

foreword

Tony Blair, Prime Minister



Eliminating world poverty is in Britain's interests – and is one of the greatest moral challenges we face.

In 1997, the Labour Government established the Department for International Development, to underline our clear commitment to ending extreme poverty in the world. Since 1997, we have increased aid for developing countries by 140% in real terms, from £2.1 billion to £5.9 billion. In 2004, we set a clear timetable for us to meet the UN target of 0.7%, by 2013. And in 2005 we put development and Africa at the heart of our G8 Presidency.

Backed by enormous public support from the Make Poverty History coalition and the Live8 concerts, the Gleneagles G8 Summit in July 2005 agreed a comprehensive, detailed plan to fight poverty. This included plans to support an African Peacekeeping Force, provide universal access to AIDS treatment, and promote investment and infrastructure to create jobs for poor people.

G8 countries agreed to provide an extra US\$50 billion a year in aid by 2010, and to double aid for Africa. And African leaders at Gleneagles agreed in return to draw up ambitious plans to tackle poverty, and to work to end corruption, bad governance and conflict.

This new White Paper on *Eliminating World Poverty* sets out how the UK will work with others to deliver on the promises we made last year. This will need an effort right across Government, to put our pledges into practice, to promote better governance across the world, to tackle the threat of climate change, and to create an international development system that is fit for purpose.

We are making real progress. This White Paper shows there are many success stories. But there is still a very long way to go. It will need continuing commitment, and continuing support from the British public, to achieve this. But if we work together, it can be done. There is no greater or more just cause facing us today.

Tony Blair

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