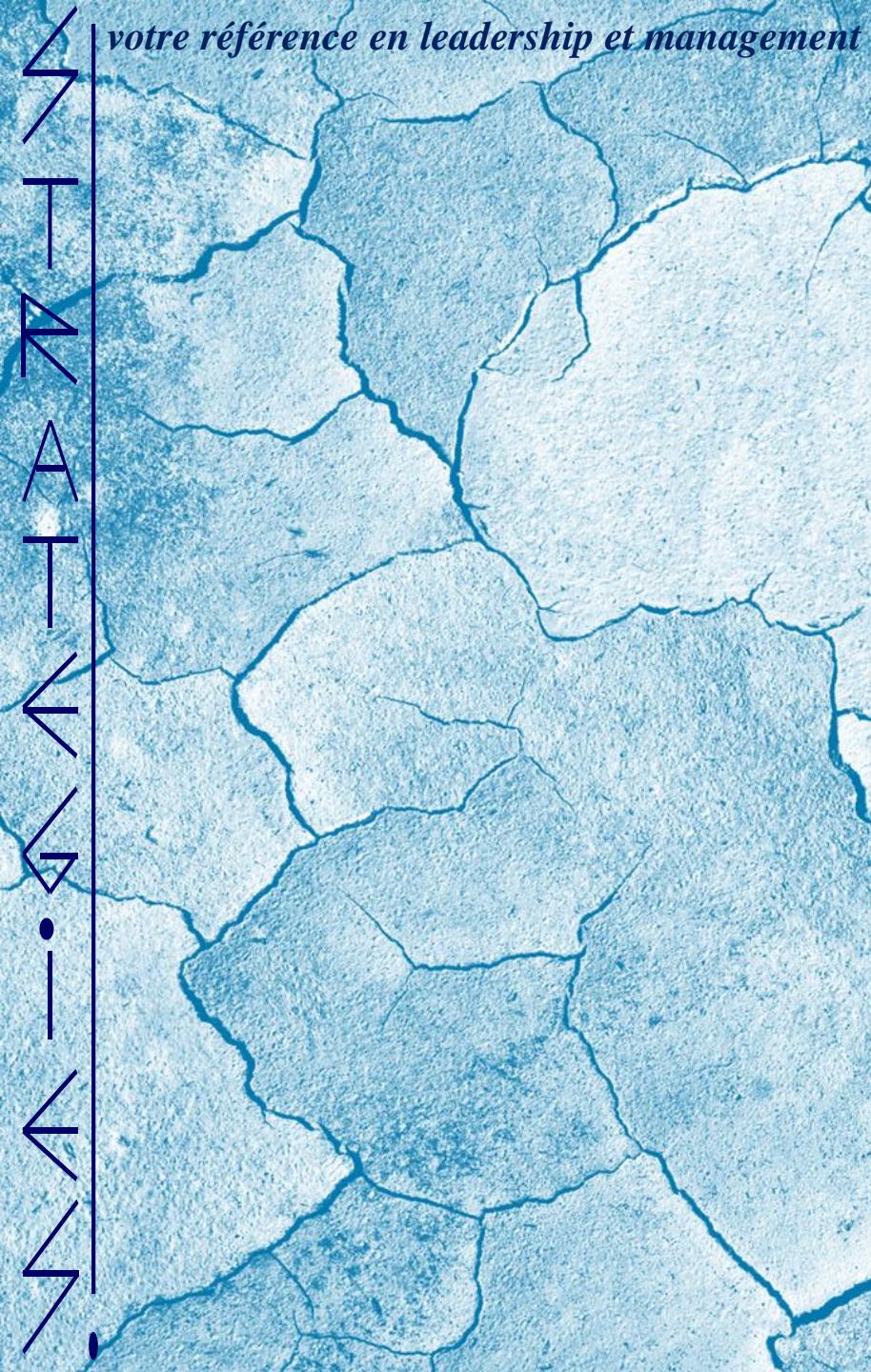
Japan



China

Africa
needs the
World!

Minerals, Land, Forest, Work Force = Health &
Wealth for Africa and for the World!



For this,
Functional
African States
are
indispensable!



Political Transitions in Africa...

