To be successful a country must embark on an irreversible democratic process as a conduit for the application of decentralization policy.

A decentralization policy must be designed within a legal and constitutional reform framework that clearly defines the functions and responsibilities devolved to the local level and those retained at the central level. This establishes an institutional enabling environment for the implementation of decentralization policies. The institutional reform implementation must be continually coordinated, monitored and evaluated. A strong dynamic open and facilitating central government, including a competent, decisive, and efficient civil service, constitutes the necessary ingredient of a successful decentralization.

A decentralization policy goal is not only to practice efficiently the provision of services at the local level, but also to contribute for sustainable development, economic growth and reduction of poverty. Indeed, sustainable development implies efficient management of resources and the environment, and the creation of a dynamic economic growth process, all based upon a partnership between the public sector, the private sector and civil society as well as international community actors.

Decentralization requires effective participation and ownership by local communities. This is best achieved if local authorities and policy implementers adopt a code of conduct based on a set of ethic principles and values, that are conducive to building trust between the central government and the communities.

Thus, local management of the decentralization process must be carried out in a total transparency based on accurate management systems and referential documents. In addition, it is crucial that local authorities be accountable to the populations they serve.