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THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Abstract
The New International Economic Order (NIEO) originated as a set of proposals put forward in 1974 by some developing countries through the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to promote their interests by improving their terms of trade, increasing development assistance, developed-country tariff reduction, and other means. This paper evaluates the genesis of the New International Economic Order in the development agenda of the developing countries. The study revealed that the NIEO was conceived to be a revision of the International Economic System in favor of the developing countries, replacing the previous system which had benefited the leading states that had created it – especially the United States. It was further revealed that while the Order was demanded by the Non-Aligned Movement, the term itself was derived from the Declaration for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and referred to a wide range of trade, financial, commodity, and debt-related issues. It was however concluded that although the entire idea of a NIEO was indeed the product of an agenda for discussions between industrial and developing countries, focusing on restructuring of the world's economy to permit greater participation by, and benefits to developing countries, the Order as originally conceptualized failed to achieve successful implementation of its objectives for half a century leading to the emergence of the Progressive International, a movement of movements launched in May, 2020 with the aim of uniting progressive forces globally with a renewed NIEO campaign based on a more proactive and sober assessment of the original idea. The paper recommends inter alia that: international cooperation for development should be made a shared goal and common duty of all countries, thus thrusting into prominence the reality of interdependence of all the members of the world community.

Keywords: International economic system, Less developed countries, NIEO, UNCTAD, Unfailure, World order

1. Introduction

Although the idea of a New International Economic Order (NIEO) was originally advocated by Raul Prebisch and some other economists in the 1950s and1960s, yet the first formal endorsement to it was received in April 1974when the United Nations General Assembly at its sixth special session committed itself "to work" urgently for the establishment of a New International Economic Order based on equity, sovereign equality, common interest and cooperation among all states irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible, to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and developing countries, and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development, peace and justice for present and future generations.[1]

This United Nations commitment recognizes that the existing economic order was unjust, wicked, and immoral, and there was the necessity to create a new and healthy International Economic Order

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[1] M Matsushita; T J Schoenbaum, & P C Mavroidis, *The World Trade Organization: Law, Practice, and Policy,* (London, Oxford University Press, 2003), 388-389.

based on justice and cooperation. Along with the declaration, a Programme of Action[2] and a Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States were also adopted.[3] Unfortunately, some of these norms became the only rhetorical and political value, except for some partly viable mechanism such as the non-legal, non-binding Restrictive Business Practice Code adopted in 1980 and the Common Fund for commodities which came into force in 1989.

The main tents of the NIEO were that:

1. Developing countries must be entitled to regulate and control the activities of multinational corporations operating within their country;
2. They must be free to nationalize or expropriate foreign property on conditions favourable to them;
3. They must be free to set up associations of primary commodities producers similar to the OPEC; all other States must recognize this right and refrain from taking economic, military, or political measures calculated to restrict it;
4. International trade should be based on the need to ensure stable, equitable, and remunerative prices for raw materials, generalized non-reciprocal and non-discriminatory tariff preferences, as well as transfer of technology to developing countries; and should provide economic and technological assistance without any strings attached.

Essentially, the previous International Economic Order was in direct conflict with current developments in international political and economic relations. In the last half a century, the world economy has experienced a series of grave crises which have had severe repercussions, especially on the developing countries because of their generally greater vulnerability to external economic impulses. Thus, the developing world has become a powerful factor that makes its influence felt in all fields of international activity. These irreversible changes in the relationship of forces in the world necessitate the active, full, and equal participation of the developing countries in the formation and application of all decisions that concern the international community.[4]

Indisputably therefore, all these changes have thrust into prominence the reality of interdependence of all the members of the world community. Current events have thus brought into sharp focus the realization that the interests of the developed countries and those of the developing countries can no longer be isolated from each other. This is in recognition of the trite fact that there is a close interrelationship between the prosperity of the developed countries and the growth and development of the developing countries, and that the prosperity of the international community as a whole depends upon the prosperity of its constituent parts. This makes international cooperation for development the shared goal and common duty of all countries.

Consequently, the political, economic, and social well-being of present and future generations depends more than ever on cooperation between all the members of the international community on the basis of sovereign equality and the removal of the disequilibrium that exists between them. Thus, the unanimous adoption of the International Development Strategy for the second United Nations Development Decade was an important step in the promotion of international economic cooperation on a just and equitable basis. It was thus concluded that the accelerated implementation of obligations and commitments assumed by the international community within the framework of the Strategy, particularly those concerning imperative development needs of the developing countries, would contribute significantly to the fulfillment of the aims and objectives of the present Declaration.