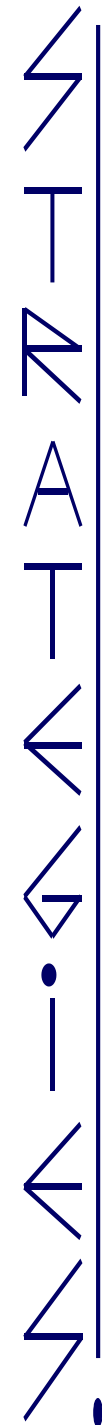
An Opportunity for Transformation



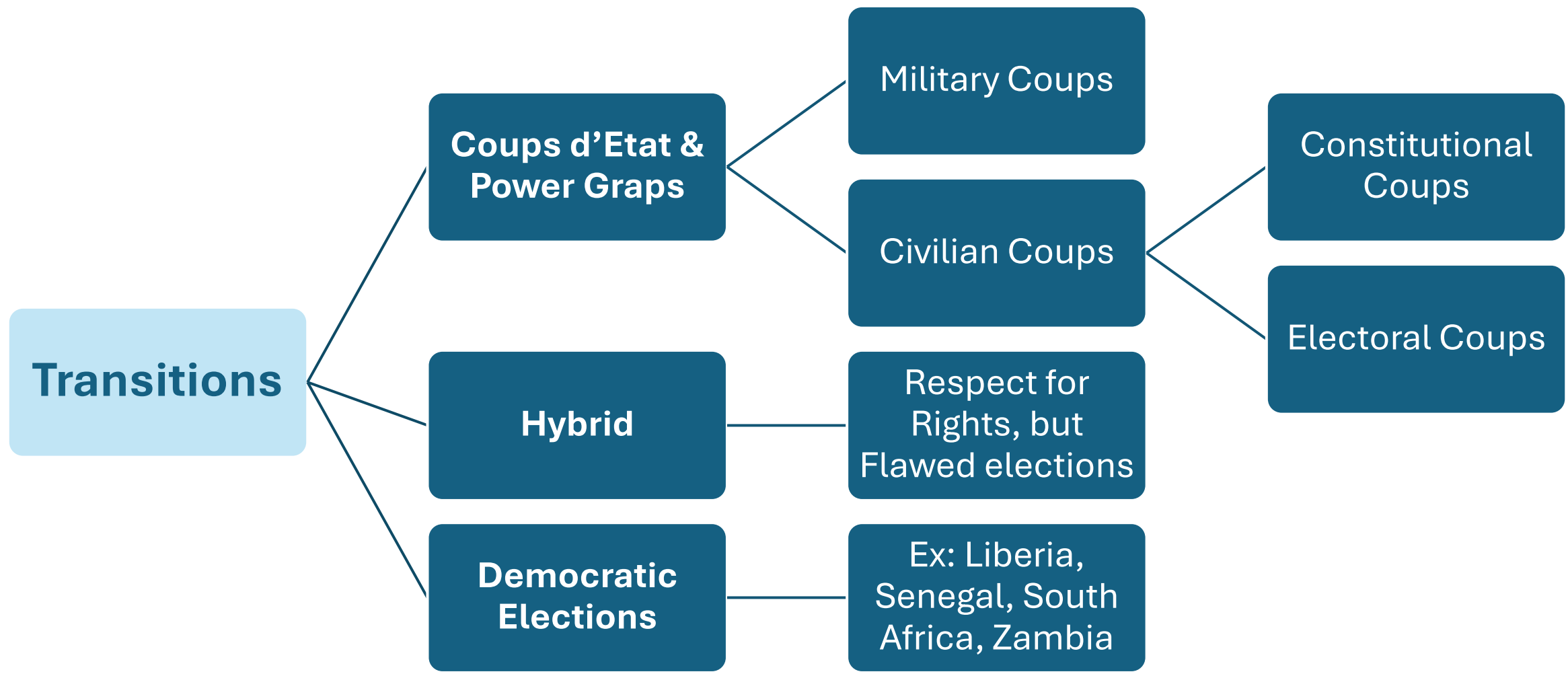


African countries are in diverse situations

Economic Situations	Political Situations	Security Situations
High income and fast developing countries : Botswana, Mauritius, Seychelles	Full democracies: Mauritius	Stable countries : Botswana, Seychelles, Mauritius
Promising middle-income growth countries : Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya	Growing democracies : Zambia, South Africa, Senegal	Moderately stable countries: Zambia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana
Least developed countries: Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Burundi	Authoritarian regimes- Civilian Governments : Eritrea, South Sudan, Cameroon, Rwanda, Uganda	Countries in armed conflict : Sudan, Somalia, Central African Republic, Nigeria, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger
	Authoritarian Regimes – Military Governments: Mali, Niger, Chad,	



Equally Diverse are the Paths of Transition



No Matter the Form of Transition...

1. Most African States remain colonial in design. Transition is opportunity to rethink and re-engineer the state.

2. The State is not the Government alone, but rather the Government in synergy with all the actors and institutions that enable and improve its functionality.

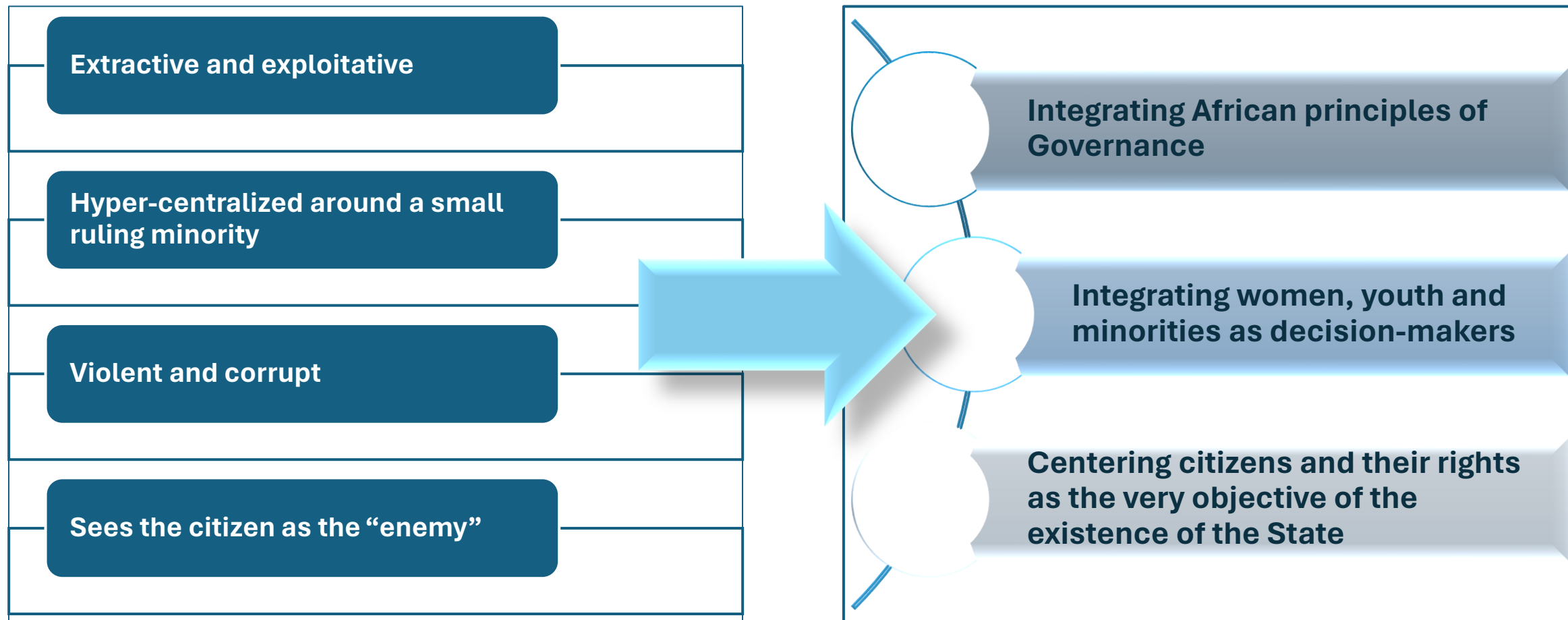
3. Almost all transitions present the opportunity to improve the functionality of the State

