



SID

Society for International Development

Lecture Series 2010-2011 'Global Values in a Changing World'

Lecture and Discussion:

The role of external interventions redefined

Paul Collier (Oxford University)

Monday 7 February 2011

Fifth lecture in the series 'Global Values in a Changing World- Synergy of State and Society in a Globalized World'

Abstract: If it is societies (and people) themselves who should develop by their own authentic way and if, on the road to this process of self rescuing, foreign assistance is needed, than additional questions arise: where is external assistance facilitating, and eventually stimulating? What should be the primary task of the government itself, and where are the worst practices of external interventions of spoiling own initiatives of civil society, taking away responsibilities from governments? The actual debate about relevance and desirability of budget aid is a point in case; the – sometimes dominant and patriarchal – role of western foundations and intermediary institutions another one. Here lies one of the central questions in international cooperation.

Speaker: **Paul Collier** is Professor of Economics and Director for the Centre for the Study of African Economies at the University of Oxford. From 1998 – 2003 he was the director of the Development Research Group of the World Bank. He is the author of three books; "The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It", published in 2007; "Wars, Guns and Votes: Democracy in Dangerous Places", published in March 2009; and his most recent book, entitled "The Plundered Planet: How to reconcile prosperity with nature", which was published in May of 2010. His research covers the causes and consequences of civil war; the effects of aid and the problems of democracy in low-income and natural-resources rich societies.

Moderator: **Erik Thijs Wedershoven** is Worldconnector and was the official Youth Representative of the Netherlands to the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2005-2006.

Date: Monday 7 February 2011 / **Location:** Auditorium, VU University, De Boelelaan 1105, Amsterdam / **Time:** 18:00h-19:30h (doors open 17:30h and drinks at 19:30h) / **Language:** English / **Admission:** Free / **Registration recommended** through sid-nl@socires.nl or 070-3383293 / **Website:** <http://www.sid-nl.org>