[2] United Nations General Assembly document A/RES/S-6/3202, (S-IV).
[3]Declaration for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order: United Nations General Assembly document A/RES/S-6/3201 of May, 1974.
[4]ibid.

Fifty years after the NIEO was originally proposed in 1974 therefore, not much progress has been made regarding its successful implementation. The Progressive International however seeks to change the narrative. This is a movement of movements launched in May, 2020 aiming to unite progressive forces globally, and its NIEO campaign is based on a sober assessment of the original idea.[5] In calling to size the opportunity of the present historical juncture, its Havana Declaration on the NIEO notes that the crisis of the existing World System can either entrench inequalities or embolden the call to reclaim Southern Protagonism.[6] The Progressive International's attempt at reviving the NIEO is predicated on the belief that the NIEO offers badly needed alternatives to World Order and global development. This is despite the failure of the initial attempt at its realization which was clearly not unconnected with the crumbling of the G77 solidarity amidst the so-called Third World Debt Crisis.

Undoubtedly, understanding the ideology that created and led the NIEO is difficult. This is because, while it was proposed and birthed by political leaders and diplomats from 95 diverse States who held contradictory beliefs about the possibilities of changing the post-World War II World Order[7], this background turned out to be one of its major pitfalls. Indeed, according to Adom Getachew[8], this was one of the project's many internal limitations and inconsistencies which were only hidden because external challenges ensured that the project never had the opportunity for its internal contradictions to unfold.[9] Thus, the original NIEO had been so marred by internal disagreements that it was lacking in coherent vision of an alternative, thereby raising the question of how the project had been thought possible in the first place, given its obviously inevitably ill-fated destiny. Indeed, despite contributing to the scholarly consensus that the NIEO's failure was inevitable, Samir Amin's historical materialism perceived the NIEO project as an important experiment which tested the nature of imperialism itself. Within this Amin's Leninist imagery, the G77's common front was defined by its ruling classes, thus depicting them as a group of peripheral capitalist States and their bourgeoisies as against the initial perception of them by other scholars[10] as a group of "proletarian nations", or a "trade union of the poor".

Given this background, the Progressive International has not for this reason ignored the NIEO's more Prebischian goals and strategies. Indeed, its Havana Declaration, 2023 calls for a global consensus, or a Planetary Bloc supported by all peoples and nations. Varoufakis, 2023 has however argued that the Progressive International must not repeat the mistake of relying on the elites of the Global South. According to him, our new Non-aligned movement will fail if we give it a narrow role of bringing together the G77 and the BRICS in opposition to the West. The Progressive International therefore has a new strategy of attempting to empower the NIEO from below, via its movement of movements, or grassroot social forces which is indicative of a novel trend within the Progressive International's reviving of the NIEO.

2. Objectives of the New International Economic Order

The nature of the New International Economic Order is made explicit through the structure outlined by the UN documents and resolutions. The key objectives stated in these resolutions can be put into four major categories. These are:

Issues Related to Assistance:- The foundation for a just world economic order can be laid if there is sympathetic understanding on the part of developed countries towards the aid requirements of the Less Developed Countries (LDCs). A greater measure of cooperation from them can assist in the

[5] S Nicholls, 'Non-aligned Common Front: Strategic Imaginaries of the New International Economic Order (NIEO)', *Development in Practice*, [2024], pp.1-11.
[6] Havana Congress, "5th International Conference For World Balance, Cuba" 2023.
[7] C Thornton, 'How Domestic Politics and Back-Stage Dynamics Shaped the International Demands of the New International Economic Order' [2022], < https://progressive.international> accessed, 11 April 2025.
[8] A Getachew, *2019-Worldmaking After Empire: The Rise And Fall of Self Determination*, (New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2019).
[9] ibid.
[10] ibid.

removal of poverty and in the achievement of balanced regional growth. In this connection, the advanced countries are required to extend an untied and continuously expanding aid to the LDCs for the achievement of assistance target of a minimum of 0.7 percent of the Gross National Product (GNP) of the former. With particular reference to Technical Assistance, the UN specified that the International Community should continue and expand the operational programmes including vocational training and development of national personnel and management.[11]

Conversely, the reverse transfer of technology from LDCs to the advanced countries through brain drain should be stemmed. There should be negotiations of debt schedules of the underdeveloped world. There is the urgent need for undertaking special measures to assist land-locked, least developed and island countries. The continued efforts should be made to realize the objective of total international disarmament. That would release substantial additional resources that can be utilized for meeting the development needs of the poor countries.

