



## **African Aspirations**

Report of an initial consultation  
with African research and non-state organisations  
on the work of the Commission for Africa

August 2004



**The Commission for Africa**

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.

<http://www.commissionforafrica.org>

**Overseas Development Institute**

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. It does this by locking together high-quality applied research, practical policy advice, and policy-focused dissemination and debate. It works with partners in the public and private sectors, in both developing and developed countries.

<http://www.odi.org.uk>

*This consultation was organised under the direction of ODI's Director Simon Maxwell by Elizabeth Cromwell, Fiona Drysdale and David Sunderland. Copies of this report and other materials related to the initial consultation are located at <http://www.odi.org.uk/AfricaConsultation/>*

## SUMMARY

*Let the Commission focus not on new ideas but on adding value to NEPAD's existing efforts to end poverty in Africa. How? By putting together a "road map" for rich nations to contribute to Africa's own efforts, implementable through the G8 Action Plans. This must include a commitment by rich nations to tackle difficult issues – specifically, aid performance, cultural imperialism, debt, intellectual property protection, Northern subsidies and trade.*

*Don't let the Commission be just another talking shop: it must have a sustainable legacy beyond 2005:*

- *Let the many existing initiatives and networks within Africa and the diaspora that have relevant contributions to make to the Commission's work be fully involved;*
- *Pay attention to 'process' issues: working relationships with NEPAD; listening to Africans; and – very importantly - practical targets to track implementation by rich nations and by NEPAD after 2005;*
- *Collect practical examples of what's already in place, personal success stories, and positive cultural experiences – the news from Africa is not all bad;*
- *"Changing minds" is needed as much as "money changing hands", but don't let the Commission duck issues of how it can contribute to resource mobilisation on behalf of Africa.*

*Clear priorities emerged between and within the Commission's theme areas:*

- *Governance and institutions: peace and security; incentives and responsibilities;*
- *Growth and resources: North-South relations; management of natural resources; public-private partnerships;*
- *Empowerment and culture: education.*

## INTRODUCTION

The Commission for Africa was set up in February 2004 with five objectives:

- i. 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;
- ii. To support the best of existing work on Africa, in particular the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and the African Union, and help ensure this work achieves its goals;
- iii. To help deliver implementation of existing international commitments towards Africa;
- iv. To offer a fresh and positive perspective for Africa and its diverse culture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which challenges unfair perceptions and helps deliver changes; and
- v. To understand and help fulfil African aspirations for the future by listening to Africans.

The Commission is working on the assumption that achieving change is not only or even mainly dependent on increasing development assistance and other financial flows to Africa (although the recent commitment by Commissioner Brown to increasing the UK aid budget to 0.47% of Gross National Income over the next 3 years, with a large proportion of the increase going to Africa, is a welcome sign of Britain's commitment to its long-term commitment to the continent).

Rather the focus of the Commission is on achieving change through mobilising political effort throughout Africa and internationally, to implement policies that will make a real difference. In this respect, the Commission is fortunate in having all seventeen Commissioners acting in their personal capacity who have a track record of outstanding commitment to achieving real change in the continent.

The Commission wants to generate new ideas and action, and to offer a fresh and positive perspective on Africa, but within the context of complementing existing efforts in the continent. NEPAD and the African Union have gone a long way towards identifying what needs to be done and putting systems in place to achieve it.

The Commission can complement these efforts by listening to African voices from all corners of the continent and parts of society about how change can be delivered.

The initial consultation for African research and non-state organisations described in the report is part of a series of organised consultations which includes public meetings and other events in the G8 countries and in Africa, and a series of on-line discussions (for more on the Commission's consultation process go to [http://213.225.140.43/getting\\_involved/GettingInvolved.htm](http://213.225.140.43/getting_involved/GettingInvolved.htm)).