4. All coups d'état are coup d'état – military or civilian

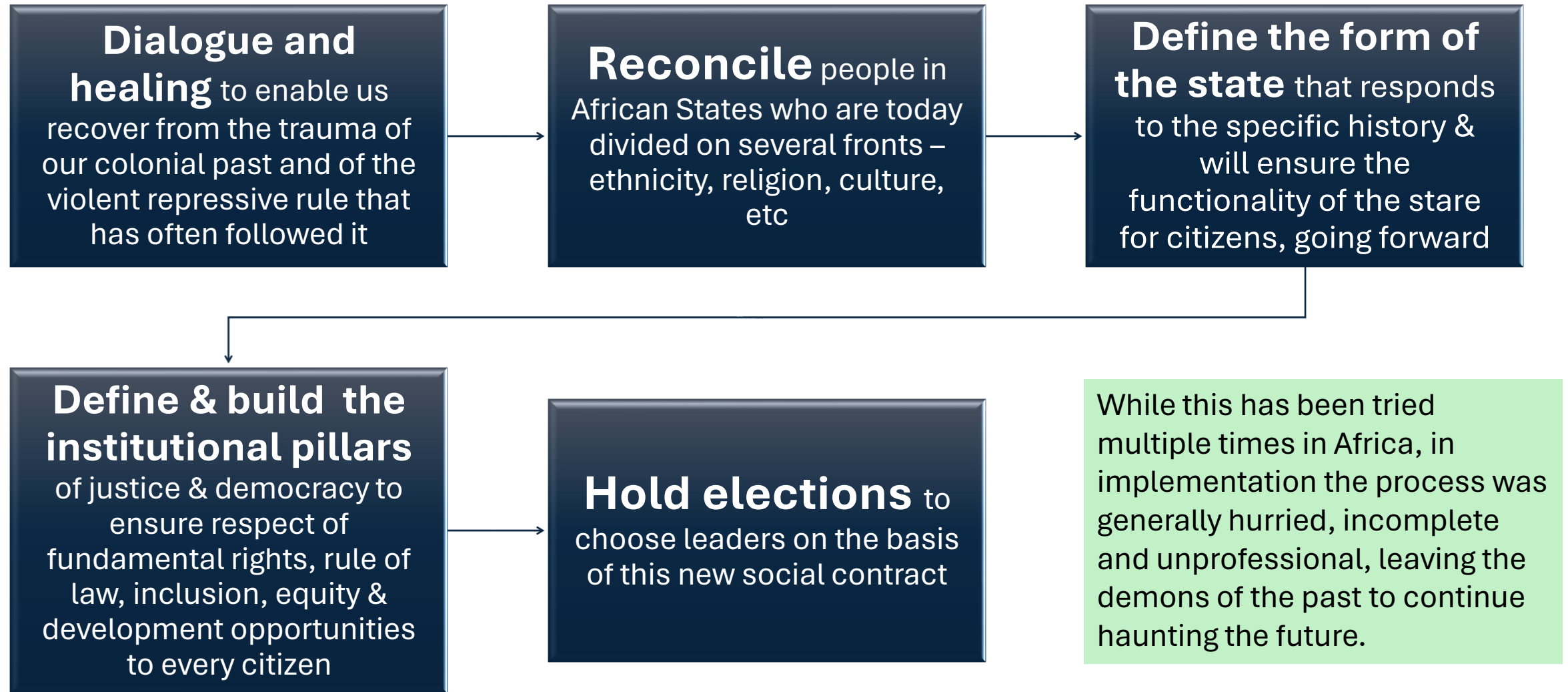
5. To seize the opportunity of political transition for political transformation requires, in depth, long-term and highly-skilled work.

