

**SEPTEMBER 2005: UK GOVERNMENT NEWS REPORT**  
JICA UK OFFICE

Sources:

- Department for International Development (DFID) website: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/>
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/>
- HM Treasury website: <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/>
- 10 Downing Street website (PM's speeches): <http://www.number-10.gov.uk/>

**SPEECHES**

21 September 2005

**Twelve decisive weeks for Trade and Development**

Douglas Alexander, Minister for Europe, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Yale Center for International and Area Studies, USA

The achievements over the past half century of the European Union can best be captured as the advancement of three goals: peace, prosperity and democracy. Now the clearest opportunities to advance peace, prosperity and democracy lie in our work beyond Europe's borders. It is time for a Global Europe.

This year so far, on both aid and debt relief, real progress has been made in recent months. Our opportunity, in the vital 12 weeks to Hong Kong, is to match this progress in the field of trade. A successful trade round has the potential to lift 140 million people off subsistence of less than \$2 a day – 60 million people in sub-Saharan Africa alone. We need to ensure an ambitious outcome at Hong Kong if we are to begin to deliver these benefits.

Recognition that it is our moral responsibility to help those in poverty by allowing them the means to grow and prosper underpinned the Declaration made in 2001 in Doha that began the present trade round.

Agriculture is of particular importance. Agriculture is today a relatively small part of the world economy. Yet a deal is increasingly coming to be seen as the key to successfully progressing the round: although 80% of the world's population lives in the developing world – developing countries capture only a third of world agricultural trade and the whole continent of Africa accounts for only 4%. Given that 70% of Africans and nearly 90% of poor Africans work primarily in agriculture, its centrality is evident for a round launched to extend trade, income generation and employment opportunities in developing countries. Responsibility to take the lead on this lies with both the United States and the European Union. There are three areas where decisive action needs to be taken to move the process forward at Hong Kong – market access, domestic support, and export competition.

We can no longer evade the evidence. We can no longer enjoy the benefits of living in a globalised world and ignore the lives by whose labour we benefit. We can no longer pretend that commerce can be globalised but justice need not.

16 September 2005

**PM and Bob Geldof global poverty press conference**

Tony Blair, Nigeria President Olusegun Obasanjo, EC President Jose Manuel Barroso and campaigner Bob Geldof, on day two of the United Nations World Summit, New York

Tony Blair: What we did at the Gleneagles Summit was we entered into a series of commitments. Those commitments have essentially been safeguarded at the UN Summit, but all of us want to see us go further. We want to make sure that the pressure is kept up, the insistence is there, that the commitments that have been entered into at the G8 are adhered to.

In the end for all of us, we are pushing the political system internationally as hard as we can and this has been a remarkable partnership between civic society, between African countries and some of the key governments. Regarding the planned African peacekeeping force, the idea is to have a standing force, I think it is 75,000, and we want to be able to build up the capability of this by the end of 2006.

President Obasanjo: The UN Summit is a success. Some of us are a little bit impatient, and you know why we are impatient. We wanted to see a little bit more.

Bob Geldof: Unless Gleneagles is implemented, the Millennium Development Goals have not got a single chance of success. What must happen now is that the great leap forward of Gleneagles must be implemented within the next few weeks at the IMF and World Bank round. If it is not implemented, we are looking I think potentially at a disaster. Hong Kong is 100 days away and we do not have anything like the language in the UN Summit that would give you a flight path to a good success in Hong Kong. We need to truly accelerate our efforts over the rest of the year. President Bush supported the MDGs in his recent speech - to hear him come out to so forcefully and unequivocally say that the United States pledges total support for the MDGs is great progress.

## PRESS RELEASES

28 September 2005

**Victims of India's devastating floods** will receive **£2 million of humanitarian aid** from the UK. Immediate relief in the form of: blankets, oral re-hydration salts, medicines to combat diseases stemming from contaminated water, provision of safe water, sanitary facilities and surveillance systems to reduce disease outbreak are to be provided to people in the severely-affected areas of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra that experienced the heaviest rainfall on record. This complements the Indian Government's own relief effort.

