

# Simon Maxwell

*Finding a place of one's own: development agency choices in a new landscape*

## **Short Bio:**

Simon Maxwell is a development economist, with a career as field worker, researcher and policy adviser stretching back over 45 years. He worked for ten years overseas, in Kenya and India for UNDP, and in Bolivia with the British aid programme; and then for fifteen years at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, latterly as Programme Manager for Poverty, Food Security and the Environment. From 1997-2009, Simon Maxwell was Director of the Overseas Development Institute, the UK's leading independent think-tank on international development and humanitarian issues. Currently, he is inter alia Executive Chair of the Climate and Development Knowledge Network ([www.cdkn.org](http://www.cdkn.org)), Chair of the European Think Tanks Group ([www.ettg.eu](http://www.ettg.eu)), and Specialist Adviser to the International Development Select Committee of the UK House of Commons. He is a Senior Research Associate of ODI and an Emeritus Fellow of IDS. Simon Maxwell is a past-President of the Development Studies Association of the UK and Ireland. In 2007, he was awarded a CBE for services to international development. More information at [www.simonmaxwell.eu](http://www.simonmaxwell.eu).

## **Abstract:**

Development agencies face hard choices about their future priorities. The landscape is changing. Fewer countries qualify as low income, and more of those that do can be classified as fragile states, requiring different kinds of support. Global issues like climate change or trade play an ever more prominent role in development policy-making: 'Beyond Aid' or 'Policy Coherence for Development' have become catch-words. And, further, there are more development actors, both public and private. How, then, should development agencies position themselves? What mandates, powers and competencies will be required? And how can individual agencies identify their comparative or competitive advantage?