

AFRICA COMMISSION



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Chairman of the Commission

Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen (Denmark)
Prime Minister

Members (alphabetically)

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International Director, DanChurchAid

Mr. Klaus Aagaard Bustrup (Denmark)
Chairman of the Danish Board for International Development Cooperation

Mr. Robert Calderisi (Canada)
Economic consultant and writer

Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas (Ghana)
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Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique

Dr. Mo Ibrahim (Sudan)
Founder and former Chairman of Celtel and member of the Board of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Dr. Donald Kaberuka (Rwanda)
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Ms. Betty Maina (Kenya)
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Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro (Tanzania)
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Ms. Ulla Tørnæs (Denmark)
Minister for Development Cooperation

Mr. Koen Vervaeke (Belgium)
European Union Special Representative and Head of the European Commission Delegation to the African Union

Photos page 1, 2 and 3: Jørgen Schytte. Photos page 4: Morten Vassing. Version 03/2008-07



COMMISSION ON EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH AFRICA

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COMMISSION ON EFFECTIVE
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
WITH AFRICA





The Danish Prime Minister, Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, is chairman of the Africa Commission.



Africa has seen many positive developments and experienced progress in several areas in the past decade, primarily thanks to Africa's own efforts and reforms. However, development must be accelerated further. In a global context, Africa has largely been left behind in the area of economic growth, which is a prerequisite for solving many of the still existing challenges. The Danish Government is therefore actively seeking to put economic growth and employment in Africa higher on the international agenda. As a consequence, the Commission on Effective Development Cooperation with Africa has been established.

The main goal of the Africa Commission

The aim of the Commission is to present new and creative strategies to revitalize and strengthen international development cooperation with Africa. It is the Commission's ambition that the strategies will rejuvenate the political willingness to improve the effectiveness of international development cooperation with Africa, to the benefit of its people.

Focus areas for the Commission

The overall focus of the Commission will be Youth and Employment. The high population growth and the high share of youth (46 per cent of the population are between 5 and 25 years old) in Africa represent a particular opportunity and challenge when trying to ensure a prosperous and meaningful future for all.

With jobs and prospects for a better future, young people are a dynamic driver of development and economic growth. But without education, jobs and prospects of a meaningful future, youth might fuel instability, migration, radicalization and violent conflict. In partnership with Africa, the International Community must help to create the millions of new productive jobs that are needed.

Within the overall framework of Youth and Employment, the Commission will analyze a number of inter-linked topics:

The inequality between men and women represents a structural impediment to growth in Africa. Women are an important source of economic growth. The Commission must consider ways of promoting the active participation of women in both society and the economy. This aim is directly linked to the United Nations 3rd Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of gender equality and empowerment of women.

Education at all levels is an important component in improving job opportunities for the African youth and accelerating economic growth. Furthermore the Commission will analyze the link between climate change and economic growth. Despite contributing the least, the African continent is affected the most by climate change.

The Commission will also seek to develop specific strategies on how to implement the recommendations and ensure African ownership and participation.

The members of the Commission

The Commission consists of international members drawn from Heads of State and Government, politicians, experts, business people and representatives from international and regional organizations as well as the academic world. The majority of the Commissioners are from Africa. The Danish Prime Minister, Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, is chairman of the Commission.

How the Africa Commission works

Over the course of its work, the Commission will have three main meetings. The first meeting took place in Copenhagen on 16 April 2008. The second meeting will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 20 November 2008, and the third and conclusive meeting will be in Copenhagen in May 2009. Here the findings and the recommendations of the Commission will be presented.

In between the main meetings, the Commission will organize a number of thematic conferences and workshops in Africa. Each of these meetings will put forward a set of recommendations, which will give crucial input to the deliberations of the Commission. Commissioners will assume responsibility for thematic issues and participate in workshops and conferences. The Secretariat of the Africa Commission will assist in facilitating and organizing these meetings.

In addition, at least one Youth Forum will be held in Africa, in Addis Ababa in November.

At its first meeting, the Commission adopted two important papers outlining the forthcoming process: The Chairman's Conclusions and The Working Programme. Both can be found on the website of the Africa Commission.

The five Thematic Conferences

The themes, dates and places of the thematic conferences are as follows:

The Educational Challenge in Africa: Ouagadougou, 16 June 2008

Women and Employment in Africa: Maputo, 15 August 2008

The African Youth and Employment: Accra, 5 September 2008

Climate Change in Africa: Nairobi, 18 September 2008

Creating Economic Growth in Africa: Kampala, 30 October 2008

The conferences will bring together regionally anchored representatives from universities, research institutions, civil society (including youth and women's groups), relevant regional and international organizations, NGOs, the private sector (including representatives from unions and employers' associations), public and governmental representatives and think tanks.

The aim of the conferences is to ensure African ownership to the process and to facilitate a solid and practical foundation for the inputs to the Africa Commission's work and recommendations. The one-day conferences are divided between plenary sessions and smaller working groups. Initially, all participants will come together with the

hosting Commissioners, who will open the conference and act as moderators during the day. Invited key note speakers will identify some of the key challenges.

Participants will subsequently form a number of working groups, which will discuss the issues at hand within chosen sub-themes. The result of the working groups' discussions should be concrete recommendations, which will be presented in plenary at the end of the conference.

The outcome of the conferences, including the recommendations from the various working groups will feed into a consolidated conference paper that will form the basis for the Commission's further deliberations.

The reports from the thematic conferences can be found on www.africacommission.um.dk.

Workshops between the second and third meeting

At the second meeting of the Commission, it is the intention to focus on a set of draft recommendations within each of the focus areas. The second meeting will be followed by a series of four workshops, most of them in Africa. Here approximately 10-15 experts will have the opportunity to discuss concrete inputs for the final report.

Outcome of the Commission's work

In its final report, the Commission will present a new look at how development cooperation, including aid and other relevant policies, can support Africa's own efforts to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow, including the recognition of Africa's diversity. The aim is to propose a strategy on how to increase the effectiveness of international development assistance, especially with regard to youth and employment.

In drawing up its conclusions, the Commission will build on recent analyses of development assistance to Africa, assessments of the development framework and principles for its implementation (Paris Declaration, EU Code of Conduct etc.) as well as on a continued dialogue with high-level African and international experts.

Working towards the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the African EU strategic partnership is an underlying goal of the work of the Commission.

In addition to seeking to contribute to a more effective international development cooperation with Africa, the conclusions will contribute to the framework for Danish development cooperation with Africa in the years to come.

