

Poverty, Immigration & Human rights

Co-development, Stake for Europe

A proposal for actions

Hugo Castelli and François Becker

European Network Church on the move

LAMPEDUSA

Why did the recent tragedy of Lampedusa
with the death by drowning of
hundreds of children, women and men
occur?

REASON

European governments want to appease right wing critics by restricting immigration and asylum because they pretend there is insufficient money to spend on social services

How to proceed to reduce immigration?

Neither rule, nor law, nor action by the police, etc.
will stop
immigration.

Other actions have therefore to be undertaken

One of them : suppress the reasons for immigration

- Let the local populations take charge of their development with the support of Europe :
- co-development instead of exploitation

The Natural Resources Curse

Many African countries have important natural resources which should benefit all the citizens as

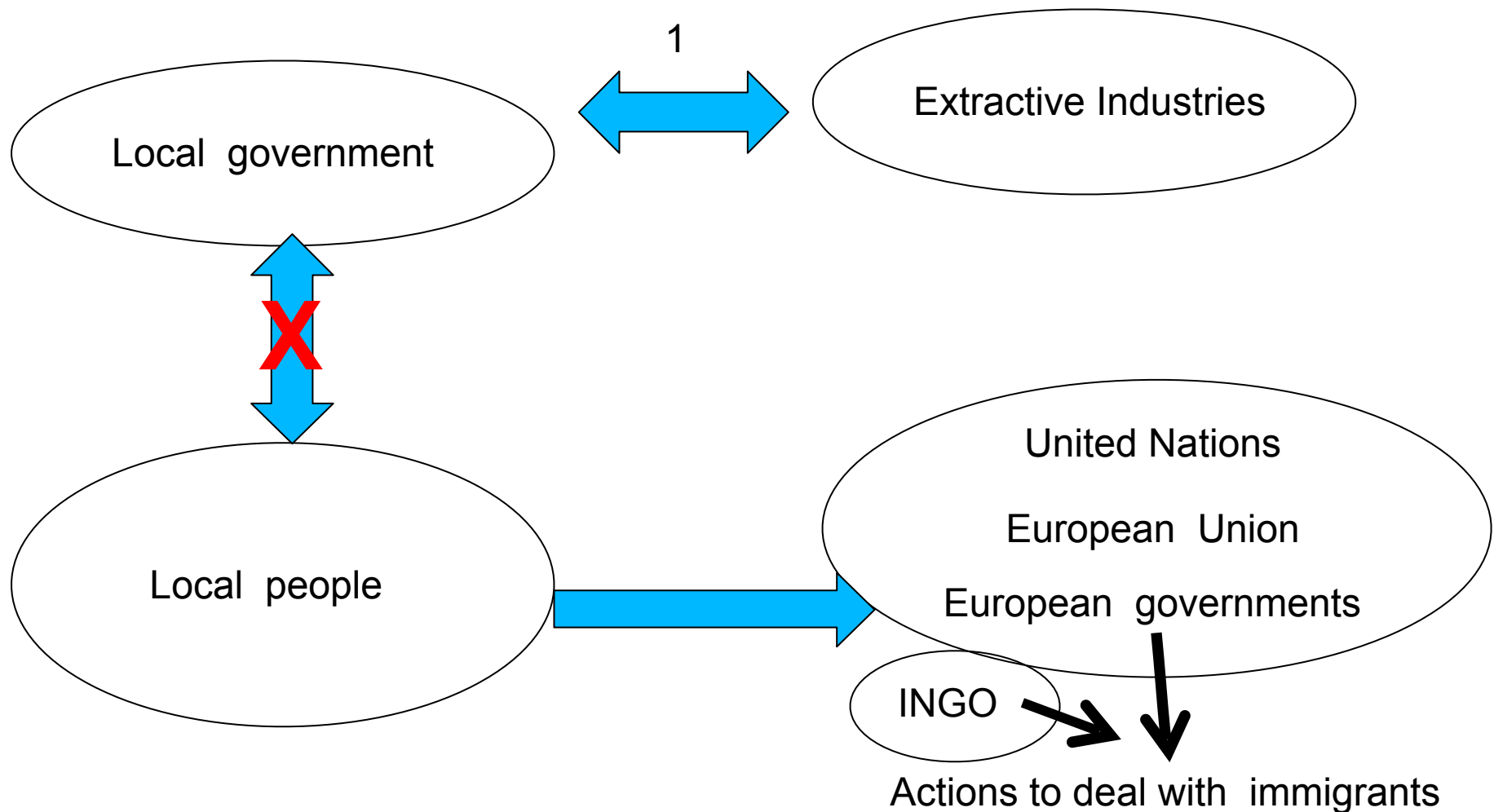
North Sea Oil did for Britain

BUT this is not the case in Africa:

- secret negotiations between governments and industries from developed countries exploiting the natural resources of Africa (extractive industries, fuel industries, forest exploitation, etc.)
- corruption and misappropriation of money

Money possibly never reaches its right destination.

