

**FEBRUARY 2006: 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**

28 February 2006

**Launch of DFID Southern Africa Regional Plan**

Minouche Shafik, Director General Regional Programmes, DFID

The Plan describes exactly what we plan to achieve and who we want to work with to achieve it. We need a strong partnership with South Africa, particularly on its own plans for development in the region. We want to work with regional institutions, including SADC, and help to build the capacity that is needed to take this forward. We are firmly behind the African Union (AU)/New Partnership for Africa's Development (NePAD) programme. And we want to ensure that what we do is aligned with priorities set by AU-NePAD. We plan to give support in a limited number of areas, where we think the UK could make a distinctive contribution. They include: growth, jobs and equity; resilient livelihoods; peace and security.

- Southern Africa Regional Plan:  
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/southern-africa-regional-plan.pdf>

23 February 2006

**Development Beyond Aid**

Hilary Benn, 5th White Paper Speech, Chatham House/BOND

The challenge of making poverty history is becoming more and more complicated because we live in an increasingly interconnected world. One reason for this is that national borders have become ever more porous to a host of different flows over the past few decades – people, ideas, capital, trade, carbon emissions and so on. The symptoms of today's problems will become the catalysts and the causes of tomorrow's crises. It is already clear that we will have to deal with a number of global trends over the next ten to twenty years - some of them positive and some of them negative - that represent an even greater acceleration of the pace of change. Here is a list of some of them:

- Climate change is happening faster than any of us anticipated even five years ago.
- Fast depletion of natural resources including soil, oil, forestry, fisheries and water
- Ageing populations in developed nations and jobless teenagers elsewhere
- Rapid urbanization with more than half the global population living in cities or towns
- Infectious diseases and rising HIV infection
- Poor governance and inadequate accountability which can trigger state failure
- The multilateral system under serious examination at the very time when we need it
- A clash not of civilisations but within them - different value systems talking past each other
- Endemic short-termism in politics and economics that under-values the future relative to the present

All these challenges seem to be linked to the shift from a world organised primarily around independence to one increasingly based on interdependence. This has five main features:

1. More interdependence can mean more safety. e.g. the European Union
2. Greater interdependence can also mean more risk e.g. currency crashes
3. Global interdependence requires global management of its consequences.
4. This successful management is partly be about individual behaviour and values
5. Interdependence means complexity and uncertainty, as well as opportunity.

This is the context. What are we going to do? The truth is, aid – in itself - is not enough. It's not just about money; other things we do matter as well, and we have to tell the whole story about what makes development possible. Trade is a perfect example of that. The argument about fairer trade used only to be made by development ministers. Nowadays trade ministers make

that argument – something that would have been impossible to imagine two or three decades ago. At the launch of the Commission for Africa report, the Prime Minister committed the whole of the UK Government to implementing its recommendations. These have gone far beyond DFID's reach, and are about more than money.

I want to look in more detail at two of the above challenges:

Let me start with climate change. Climate change is increasing the intensity and severity of natural disasters. Climate change itself will have gradual but just as devastating effects. Climate change is not, primarily, the fault of developing countries. So what should we do? I think there are four key things we need to do:

1. We need to keep publicising the science - we have much better predictive models now
2. We need to work for a global solution – this involves both scientists and politicians. It also requires that developing countries have the capacity to negotiate.
3. We need to reduce the volume of carbon emissions through the greater use of cleaner technology including making sure developing countries are able to take advantage of cleaner and more efficient technologies.
4. We need to help developing countries cope with, and adapt to, the impact of the climate change that we already know will happen, and make sure that they can plan to minimise its future impact.

All these initiatives come at a huge price – far beyond what our aid can help with. And that's why Nick Stern's (Chief Economist, Treasury) Review – which is due to report in October - is taking a serious look at the economics of climate change, to work out the best course of action and how all these things will be paid for.

The second major issue we have to address is the global causes of bad governance. One of the reasons this happens is that rich countries and we, their consumers, are willing to pay a great deal of money for valuable commodities. This provides an opportunity for political elites in some countries to enrich themselves, and the ease with which money can now move around the world makes it easier to steal. Our support to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the Kimberley process will improve the transparency of revenue flows. The new EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade regulation will help to tackle illegal logging. UK government departments are working closely together to fight international corruption. We worked very hard to get the UN Convention Against Corruption agreed, we reformed our own legal systems and we ratified it two weeks ago. We need to do more to recover stolen assets – this is a long and complex legal process.