Ending the Colonial State... Redefining the Essence of the African State

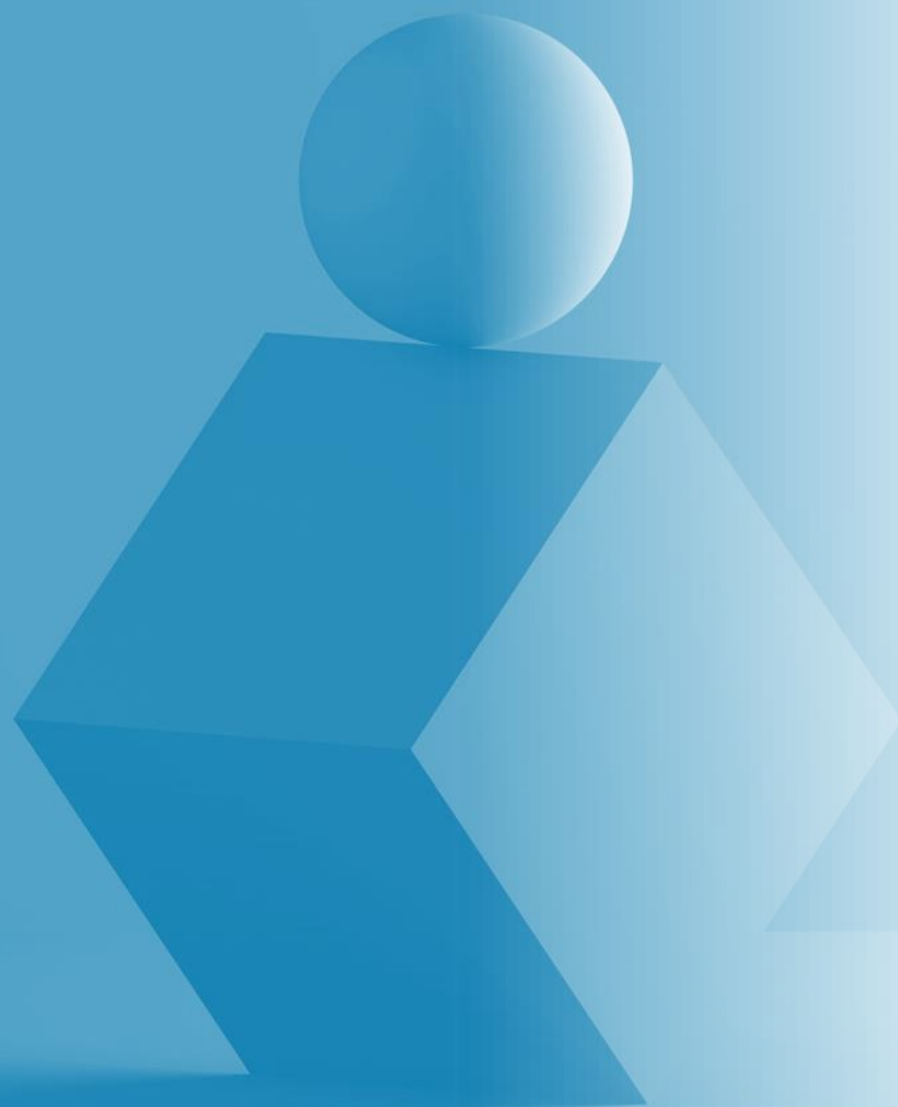
Transitions offer the opportunity for transformation of the very nature of the State



Rebuilding the foundation of African States is in depth, requires multiple steps, highly skilled professionals and unwavering political will.



Beyond Transitions, Building Functional States in Africa



Can Europe –
especially Germany -
& Africa work
together for political
transformations that
contribute to
Functional States in
Africa?



Yes, but...

There is a need to
make some radical
paradigm shifts





**Be fully aware
of how Western
powers are
increasingly
perceived.**

- The technical, economic and military power of Western countries continues to be recognized...**but they are less and less seen as models and actors who act in accordance with the values and principles they proclaim.**
- **Western powers are perceived as resisting decolonization** which is a very strong demand by African citizens who want to see an end to tutelage, paternalism and all vestiges of both white supremacy and a colonial past as well as current economic and military agreements which embody these.

The West has lost the moral high ground & has increasingly few levers to convince African states to align themselves with its positions.

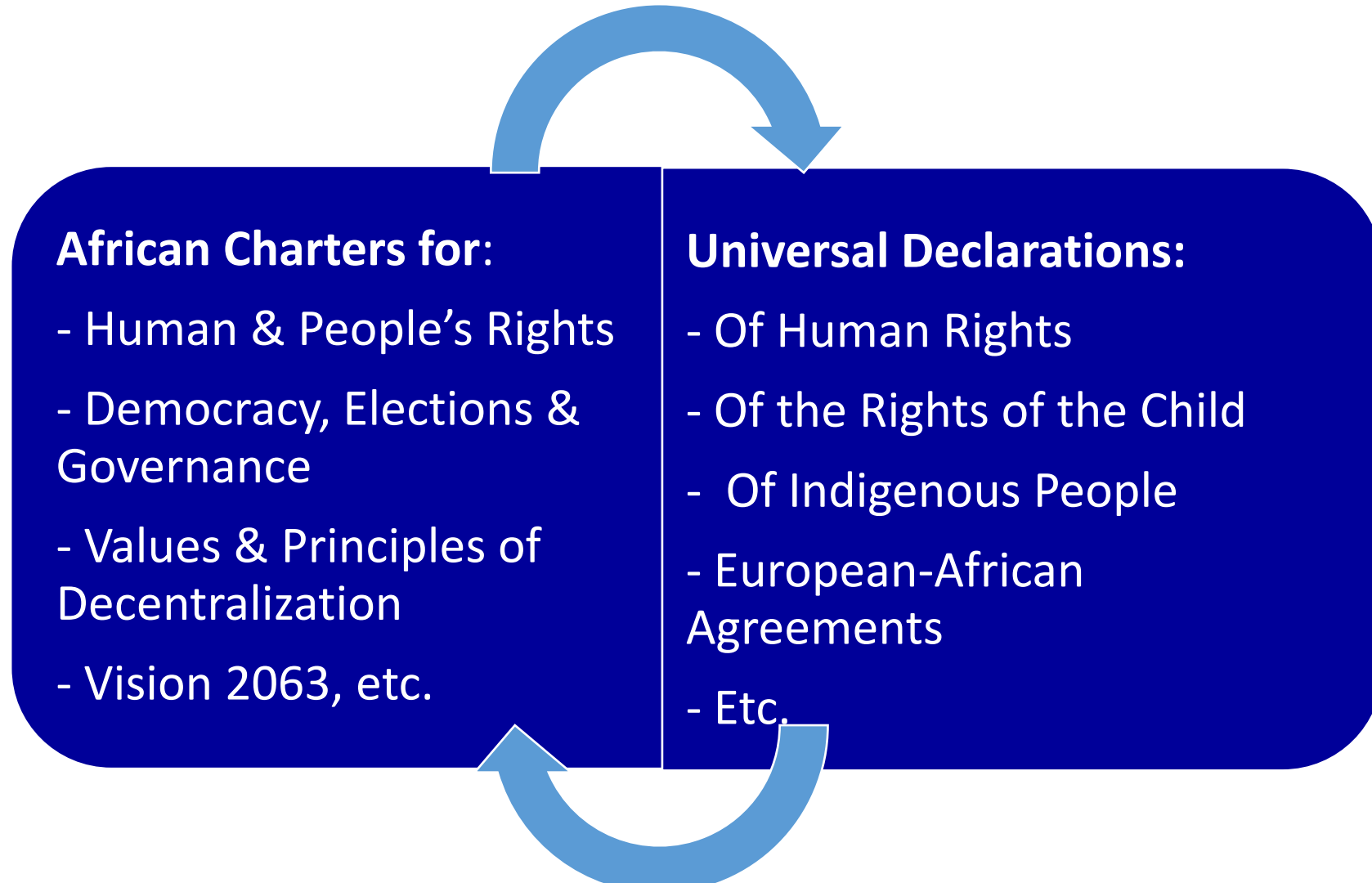
This all reinforces autocrats in Africa and weakens the position of those fighting for fundamental freedoms & democracy

