

Overseas Development Institute
News Release

What has Tony Blair done for international development?

9 May, 2007

For immediate release

As UK Prime Minister Tony Blair prepares his farewells and heads towards a final G8 at Heiligendamm, Germany (6-8 June), what will be his legacy on international development?

Real progress has been made on debt relief and aid to Africa, but on the other BIG issues, climate change and trade, so far there is little indication of agreement among G8 leaders.

Simon Maxwell, ODI Director, says: 'Blair's own G8, at Gleneagles, marked a high point in the international commitment to Africa, and was the result of a sustained campaign by the UK Prime Minister and his Government. Tony Blair has been right to keep pressing Africa's case in the international arena. There is a legacy – of vision, of will, and of UK action.'

To find out more about the pressing issues and to talk to experts who have been working on the key themes – aid and debt, conflict, health and climate change – check out new resources produced by the ODI (Overseas Development Institute), the UK's leading independent think tank on international development.

New ODI blogs

Africa: ['Is Tony Blair's legacy on Africa at Risk?'](#) by Simon Maxwell, ODI Director: *'With trade talks failing and aid volume way below target, is Tony Blair's legacy at risk? The G8 meeting in Heiligendamm, Germany, in June, provides a last opportunity to persuade the most powerful leaders in the world to deliver. Angela Merkel will need to show some muscle.'*

Aid: ['A more careful approach to scaling up aid is called for'](#) by Paolo de Renzio: *'Just last week Kofi Annan, in his new role as chairman of the Africa Progress Panel, called on G8 leaders to deliver on the promises for increased aid to Africa... Yet, how and when scaling up happens is likely to be as important as how much additional aid is actually given.'*

Climate Change: ['Millennium Development Goals, agriculture and climate](#)

[change](#) by Martin Prowse: *'With July 7th the mid-point of the Millennium Development Goals, how do the physical impacts of climate change affect the prospects for achieving the first goal, to halve world poverty?'*

Health: 'Warning: Politics with a small 'p' can seriously harm your MDGs' by Kent Buse: *'As Health Ministers meet at the 60th World Health Assembly on May 14th, they are poised to make various commitments to international health which will be both well intended and well-informed. Yet progress toward the health MDGs is off track and many recent initiatives are failing to improve service delivery.'*

Conflict: ['A call for regulation in humanitarian action and a "high level panel"'](#) by Maurice Herson: *'At yesterday's meeting at ODI, there surfaced some new perspectives on an old dilemma about managing the quality of humanitarian action.'*

Parliaments and political culture: ['Regime change by stealth?'](#) by Alan Hudson: *'Speaking last week at a meeting organised by ODI and the Africa All-Party Parliamentary Group, the Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn talked about two things. First, the contribution which improved governance, support to democratic politics and 'politics that work' can make to poverty reduction. And second, DFID's support to parliaments in developing countries.'*

New ODI Podcast:

[Africa after the Africa Commission: What priorities for the German G8?](#) A high-level policy Forum was held on May 2nd in London to review the lessons of the Africa Commission set up by Tony Blair in 2004, and to take concrete proposals forward to this year's G8 summit. This 10 minute podcast summarises some of the main themes in the event and asks attendees their opinions on priorities for the G8 relating to Africa.

[New G8 Opinions](#) - short, punchy articles offering recommendations to the G8.

(ENDS)

Notes for Editors

1. Simon Maxwell, Paolo de Renzio, Martin Prowse, Kent Buse, Maurice Herson, Alan Hudson and other ODI researchers with a range of specialisms are available for interview, comment or background briefings. Please contact Anna Tublin, ODI Media and Events Officer (tel: +44 (0)20 7922 0419; a.tublin@odi.org.uk) or Kirsty Cockburn, ODI Head of Communications (tel: +44 (0)20 7922 0423; k.cockburn@odi.org.uk).
2. Further materials from the high-level policy forum, 'Africa after the Africa Commission: What priorities for the German G8?' held in London on 2 May are available on the [ODI website](#), including speakers' Powerpoint presentations, working group reports, background documentation and more.
3. ODI is Britain's leading independent think-tank on international development and humanitarian issues. Its mission is to inspire and inform policy and practice which lead to the reduction of poverty, the alleviation of suffering and the achievement of sustainable livelihoods in developing countries. Locking together high-quality applied research, practical policy advice and policy-focused dissemination and debate, ODI works with partners in the public and private sectors, in both developing and developed countries. Further details can be found on the ODI

website (www.odi.org.uk).

Overseas Development Institute

111 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JD

Tel: +44 (0)20 7922 0300 | Fax: +44 (0)20 7922 0399 | E-mail: media@odi.org.uk

Registered charity no. 228248