Progress demands work across government; and across many governments. These challenges can't be tackled by any one department, and any one state; they are by their nature global. What we are grappling with here are the consequences of our interdependence as human beings – the most complex area of all.

16 February 2006

### **Meeting Our Promises: Basic services for everyone, everywhere**

Hilary Benn, 4th White Paper Speech, UNISON, London

In Britain when a woman decides to have a child, it is almost always a joyous occasion. In the developing world, 130 million women can't get any family planning, so they don't have any choice in deciding if and when to have children. In the developing world, pregnancy and childbirth kill a woman every minute. For children the world they come into is a hard one.

Politics achieved change in the UK in the past to provide a better life based not on handouts, not on charity, but on the collective provision of human rights. As developing countries progress, they too will turn their minds to exactly the same questions. How can they - through an effective state - meet their responsibility to provide social security and access to basic services for all our citizens? How are they going to be able to do this? So how do we help make this happen? The truth is if poor countries are to meet the MDGs, they need to plan for the long-term, and they need to know they can rely on long-term support from donors.

Lack of clean water is the number one killer of children in the world but I made a speech about that last week. Let's start with education. We know it is fundamental to the development of any

society. What we need now, in all countries where primary age children are not yet in school, are 10 year plans to get them into school. Plans for classrooms, books, toilets, for the training and employing of the teachers, and plans to abolish fees that prevent children from ever getting through the school gate. And we, as donors, should announce that we will help draw up these plans and then support their implementation. The UK stands ready to do both.

Secondly, I want to turn to health. Much progress is being made but we also need to do much more to help countries ensure that poor people get the healthcare they need. This has to include supporting governments to abolish fees for basic services, where they wish to do so, as we promised at Gleneagles. Of course, it is up to developing countries to make the choice. Different countries take different approaches but charging people for basic health care at the point of delivery is first of all unfair, and doesn't help improve their health. User fees are cited by poor people as the greatest barrier they face in getting health care. Guaranteeing universal access to free basic health services will save lives and help reduce the burden of disease and illness. It's the right thing to do. So how do we get on and do more of this?

- Countries need the staff – they need to be given the right incentives to stay.
- Countries need the right vaccines and drugs, at the right price..
- Countries – and their peoples – need to monitor progress, holding themselves and donors to account. We also need to be held to account globally. In education we have the annual UNESCO Global Monitoring Report. What do you think would work for health?
- Countries need the money to do all this. Estimates of the additional aid needed to reach the health MDGs are between \$20-25 billion a year, including expanding services to achieve universal access to AIDS treatment. What that means within countries, is that they need to move from spending \$5-10 per person a year, to the \$35-40 recommended by the WHO to get a good quality service. So, we need 10 year national plans to achieve the health MDGs, and for these plans and national priorities to be backed by donor support, including support through global funds.

The World Bank has pointed out the Millennium Development Goals for health could be achieved if we ensured people had universal access to: Family planning; A trained midwife and safe delivery; Breast-feeding; Childhood vaccination; Mosquito nets; Antibiotics for pneumonia; Effective anti-malarial, TB and AIDS drugs; Better access to health information, and of course Clean water. Much of this list is very modest. We know what to do, we need to do it, and we need to do much more of it.

The third issue I want to address is social security. Because providing security for poor people - from the cradle to the grave - will give them a chance to get a foot on the ladder of opportunity. In the UK we now see public services and social security, as a right. Social security – through food or cash - can stop a farmer selling precious assets when she suffers a crisis. In South Africa, pensions have increased the income of the poorest 5% of the population by 50%, and in Brazil, they have doubled the incomes of this group. And old age pensions don't just benefit older people, but also the children living with them, who are healthier – and instead of stunted from malnutrition they are an inch or more taller. And we have learnt it doesn't cost quite as much as you might think.

14 February 2006

### **Africa: A new agenda**

Jack Straw, Murtala Muhammed lecture, Abuja, Nigeria

Nigeria and Africa as a whole have had a turbulent time in the last three decades. Much progress has been made; many large challenges remain. These are the ten major challenges Africa has to confront successfully if the continent is to succeed over the coming decade.

