



*Commission on Effective Development Cooperation with Africa*

## **Chairman's conclusions from the first meeting of the Africa Commission**

**Copenhagen 16 April 2008**

### **Introduction**

1. The Africa Commission constituted itself at the first meeting in Copenhagen on 16 April 2008.
2. The Commission identified and discussed a number of areas where more action is required. Three main challenges were identified: The first is to give the youth in Africa better opportunities for education and employment. The second challenge is to ensure that Africa is able to adapt to climate change and exploit opportunities created by mitigation. The third challenge is to empower women economically to foster gender equality and welfare. Increased and sustained growth that benefits all is a necessary condition to meet these challenges. But it is not a sufficient condition. Specific policy actions, tailored to country and sub-region specific conditions, are required that address each of the challenges.
3. The Commission seeks to strengthen enterprise-led efforts at development as well as donor-led practices.
4. The work of the Commission is within the overall context of the UN Millennium Development Goals and the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership agreed in Lisbon in December 2007 and should contribute to implementing these objectives and partnerships.