

Our Common Interest

Commission for Africa

Group of African Ambassadors / Portugal Africa Foundation

Porto, 23 May 2005



Commission for Africa: Introduction

- Set up early 2004
- **Task:** *to recommend strong programme of action in support of successful African development*
- **Independent** - 17 Commissioners; 9 African
- **Process:** research, consultation – what sets CFA apart
 - Civil society, business, government officials
 - AU/NEPAD, G8, other countries
- **Report** released 11 March: “Our Common Interest”

Why Now?

- Africa is making major progress
 - Governance (more democracy, fewer wars)
 - AU => “non-indifference”
 - Growth (16 countries maintained >4% growth for decade)
- But major challenges remain
 - Will not meet MDGs; poverty halved by 2150, not 2015
 - Only continent to grow poorer
- Consequences of *not* acting: irreversible

Framework for action

- Comprehensive plan, covering range of areas
- Foundations: good governance, peace & security
- Investing in people
- Growth, opportunity and trade
- Financing and implementation
- Partnership

STRONG, INTEGRATED AND EFFECTIVE PACKAGE

Through African eyes: Culture

- Africa's great diversity – between and within countries
- Broad definition of culture
- Culture is dynamic and reactive
- Vital to recognise impact on development policy

Recommendation:

Understand values, norms and allegiance; be flexible; be open-minded, be willing to learn

Building effective states: Governance

- Effective states: capacity, accountability
- Strengthened by transparency
- Undermined by corruption

Recommendations:

- ✓ *Support AU/NEPAD and APRM; get behind national capacity-building strategies*
- ✓ *Revitalise higher education; fund centres of excellence in science & technology*
- ✓ *Increase transparency; endorse EITI; expand to forestry and fisheries*
- ✓ *Promote transparent procurement, Export Credit Agencies*
- ✓ *Tackle corruption, ratify UN Convention against Corruption; repatriate stolen state assets*

Outreach Strategy

- Events
 - G8: core seminars in all G8 countries + China, before the Gleneagles summit in July
 - EU: various meetings ahead of the UK presidency
 - Africa: events in each region of Africa – meetings with AU/NEPAD
- Targeted Audience
 - Civil Society and diaspora: lobbying governments
 - Business: signing up to our Business Action for Africa
 - Media: spreading the good news
 - Governments: stepping up their commitments

- Package
- Coalition
- Opportunity