First, three "traditional" issues:

1. Development
2. Governance
3. Conflict

Then new issues which will have greater prominence in Africa in the coming decade:

4. Terrorism - Nowhere in the world is immune from terrorism but Africa is at particular risk.
5. Migration - Well-managed migration is good for everyone; illegal immigration is not.

6. Crime and drugs - A growing proportion of the most dangerous (Class A) drugs on UK streets now come in from West Africa.
7. Energy security - This is globally becoming increasingly important. Much of Africa's potential reserves have not yet been explored or identified.
8. Environment - Climate change and ecological degradation are likely to have particularly stark effects in Africa, because most Africans rely on agriculture, and because so many Africans still live constantly on the edge of total impoverishment, so small changes in the natural environment can have devastating effects.
9. Islam - Engaging with Islam is the next big issue. One of the biggest challenges for all of us is to ensure that the Christian and the Islamic worlds become partners in the 21st century rather than at loggerheads. Nowhere is this more important than in Africa.
10. China - The last year or so has seen a striking increase in China's visibility and engagement in Africa. We regard China's engagement in Africa as good news and want China to play a full role on the international scene. What matters is the manner of China's engagement in Africa. We want that engagement to support the agenda which President Obasanjo and the African Union have set out for this continent: support for democratic and accountable governance, for transparent business processes, for economic growth and effective poverty reduction, for human rights and the rule of law. We will work closely with China to that end.

These challenges have two things in common. First, that most of them cannot be addressed in isolation: in order successfully to address one we need to address the others too. And second, that none of them can be successfully tackled without building successful African states: prosperous, democratic, stable, well-led.

14 February 2006

### **The people of Darfur want peace**

Jack Straw, Darfur Peace Talks, Abuja, Nigeria

We are committed to a peaceful, democratic and prosperous Sudan, which respects human rights and the rule of law; which enables its people to share equally in the nation's future prosperity, and which is an active and constructive member of the international community.

This can only be achieved if two conditions are met:

1. The successful and full implementation of the North/South Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Sudan, signed last year
2. A settlement of the crisis in Darfur.

The UK welcomes the steps made towards peace in previous rounds of these talks. We welcome in particular the Humanitarian and Security Protocol, which provides a basis for improving security on the ground in Darfur; and the Declaration of Principles, which provides a framework for an eventual political agreement on Darfur's future. But this is not enough. Progress in the talks has been far too slow. The original ceasefire was signed in April 2004, the Humanitarian and Security Protocols signed here in November 2004, and the Declaration of Principles in July 2005. You - the parties - have failed to meet the 31 December deadline set by the Security Council for an agreement. You are now in your seventh round of talks.

And the commitments that you - the parties directly included - have made have not been honoured. You - the parties - signed a ceasefire. But it is being broken every day. There is no ceasefire in Darfur. The Government of Sudan and the rebel movements have both repeatedly violated it. Attacks by all sides continue, including on humanitarian convoys and on the AU mission - the very people who are there to help the civilians affected directly by the war.

Meanwhile the people of Darfur continue to suffer. As a first step I call on you today to take five specific and immediate actions:

- Declare your positions and deployments as you are committed to doing.
- Respect and observe the ceasefire in Darfur, which you signed up to.
- Attacks on the AU force and humanitarian convoys have to stop
- Facilitate the work of the humanitarian agencies not undermine
- The perpetrators of atrocities have to be brought to justice not hidden.

You have a choice. And it is a choice you will be taking in the full glare of international attention.

You can choose to reach an agreement. If that is done, Britain and the international community will help you - with humanitarian and developmental assistance, with practical support and political encouragement. Or you can choose not to reach an agreement. The result will be more death and misery in your own lands against your own people, and lost opportunity to build a better future for your own people.

There will be other consequences too. The international community is not going to allow those individuals who are responsible for gross human rights violations or blocking the peace process to escape the consequences of their actions. We know who these people are. There is already provision for sanctions against such individuals under UN Security Council Resolution 1591.

## **7 February 2006**

### **Water: meeting our promises**

Hilary Benn at the Water Forum, Royal Geographical Society, London

We need to move on from the debate on public versus private and focus on what works. We also need a better system of global accountability for meeting our promises.