Issues Related to Trade: Apart from greater cooperation in the field of aid, the essence of the New International Economic Order (NIEO) lies in the improvement of the conditions related to International trade such that the less developed countries find progressively expanding opportunities to enlarge their exports. It can enable them to get hold of export earnings sufficient to overcome their chronic balance of payment difficulties and achieve a steady state growth.

The NIEO must therefore be guided by such trade-related goals as improving the terms of trade for the LDCs adoption of integrated commodity programmes; development of international food programme; diversification and enlargement of the export potential of the LDCs; improvement and strengthening of trade relations between countries having different social and economic set up; strengthening of economic and technical cooperation among the LDCs; reform in the existing international momentary system ensuring greater participation of LDCs in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) decision-making; and larger transfer of real resources from institutions like World Bank and the IMF.

Issues Relating to Industrialization and Technology: One of the significant objectives specified by the United Nations, having an important bearing upon the New International Economic Order, is a change in approach to industrialization and technology. In this regard, the United Nations stressed upon the redeployment of industrial productive capacity to developing countries. The developed and developing countries should enter into negotiations about the possible shifting of the industrial capacity of the developing countries to the less developed countries. The possible areas of shifting of industrial capacity may include: the industries having high labour content; the natural resource based industries; and, the industries processing locally available raw materials.

The NIEO also has the objective of establishing mechanisms for the transfer of technology. The NIEO calls for greater access of the LDCs to the advanced technologies of the developed countries through the review of international patents, facilitating access to patented and non-patented technology, greater assistance to the LDCs for expansion of research and development programmes within their own countries, and a greater control over the import of technology. In this regard, the UN also proposed the regulation and supervision of the activities of transnational corporations and improvement in the competitiveness of natural resources facing competition from synthetic substitutes. The NIEO also calls for, according to United Nations, equitable distribution of the benefits derived from exploration and for an international treaty to this effect because the oceans and sea beds are the common heritage of mankind.

[11] D W Drezner, *All Politics Is Global: Explaining International Regulatory Regimes*, (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2007).

Social Issues: The NIEO also has the objective of dealing with the social issues faced by the International community through the mutual cooperation of the developed and less developed countries. The social issues or objectives identified by the United Nations include: (a) the achievement of a more equitable distribution of income and raising the level of employment; (b) provision of health services, education, higher cultural standards and qualifications for the workforce; (c) integration of women in development, and the assurance of the well-being of children; (d) full recognition of the sovereignty of states over natural resources, the right to control their exploitation and right to their nationalization; (e) provision of compensation for adverse effects on the resources of the states on account of foreign occupation, colonial domination, or apartheid; (f) restructuring of the economic and social sections of the United Nations.

The outlines of the NIEO, as suggested by the United Nations, reflect the aspirations and needs of the less developed world. The ushering in of such a world based order upon mutual trust and co-operation can certainly assure the optimal utilization of world resources, enlargement of international trade and investment flow and acceleration of the process of economic and social transformation of the world system.[12]

3. The North-South Dialogue and the Advancement towards a NIEO

The most fundamental requisite of a new and constructive International Economic Order is that the developed and less developed countries should have close and co-operative economic relations among themselves. After the United Nations General Assembly passed the Resolution in April 1974 committing itself "to work urgently for the establishment of a New International Economic Order", there was the launching of negotiations between the developed countries and the less-developed countries.[13]

Since 1960s, the developed and less developed countries have carried the process of negotiations on the economic issues faced by each of the two groups. They have discussed these issues at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) meetings, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations, and at almost every world economic forum. This on-going process of negotiations between the rich and the poor countries is in general referred to as the North-South Dialogue. The main issues in this Dialogue are as follows: lowering of tariff structure; flow of financial assistance operation; market access establishment of a NIEO; terms of trade; stabilization of prices of primary products; transfer of technology; problem of international debt burden; reforms in the international monetary system; role of government in economic activity; and, the role of the private sector.

