

Dear Colleague

You recently expressed interest to us in participating in an on-line discussion for African research and non-state organisations about the work of the Commission for Africa.

I am delighted to tell you that this discussion will take place between **Monday 16 August and Friday 10 September 2004**. Conclusions will be reported direct to the Commission for Africa in early September, in time for the second meeting of Commissioners, and publicised on the website.

It's the chance to register your views and share your practical experience of what can make a real difference to African development.

Please register now by visiting <http://www.odi.org.uk/africaconsultation/register.html>. For further details on the e-discussion please go to <http://www.odi.org.uk/africaconsultation/ediscussion.html>.

The discussion will debate in turn the five elements of the programme for action proposed by the Commission for Africa, closing with a sixth but very important debate about effective implementation:

- Peace and security (16 – 18 August)
- Improving governance and building effective states (19 – 23 August)
- Creating opportunities for growth (24 – 26 August)
- Human development, inclusion and culture (27 – 31 August)
- Financing for development (1 – 3 September)
- Making a real difference: effective implementation (6 – 10 September)

The discussion will focus on two questions that are of central concern to the Commission for Africa:

- Is the focus right in the proposed programme for action? Does it reflect the key priorities for Africa? Are there important elements missing?
- What *practical* actions could make the biggest difference in the different programme areas, both immediately and over the longer term?

The discussion will broadly follow the dates indicated above, but contributions outside these dates can be accepted and will be circulated.

We regret that for technical reasons the consultation will principally be in English, although inputs in French and Portuguese are welcome. French and Portuguese translations of the final conclusions will also be available.

Please read the **Africa Consultation guidance notes** attached or view online at <http://www.odi.org.uk/africaconsultation/guidance.html> for further information on the Commission for Africa's proposed programme for action and how the on-line discussion will work. Go to <http://www.odi.org.uk/AfricaConsultation> for links to information on the work of the Commission for Africa and a report of an initial Africa consultation held during July.

More than 300 African research and non-state organisations from different sectors all over the continent will be involved. The Overseas Development Institute will be technical moderator, responsible for posting periodic summaries of your discussions.

We look forward to welcoming you to this important debate!

If you experience any technical difficulties please contact f.drysdale@odi.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Simon Maxwell
ODI Director