For DFID's part we are on our way to double our spending on water in Africa to £95 million by 2008; two years ago we were involved in 2 countries, we're now actively involved in seven: Ethiopia, DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia. DFID's next water update will be published in early April. The EU water facility has agreed proposals worth €230 million which aim to make drinking water available to 10 million people and basic sanitation to 5 million by 2010, with €178 million of proposals for water projects in Africa to be considered next month. As a "challenge fund" this should bring in matching finance from elsewhere. And we agreed last year that £200 million of the £250 million that DFID allocated over to the World Bank for increasing our international effort, should be allocated to the Africa Catalytic Fund – for hard to reach MDGs including water and sanitation. Now this is some progress. But the truth is we are faced with a huge challenge – and it's a challenge for all of us, governments, the private sector, you name it - and we need to ask where we can do more. And where more is possible.

If we are to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in water, we need to bring clean water to an extra 150,000 people, every day, every year for the next 10 years. Why does this matter?

- Because the current situation of half the population of developing countries at any given moment being sick from unsafe water and sanitation, and nearly 6,000 children dying every single day from diarrhoea is unacceptable.
- Because women and girls walk huge distances to collect water for their families.
- Because populations are on the move. One dominant trend is of course urbanization.
- Because, climate change is a growing challenge in access to water.

This is why it all matters. But what are the practical challenges we have to face up to:

1. Water must be affordable - the poor should not be denied water because they can't pay.
2. Delivering clean water costs money and the investments needed are huge
3. Donors need to focus more on building resilience to climate change
4. All of this needs to be sustainably financed.

This means thinking about fair cost-recovery – so that there are funds available to ensure that what gets built gets maintained - but where poor people can afford water.

And the conclusion? Well it all depends. Even the cases I've described are complex, and for each side of the story, there is another too. So I'm fed up with a sterile debate about "it must be this and can't be that". I'm fed up with having to explain to people who write in very large numbers to DFID that far from being the apostles of privatisation, we spend 95% of our bilateral aid for water on public, community led or humanitarian provision. And I'm really weary of the way that developing countries are characterised as being helpless victims of evildoers, or are simply written out of the story as if they don't exist or have no minds of their own whatsoever. The reason I'm really tired is that it does nothing, absolutely nothing, to get more clean water to more poor people. So, my challenge is, I'm not interested in what you are

against but I am interested in what you're for and how you can help meet the challenge we face.

The World Bank has substantially increased its lending to water and sanitation projects from US\$0.5 billion a year in 2001/02 to US\$1.8 billion in 2004/05. The African Development Bank's lending to the sector is 7% of its overall lending and clearly needs to rise. The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa is getting off the ground – with a secretariat in the African Development Bank. We have yet to see how bilateral donors will raise their share of aid going into water and sanitation; you know about our commitment with relation to Africa. But more is clearly needed from other donors. The key source of finance for infrastructure investment anywhere is from domestic public finance. But even with all of this, the truth is we are likely to be left with a shortfall in finance, especially in the short-term. This is where the International Finance Facility could play an important role.

The other area I want to talk about is how we create an international system that works more effectively than it does now. I'm aware that UN Water is already looking at this. If we look at the water sector, at the moment, the UN has 23 water agencies all working on water. Everyone is partly responsible, so no one is fully responsible. Is this really the best we can do? I don't think it's really good enough. So how can we make it better?

I'd like to float four things by you:

1. We have to radically cut the number of UN agencies operating in water and sanitation. UN Water must become the coordinating body for a handful of key UN agencies, working alongside the World Bank.
2. In discussion with national governments, the UN should decide which UN agency should take the lead for the UN on water and sanitation in country. This lead agency, and not others, should be the channel for donor money allocated to the UN in this sector.
3. UN Water should produce an authoritative annual water and sanitation report to the Secretary General of the UN. This report would monitor progress
4. There are too many ministerial meetings on water. I think we need just one to review the recommendations of the Global Water and Sanitation Report and to take action.

02 February 2006

### **Political Governance, Corruption and the Role of Aid**

Hilary Benn, 3rd White Paper Speech, Royal African Society, London

Only developing countries - led by their own people and their own governments - can ultimately make the decisive changes that are needed to fight poverty. State-building cannot be imposed. Its foundation must be a shared understanding between those who govern, and those who give their consent to be governed – the “deal” between citizen and state. And this foundation has to be laid by each country itself. It's a process. It takes time. As donors we can assist the process of creating more effective states. One of the ways we can help is to be clear as we search for the right kind of conditionality – that our aid is conditional on clear principles. Respect for human rights and international obligations; commitment to improved public financial management and to fighting corruption; and a will to reduce poverty. These are the essential foundations of our partnership.

