



Overseas Development  
Institute

# **‘ Global challenges: Europe’s role’**

**Rt Hon Geoff Hoon MP  
Minister for Europe, FCO**

Speech to ODI, APGOOD and the Foreign Policy Centre  
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## Question 1: Which three main global challenges are especially suited for a Europe-wide response?

- Over 10 different global issues were mentioned in response to this question
- The most popular issues were:
  - Global poverty
  - Climate change
  - Conflict resolution
  - International trade
  - Migration

## Question 2(a): What three main **STRENGTHS** will determine whether the EU is or is not able to deliver a good response?

- More than 12 different strengths were mentioned in response to this question
- Most predominant were:
  - Single entity
  - Coherence
  - Experience
  - Economic strength
  - Scale as a donor
  - Capacity (institutional, political, research, technology, resources, etc)
  - Reputation / legitimacy
  - Soft power
  - Values

## Question 2(b): What three main **WEAKNESSES** will determine whether the EU is or is not able to deliver a good response?

- More than 12 different weaknesses were mentioned in response to this question
- Most predominantly:
  - Disunity
  - Self-interest
  - Inefficiency
  - Position on world stage
  - Single entity
  - Prominence of development in policy (esp re. new Member States)
  - Paradigm blindness
  - Transparency
  - Neo-colonial style
  - Hard power

## Question 3: What does the UK and wider European development/external relations community have to do differently to make sure the weaknesses are overcome?

- There were a large number of different points mentioned in response to this question
- There was some convergence around the issues of:
  - **Strategy** – for an improved policy agenda focussing on fewer issues which takes a global view and has greater coherence (i.e. trade policy should not undermine development policy)
  - **Reform** – both institutional and structural, for a more streamlined, accessible, transparent and legitimate organisation
  - **Cooperation** – improved working with relevant regional and international bodies (UN, WTO, NATO and others) and improved lesson-learning between Member States