The UK's support of £2 million broken down as:

Health	£800,000
Child welfare and Nutrition	£350,000
Restoring safe water supplies	£200,000
Garbage Clearance, hygiene and sanitation	£200,000
UNICEF recovery charge	£200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,000,000</b>

UNICEF is complementing DFID's contribution with £1,150,000 from its own resources and voluntary contributions.

26 September 2005

**Registering voters** is now well underway in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** as the country prepares for its first elections in 40 years. Each voter is being given an individual registration photo-card, and over 11 million people now have one. The DRC's Transitional National Government was established in 2003, after a five-year war that claimed more than 3 million lives. The temporary power-sharing government is preparing the country for parliamentary, provincial assembly and presidential elections next year. The **election process** is being **supported by the UK**, and in welcoming the news about voter registrations, Hilary Benn announced a **further UK contribution of £5 million**. This brings total DFID assistance for the elections to £22.2 million (\$40 million), making the UK the largest donor to the DRC

elections. The money will support the forthcoming constitutional referendum, and the parliamentary, provincial assembly and presidential elections in 2006.

DFID funding is helping to:

- Establish, equip and staff an Independent Electoral Commission to run the elections;
- Prepare equipment for electoral registration, and transport it across the country;
- Staff voter registration centres and produce the electoral lists;
- Train the DRC's national network of voluntary election observers;
- Educate voters, and particularly women, on their role in the electoral process
- Train DRC police on providing security for the elections and
- Provide liaison with community leaders on the forthcoming elections and their role.

22 September 2005

The UK is to provide an **additional £11.505 million in aid** to meet the needs of those affected by **food shortages** in **Southern Africa**, Hilary Benn announced. The money will be used to distribute grain and provide cash grants for up to 7.5 million people facing food shortages in Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

The £11.505 million will provide:

- In **Zimbabwe**, £10 million for the United Nations (UN) humanitarian appeal to distribute up to 300,000 tonnes of grain to a possible 5 million people that may be affected by food shortages, and £500,000 to support victims of Operation Murambatsvina who have returned to their rural homes. All money will go through UN agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations;
- In **Mozambique**, over £355,000 to provide vouchers for people to buy agricultural inputs such as seed, fertilizer and tools;
- In **Lesotho**, £350,000 for vouchers for people to buy seed;
- In **Swaziland**, £300,000 for vouchers so that people can buy seed.

This brings the UK commitment to help overcome food shortages in Southern Africa to £56.705 million so far this year. This includes £15.2 million already given in support for Malawi.

Total UK commitments for Southern Africa food shortages to date:

- Lesotho - £350,000
- Malawi - £15.2 million
- Mozambique - £355,000
- Swaziland - £300,000
- Zambia - £0.5 million
- Zimbabwe - £40 million

15 September 2005

**Six countries, including the UK, pledged over \$150 million to a new United Nations emergency fund** that will help deliver aid faster when humanitarian crises hit and so save more lives. Hilary Benn has championed the emergency response fund's creation so as to provide a reliable source of finance that will help agencies on the ground to deal with humanitarian problems quickly. Finance will be readily available within one or two days instead of the three to four weeks it can take presently. New donations pledged on an annual basis were **\$40 million** by **Sweden**, **\$12 million** by **the Netherlands**, **\$4 million** by **Switzerland** and **\$4 million** by **Luxembourg**. **Norway** has already announced a \$30 million donation and **Nigeria** agreed to donate an as yet undecided sum. Contributing nations made it clear that the funds committed were additional and not previously committed to other humanitarian projects. OCHA, the United Nations' humanitarian assistance organisation, will shortly produce proposals on the operation of the fund and will be presenting these for agreement by the General Assembly of the United Nations in November.

The fund, which should be ready to start work from January 2006, will build on the existing loan-giving Central Emergency Revolving Fund by creating a new ability to give grants so as to get money quickly to where it's needed most. The proposal was backed in the outcome document agreed by United Nations at the Summit this week.

13 September 2005

The UK is to give an **extra £5 million aid** to meet the needs of those affected by **food shortages in Malawi**, Hilary Benn announced. The additional money will be used by the Government of Malawi to secure the supply of 60,000 tonnes of maize from South Africa, and to assist UNICEF in feeding 3,500 severely malnourished children aged under-five per month. It will also be used to subsidise the sale of high-yield maize seeds for 700,000 farmers to improve food supplies at the next harvest and reduce the need for food aid. This announcement brings the UK commitment to the current food shortages in Malawi to £15.2 million pledged since March, making the UK the largest donor to date.

