1. NIDOS is a network of over 100 international development organisations with a base in Scotland and our mission is to strengthen the contribution of Scottish organisations in tackling inequality and poverty globally. We do this by supporting our members to strengthen their effectiveness and impact; providing and facilitating opportunities for collaboration and networking between members and with a wide range of stakeholders in Scotland with an interest in international development; providing a platform for collective debate and influence in relation to international development policy. We are a member of the UK Alliance of international development networks with Bond, the Welsh Hub and CADA Northern Ireland.

2. We are submitting evidence on behalf of our member organisations as we are keen to make our contribution to strengthening both the impact of the UK Aid programme directly as well as encouraging the UK Government to look for opportunities to add further value through other areas of policy and certainly to not undermine development outcomes through lack of coherence in other policy areas.

Executive Summary:

3. NIDOS welcomes the UK Government’s intention to develop a future UK approach to development that both directly funds initiatives with communities to tackle poverty through the aid programme, maintaining a commitment to 0.7% of GNI to ODA, and also includes taking a more policy coherent approach. We agree that achieving this will require a set of policies from a number of UK Government Departments that together provide a coherent, comprehensive approach. We however differ somewhat in relation to economic growth analysis as our members focus on sustainable and equitable economic development rather than on a narrow economic growth paradigm.

4. Our network is promoting a Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) approach to international development, where Aid is a crucial component but not sufficient on its own and other areas of government and key stakeholder policy and practice need to be coherent with the aims of international development policy. We have produced a report Scotland’s place in building a just world which goes into more detail on this and recommends 17 areas for action either by the Scottish Government or the UK Government, or both, depending on the outcome of the Referendum on Scottish Independence. These are focused on five key areas, which while not being comprehensive are recommended as starting points:
   - Economic and financial policy including debt, tax evasion and global financial transactions
   - Trade and procurement
   - Climate Change
   - Access to resources
   - Global Education
5. We recommend that the UK Parliament sets up a Committee whose remit is to legislate for a PCD approach and then scrutinise delivery through an accountability system that includes civil society engagement. Also that the UK Government sets up a cross-departmental structure to enable audit and review of policy across government with an international development lens and which will track and report on implementation. Within this context we recommend that DFID is retained as a distinct Department, working with other Departments.

The coherence of policies which affect development (including aid, security, prosperity, and climate)
and
The impact of the UK’s non-aid policies on developing countries

6. Aid has been provided to developing countries over many decades and has brought about improvements in the lives of millions of men, women and children. Bilateral and multilateral programmes have also invested in government capacity to deliver key services and in stimulating economic growth. However poverty continues to exist and inequality in the world has increased during this period. Aid continues to be vital to meet immediate needs however it is crucial that wider policy and practice ensures these efforts are not undermined and that long term sustainable economic, social and political development can be achieved for the majority through a more coherent and global approach to development.

7. The economy, financial systems.
Fairer and sustainable global economic interactions are key to developing a more coherent approach to development as the world is economically unjust and current systems reinforce power dynamics and keep people and nations in poverty. 22% of the global population live on less than $1.25 a day and the vast majority of these are women. If governments were more able to generate tax revenue, have greater control over the value of their currencies, have greater influence over the value they secure from their natural resources, reduce their debt repayment burdens etc, this would make a huge impact and make these countries much less reliant on aid. It would enable them to further invest in long term development of key services and economic development, which aid in the short term might have kick started.

8. The current narrow focus in most countries in the world on ever increasing economic growth has resulted in increasing economic inequality. There needs to be a refocusing of how we measure development – with a focus on socio-economic measures including wellbeing, where the economy serves the needs of people rather than focusing on fiscal growth for its own sake.

9. We specifically are recommending the following:
   - Develop a new debt system which tackles economic injustice and promotes responsible lending including: fair and transparent debt workout mechanisms & audit of all debts following recommendations set out in the Clean up Britain’s Exports manifesto; investigate the potential for a specific debt arbitration centre in Scotland; host conferences promoting debt justice; cancel unjust debts; develop systems for avoiding the development of new unjust debt through reforming UK Export Finance systems following the Norwegian example
   - Introduce fairer tax systems and rules nationally and promote them internationally: ensure enforcement of tax laws to minimise avoidance and evasion; cooperate with other countries to strengthen the international tax system; support moves to increase financial transparency at EU and global level; support the inclusion of tax justice within the post-2015 agenda; adopt and enforce legislative measure to ensure the effective public disclosure of beneficial owners of companies, foundations and trusts.
   - Promote a new economy which supports socio-economic benefits: including making all state assistance contingent on businesses delivering socio-economic benefits;
creating a better way of measuring our collective prosperity, and monitoring and evaluating Government policies and private sector activity to ascertain net contribution to society.