Just over 65 African research and non-state organisations participated in this initial consultation, which ran during July 2004 and was a pre-cursor to an organised on-line discussion which will run during August 2004 and a series of public meetings in Africa which will run later in 2004. Annex 1 provides a full list of these organisations. In total over 300 organisations indicated their interest in participating in the later stages of the consultation process.

## **COMMISSION FOR AFRICA PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

During July 2004, the Commission for Africa published a Programme on Policy and Possible Implications for Action (<http://213.225.140.43/commission/workplan/workplan.htm>) which sets out its conception of Africa's development conundrum.

Based on this, the Commission has identified a possible programme of action focussing on the areas given in Box 1. Recommendations would be targeted at Governments, business and civil society, in Africa and outside.

**Box 1: Commission for Africa Theme Areas****Growth and Resources**

- The economy: growth and investment
- Natural resources/agriculture
- The economy: trade

**Empowerment and culture**

- Investing in people, including service delivery
- Participation
- Culture

**Governance and institutions**

- Political governance
- Economic governance
- Peace and security

Source: Commission for Africa Work Programme on Policy and Possible Implications for Action, July 2004.

## FEEDBACK FROM AFRICAN RESEARCH AND NON-STATE ORGANISATIONS

*“I will do anything in my power to support an initiative that confronts African stereotypes”*

but

*“La Commission représentera une valeur ajoutée vis-à-vis des autres initiatives si seulement elle n'enforce pas des portes ouvertes autrement dit si elle sort des sentiers battus<sup>1</sup>”*

The initial consultation asked African research and non-state organisations two questions:

1. What do you think of the objectives of the Commission for Africa?
2. What do you think of the Commission's July 2004 policy work programme?

Within this, participants were asked how they think the Commission for Africa can best add value to other initiatives already underway, including those by NEPAD, the AU, the ECA, the rest of the UN (especially the summit on the Millennium Development Goals planned for September 2005) and the G8. Is it the focus on new ideas? On developed country action? On some kind of bargain between Africa and developed countries? The answers to these questions are important, because they shape the work programme. For example, if the real priority were the 'bargain', then the work programme would need to focus on the obligations of both sides and on the accountability of the two parties to each other.

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<sup>1</sup> *“The Commission will only add value if it opens doors that other initiatives have not already looked through”*

The focus under the second question was on whether the current policy work programme is a good way to structure the work, i.e. the debate was not about detailed substance at this point (although in practice individual replies were brimming with imaginative ideas about practical ways forward!). Participants were asked whether these are the right topics? What would it be useful to change or add?

Participants were also invited to provide information about any events or initiatives they are involved in that they think the Commission for Africa should know about. These are listed in Annex 2.

Three widely held concerns with the concept and purpose of the Commission for Africa emerged from the consultation – all to do with how it can achieve practical action for combating poverty.

1. ***“Don’t lose sight of addressing poverty, hunger and disease”***

Many participants asked that, as it gets down to detailed work over the coming months, the Commission must never lose sight of its overall goal of addressing poverty, hunger and disease. As a number of participants pointed out, poverty reduction did not make it explicitly into the Commission’s five objectives.

2. ***“Results on the ground”***

Second, the Commission must focus on work that will contribute to results on the ground and not just new analysis: let it be true, as Commissioner Geldof promises, that the Commission will be more than just a talking shop. Please let the Commission keep at the forefront of all its work the need to make a real difference to the majority of ‘ordinary’ Africans who are poor and often excluded from formal political and policy processes.

3. ***“Fresh perspective on the ‘how’ not the ‘why’”***

Third, let the Commission’s “fresh perspective” focus on constraints to implementation: the ‘how’ not the ‘why’ development action in Africa isn’t working. Time and again participants referred to technically sound plans, strategies and commitments for change across any number of sectors that are remaining just that: commitments not action.

Many participants explicitly endorsed the concept and objectives of the Commission for Africa, but all feel that there are real dangers the Commission won’t achieve its laudable aims unless it addresses these concerns.

