


Action for a strong and prosperous





Africa





The objectives of the Commission are:

 To generate new ideas and action for a strong and prosperous Africa, using the 2005 British Presidencies of the G8 and the European Union as a platform;

 To support the best of existing work on Africa, in particular the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Union, and help ensure this work achieves its goals;

 To help deliver implementation of existing international commitments towards Africa;

 To offer a fresh and positive perspective for Africa and its diverse culture in the 21st century, which challenges unfair perceptions and helps deliver changes; and

 To understand and help fulfil African aspirations for the future by listening to Africans.

For more information, visit our website at: www.commissionforafrica.org or email us at: Africa_Secretariat@dfid.gov.

Tony Blair (Chairman)

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“ I don't think there is any fatigue with people's anxiety and sense of moral outrage at what has happened in Africa. People need an agenda for action and for change that can command support across the international spectrum. It is a big task for us to set ourselves, but we intend to do it ”
(Tony Blair, 4 May 2004)


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The Commission for Africa is an initiative of the UK Prime Minister, Tony Blair, to provide a coherent set of policies to accelerate progress towards a strong and prosperous Africa. It will report in spring 2005, including recommendations to the G8, EU and other wealthy countries, as well as African countries.

The 17 Commissioners – 9 African - are in positions of real influence, as political, business or civil society leaders. They have some real challenges to address – half of Africa's 659 million people live in extreme poverty, almost half are under 15 years of age, and over 3 million people a year are infected with HIV/AIDS.

However, there are some real signs of progress. In particular, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is creating a dynamic new relationship with the developed world, a partnership with Africans taking control of their own agenda. The Commission will aim to build on NEPAD, and on African successes:

- 19 sub-Saharan African countries have growth of 5% or more
- Income poverty is falling in 15 countries
- Democracy is spreading
- More people are able to access services
- 23 countries have qualified for debt relief
- The number of major conflicts has decreased dramatically in recent years

But this is not enough – the 2005 review of the Millennium Development Goals – commitments made by the world to achieve change by 2015 – will show that some of the goals will not be met in Africa until 2150 on current rates of progress.

2005 offers a real opportunity for a major change. The UK holds the Presidencies of both the G8 and the EU, and the Prime Minister will present the Commission's findings to these bodies.

In preparing its report, the Commission will challenge assumptions inside and outside of Africa. It will listen to Africa, all Africans and those who care about and can make a difference for Africa. It will seek to present the true picture of Africa and its diverse culture, challenging negative perceptions. It will seek to build a political coalition inside and outside Africa for action that enables successful and inclusive development in Africa.



Commission for Africa