- Regulating food speculation to ensure that markets work better both for those who use them to insure against risk, and for food consumers throughout the world through: calling for all futures contracts to be cleared through regulated exchanges; calling for strict limits to be set on the amount which bankers can bet on food prices.

10. Trade and procurement: related to the economic system is the issue of trade and procurement. While international trade is worth $10 million a minute, poor countries only account for 0.4% of this trade – half the share they had in 1980. The impact that trade and procurement has on the economies of developing countries is much more significant than that of aid.

11. We specifically are recommending the following:

- introduce fairer, more sustainable and equitable trade rules that lead to development for the benefit of people, communities and livelihoods through: measuring all trade deals and contracts against set social and environmental criteria; calling for reforms of the World Trade Organisation to ensure greater benefit to developing countries.
- take a lead through legislation, guidance and practice in pursuing public and private procurement which delivers on human rights, ethical, social and environmental standards through: using procurement policies to favour companies that comply with criteria on paying fair taxes; ensuring public procurement policies and legislation have regard to whether goods are procured through ethical means including measures on human rights, fair trade, ILO Core Conventions and environmental standards.

12. Climate Change and Climate Justice: this is another area of fundamental importance and we need to develop policy and practice based on a climate justice approach which both works to mitigate our contribution to climate change while supporting climate adaptation initiatives in developing countries.

13. We specifically are recommending the following:

- recognition of the UK’s climate debt through enshrining the concept of Climate Justice in the UK’s approach to tackling climate change.
- mitigating the UK’s impact on climate change through: meeting or going beyond international climate obligations as set through UN-led mechanisms; applying pressure internationally through channels such as the EU and UNFCCC for more ambitious climate emissions reduction targets; emulating the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 by bringing in legislation like this at a UK level
- support climate adaptation initiatives in developing countries, including by agreeing to 50% of global climate finance being allocated to adaptation and prioritising delivery of this through direct access; pushing for global agreement on mobilising new sources of climate finance, additional to aid; taking a lead on agreeing the delivery of an effective and fair international shipping mechanism; contributing the UK’s fair share towards UN-led mechanisms on climate adaptation.

14. Access to resources: ensuring people have access to water, land and enough food is essential. Yet increasingly, poor communities are having the resources they depend on for their lives and livelihoods taken from them without consultation, consent or compensation. Trade rules, unchecked corporate acquisitions and activity, unfair tax systems, corrupt practices and a lack of transparency have led to land and water being ‘grabbed’ from poor communities. These communities have then been unable to grow or sell their own food,
leading to increased hunger and loss of income. Also, conflict over ownership and use of key resources, including land and water, between competing communities and stakeholders is a major problem.

15. We specifically are recommending the following:
   - develop and implement a progressive contribution to international water security and tackling water poverty globally through: lobbying for greater investment in water and sanitation infrastructure amongst those countries to which the UK gives bilateral aid; supporting better water resource management at a national and regional level
   - promote new regulations and transparency on land deals that benefit poor communities through: adhering in full to the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security; supporting the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines through the creation of a global Land Transparency Initiative and exploring opportunities for the UK to offer support through an international land partnership; ensuring that regulation in the UK requires investors, registered in or raising capital, to be transparent and accountable and that the principles of free, prior and informed community consent is included in all land deals.
   - Work towards making food fair, sustainable and accessible through: embedding the concept of food sovereignty across policies in a coherent way, for example, by applying it to domestic food and farming policies as well as in trade and international development policies; promoting systems of sustainable smallholder agriculture; adopting a comprehensive approach to food security integrating availability of, and access to, food, nutrition and resilience; adopting a gender perspective on food security that takes into account the different needs of women, men, boys and girls.

16. Global Education: quoting Nelson Mandela, ‘Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world’. Global Citizenship Education is about developing values and a sense of principles in its citizens, allowing them to become informed and critically aware, outward looking and committed to a just and sustainable world. It can develop both the desire and ability to work actively to tackle injustice and inequality, including in relation to their role as responsible consumers, and should be an essential part of any international development policy.