## **Commission for Africa Objectives**

*“The objectives do not necessarily focus well on the most useful or critical areas for the Commission’s work”*

Participants clearly see the Commission for Africa as an important opportunity but the objectives it has specified for itself are necessary but not sufficient. A clear consensus on priorities emerged.

*“Focus on programmes created by Africans for Africans”*

**Objective II** (supporting the best of existing work on Africa) was participants’ top priority, particularly adding value and generating commitment to NEPAD. Although recognising that NEPAD has its share of problems and mistakes, participants emphasised that its programmes and plans have been generated through an extensive consultation process across the continent, and its peer review process offers an African-owned mechanism for quality control and monitoring implementation. More specifically, and highly relevant to **Objective V** (listening to Africans), participants made a plea for maximum African involvement in the Commission – not just as “*listeners*” and being “*invited to comment at the last hour for the sake of showing that we have been consulted*”. Participants asked that the diaspora not be forgotten, many of whom have valuable skills and the kind of perspective on Africa’s problems that comes from being able to stand back a little.

*“Do not let the idea of money changing hands overshadow the idea of changing minds”*

Participants did not shy away from the problems surrounding effective resource use in Africa, and the need to change the mind-sets of governments in Africa and the rich nations. But many pointed out that – notwithstanding these problems – lack of finance and capacity are bigger constraints to African development than lack of new ideas. So there was a large number of participants pushing the Commission for Africa to see how it can help mobilise resources for the work that needs to be done in Africa.

*“Africans would be more interested in getting a hint on what the continent will be like after the Commission has done its activities”*

Participants’ next priority was **Objective I** (generating new ideas and action), which struck a negative chord with many. First is the concern that new ideas are not the main need in Africa (and “*coming from an external organisation can be threatening*”). “*There are no magic bullets for Africa and the Commission should not pretend that all that is required is something no-one has thought of previously*”. Participants want to see more emphasis on practical results from the Commission: using the best existing ideas to “*set a vision for what Africa will look like after the Commission has finished and plans to achieve this by sector*” that will have an impact on common people. The lack of a clearly identified target group for the Commission’s work was mentioned. It was suggested that the focus should be on the role of rich nations in adding value to existing initiatives: a rich nations’ “*road map*” for Africa was a common theme, as distinct from a second NEPAD. There were many practical suggestions on elements of a work programme to achieve this – these are outlined below.

Second is the concern that the end of 2005 will in practice be the end of endeavour sponsored by the Commission. There was a plea to spell out a list of measurable targets around which the Commission can advocate, with the focus being on rich nation commitment – for example, through existing G8 action plans. Can there be arrangements beyond 2005 for monitoring

implementation of the Commission's vision by the rich nations and by NEPAD countries?

*"Africa' is such a ridiculous concept as there are many diverse people here and there never can be one solution or one size fits all!"*

There will be a fine line to tread in implementing Objective I between identifying common priorities for achieving development in Africa and producing a "vision in a straight-jacket" that fails to recognise the continent's diversity. One valuable contribution the Commission could make, mentioned by a number of participants, is to gather and publicise **practical examples** of what is already in place, personal success stories, and positive cultural aspects. So many inspiring examples of individual and group efforts to change their own small corners of Africa for the better emerged from participants' responses. Can't we do more to change the mindset of people in rich nations that Africa is a failed continent?

*"The EU withdrew from grass-roots social protection .... and has carpeted the corridors of the Ministry of Finance"*

In relation to **Objective III** (delivering implementation of existing international commitments), participants minced no words in calling for the Commission to go beyond this and deliver a cold, hard look at the role of rich nations in maintaining Africa's poverty. This needs to cover the whole gamut of issues: from aid performance to trade policies, including cultural imperialism in its many manifestations, debt, intellectual property protection and Northern subsidies. It should focus on actions rich nations can take to change the current state of affairs and add value to existing initiatives - for example through existing G8 action plans. But there is real doubt about rich nations' willingness to commit: a "bargain" between Africa and the rich nations is only relevant if that latter *"are willing to stick to their side"*.