Both groups of countries have stuck rigidly to their respective viewpoints. Consequently, the North-South dialogue has exposed more of confrontation rather than co-operation thereby raising clear doubts as to the successful implementation of the objectives of the NIEO. This does not augur well for the establishment of a NIEO. Although some limited progress was made on the issue of lowering the tariffs preferences to the products of LDCs, stabilization funds, and debt relief arrangements, but on all other issues, the situation has remained disappointing from the view point of the LDCs. The advanced countries have invariably linked economic and trade concession with political and other extraneous considerations. Unless, the North-South dialogue as pursued in the spirit of accommodation and mutuality of interests at WTO meetings and appropriate economic for, both groups expect the ushering in a NIEO.

Indisputably, the endorsement of the concept of a New International Economic Order (NIEO) created high hopes and expectations among the LDCs. The outlines of its economic and social

[12] A Slanghter, *A New World Order*, (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2005).
[13] M G Fasseha, 'New International Economic Order (NIEO): Origin, Elements and Criticism', *International Journal of Multicultural And Multi-religious Understanding,* [2017], (4) (3), pp. 22-28.

objectives set by the United Nations created a strong feeling among them that the world was close to assisting in a positive manner for the removal of the problems of the impoverished and exploited less developed regions of the globe. It is important to review how far the world has made an advance towards the goal of establishing a just and exploitation-free new world economic order.

The assessment contemplated herein has to be made on the basis of the basic and main points concerning a New International Economic Order (NIEO) program of action: development assistance target; trade preferences; commodity stabilization funds; and reforms of the International Monetary Systems. The rationale for this line of reasoning is the belief that economic prosperity is basic for global peace and stability. So long as the developing countries continue to be deprived, there can be no real and lasting peace in the developed world. This is a clear message to the developed world calling for social justice and freedom from exploitation.[14]

Indeed, during the 1980, the NIEO did not help the LDCs to manage the internal problems they faced and supervise the activities of transnational corporations. Equally significant is the obvious failure of the NIEO to regulate its strategy to ensure efficiency. While the most efficient way to help the poor is to transfer resources from those most able to those most in need, the NIEO curiously proposed that the poor countries that have monopoly in certain areas should be able to extort these transfers. In practice, such power has caused more harm to other poor countries without similar potentials. Besides, the powerful countries of North America and Western Europe felt threatened by the NIEO and continuously tried to criticize and minimize it.

Unfortunately, despite being the most widely discussed transnational governance reform initiative of the 1970s with a fundamental objective of transforming the governance of the global economy to redirect more of the benefits of transnational integration towards the developing nations, thus completing the geopolitical process of decolonization and creating a democratic global order of truly sovereign states, the NIEO curiously faded away just as quickly as it sprang up.

4. The NIEO as an Intervention in International Law

Just as important as the NIEO's economic objectives were the novel means it sought to implement its objectives through new mechanisms of international law. Rather than accepting international law as a neutral device, NIEO legal theorists claimed that existing international law, unsuited to promoting natural reform, were biased towards economic incumbents and needed recasting in order to favour developing nations.

More narrowly, NIEO proponents argued that states in the South should not be bound by legal agreements made under an illegitimate transnational legal regime, particularly if those agreements have been concluded by pre-independence administrations or with Private Corporations. Just as the economic goal of the NIEO was to enable the self-sufficiency and self-determination of countries in the South, the legal strategy was similarly predicated on the bedrock assertion of the absolute sovereign equality of every nation.

Proponents of the NIEO, especially those at UNCTAD, sought to use the UN General Assembly, with its more plausible claims to represent world interests, as a forum for developing new international legal structures that would promote the agenda of the South. Choosing the General Assembly as a vehicle for transnational legal change made political sense given the evolving composition of that body. When the UN was founded in the mid-1940s not only were "north" and "south" not yet operative concepts in the geopolitical imagery, but even the distinction between "industrialized" and "developing" countries or economies barely existed.[15]

[14] R Gordon, 'The Dawn of a New, New International Economic Order', *Journal of Law and Contemporary Problems,* [2009], (72).
[15] A Cassese, *International Law New York*, (Oxford University Press, 2001), p. 400.

The most important legal theorist for the NIEO was the Algerian jurist Mohammed Bedjauoui, who provided the most elaborate legal-theoretical articulation of how to accomplish the NIEOs economic objectives. He criticized the existing formal structure of international law, which he claimed was organized to systematically favour former imperial powers, which in turn reflected and enabled the structural inequality of the global economy. Unlike legal localists, who argued that different communal situations necessitated different sorts of legal regimes, Bedjaoui advocated legal universalism. He argued however, that the power dynamics embedded within the structure of international law be undone.[16]

For instance, he rejected the notion that post-colonial and pre-revolutionary states had to meet treaty and contractual obligations joined under previous regimes. In short, Benjaoui presented Algeria's own post-independence international legal positions towards France as a model for what an alternative global, transnational legal order might look like.[17] The central problem for NIEO jurists like Benjaoui therefore was how to assert the absolute national sovereignty of southern states without at the same time empowering northern states to ignore, in the name of their own national sovereignty, the supranational legal junctions proposed by the NIEO.