## NEWS

29 September 2005

A **recent report commissioned by DFID's Fisheries Management Science Programme** reveals that **African fisheries and fishing communities** are amongst the **most vulnerable** in the world to **climate change**. Not only are most of these countries heavily reliant on fisheries as contributions to national economies, food security and employment (over 90% of fish in Africa comes from capture fisheries), but also climate change is predicted to be particularly significant in this region.

A group of institutions and individuals met on 12th September at DFID to review existing knowledge and directions for future research. The institutions included: the FAO/DFID Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme; Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (CEFAS); Marine Resources Assessment Group (MRAG); Tyndall Climate Centre; University of East Anglia. The workshop will produce a briefing on current knowledge and research needs to support efforts to mitigate climate change impacts on fisheries, particularly on the most vulnerable communities. This will be published through the 'New Directions in Fisheries' series produced by the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (FAO/DFID).

- The report – 'Effects of climate change on the sustainability of capture and enhancement fisheries important to the poor: analysis of the vulnerability and adaptability of fisherfolk living in poverty'

[http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/summary\\_climatechange fisheries.pdf](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/summary_climatechange fisheries.pdf)

12 September 2005

Hilary Benn announced an **extra £40 million contribution** to the **Fast Track Initiative (FTI)** scheme for education in developing countries. Overall DFID has already promised to spend £1.4 billion on education in developing countries over the next four years. The FTI is built on mutual commitments. Donors provide coordinated and increased financial and technical support in a transparent and predictable manner. Conversely, partner countries have agreed to put primary education at the forefront of their domestic efforts and develop sound national education plans.

12 September 2005

**HIV and AIDS evaluation design paper issued for comments.** 'Taking Action' the Government's strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS in the developing world, was launched by the

Prime Minister in July 2004. The UK is giving high-level political leadership in this area and committing significant funds (at least £1.5 billion over 3 years, up from £270 million in 2002/3), including additional funding for major players such as the Global Fund and UNAIDS, and a strengthened commitment to support for women, orphans and vulnerable children. In order to ensure systems are in place to **measure the impact of the additional resources** allocated to tackling HIV and AIDS, and to '**monitor, evaluate and challenge interventions**', a lesson-learning evaluation is planned for 2006, mid way through the strategy period. This will concentrate on DFID, which is the lead government department but will also focus on the contribution by other UK Government Departments. The evaluation will aim to draw on existing information and joint working as much as possible, in support of the "three ones" principles. The evaluation design paper outlines the key questions and approaches for this evaluation.

- Short version:

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/consultations/evaluation-design-short-august05.pdf>

- Full version:

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/consultations/eval-design-paper-aids-full-aug05.pdf>

- Annexes:

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/consultations/annexes-eval-design-aids-Aug05.xls>

9 September 2005

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown – with colleagues from France, Spain, Italy and Sweden, Graca Machel and Dr Lee Jong-Wook – **launched** the new **International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm)**. Alongside additional contributions recently announced by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the innovative new initiative will **ensure** the **provision** of an **additional \$4 billion** over the **next ten years** to tackle some of the deadliest diseases in some of the world's poorest countries. The additional resources will **support** the work of the **Vaccine Fund** and the **Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI)** to improve access to underused vaccines and speed up the development and introduction of new vaccines in poorer countries.

The new finance facility will use up-front long-term financial commitments from donors to provide additional resources quicker and in a more predictable way. By frontloading resources the facility will allow for 2 million more lives to be saved that would otherwise have been possible. And the more predictable and stable aid will provide more certainty for manufacturers to invest in new and under-used vaccines and accelerate the reduction of vaccine prices.

07 September 2005

Publication of independent review of DFID's approach to conditionality. Shortly after the launch of the new conditionality policy 'Partnerships for Poverty Reduction: rethinking conditionality', DFID commissioned Mokoro (an international development consultancy company) to conduct an independent review of the conditions that DFID was applying to the provision of development assistance to partner country governments. The report makes specific recommendations for the monitoring and evaluation of the conditionality policy, and the publishing of conditions on DFID's website. Overall the review provided a valuable input to the development of staff guidelines which will support implementation of the conditionality policy at country level.