17. We specifically are recommending the following:
   - greater investment for Global Citizenship Education for children, young people and adults through: maintaining support for the Global Education Project, funded by DFID, for formal education based programmes; re-instating the ‘Mini-Grants’ development education funding programme to support development education outwith the formal education sector; improving the linkages between education and international development policies to ensure they are mutually supportive.

18. Finance for Development
   Aid works when it is delivered effectively and in keeping with the key principles of development effectiveness including ownership, transparency and accountability, results and inclusiveness as enshrined in the international agreements such as the Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership Agreement among others. Aid should remain a crucial element of a policy coherence approach and should be maintained at least at the 0.7% of GNI level and this commitment should be enshrined in legislation.

19. In addition to this we need to move beyond traditional aid sources alone and look at other potential methods of raising resources for development, for example through Financial Transaction Taxes or through carbon pricing mechanisms on shipping.
20. There should be ongoing commitment to growing the contribution from the UK to global climate justice / climate adaptation funds and these should be as outlined under paragraph 13 above.

21. Security and peace building
We call for the UK Government and DFID to work in line with the UN structures and policies and under International Law, focusing on peace building and conflict resolution.

The underlying government mechanisms needed to support any changes, including:
- The role of DFID in facilitating other UK Government departments and other UK organisations to assist developing countries;
- The role of DFID in influencing the policies of other Whitehall departments;
- Whether a stand-alone Department for International Development has a long-term future.

22. NIDOS members are advocating a Policy Coherence for Development approach. This approach should involve everyone and requires broad participation of government, NGOs and other civil society organisations, private sector, trade unions and faith groups – all of which should have key roles.

23. However at the core needs to be a strong political commitment and leadership both from government and parliament if it is to be fully adopted. The difficulty in achieving political interest for policy coherence is that politics can sometimes be seen to be about the short-term domestic interests for being re-elected rather than the long-term national and international interests and goals. Policy coherence can and should be more than just about election cycles and so needs to be embedded through developing cross-party support and enshrining this approach in legislation.

24. We specifically are recommending the following for introducing a model of policy coherence for development:
- put solidarity with the poor and increased equality at the heart of the UK’s external relations and adopting a policy coherence for development approach
- set up a mechanism within the UK Government for cross-departmental planning and policy review, as well as coherence practice and implementation
- set up a cross-party parliamentary structure/committee to scrutinise the above governmental mechanisms to ensure a coherent approach that delivers a pro-development result.
- introduce a number of key focus areas for proactive policy development, which are periodically reviewed as progress is made
- set up mechanisms for measuring our impact on global poverty and improving people’s access to their rights
- have transparent and biennial reporting of this impact
- recognise the expertise and role of civil society and engage civil society in both scrutiny of policy and in reviewing progress on a biennial basis
- invest in building public support for a policy coherence approach

25. Regarding the role of DFID and future structures: NIDOS and its members have been actively reviewing scenarios in the context of the Referendum on Scottish Independence and in this context are urging DFID and the Scottish Government to work constructively and collaboratively together in either scenario following the vote.

26. The following are recommended:
- that DFID should continue to exist as a separate department and not under the Foreign Office, within a policy coherence approach across government
• that DFID should engage closely with other UK Departments and any cross-departmental structure that would be set up in the context of a policy coherence for development approach
• that DFID should continue to recognise the unique and important role that NGOs and civil society play and to continue to engage this sector in policy development and in review
• that in a Yes Scenario, DFID works closely with both the Scottish Government and with the civil society sector in Scotland – encouraging civil society involvement in the negotiations and debate about transition to ensure smooth running of current committed projects and of sharing of expertise and building capacity

27. We are recommending DFID continues as a separate department for the following reasons:

• the Secretary of State for International Development having a cabinet seat brings real influence to the heart of government, particularly important in a PCD approach
• a Cabinet seat makes a powerful political statement about the Government prioritising international development alongside other cabinet portfolios
• working under the Foreign Office would mean that it would be harder for DFID to achieve humanitarian neutrality, and programming based on need rather than other agendas.
• DFID’s achievements and stature derives from having the freedom of action, and weight within the UK Government that comes from being an independent department.

For more information contact:
Gillian Wilson, Chief Executive, NIDOS
0131 243 2680 / Direct line 0131 243 2681
gillian@nidos.org.uk

NIDOS
Registered office: 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PR
www.nidos.org.uk  @NIDOSNetwork  www.facebook.com/NIDOSNetwork

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