In sum, rather than see the NIEO as a failure, it might be more helpful to see it as an example of what Jennifer Wenzel has called "unfailure". Unfailure refers to the paradox that many seemingly failed political and social movements, even though they did not realize their ambitions in their own movement, often live on as prophetic visions, available as an idiom for future generations to articulate their own hopes and dreams. In other words, although the historically specific institutional demands of the NIEO during the 1970s went unrealized, one can make a credible case that the undead spirit of the NIEO continues to haunt international relations.[18]

The unfailed afterlife of the NIEO is perhaps most evident in global climate change negotiations. For many key poor countries, the north/south geographic imagery that gave life to the NIEO remains the dominant framing of the question of climate justice. Just as it was in the 1970s, the G-77 remains the South's main organizing agent for collective climate bargaining with the North. In addition, in its negotiating positions with respect to climate changes, the G-77 has pursued a line of economic reasoning that strongly echoes the NIEO Declaration, arguing that because the North bears a historic responsibility for producing the vast majority of anthropogenic green house gases currently in the atmosphere, and the South still has a "right to development", any fair climate treaty should be "non-reciprocal", with binding responsibilities concerning emission reduction mandates applying only to the North.[19]

5. The Economic Development of Developing Countries

Regarding the economic development of developing countries, on the negative side, there are a number of factors that add to their difficulties. First, the level of per capita product in the present day developing countries is much lower than was obtainable in the developed countries in their pre-industrialization phase.[20] Second, the present day developing countries have larger population bases and are handicapped by much faster rates of population growth. Third, the developing countries generally have a much weaker social and political framework to cope with the more explosive forces

[16] M A Connelly, *A Diplomatic Revolution: Algeria's Fight for Independence and the Origins of the Post-Cold War Era*, (New York, Oxford University Press, 2002), pp. 283-286.
[17] J ThuoGathii, 'Neoliberalism, Colonialism, and International Governance: Decentering the International Law of Government Legitimacy', *Michigan Law Review*, [2000], (98) (6).
[18] J Wenzel, *Bulletproof: Afterlives of Anti-colonial Prophesy in South Africa and Beyond,* (Chicago University of Chicago Press, 2010).
[19] S Joshi, 'Understanding India's Representation of North-South Climate Politics', *Global Environmental Politics*, [2013], (13) (2), pp. 128-147.
[20] With the exception of Japan.

of discontent engendered by their reaction against their colonial past and internal economic disparities.[21]

Indisputably, Local Economic Development (LED) in the developing countries has the potential to help address the perennial problems manifested through low economic growth rates, high unemployment and poverty levels facing the majority of the population. There are a number of important strategies that could be employed to propel and sustain local economies in the context of development at the local government levels. Some of these strategies require effective inter-organizational and inter-governmental relations to be realized, while others rely on allocation of adequate resources, creativity, and proper planning.

With particular reference to the justification of local economic development in the context of developing countries, it is pertinent to state that LED remains the *sine qua non* for meaningful development, poverty alleviation, and employment creation in the developing countries. The significant lessons from some of these practical policies and practices are that there is a sound policy framework guiding LED planning and partnerships are forged together with various local stakeholders. Furthermore, effective inter-governmental relations on the promotion of regional and local economic development are in operation.

On the positive side, the present day developing countries can draw upon a greater store of scientific and technological knowledge from the developed countries. The potential opportunities to exploit the "technological gap" are not confined to manufacturing. Modern science and technology can make immense contributions to agriculture, as illustrated by the Green Revolution created by the introduction of improved seeds and fertilizers in some African, Asian, and Latin-American countries. Modern methods of birth control can equally make a significant contribution in the race for rising per capita incomes. In addition, as the circle of the developed countries widens, they are bound to exert an increasing upward pull on the developing countries.

