

SPEECH DELIVERED BY RT. HON. TONY BLAIR DURING HIS VISIT TO THE  
INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (IEA)

ANNEX 2: OPENING REMARKS AND TALKING POINTS

- Thank you for joining me today. It is a pleasure to be here at the Institute of Economic Affairs in Ghana which has, over the last 27 years, played a valuable role in promoting democratic values and political stability in Ghana – critical pre-conditions for sustainable development.
- With its recent election and peaceful transition of power, Ghana has once again shown itself to be at the forefront of democracy across Africa. Last year's election, and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence this year, are further milestones in the development of a great nation.
- I also know from personal experience the challenges of coming in as a leader after years in Opposition (though Labour had been out for longer than the 8 years since the NPP were last in Office). Expectations are high, sometimes unrealistically so, and it takes time to get to grips with the system. Leaders all over the world grapple with this gap between the expectations of the people and the capacity to deliver.
- But to me, the quality of a country's governance is the differentiating factor; between those countries able to seize the opportunities of the modern world and globalisation and those who are not. Look around the world at these examples [your comparisons of Rwanda/Burundi; Columbia/Venezuela; Poland/Ukraine; South/North Korea].
- That is why, 8 years ago when we started the work of the Africa Governance Initiative working with President Kagame in Rwanda, we focussed on effective governance as the critical challenge: supporting leaders to build the capacity around them to deliver on their priorities, not those of the outside world, founded on a spirit of partnership and collaboration, not aid.
- Over the last 8 years we have supported 10 countries across East and West Africa. My new not for profit organisation, the Tony Blair Institute for

Global Change, will build on this legacy. My commitment to Africa is strong as ever. And our mission and beliefs remain the same:

- That Africa faces a historic opportunity to make the kind of economic leap forward that Asian countries have made over the last 30 years.
  - That do to so we need to look beyond aid to an era of partnership and collaboration; that Africa's future belongs in the hands of Africa's leaders and its people.
  - And that do so it is effective governance above all that needs to continue to strengthen, whether it is establishing the principles of the rule of law, delivering services in health or education, or setting the rules for investment that leads to jobs and good infrastructure.
- In July, Chancellor Merkel will host the G20 and is looking to develop a new Partnership for Africa. The world has moved on considerably – and Africa within it – since I hosted the G8 in Gleneagles in 2005, building on the work of the Commission for Africa, at which we reached historic agreements on debt cancellation.
  - Now the focus, rightly, is on trade, agriculture, infrastructure, and job creation, whilst of course recognising the ongoing scourge of conflict and radical extremism that hinders development.
  - Indeed, the challenges of migration are distorting politics in the west. But precisely as the West is at risk of turning inwards, there is an opportunity for Africa to step outwards, to project a confident vision of itself and its journey:
    - Of the way the technology is transforming not just the provision of banking and personal finance but also low-cost education and healthcare such as the provision of medicines through drones.
    - Of the opportunity to develop new value chains and new industries, like the rapid expansion in light manufacturing as well as in agri-business and processing in Ethiopia.
    - Of the way a number of countries are at the forefront of the global agenda on rural electrification and the development of low cost, renewable energy supplies, on which we are working through USAID's Power Africa.

- It is clear to me that for Africa to succeed in this journey, then Ghana must succeed too. The country is at a unique moment. I've been here this week to discuss the work of my Institute with President Akufo-Addo. I sense a country and a President filled with optimism and determination who is also clear-sighted about the challenges ahead.
- The President has set out clear priorities on education (free secondary school education), on agriculture ("Planting for food and jobs" – a national campaign), on industrialisation ("one district, one factory") and on the wider economy and need to build the public finances. At the heart of all of that is the challenge of effective governance.