The biggest challenge we as donors face and governments face in applying these principles is in the poorest countries, where governance is weakest and corruption can be a major problem. Now some would argue that we should refuse to work in such countries at all until these problems are sorted out. I think that view is wholly mistaken. Just because poor people live in a country where corruption is a major problem, does that mean we should walk away? Should they be made to suffer because governance is bad? I think not. What I think it does mean, however, is that we should work in different ways in different circumstances to ensure that the money gets to where it is most needed. That's why we have refused to give Kenya any direct budget support – money which goes straight into the government budget to be used for supporting general spending. That's why in Kenya we have already taken a different approach – money ear-marked for a particular purpose.

Let me ask a second question. Even where there is no reasonable hope of working with the government – as is the case in Zimbabwe – does that mean we should stop caring about its

people? Would it be right to punish Zimbabweans for their repressive regime; a regime they did not freely elect? I think not. In Zimbabwe DFID provides life-saving humanitarian aid – not through the government – but through the UN and NGOs. Even the most enthusiastic supporters of civil society, and I am one, recognise that ignoring governments and creating parallel systems, is not the long-term solution to corruption nor a sustainable path to development.

The other argument is that our aid – in whatever form – can prop up bad governments. That's a risk that we need to take seriously – and we do. That's the argument for having a range of instruments through which to channel our aid.

The final argument for doing something is that corruption undermines public confidence in aid and its effectiveness – after all, it is taxpayer's money that we provide to poor countries. We have to make sure it is well used.

In short, corruption destroys the “deal” – the bargain - between the citizen and the state; and it harms the poorest most. We must be tough on corruption, let's not be smug about it. Let's remember our own history. Corruption, like temptation, exists everywhere.

So what should we do?

1. Recognise that corruption is most able to thrive where accountability is weak.
2. Corruption is both a cause and a consequence of poor – and sometimes outright bad – governance. The primary challenge for our partner governments is building strong, responsive and accountable institutions.
3. In a globalised world, corruption is played out on a global stage. There is huge potential as we know for illicit income from natural resources. Consider the enormous waste of Nigeria's oil wealth over past decades or the destruction of forests in a whole number of countries. The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative is one way of addressing these problems.
4. Aid can be part of the solution to the problem of corruption.

We have learned from previous mistakes, and our approach has changed. Where we can, we work with and through governments to support them in becoming more accountable, more responsive, and better able to achieve progress – and ultimately more legitimate. And where we can't, we will still find ways of helping poor people. And we will continue to work to help countries fight corruption.

Good political governance is, I think, based on four things:

1. Authority. All governments need authority. It's simply about being able to get things done. Does the government have the money, the will and the capacity to build wells, provide health services to villagers, offer a good education to children, and raise taxes to do all these things? When those are absent, countries suffer.
2. Governments must respond to the aspirations of their citizens through some kind of representative government, and this includes respecting peoples' civil and political rights.
3. Accountability. This means having to explain and answer questions on what you have done. It applies to public officials, to ministers and to governments. A free and open media plays a hugely important role as does civil society. The tax system is also crucial.
4. Legitimacy. The extent to which people think their rulers have earned the right to govern. In the long-term the best way to gain legitimacy is to rule justly in the public interest and to be elected to do so.

Governments that display the four qualities I have described are more likely to result in effective and capable states. Given that countries are likely to be at different stages in their political development, we should not set absolute standards or benchmarks to be applied uniformly. It would be wrong to judge a country emerging from conflict by the same standards as a country that has never experienced war. We must judge governments by where they are going – there may be problems along the way – but are they heading in the right direction? We need to have a more sophisticated response to poor and weak governance. We need a clearer idea of what the right thing to do is in different circumstances. And we need to recognise that countries are at different stages of development. We must refrain from the temptation to micromanage – telling governments that they must reform this or that institution before we will

help. But we mustn't become a soft touch – in the long run, I don't think people would thank us for that!

This is a complex issue; one where it is hard to get the balance right. Making progress is about making politics work. It will be politics that will help us make poverty history.

