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We come to Africa to listen: Madeleine Albright



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Madeleine Albright, Co-chair of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of Poor (CLEP) and former Secretary of States of the US, yesterday said the commission's intention was not to tell African countries what to do.

Albright made the statement in a seminar on local empowerment of the p held at the Sheraton Addis. "What we have in mind is not to come to Afric tell you what to do but to listen. We are here to listen to ideas on how to reduce poverty and build strong and sustainable economies," she said.

CLEP was established by the United Nations' General assembly eight moni ago. The commission seeks to generate new policy recommendations that reduce poverty through secure, enforceable property and labor rights with enabling environment that expands legal business opportunity and access justice. Currently the commission is preparing regional consultations in ea Africa.

CLEP has hired a local consulting firm in Ethiopia called Center for Develop Consulting (CDC). CDC is conducting a research on identifying the major impediments in poverty reduction programs in Ethiopia. The company has prepared four draft study papers on the themes of access to justice, labor property rights and entrepreneurship for CLEP.

Dr. Costantinos Berhe, an associate consultant with CDC, said that the stu papers focused on identifying the hurdles that prevented the public from involving in poverty reduction activities and ideas which could be possible solutions for the problems. He added that the studies were being conduct accordance with terms of reference prepared by CLEP.

Based on the findings of the research, the commission will present recommendations to developing countries, the UN, World Bank and other international institutions.

By Kaleyesus Bekele

Posted on Saturday, December 02 @ 10:05:20 EAT by [staff](#)

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