Four elements to be considered (1)



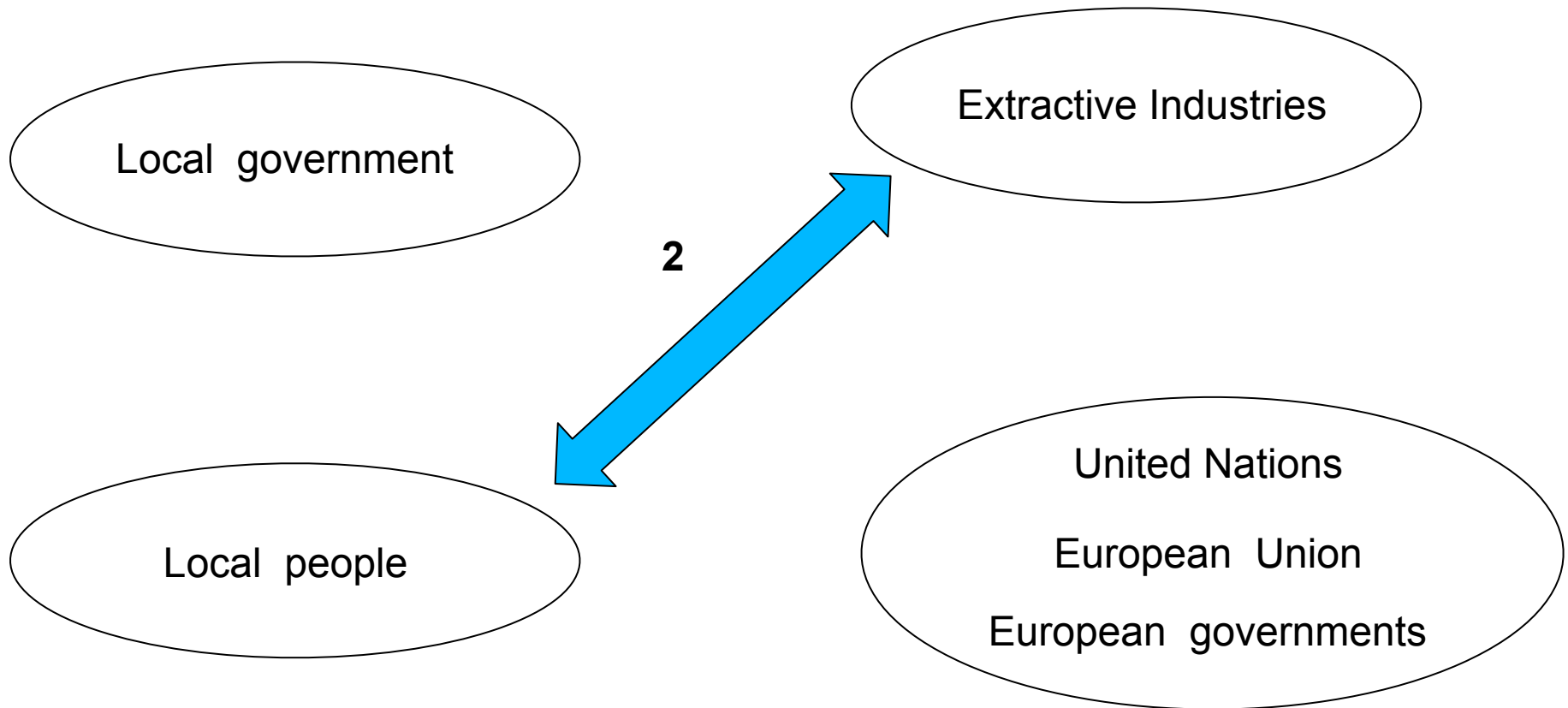
EITI

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative promoted by the Publish What You Pay Coalition has introduced international legislation to oblige extractive industry multinationals to publish in their annual accounts all money transferred to governments, on a country by country basis, in the countries where they operate.

Absence of Financial Transparency is not the only problem

Extractive Industry multinationals negotiate concessions for Oil & Gas, Minerals and Logging with governments that do not always protect the rights of their citizens.

Four elements to be considered (2)



Free Prior Informed Consent

Local populations affected by the installation of extractive industries must have the right to be fully informed about the proposed industries and have the right to grant or not to grant their consent

after a detailed examination of the consequences

In Europe this is called Planning Permission.