## PRESS RELEASES

28 February 2006

Drought-affected **Burundi** will receive **£3 million** to help the **World Food Programme** deliver food aid to 1.5 million people. The announcement came in response to the Government of Burundi's appeal for £34 million assistance to meet immediate food needs, outlined in a new plan to provide a total of \$168 million (around £98 million) to support the Government's plans in areas including food needs, health, education and the reintegration of people forced from their homes by conflict.

The UK has also committed £20 million to provide food aid, water, health services and emergency nutrition for children in Ethiopia, Kenya, Eritrea and Somalia.

22 February 2006

**£40 million** was **pledged** for a new **Common Humanitarian Fund** for **Sudan**, including Darfur. Other donors were also called on to commit to the fund. This fund should help the UN to react more quickly and more flexibly to both identified and unforeseen needs, not only in Darfur but all across Sudan. The UN and donor partners have worked together to develop the pilot Fund. The £40 million for the Common Humanitarian Fund will be spent in 2006, and makes up over 60% of the UK's humanitarian programme for Sudan for the year. Another £23 million will support the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross and other Non-Governmental Organisations in providing vital life-saving assistance.

21 February 2006

An **additional £20 million of UK support** for the **African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS)** was announced. The UK has already committed £19m funding this financial year. The money will provide equipment, including over 900 vehicles, military and civilian policing advice, expertise and training, airlift of troops into Darfur, and further troop rotation. The UK's total contribution to AMIS since its inception is almost £52m.

15 February 2006

It was the **first day** at the **Ethical Trading School** for **UK firms**. Trainees from top UK firms will learn how ethical trading can help transform their business and improve workers' conditions in their supply chains, on a new and first-of-its-kind training course run by the **Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI)** and **backed by DFID**. Staff from a wide range of UK-based international companies will attend the first of the four-module ETI Training Programme. The first module introduces ETI's Base Code – an internationally-recognised code of practice for working conditions in company supply chains. Other modules feature advice on how to:

- Deal with some typical labour problems found in key sourcing countries and products
- Be aware of unintended consequences of implementing ethical trade strategies
- Overcome the challenges often faced when engaging with NGOs and pressure groups

ETI is a UK-based alliance of businesses, trade unions and NGOs that aims to improve conditions for workers worldwide. Its new Training Programme is primarily designed for staff working in large retail or supplier companies that outsource some or most of their production. Rather than focusing solely on workplace audits it emphasises the need for businesses to take a more strategic approach to change. ETI is part-funded by DFID who helped set it up in 1998, recognising the important opportunity ETI offers to support its poverty elimination goals.

- Training Programme content descriptions (and booking information):

[www.ethicaltrade.org/d/training](http://www.ethicaltrade.org/d/training)

13 February 2006

A **further £60 million in UK humanitarian aid** was **pledged** for the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**. The funds will be spent over two years and include help to:

- Provide emergency food and shelter for people who flee and for those returning



- Provide emergency medical equipment and life-saving vaccinations;
- Rebuild schools destroyed by conflict;
- Provide clean water.

**Most** of the UK's pledge will be put **into a new joint fund** for the DRC, which the UN will be able to draw upon in response to humanitarian priorities to ensure assistance is both fast and effective. The UK's commitment comes on the eve of a UN conference which will call for donors to provide US\$681 million (around £400 million) funds for an 'Action Plan' for the DRC.

9 February 2006

The **UK** government has **urged the pharmaceutical industry, the public sector and NGOs to develop new affordable treatments** to help save the lives of **children with HIV and AIDS**, as a greater number of people than ever before are being infected. The call came as the Third Global Partners Forum on Children Affected by AIDS (GPF) – bringing together 150 delegates from some 50 countries - met in London to take stock of the response to the pandemic, identify gaps and obstacles, and promote global cohesion and coordination.

6 February 2006

A **new programme to support women's sexual and reproductive health services** received a welcome kick-start today, with the announcement that the **UK** Government would **contribute £3 million** to the scheme. The **Global Safe Abortion Programme (GSAP), developed by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)**, will help to ensure that internationally agreed targets to reduce the number of maternal deaths in the world's poorest countries are achieved by 2015. The IPPF programme will help its member associations to do more to stop unsafe abortions as well as helping support groups such as Marie Stopes International and Manuela Ramos in Peru, and others which have seen a decline in their family planning and reproductive health services.