- The Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated not only a lack of solidarity with Africa, but a clear disregard for the lives of the poor.
- The West's responses to recent conflicts is perceived as a clear double standard in terms of the regard for human life, the violation of fundamental rights, the treatment of refugees, the resources made available to those fighting for freedom and democracy, etc. and a preference for war, rather than political solutions which can result in peace.
- The Countering Malign Russian Activities in Africa Act is perceived as a dangerous threat and unacceptable interference.
- The disregard for global institutions charged with safeguarding human rights, justice, rules of engagement during war, etc., has broken trust significantly.

Despite this, there is common ground for building a different future...

- A shared history. Painful, but shared nonetheless
- Geographic proximity
- Shared strategic interests
- A significant group with shared culture

The framework for mutually beneficial, rights-based, strategic development exists:



BMZ's Six main
areas of
cooperation
with Africa are
also African
priorities

- Sustainable economic development, employment and prosperity
 - Just transition: social and environmental transformation of the economy, conservation of vital natural resources, energy, and infrastructure
 - Trade, employment, migration and digital transformation
- Overcoming poverty and hunger and building social protection
- Health and pandemic prevention
- Feminist development policy and gender equality
- Rule of law, democracy, human rights and good governance
- Peace and security

There is opportunity to build a new paradigm of:



Eye-level partnership

Strategic & explicit win-win
programs

Increasing the functionality of
the state in each intervention

Shared priority: Building Functional States in Africa





The foundational development problem in Africa is political. The response must address this foundation.

We will not break the crisis cycle in Africa if every development response does not strengthen the functionality of the state!



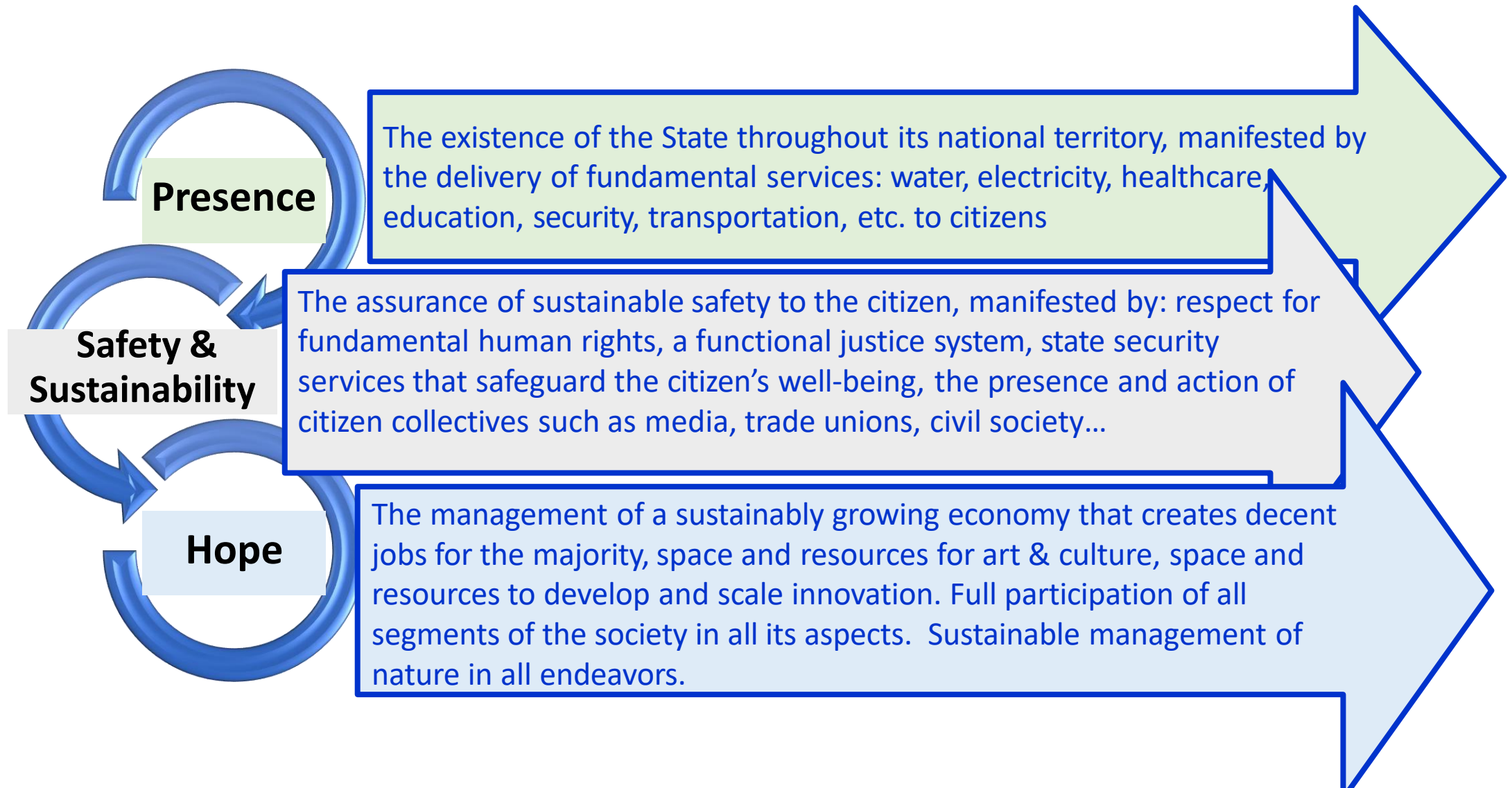
The Functional
African State
should be able
to deliver:

