
Conclusion – Shared Interests, Shared Values, One Endeavour

8.1 The previous chapters have outlined how the UK will adapt its approach to development to ensure continued progress towards the MDGs despite the economic disruption of the last 18 months.

8.2 We have argued that the UK will complement its pledges on basic services with an increased focus on protecting growth, preparing for the impact of climate change and addressing conflict and fragility. We showed how we need to do things differently at national, international and community levels to deliver on those goals.

8.3 None of this will be easy. But it is in all of our interests that we grasp the opportunity we have to bring about real and lasting change. The problems facing developing countries affect us all. Our prosperity, our security and the future of our environment is tied to theirs. It is in our national interest and our shared interest with others that we address these problems.

8.4 It is also right. The world may have changed, but our values have not. A world with poverty, where too many lack not only for the basics of life, but also the opportunity to fulfil their aspirations, demeans us all. By helping build a path out of poverty, we do not just reduce suffering, but give people power over their own lives. Development is a profoundly moral cause.

8.5 That is why the government remains more committed than ever to international development.

8.6 The cause is right and the goal shared, but government cannot do it alone. Development is about more than aid. It must be about countries taking responsibility for their own development. It must be about the international community working together. And it must be about citizens everywhere doing their bit. Our shared interests are best served when supported by shared endeavour.

8.7 In August 2005, millions of people around Britain and around the world answered the call to Make Poverty History, taking to the streets to take world poverty to the top of the international agenda. It showed what we can achieve when we work together. Today, we need a new call to action. Times are tougher, the way forward harder. But the need is no less. If we all contribute, we can build a common future that is in all of our interests.