- Mokoro independent review of DFID's approach to conditionality:

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/conditionality-mokoro-report.pdf>

- DFID conditionality policy:

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/conditionality.pdf>

This review surveyed how closely current approaches to conditionality correspond to the provisions of DFID's new conditionality policy. The aim was to establish a baseline for future monitoring of conditionality

Key conclusions:

The policy does not make clear whether the shift from attaching conditions to individual aid instruments towards basing aid commitments on shared objectives is to be reflected in agreements signed between DFID and partner governments.

The distinction between disbursement-linked conditions and non-conditional milestones is less distinct than the policy paper and the survey have assumed.

In line with the new policy, it is becoming more common to use benchmarks derived from national poverty reduction strategies for making assessments in budget support operations.

Applying large numbers of conditions is most likely to be the case with budget support to which performance assessment matrices (PAMs) are attached.

Partner governments are generally reported as not seeing DFID conditionality as problematic, particularly in comparison with some other donors. Governments do not necessarily view even externally imposed conditionality as a bad thing.

Country Offices indicated several areas where they would welcome guidance in implementing the new policy and areas where they have more fundamental concerns:

- whether partnership agreements should be formalised with recipient governments
- how to interpret statements in the policy paper that DFID is interested only in poverty outcomes, with the implication that progress indicators may be dispensed with
- whether policy conditions are completely ruled out, even in circumstances where they have been proposed by the recipient government
- how to manage complex performance assessment matrices, and particularly how to link these to disbursement decisions
- how to reconcile the requirements of the new policy with developing harmonized approaches with donors that have differing approaches to conditionality
- how to define and negotiate conditions relating to human rights and governance; this may be particularly difficult to do in countries emerging from conflict

6 September 2005

At the **Global Fund Replenishment Conference** held in **London** on 6 September, and chaired by Kofi Annan the UN Secretary General, **EU Member States** and the **European Commission** pledged an **additional US\$2.3 billion** for **2006 and 2007**, which will see Europe provide **60 per cent of contributions** to the Fund. Since it was established in 2002, the Fund has committed \$3.5 billion to 300 programmes in 127 countries. From 2001 to 2005, EU bilateral government donors have provided between 39% and 50% of contributions to the Global Fund each year.

6 September 2005

**DFID policy paper - Reducing Poverty by Tackling Social Exclusion**

There is growing understanding that large numbers of very poor people are missing out on the benefits of growth and the wider achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Often, this is the result of people being socially excluded on the basis of their social identity (such as race, religion, ethnicity, disability, gender, caste, age and sexuality). Over the past

year, DFID has been considering how to build on existing efforts to tackle social exclusion in developing countries. This policy paper is the outcome of **DFID's research** and **consultations**.

- DFID policy paper - Reducing Poverty by Tackling Social Exclusion:

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/social-exclusion.pdf>

This paper is about the challenges posed by social exclusion, and the ways governments, civil society and donors can help to tackle them. These include:

- creating legal, regulatory and policy frameworks that promote social inclusion;
- ensuring that socially excluded groups benefit from public expenditure as much as other groups;
- improving economic opportunities and access to services for excluded groups;
- promoting their political participation in society, and their capacity to organise and mobilise themselves;
- increasing accountability to protect citizens' basic human rights; and
- tackling prejudice and changing behaviour.

It also recommends ways in which DFID can do more in this area, including stepping up its efforts to:

- analyse the impact of exclusion on poverty reduction in all our country programmes, in order to decide priorities for work by region, country and sector;
- promote exchanges of best practice between national and regional organisations;
- work with other government departments and development partners to include analysis of exclusion as a cause of conflict and insecurity in our approaches and responses to conflict prevention and reduction;
- identify opportunities to address social exclusion in fragile states;
- strengthen the collection and analysis of statistics on excluded groups;
- work with the World Bank and regional development banks, United Nations agencies, the European Community and other donors to make development work better for excluded groups;