Presence

Safety & Sustainability

Hope

A functional state is able to provide:



Conditions for a functional State

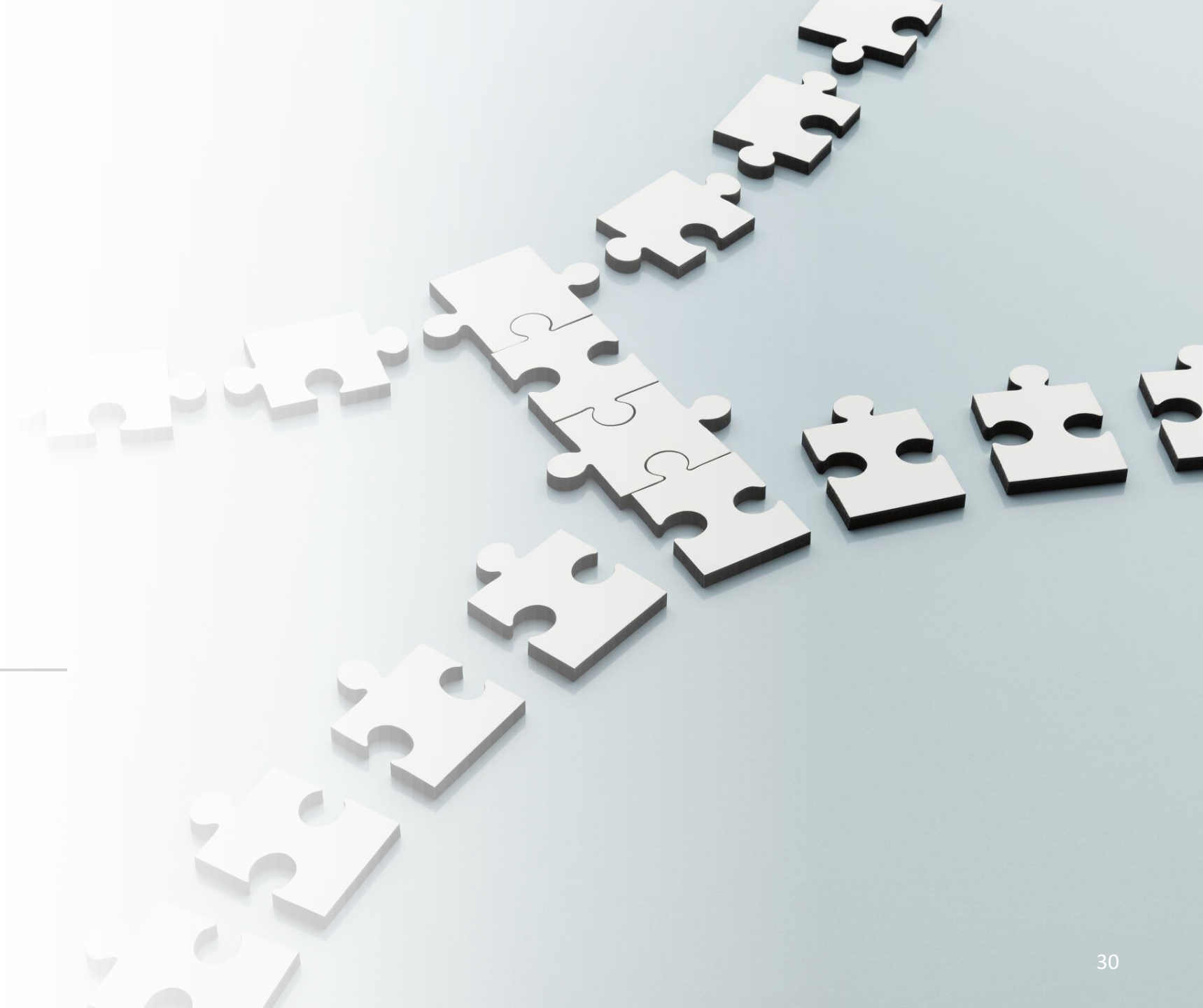
Political will - A desire and vision that manifests itself in measures and systems to report at the highest level on impact, results and resources. **Synergy and respect for the roles of actors beyond the executive.**

Strategy - A clear definition of short-, medium- and long-term objectives based on the actual data of the situation as well as the alignment of the objectives, competences and resources of the State.

