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### **COMMISSION SHARES IDEAS FOR CONSULTATION WITH AFRICA**

**Africa's future development should be based on policies initiated from Africa, rather than from donor countries; Donors will need to increase the level of aid and to look again at the way they direct aid to Africa.**

These are among the key themes in a new consultation document, published today by the Commission for Africa to stimulate debate. The document also highlights the need to:

- Get behind Africa's efforts to accelerate and sustain its growth and development. This will mean strong support for African-led initiatives, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Union;
- Strengthen health systems, with a co-ordinated approach to fighting HIV/AIDS;
- Tackle barriers to investment, e.g. by improving infrastructure;
- Make trade fairer – with richer countries implementing agricultural reform, lowering their trade barriers, and opening up their markets to African produce;
- Double aid to Africa and improve its quality.

UK International Development Secretary Hilary Benn, the deputy Chair of the Commission, said the document had been specifically designed to gather new ideas and to get feedback on the Commission's work so far.

"This document reflects the Commissioners' discussions at our recent meeting in Addis Ababa, and on the open debates held with civil society. We are still only halfway through our work, and there is much for us to discuss before we can produce our report next spring. But we can now suggest some possible areas for action on which we want to hear views.

"It will also form the basis of a series of consultation meetings throughout Africa next month. Participants will be invited from every African country, to the five regional events in Kenya, Cameroon, Egypt, Zambia and Senegal.

"In addition, the Commission will invite comment on its work through an online consultation, which begins on Monday 15 November."

Consultation in the UK and elsewhere is also continuing. Full details can be found on the website.

### **Notes to Editors**

1. The consultation document is available online at [www.commissionforafrica.org/getting\\_involved/consultationdocument.htm](http://www.commissionforafrica.org/getting_involved/consultationdocument.htm)
2. For more information about how the Commission for Africa is consulting across Africa, throughout the G8, the UK and other countries, visit [www.commissionforafrica.org/getting\\_involved/gettinginvolved.htm](http://www.commissionforafrica.org/getting_involved/gettinginvolved.htm)
3. 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 was launched in February 2004, with the first meeting of the Commission held in London on 4 May 2004. The second meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 7-8 October. The Commission will produce a report in spring 2005, including

recommendations to the G8, EU and other wealthy countries, as well as African countries.

4. For more information about the Commission for Africa, visit the website: [www.commissionforafrica.org](http://www.commissionforafrica.org) or contact Nicola Savage, Press Officer, Tel: +44 (0) 207 023 1869; Mobile: +44 (0) 7785 316 846