FPIC on plastic and paper

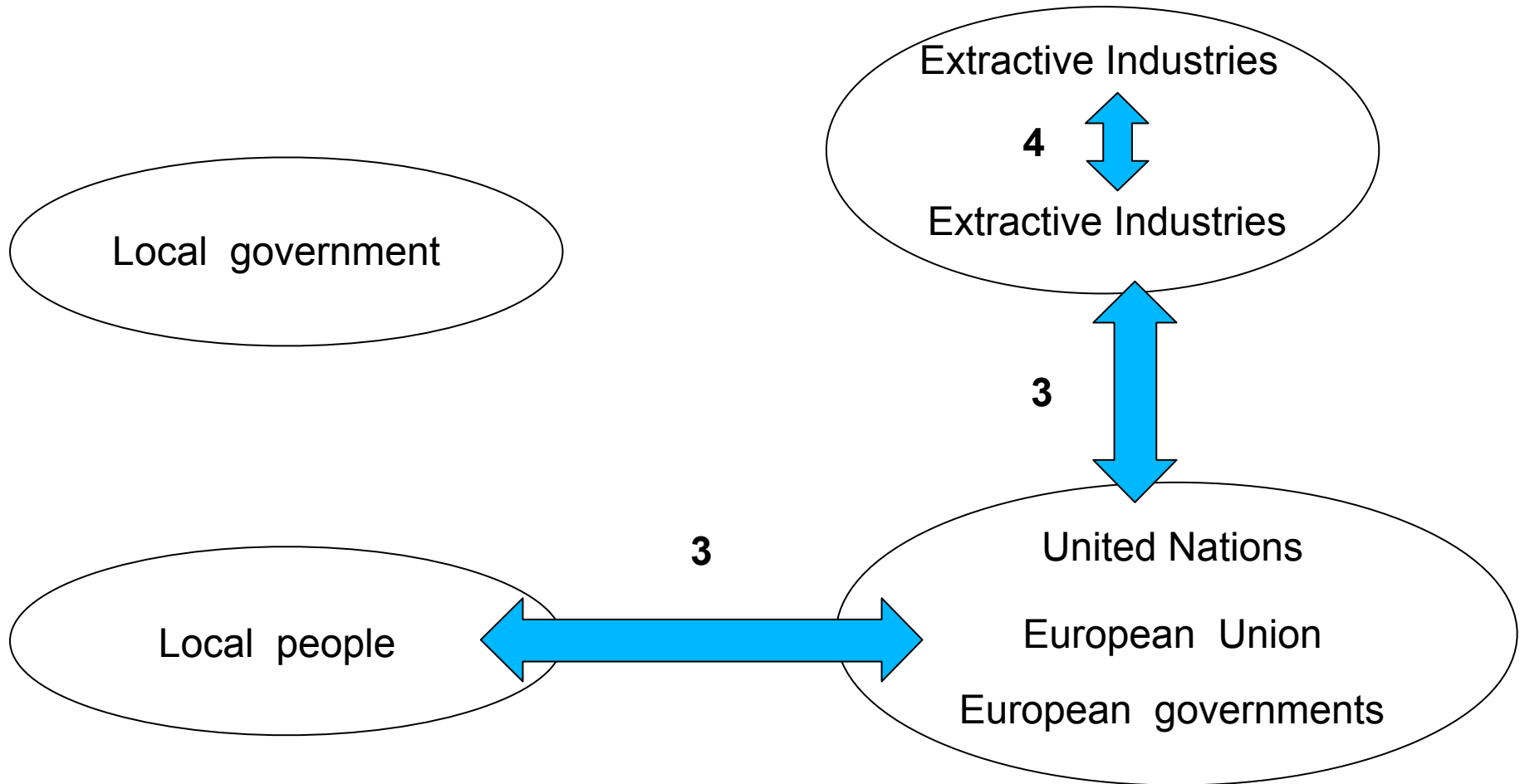
OXFAM AUSTRALIA produces an excellent waterproof Guide to FPIC in English, French, Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese and a number of Asian languages indicating what to do when foreign technicians appear without warning on the communal land of a rural community.

There is a more detailed version on paper.

See: [http://resources.oxfam.org.au/pages/
search.php?](http://resources.oxfam.org.au/pages/search.php?)

[search=mining&order_by=relevance&archive=0&k=
=&per_page=50&sort=DESC](http://resources.oxfam.org.au/pages/search.php?search=mining&order_by=relevance&archive=0&k=&per_page=50&sort=DESC)

Four elements to be considered (3, 4)



Human Rights v. Business Interests

International regulations have been adopted

- Convention 169 International Labor Organization
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

An excellent 8-minute short film shows how a tribal village can defend its interests from an extractive industries multinational by calling on these regulations

See: <http://vimeo.com/66708050>

Actions within industries

- Different industries:
 - Extractive Industries (EI)
 - Grocery Manufacturer Association (GMA) and its European branch AIM
 - AIM and Business
 - Awareness of staff
 - Courses on HR & Business
 - Responsible sourcing
- Sustainability framework
 - EU guide to human rights
 - ICP (Informed, Consultation Participation)
Slightly different from FPIC

Action required from the Council of Europe

If European governments want to limit immigration from Africa, they must ensure that Africans can live at home with the same social benefits that we have in Europe.

By recommending that the 47 member states insist that the multinationals domiciled in their countries apply EITI & FPIC principles, it is possible to achieve that objective.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

The Publish What You Pay Coalition has delegations in civil society organizations all over Africa (and elsewhere). If we hear about problems relating to multinationals domiciled in Europe we could contact Jean-Bernard Marie for assistance.

WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

The different actions to reverse this curse