Competence - The technical ability to develop, implement, measure impact and results as well as continuously improve a strategy.

Resources - Absence of corruption and active fight against corruption and mismanagement. ability to mobilize the country's internal resources and use the vast majority of them to implement its national strategies. Absence of corruption and active fight against corruption and mismanagement.

The role of development partners



Functionality of the State and Fundamental Rights must be at every level of development cooperation

Bilateral negotiations

Development cooperation design which must be:

- Participatory
- Citizen-centered
- Impact-oriented
- Integrating the functionality of the State at all levels

Monitoring and evaluation systems, including accountability to citizens

Synergy & coherence between:

- **International Finance Institutions**
- **Diplomacy**
- **Development**
- **Military Cooperation**

Multiple Actors for a Functional State Approach

Local Level

- Local Government
- Civil society, religious authorities
- Grassroots groups – economic, social, political, etc.

National Level

- Sector Ministries, National Governments
- Civil society, Religious Authorities, Trade Unions....
- Political parties, Media
- Eye-level partners must hold each other accountable!

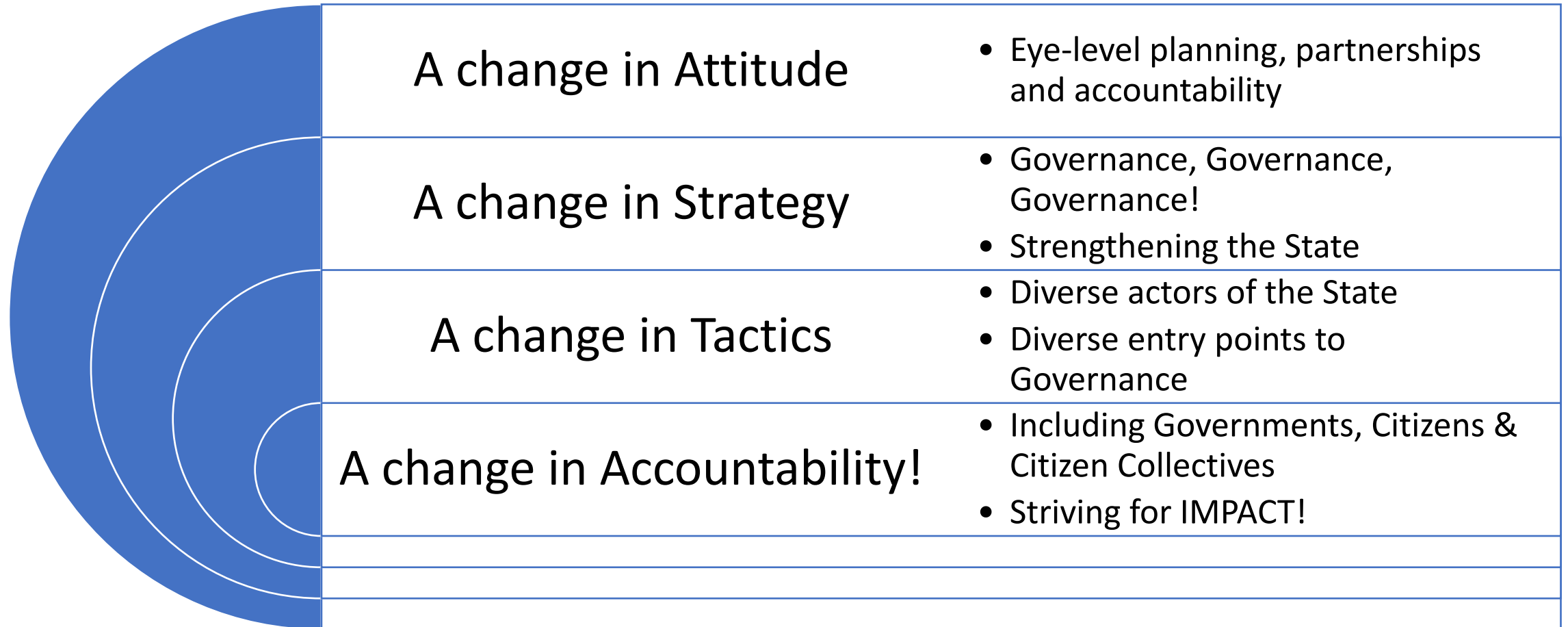
Regional Level

- Synergy between military, humanitarian, economic and social cooperation
- Eye-level partners must hold each other accountable!

International Level

- Cooperation should be military, humanitarian, economic and social
- Governance must be addressed – crisis management is opportunity to introduce new ways of working

Cooperation that contributes to Functional States requires





Thank You!



