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Corruption Source of Mistrust in Government

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Leaving other factors aside, corruption remains the major a cause of mistrust among the people on their governments, the UN said on Monday.

During a regional Forum in Addis Ababa, Mr.Abdoulie Janneh, and Executive Secretary of UN Economic Commission for Africa said corruption was the catalyst for governments' poor performance which retards their overall economic development.

"Corrupt practices undermine the credibility and effectiveness of government institutions, impede investor confidence and deprive citizens-women and the poor in particular-of essential public services," Janneh said in a message read out to the regional forum on his behalf.

"Among these challenges is the lack of strong and functioning institutions, particularly in the judiciary and legislature, where inadequate financial and other operational resources have impaired the delivery of services," he said.

The regional forum was organized by the UN to discuss on the ways of reinforcing citizens' trust in their governments.

"Building trust in governments is an important component of the overall discussion on good governance in Africa. Hence, the outcome of this regional forum can make a pivotal contribution to enhancing the efforts of those engaged in building good governance on the continent," Janneh added.

The Executive Secretary, Janneh said a number of challenges need to be addressed if peoples' confidence in governments is to be built, strengthened, and sustained.

He also indicated that insufficient, or technically poor, human resources seriously reduce the capacity of institutions to influence governance.

The three day Regional Forum, being held under the theme "Building Trust in Government" is one of a series of forums organized by United Nations and being hosted in different region in preparation for the 7th Global Forum to be held in Vienna in June 2007.

The forums are expected to come up with possible measures that could renew and strengthen citizen faith in public authority.

Participants will also exchange ideas on strategies adopted within and across countries to harness advances in information and communication technologies (ICT) and apply innovative public administration practices to strengthen citizen trust in government.

Over 50 decision- makers from 16 African countries are participating at the regional forum.

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