## **Commission for Africa Policy Work Plan** (July 2004 version)

*"The concern is how to move from a comprehensive list of issues to meaningful change for poor people in Africa"*

Whilst there was a generally positive response to the three theme areas (growth and resources; empowerment and culture; governance and institutions), a number of participants commented that the current version of the work plan is over-focussed on delivering Objective IV (offering a fresh and positive perspective for Africa) to the detriment of addressing the Commission's other objectives effectively. Where are the specifics on working with NEPAD; on delivering implementation of international commitments; and on listening to Africans? Participants detailed a wealth of networking and project activities which the Commission can tap into.

Participants pointed out a number of issues, embedded in these "process" questions, the decisions made about which will make the difference between a chance of success for the Commission and real risk of failure. A selection are given in Box 2.

**Box 2: 'Embedded' issues: the missing link****Adding value to NEPAD – what's best?**

Long-term embedded technical support to NEPAD or strengthen sub-regional systems (ECOWAS, SADC, IGAD, etc)?

Working with a stable of committed governments or helping non-lead countries?

Pilot projects or known solutions?

**Delivering implementation of international commitments**

Promote bargaining between Africa and rich nations or African commitment to NEPAD?

New proposals for the EU presidency (eg on measures to improve civil society participation in EU aid) or links to existing G8 action plans?

**Listening to Africans**

Consult with ordinary people or work with apex organisations?

Focus on the excluded (women, youth, disabled, poor) or involve experts?

Use ICTs or local institutions?

Now or forever – how can the Commission promote consultation and participation after 2005?

In terms of the existing theme areas, participants gave **governance and institutions** top priority, followed by **growth and resources**, and **empowerment and culture** came a close third. Within each theme, there was remarkable unanimity on priority areas; these are outlined below. Although not the purpose of this initial consultation, many imaginative suggestions were made on how to tackle specific issues within these priority areas; these will be passed onto the Commission.

***Governance and institutions***

Two priority areas were identified:

- peace and security
- responsibilities and incentives

*“Africans are weary of wars”*

This participant spoke for the many who gave top priority to the need to address **peace and security** on the continent, including the role of rich nations and multi-nationals.

*“There is enough capacity in Africa to make the continent a place for all. Africa must recognise and reward African capacity – but how?”*

Judging by the level of concern from participants, exploring ways of achieving more equitable **responsibilities and incentives** in Africa must be a defining feature of the Commission's work. There is great concern about the limitations imposed on Africa's development by some governments who do not share the agenda, and by weaknesses in capacity, indiscipline and poor standards of decision-making. It is not acceptable for rich nations to 'pick off' a few compliant governments, leaving the majority of the continents' population at the mercy of what has been termed 'predatory states'.

### ***Growth and resources***

Three priority areas were identified:

- North-South relations
- Management of natural resources
- Public-private partnerships

#### *“Real partnership between North and South”*

Many participants emphasised the need to focus on how to deal with the negative impact of rich nation policies in the areas of trade, debt, agricultural subsidies, intellectual property protection, and cultural imperialism.

It is noteworthy that hardly any participants prioritised agriculture, but many singled out **management of natural resources** more generally, and particularly the need to make existing science and technology information on technologies that work more available.

A similar number emphasised the need to explore how **public-private partnerships** can better be promoted, including through a more encouraging regulatory environment.

### ***Empowerment and culture***

A single priority area emerged:

- Education

Many participants drew attention to the vital contribution education makes to the development of individuals and nations, with benefits starting immediately but spreading far into the future. For example, African ownership of development initiatives like the Commission could be greatly enhanced by focussing on education to bridge the gap between rich and poor countries and foster gender equality and development.

