

# **JOINING UP AFRICA**

**Fulfilling Potential**

**3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
One Whitehall Place  
Westminster  
London, SW1A 2HD**

## Summary

The spread, pace and ambition of **regional integration in Africa is accelerating**. Led by the African Union Commission (AUC), regional economic communities (RECs), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), governments, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other African institutions, with significant support from the World Bank, the European Commission and other donors, **Africa's economies are joining up, and regional programmes are helping to lock in peace, stability and growth**.

The **overarching purpose** of the conference is to look at how African institutions, donors, investors, business and other stakeholders can work together more effectively to maintain momentum towards greater regional integration in Africa.

The conference will be attended by **high level representatives** from government, RECs, pan-African institutions, donors, investors, business and academia.

## Overall Aims of the Conference

The purpose of the conference is to:

- support and maintain political and donor momentum behind the African regional economic integration agenda in Africa
- to improve the way African institutions, including pan-African and regional organisations, and donors work together
- to enhance the role of business in regional economic integration, to maximise the impact of private sector investment in regional programmes

The conference has a particular focus on improved collaborative work amongst African institutions, donors, investors, business and others, and in particular the degree to which the **Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and Accra Agenda for Action** can and should be applied **regionally** – i.e. application of the principles of Ownership, Harmonisation, Alignment, Mutual Accountability and Managing for Results.

The **outcomes statement** from the conference will seek support for a statement from African institutions and donors that the Paris Declaration should be applied regionally, and indicate the process by which this will be taken forward.

The conference also has a focus on the role of **business** and the degree of effective engagement with business by donors and African institutions, and the opportunities for growth from private sector investment.

The conference will also seek to include the views and interests of other investors, including China.

The format of the conference overall is discussion, with some sessions having short presentations. The emphasis of the discussions will be on practical ideas and

experience. Each session will generate two – three key recommendations, which will be reflected in the outcomes statement, and be expanded subsequently in an **action plan**. This plan will seek to identify practical steps that can be taken to help to address or realise the issues and ideas raised.

## About the Partners

The conference has been organised jointly by:

- The Department for International Development
- The African Union Commission
- The African Development Bank
- The European Commission
- The World Bank
- The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, and
- UK Trade and Investment.

### **DFID**

DFID is the part of the UK government that manages Britain's aid to poor countries and works to get rid of extreme poverty. DFID works in 150 countries and have 2,600 staff, half of whom work abroad. DFID has headquarters in London and East Kilbride, near Glasgow, and 64 offices overseas. DFID's work is guided by two sets of targets: the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and the government's Public Service Agreement (PSA), which sets objectives and targets by which progress towards the MDGs is measured.

DFID work with governments of developing countries as well as charities, businesses and international bodies, including the World Bank, UN agencies and the European Commission.

### **African Union Commission (AUC)**

The African Union is an intergovernmental organisation consisting of 53 African states. Established in 2002, the AU is the successor to the Organisation of African Unity. The AU is a key African institution for the areas of promoting accelerated socio-economic integration and for strengthening unity and solidarity between African countries and peoples. The African Union Commission acts as the executive/administrative branch or secretariat of the African Union.

### **African Development Bank (AfDB)**

The AfDB Group's mission is to help reduce poverty, improve living conditions for Africans and mobilize resources for the continent's economic and social development. With this objective in mind, the institution aims at assisting African countries –

individually and collectively - in their efforts to achieve sustainable economic development and social progress.

Combating poverty is at the heart of the continent's efforts to attain sustainable economic growth. To this end, the Bank seeks to stimulate and mobilize internal and external resources to promote investments as well as provide its regional member countries with technical and financial assistance.

In accordance with its policy of decentralization aimed at taking its operations closer to its beneficiaries, the Bank has, over the past few years, established about 23 field and country offices across the continent.

## **World Bank**

The World Bank was established in 1944 and is owned by its member countries. It has more than 10,000 employees in more than 100 offices worldwide. Its mission is to fight poverty with passion and professionalism for lasting results and to help people help themselves and their environment by providing resources, sharing knowledge, building capacity and forging partnerships in the public and private sectors.

It is not a bank in the usual sense; it is made up of two institutions, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) which aims to reduce poverty in middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries, and the International Development Association (IDA) which focuses on the world's poorest countries. Their work is complemented by that of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Together, they provide low-interest loans, interest-free credits and grants to developing countries for a wide array of purposes that include investments in education, health, public administration, infrastructure, financial and private sector development, agriculture, and environmental and natural resource management.

## **European Commission**

The European Commission is the executive body of the European Union and represents and upholds the interests of Europe as a whole. The Commission's Directorate General Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States is responsible for the Commission's input to EU external relations with more than half of the countries of the world. It sets Commission development policy and federates European development policy across the globe.

Its mission is to help to reduce and ultimately eradicate poverty in developing countries through the promotion of sustainable development, democracy, peace and security. It initiates development policy and promotes a European approach to development across the EU members' states to influence international debate and work more effectively to combat poverty.

Other Commission departments working in development are Europe Aid which implements the EU's external aid programmes and DG Trade which helps countries expand their external trade through better access to the EU market.

## **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)**

ECA was established in 1958 as one of the UN's five regional commissions with a mandate to promote the economic and social development of its member States, foster intra-regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development. ECA's work programme focuses on achieving results by promoting Regional Integration in support of the African Union vision and priorities and by meeting Africa's special needs and emerging global challenges. Within these two areas of work, ECA focuses on

- Regional Integration, Trade and Infrastructure
- Meeting the MDGs with special emphasis on Poverty Reduction & Growth, Sustainable Development and Gender
- Promoting Good Governance and Popular Participation
- ICT, Science and Technology for Development
- Statistics and Statistical Development

## **Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA)**

The ICA was launched at the G8 Gleneagles Summit in 2005 and its role is to help improve the lives and economic well-being of Africa's people through encouraging, supporting and promoting increased investment in infrastructure in Africa, from both public and private sources. The ICA acts as a catalyst – enhancing, accelerating and precipitating the development of Africa's infrastructure – and its work covers Water, Energy, Transport and ICT. The ICA also works to help remove some of the technical and policy challenges and barriers to building more infrastructure and to better co-ordinate the activities of its members and other significant sources of infrastructure finance, such as China, India and Arab partners.

## **UK Trade and investment**

UKTI is the UK Government department that works with UK-based businesses to ensure their success in international markets, and encourages the best overseas companies to look to the UK as their global partner of choice. UK Trade & Investment is an international organisation with London and Glasgow headquarters. Across our network we employ around 2,500 staff and advisers, including those overseas (in UK embassies, high commissions, consulates and trade offices). In total, there are over 150 UKTI overseas offices in around 100 markets. It draws staff and administration funding from both parent departments.