- Death and Denial: Unsafe Abortion and Poverty  
<http://www.ippf.org/ContentController.aspx?ID=13100>

1 February 2006

The **UK** Government will provide **£310 million** (\$545 million) over the **next three years** to support the **Tanzanian Government's National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty – Mkukuta**. The funding will be given directly to the Government of Tanzania, to be spent on programmes for reducing poverty and improving quality of life, including health, education and water projects. The three-year commitment comprises £90 million for financial year 2006/07, £105 million for 2007/08 and £115 million for 2008/09. The money will be paid in a single sum in the first quarter of each financial year, in line with the Government of Tanzania's budgetary requirements.

On January 14, 2006 the Government of Tanzania and 14 GBS donors signed a Partnership Framework Agreement (PFM) which governs how GBS will work for the next 5 years. The UK's announcement of the £310m commitment is in accordance with the agreements in the PFM, whereby donors commit to increase the predictability of aid flows by indicating their contributions three years in advance.

## NEWS

22 February 2006

DFID are **donating 1,500 used high-quality PCs** from the recent office refurbishment to **developing countries**. They will be distributed by Digital Links International, a charity founded with the vision of helping people in the developing world have access to information technology to improve their lives.

- Digital Links International:  
<http://www.digital-links.org/>

16 February 2006

The **second Sri Lanka Strategic Conflict Assessment** was **launched in Colombo**. It builds on the earlier DFID-commissioned strategic conflict assessment conducted in 2000 but this time was jointly supported by the governments of the UK, the Netherlands and Sweden as well as the World Bank and The Asia Foundation. The study analyses the structures and dynamics

of conflict and peace since 2000. It examines how international engagement has interacted with the conflict - with a particular focus on aid donors – and identifies how the strategies and approaches of international donors can best engage with and help strengthen domestic peacebuilding efforts. A series of sub-studies, on the politics of the south, north and east, the role of the vernacular press and economic influences are also available.

- Strategic Conflict Assessment – Aid, Conflict and Peacebuilding in Sri Lanka and sub-studies:

[http://www.asiafoundation.org/Locations/srilanka\\_publications.html](http://www.asiafoundation.org/Locations/srilanka_publications.html)

8 February 2006

The **Commission for Africa** and **G8** highlighted that **private enterprise** is a **prime engine of growth** and **development**. To boost economic growth in the region, a **US\$100 million** multi-donor **Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF)** was **recommended**. The fund will offer grants on a competitive basis to private companies to test innovative but unproven business models resulting in the greater participation of the poor in markets – both as consumers and also as workers and producers. The **design** of the **AECF** is **about to begin** with stakeholder consultations to determine which areas or sectors it will focus on and how it will operate to maximise its effectiveness. Lessons learnt from the implementation of the DFID-funded Financial Sector Deepening Challenge Fund and the Business Linkages Challenge Fund, will also be key to the design of the AECF. The planned launch date is November 2006.

- Project Concept Note:  
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/aecf-pcn.pdf>
- AECF Frequently Asked Questions Sheet  
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/aecf-faq.pdf>
- Financial Sector Deepening Challenge Fund  
<http://www.financialdeepening.org/default.asp?id=87&ver=1>
- Business Linkages Challenge Fund  
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/funding/businesslinkages.asp>

1 February 2006

The **UK signed** a **10 year Development Partnership Arrangement** with **Afghanistan** at the international conference on Afghanistan on 31 January -1 February. The 10-year DPA will help build the Afghan Government's confidence and further strengthen its commitment to reducing poverty. The DPA **covers £330 million** of **UK commitments** on international development assistance provided through DFID. The DPA also transparently sets out Afghan Government commitments needed for DFID to continue with substantial long-term development support. These include:

- commitments on reducing poverty and the Millennium Development Goals
- respecting human rights and other relevant international obligations, and
- strengthening financial management and accountability.

The DPA specifies what each Government will commit to, and what happens if the Afghan Government is in breach of a commitment. These commitments should help to strengthen the Afghan Government's planning and budgeting through more effective delivery and use of aid, resulting in greater impact on poverty.

- The London Conference on Afghanistan website:  
<http://www.afghanistanconference.gov.uk/>
- Development Partnership Arrangement  
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/dev-partner-arrange.pdf>
- The Afghanistan National Development Strategy website  
<http://www.ands.gov.af/main.asp>
- The Joint Declaration of Enduring Relationship  
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/enduring-relationship.pdf>
- DFID Afghanistan Interim Strategy Paper  
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/afghanistan-interim-strategy.pdf>