The economic growth of the developed countries has generally resulted in an expanding demand for the products and sometimes for direct labour services from the developing countries. But there are also stronger localized pulls, such as the pull of the United States economy on Mexico, the pull of Western Europe, and recently, the pull of China on several countries particularly in Africa and many other economies including the developed ones.[22]

The experience of the postwar years has provided many lessons that form a basis for optimism. A great deal has been learned about the types of economic policies that are conducive to rapid economic development. Rates of growth per capita income experienced by the developing countries have been significantly higher than had been achieved by the first countries to develop. Attainable rates of growth of per capita income appear to be far above what formerly was thought feasible. The chief potential obstacles to successful development appear to be the spectra of disintegration of the international economy, should protectionist pressure be increasingly effective, and the inability or unwillingness of leaders in developing countries to adopt policies conducive to rapid economic growth.

6. Conclusion

The New International Economic Order (NIEO) came up as a response to the need to change the existing international economic system which in reality does not significantly benefit developing countries. The NIEO calls for the correcting of the unfair global political and economic order so as to benefit all countries and their citizens equally and fairly. The Non-Aligned Movement emerged

[21] E A Hanushek, 'Economic Growth in Developing Countries: The Role of Human Capital', *Economics of Education Review*, [2013], (37) (1) pp. 204-212.
[22] ibid, 209.

in the process as a response to the intense cold war rivalry that resulted in the division of the world into two opposition blocks led by the United States of America (USA) on one side and the defunct Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) on the other front with contradicting political and economic ideologies. As a result of this friction and subsequent polarization of the world economic order, developing countries were forced to take sides with either of these two super powers.

During the colonial period, the then colonized countries, today known as the least developed countries (LDCs) were immorally and irresponsibly exploited of both their resources and manpower. Ironically, after the end of colonial rule, developing countries were still under the dominance and exploitation of their former colonizers. In this regard, the NIEO clearly failed to meet its objectives. This is in view of the fact that developing countries remain to be suppliers of raw materials to the West, suffering from trade imbalances, unemployment, and as a consequence have remained backward.

The NIEO today is thus almost entirely forgotten, at least when referred to by its proper name. Already, in the 1980s the conventional wisdom among mainstream analysts in the Anglophone academy was that the NIEO had always been doomed to failure.[23] This is especially so in view of the fact that any attempt to use international law to rein in the sovereign prerogatives of powerful countries was destined to succumb to jurisdictional fragmentation and forum shopping, and the North was always going to have been willing to be able to flex its vastly greater economic, political, and if necessary, military might to retrain the rise of the South.

Despite the initially ill-fated outing of the concept, Fifty years after the idea of the NIEO was conceptualized a new ray of hope appears to have arisen in the horizon. While it is conceded that the NIEO was undermined during a global debt crisis, the Progressive International reconsiders the possibilities of a debtors' cartel wherein collective independence could be used to empower global reforms built on consensus.

7. Recommendations

Given the above state of facts, the NIEO clearly faces several obstacles which must be addressed in order to achieve its purpose in the first instance. Those include critical human, social, economic and institutional challenges confronting the practical success of the NIEO. One of such obstacles is the structure of the international monetary system and the need to address the problems it creates for achieving the development financing objectives of the NIEO through such factors as the dollar dependence of the world economy, coupled with liquidity excess in the principal money markets. International cooperation for development should be made a shared goal and common duty of all countries, thus thrusting into prominence the reality of interdependence of all the members of the world community.

Equally deserving of urgent attention is the issue regarding the mounting debt of developing countries. There is thus a need to address this by the developed countries via re-negotiation or outright cancellation in deserving circumstances. This, it is hoped will ease the burden of the less developed countries thereby setting the stage for their development and success.

There are also obstacles to the production and distribution of primary commodities and energy as well as technology transfer. It is recommended that the developed countries have a duty to partner with the less developed ones to address these obvious challenges to their development.

With particular reference to Technical Assistance the UN specified that the International Community should continue and expand the operational programmes including vocational training and development of national personnel and management.

[23] N M Craig, *Global Institutions, Marginalization, and Development*, (New York, Routledge, 2005) pp. 103-106.

There is a need to prioritize the improvement and strengthening of trade relations between countries having different social and economic set ups;

It is necessary to strengthen economic and technical cooperation among the LDCs as a catalyst to development;

There is an urgent need for reform in the existing international monetary system ensuring greater participation of LDCs in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) decision making;

It is imperative that steps are taken by all stakeholders to ensure a larger transfer of real resources from the bodies like World Bank and the IMF.

It is finally recommended that effort should be made to address the social justice and environmental obstacles militating against the progressive development of these less developed countries relying on aid and cooperation from the developed ones.