## ANNEX 1: AFRICAN RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND THINK TANKS PARTICIPATING IN INITIAL CONSULTATION

### Type of work of organisations by category

(for 33 organisations providing this information: some organisations selected more than one category)

<u>%</u>	<u>Category</u>
37.5	Capacity building and training
34.4	Agriculture
25.0	Environment
25.0	Advocacy
21.9	Education
21.9	Economics, trade, and tourism
15.6	Peace and security

### Type of organisation

(for 37 organisations providing this information)

<u>%</u>	<u>Type</u>
62.2	Non-state (NGO, individual, private)
29.7	Research / academic
8.1	Government

### Geographical focus of organisation

(for 36 organisations providing this information)

<u>%</u>	<u>Geographical focus</u>
66.7	National
25.0	International
8.3	Regional

### Full list of participating organisations

<u>ORGANISATION</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>
ECAS	Belgium
Botswana Technology Centre	Botswana
Lifeline Botswana	Botswana
LANNAYA Consult Sarl	Burkina Faso
CODECI	Burundi
Association Camerounaise des Femmes Juristes	Cameroon
Save our Wildlife (SOW) and Network of Community Forestry	Cameroon
CARE – Chad	Chad
Projet pour le Renforcement Institutionnel et Technique du Système Statistique National (CNSEE-MPATE)	Congo
ASOP (Action Sociale et d'Organisation Paysanne)	Congo DR
Centre d'Accompagnement des Autochtones Pygmées et Minoritaires Vulnérables (CAMV)	Congo DR
National Center for Research in Natural Sciences, CRSN Lwiro	Congo DR
ACBF-TAPNET-EPANET	Continental
NEPAD	Continental

Tous contre la pauvreté	Côte d'Ivoire
Mansoura University	Egypt
CDD Ghana	Ghana
ISODEC	Ghana
Participatory Development Associates	Ghana
University of Development Studies (UDS), Tamale	Ghana
Cellule d'Etude de Politique Economique (Consultant)	Guinea
Brothers of St Joseph HIV AIDS Project	Kenya
ICRISAT	Kenya
Institute of Economic Affairs	Kenya
Kamurugu Agricultural Development Project	Kenya
Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI)	Kenya
Lakipia Wildlife Forum	Kenya
SACRED Africa	Kenya
University of Nairobi	Kenya
Capacity Development Consultancies (CADECO)	Malawi
Southern African Institute for Economic Research	Malawi
Organisation for Women's development in Mauritania	Mauritania
Joint Consultative Committee (JCC)	Namibia
NANGOF (Namibia Non-Governmental Forum) (Consultant agronomist)	Namibia
ActionAid International Nigeria	Nigeria
African Citizens Development Foundation	Nigeria
Alliance Rights Nigeria	Nigeria
Busho Serenity Foundation	Nigeria
The Conservators	Nigeria
University of Ado-Ekiti	Nigeria
YIELD	Nigeria
CGIAR	Regional - East and Southern Africa
Somlink	Somalia
Institute for Security Studies (ISS)	South Africa
Institute of Natural Resources	South Africa
International Water Management Institute	South Africa
National Peace Accord Trust	South Africa
SchoolNet Africa	South Africa
South African Institute of International Affairs	South Africa
University of KwaZulu-Natal	South Africa
University of Stellenbosch	South Africa
ACORD	Tanzania
MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MSTCDC)	Tanzania
Development Research & Training	Uganda
Marie Stopes Uganda	Uganda
Aid Workers Network	UK
Copperbelt University	Zambia
Mano Consultancy	Zambia
Private Sector Development Association (Rural Institutional Development Consultant) (Consultant)	Zambia
African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT)	Zimbabwe
Biodiversity Foundation for Africa	Zimbabwe

## ANNEX 2: AFRICAN EVENTS & INITIATIVES

Organisations were told that “it would be helpful [to] provide information about any events or initiatives you yourselves are involved in that you think the Commission should know about.”

Specific replies are collated below.