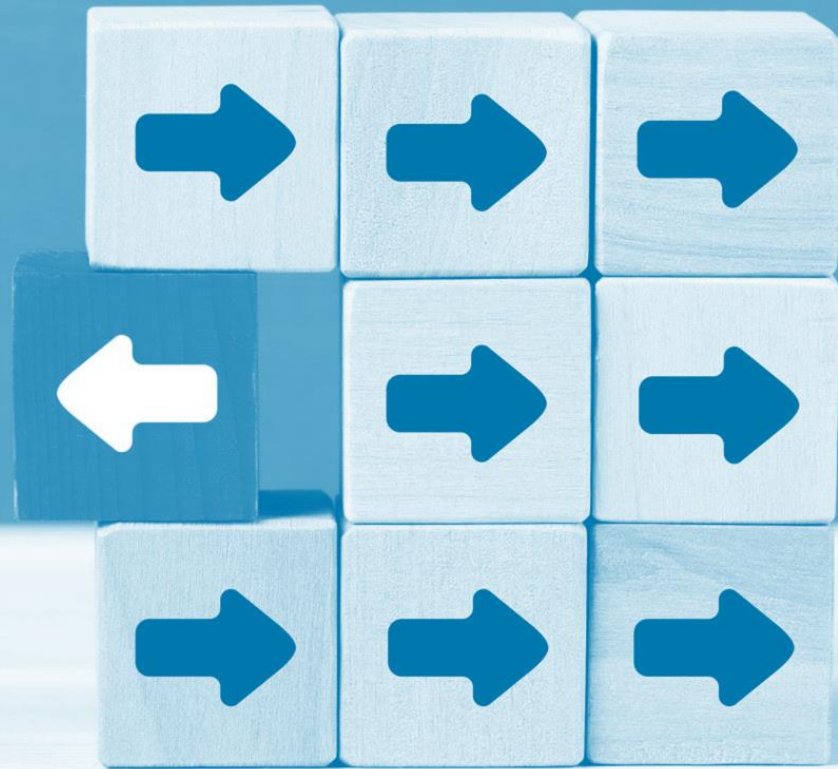
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Specific
recommendations
for countries
in crisis and/or in
transition

Key ideas

1. Keep political declarations minimal in public, yet meaningful behind closed doors
2. Start small, find the right actors and grow
3. Building channels for more sincere dialogue focused on development priorities.
4. Developing a rights-based approach with economic, political and social groups is key to attaining specific development goals.
5. Increase collaboration between diplomatic, military and development cooperation
6. Put African expertise in play
7. Build capacity and train staff for this transition moment

Keep political
declarations minimal
in public, yet
meaningful behind
closed doors

The military governments in all transition countries are quite adept at riding and playing with the public opinion wave that carried them into office.


It is important for western countries at this moment to keep political and other declarations in public to a minimum, while engaging in frank, sometimes difficult discussions behind closed doors.

The delicate balance to be maintained is that of engaging in a manner that reinforces fundamental rights and democratic rule, without providing fodder for anti-western propaganda.



Start small,
find the right
actors and
grow


- With the wide variety of actors and opinions within these transitions, it is important to engage, but with caution and progressively.
- By definition, situations change rapidly in transitions.
- While it is important to engage, it is also important to do so with the right partners and even the right individuals which will help further democratic, rights-based foundations within these countries.
- ***Development cooperation programs must increase their capacity to do due diligence and to carry out proper analysis of the environment and key actors.***



Building channels
for more sincere
dialogue focused
on development
priorities.

To build these channels may require one or more of the following:

- The traditional back-door diplomacy
- Delivery of humanitarian assistance as a doorway to discuss more systemic and longer-term development needs
- Working from the bottom-up, starting with local and regional governments to bring the conversation to the national level
- ***Where the civic space allows, strengthening the capacity of citizen interest groups (farmers' associations, business associations, sectoral youth associations and professional bodies) to formulate the systemic issues they are facing and initiate dialogue with government at all levels.***



Developing a rights-based approach with economic, political and social groups is key to attaining specific development goals.


- All transition governments soon feel the pressure to deliver on development goals.
- This is an opening to engage with them and to build channels and platforms between the government and the key groups it needs to succeed in development.
- While this is difficult and perhaps even dangerous ground, it is ground that must be trod if development cooperation wants to contribute to bringing back democratic governance to these countries.
- ***Each situation must be studied carefully and the “do no harm” principle applied, but development cooperation must improve its competencies in rights-based approaches, adapt them to specific situations in transition countries and move forward in helping build the relationship between the governed and their government.***



- In the sensitive transition context, it is extremely important for countries to align their different forms of cooperation and for these to inform one another.
- Information gathering and analysis across sectors is key to identifying opportunities and actors to engage with in the fluid transition moment.
- ***It is also important to maintain coherence and avoid faux pas in order to keep communication lines open and to carry out meaningful, impactful program work.***

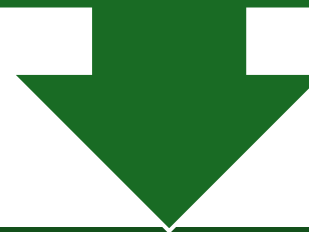
Put African expertise in play

- Most development cooperation agencies have considerable African expertise within their staff and/or with their consultant and NGO partners.
- Given the political sensitivities in transition countries, this is a moment for development cooperation to put the African expertise within their organizations into play.
- ***Both engagement and technical discussions are more likely to be frank and to be able to address sensitive/important issues linked to human rights, governance, etc. if they are led by Africans with the expertise to do so.***
- Development cooperation can also create the much-needed space and bring together the expertise to develop the much talked about “African-Style Democracy and Governance”.
- ***A lot of work has been done on key pillars of this by African experts, but this transition moment provides the opportunity to bring it all together in specific, practical contexts.***



Build capacity and train staff for a Functional State approach

The skills for political sensitivity, political analysis, and diplomatic yet difficult discussions that are needed to do even purely technical work in the transition period are generally not readily available in development cooperation teams.



It will be important to assess the needs of staff and determine various methods to build the capacities for this specific moment and for the future as these transitions are likely to impact development cooperation work in the long term.



Thank You!



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