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### Capacity Development Consultancies (CADECO) Chiku Malunga, [zoe@clcom.net](mailto:zoe@clcom.net) Malawi

We have been involved in development practice for the past 10 years as researchers, managers and consultants. During this time we have been seriously reflecting on the question, “**How can the development process in Africa be accelerated?**” Our 10 years of reflection has led us to the conviction that empowerment will happen when:

- People use their culture as a tool for development
- People take responsibility for their own development at the individual, family, organizational, community, national and continental levels. People must be helped to see how their conscious or unconscious negligence of responsibility has created their current undesired situations. They should also be shown why it is almost impossible to realize new visions as long as the issue of responsibility is not resolved.

From the above conclusions and as our effort to contribute to the acceleration of the development process in Africa, we have written 3 books that we strongly believe would be of interest to the Commission. These books are:

1. *Understanding Organizational Sustainability through African Proverbs*, published by PACT publications in Washington D.C USA
2. *Understanding Organization Development through African Proverbs* by the same publisher (to be published in November 2004)
3. *Confronting Our Shadows: New Thoughts on People Empowerment* (to be published in 2005)

### Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) Dr Baffour Agyeman-Duah, [cdd@ghana.com](mailto:cdd@ghana.com)

- CDD has been involved in various programs and projects in the following fields: involving
  - Research studies into governance, market reforms and corruption
  - Policy and institutional reforms
  - Monitoring, observation, and evaluation
  - Training and capacity building
  - Consultation with stakeholders
  - Forums to increase awareness and debate on topical areas
- CDD has come up with various recommendations and programmes of action in this area of political and economic development in Africa through our participation in networking on the continent, for instance the Afro barometer research.
- CDD is involved in the NEPAD APRM self-assessment on the aspect of Good Governance and Democracy of the Kuffour Administration of Ghana Government. The Center can bring to bear experiences and lessons learnt from this assessment to the good of the Commission.

- CDD can thus provide a wealth of information already gathered, and provide assistance in work to be done by the Commission

## National Youth Organisation

A.Ashionoh, [youthkenya@yahoo.com](mailto:youthkenya@yahoo.com)

Kenya

*announcing*

**The first African International Youth Summer Camp for young activists  
22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2004**

**at the Kenya Technical Teachers Training College Nairobi, Kenya**

*part of the YOUNG PEOPLE change the world! programme  
organised by the National Youth Organisation, Kenya*

**Young people aged 13 to 35**, and groups of young people from youth organisations and also **youth leaders aged 35 upwards and youth professionals** are invited to join us at our summer camp in August 2004. This will give you the opportunity to meet with other young people from around the world to discuss issues, share ideas, see development in practice, enhance your practical skills, develop collaborations and make contacts that will continue beyond the Summer camp.

The Summer camp is being organised by young people from the National Youth Organisation of Kenya, and has the support and good wishes of the new Government of Kenya.

### Venue

The main venue will be KTTT college Nairobi

Other venues include the Club sikiliza, the Pan Afric, Lake Bogoria Resort

The programme will consists of:

- **skill workshops** (fundraising, advocacy, communication, project planning, IT, etc.)
- **theme workshops and discussions.**
- **visits** to see selected local projects.
  - Visits to Nairobi national parks and other tourist attractions
  - Awards ceremony at club sikiliza village market
  - There will be **fun events such** as a Gala Night.
  - Sports Challenge
  - Swimming at Village market
  - Cultural events at Village market
  - There will also be the opportunity to stay on for a further 3 weeks to work with a youth project. Those interested in this part of the programme will need to meet the costs of the extra stay, but these will be kept as low as possible by using host families, cheap hostels and hotels in town. Further details will be posted on the summer school website.

**Cost:** From Europe and America, \$260. From Africa, \$150. From the rest of the world, \$200. Cost includes airport pick up and full board and lodging for the duration of the Camp.

**To find out more:** Whether you would like to come on your own or as part of a group, if you are interested in attending the summer camp please contact Solomon Ligaga for further information and an application form by telephone on 00-254 7 2284 8475 or 00- 254 7 2276 2906 or 00-254 7 2163 9779 or by e-mail to [summercampkenya@yahoo.com](mailto:summercampkenya@yahoo.com) or [youthkenya@yahoo.com](mailto:youthkenya@yahoo.com) . To find our more, you can also visit the YOUNG PEOPLE change the world! website [www.younginfluencers.com](http://www.younginfluencers.com).

## **The Conservators**

**Oyebisi Babatunde Oluseyi, [theconservators@consultant.com](mailto:theconservators@consultant.com)**

**Nigeria**

It is important to note that I run an adult education initiative as part of my effort at helping to achieve the millennium development goal 3 (Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women) The initiative involves teaching adults mostly women and girl who come to classes in the evenings after their daily routine. They are taught how to read and write and also act as problem solving participants on reproductive health, parenting education and Agricultural development. Issues. They have also been helping in the area of collating folk tales from African culture helping us preserve our cultural heritage.

The initiative has been on for 3 years now with funding from my parents and I and also volunteers involvement from youths in the community. It has its impact in the areas of:

Child nutrition improvement

Women's economic empowerment

More schooling opportunities for girls

Women having skills and opportunities.

[www.theconservators.com](http://www.theconservators.com) (soon to come up)

I am presently involved in a parenting education initiative with the Parents Forum in Massachusetts, the aim of this initiative is to teach parents on good parenting education skills, I was at the just concluded world assembly in Botswana where I hosted a workshop on this initiative with the founder of Parents forum and other collaborators titled Family literacy and parenting education ([www.civicusassembly.org](http://www.civicusassembly.org)) I will be hosting another workshop on parenting education with the title The root of Education grows in the home a look at parenting education through folk tales coming up in south Africa:( [www.ee4.org/programme](http://www.ee4.org/programme))

Also I am presently working on an initiative with the Institute for Cuban studies, University of Miami an initiative, which bothers on good governance in relation to Cuba and Nigeria. Based on the ties between Cuba and Nigeria it is pertinent at this point to relate the Cuba transition project to the Nigerian situation. Our first discussion in this regard has been fixed tentatively for September 26-30,2004. Participants at this discussion have been working closely on information's on the Cuba transition project website and will all be coming up with their concerns as it bothers on Nigeria.

My involvement is also in the African citizens forum an initiative of the African Citizens Development forum, which aim at bringing African citizens together through a process of dialogue in the setting of a forum to combat our failings in Africa and fashion solutions. ([www.acdf-assefad.org](http://www.acdf-assefad.org)). The initiative aims to reverse the conditions of Africa's grim picture and a distress economy. I have been working on youth involvement in my community and at present there is a youth forum comprising of 30 active members meeting every Sunday evening to discuss issues in this regard where I preside as the state coordinator.

## **Institute for Security Studies (ISS)**

**Jakkie Cilliers, [jkc@iss.co.za](mailto:jkc@iss.co.za)**

**South Africa**

Recently the Institute organized a meeting of 7 African partner think tanks (on 28 June) that collectively constitute the African Human Security Initiative (AHSI) where it was recommended that the Commission for Africa should widely consult with African non-governmental organisations for ideas on how to deal with an array of the continent's challenges. The following organisations attended the meeting and are part of AHSI:

\* African Security Dialogue and Research - Ghana

- \* African Peace Forum - Kenya
- \* Human Rights Trust of Southern Africa - Zimbabwe
- \* Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa - Senegal
- \* Institute for Security Studies ? South Africa
- \* South African Institute for International Affairs ?  
SouthAfrica
- \* West Africa Network for Peace - Ghana

**Participatory Development Associates (PDA)**  
**Tony Dogbe, [pda@africaonline.com.gh](mailto:pda@africaonline.com.gh)**  
**Ghana**

**Events/Initiative PDA is involved in**

- 1) GNETPAD -: Ghana Network of Participatory Development. PDA is a founding member of this organisation which is a network of professionals in development work
- 2) DFID Civil Society Strengthening Fund-: This fund is to help increase capacity of Civil Society in policy formulation and decision-making regarding forestry . PDA is involved in the management of the fund.
- 3) DFID Civil Society Rights and Voice Fund -: The fund, which is to come into effect in September, is for capacity building of civil society to lobby and negotiate for their rights and benefits as citizens.

**Our particular areas of competence are:**

- ◆ Facilitation, using participatory learning and action approaches to working with communities and organizations
- ◆ Facilitation/moderation of workshops and meetings
- ◆ Training, using participatory learning methodologies
- ◆ Training facilitators and managers of change processes in organisations and communities
- ◆ Qualitative research, using participatory rapid appraisal (PRA/PLA) approaches among others
- ◆ Organisation development - in particular accompanying NGOs and other civil society organisations
- ◆ Managing projects in our areas of work shown below

**SAIIA (The South African Institute of International Affairs)**  
**Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, [sidiropoulouse@saiia.wits.ac.uk](mailto:sidiropoulouse@saiia.wits.ac.uk)**  
**South Africa**

SAIIA is running a number of projects that would be of value to the Commission.

1. ***Nepad and governance project*** – This aims to help set NEPAD priorities by focused examination of African best practice in key reform areas such as trade, privatisation, agriculture, education, and infrastructural development. The monthly *eAfrica: Journal of Governance and Innovation*, focuses on a wide range of development and political challenges, examining new ideas and shortcomings in African politics and economic development. One of the issues has focused on Agriculture, another on the APRM, constitutionalism and the diaspora. These are available on the SAIIA website. The project has also conducted a number of workshops on the continent to promote SAIIA's research findings and galvanise civil society support for reform. These workshops focus primarily on engaging with civil society in countries that are preparing to be peer-reviewed in terms of the APRM. SAIIA participated in the drafting of the peer review questionnaire.
2. ***Development through trade project*** – This project has been providing policy input into the trade strategy development processes of the South and Southern African

governments. The project is also looking at the processes of economic integration on the continent. Work has been done on Africa's negotiating position after Cancun.

3. **Business in Africa project** – This project looks at the experience of South African businesses in Africa, using them as a case study to develop policy recommendations on creating a sustainable business environment on the continent. Among the areas it focuses on is the role that the private sector, both domestic and foreign, is or can play in Africa's development and the goals of Nepad. A preliminary report and the first country study on Mozambique are available on the SAIIA website.
4. **Global and African Best Practice project** – This examines a number of case studies from around the world including Africa and aims to draw lessons for success or 'best practice'. Some of the cases studies include Senegal and Uganda on their HIV/Aids policies; Mozambique and Ghana on their successful engagement with the external community; Israel and India on agriculture; Singapore and Botswana on public sector governance; and South Korea on skills and education. The project looks at the role that leadership, political and social infrastructure, the external environment, and the macro-economic environment, play in determining success.

More information on our various activities can be found on [www.saiia.org.za](http://www.saiia.org.za)

## **YIELD**

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### **Nigeria**

We have been carrying out advocacy and enlighten campaigns towards the effective use of ICTs for e-democracy, economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods. The role of ICTs in education has been part of our task as well. We are sensitizing the whole segment of the population on the World Summits on the Information Society, and how to better position themselves for the challenges posed by ICTs, how to bridge this digital gap and enhance "Southern participation". We held a series of nationwide consultations in three main cities in Nigeria between October and November 2003 tagged "WSIS Youth Nigeria Policy Train" to harp on these issues. Visit the website at: [www.ycdo.net/policy/wsis-nigeria](http://www.ycdo.net/policy/wsis-nigeria).

We were recently chosen by the World Bank Group/British Council(youth Connect) to participate in the "Debate To Action" programme between September 6, 2004 to 2005. The aim of the project is to sensitize the populace on the MDGs and how to accelerate development using these vehicles. Please visit the website at: [www.worldbank.org/depweb/english/debate.htm](http://www.worldbank.org/depweb/english/debate.htm)