

**The World Bank**

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

1818 H Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20433  
U.S.A.

(202) 473-1000  
Cable Address: INTBAFRAD  
Cable Address: INDEVAS

August 27, 2007

Prince Dr. Philip C. Njemanze  
Chairman  
African Anti-Abortion Coalition  
Chidicon Medical Center  
No. 1 Uratta Road, P.O. Box 302  
Oweri, Imo State  
NIGERIA

Honorable Prince Dr. Philip C. Njemanze,

Thank you for your letter to the World Bank President, Robert Zoellick, regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the 2005 Declaration of the G8 Africa Action Plan and the charge for African governments to show leadership in promoting women's and men's rights to sexual and reproductive health.


First, let me reassure you Sir, that the World Bank does not impose policies of any kind on developing countries. The Bank, whose mission is the alleviation of poverty and inequality, sees its role as supporting the development needs that countries themselves identify, and which they request our help in implementing, along with global and bilateral development partners, such as the United Nations, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), USAID, and others.

In response to your specific concerns about family planning and reproductive health, the Bank's efforts in this area are part of our broader efforts to carry out a new health, nutrition, and population strategy that will help developing countries strengthen their health systems to improve the health and well-being of millions of the world's poorest people, boost economic growth, reduce poverty caused by catastrophic illness, and provide the structural 'glue' that combines multiple health-related programs within client countries.

We also need to work with countries to help them better educate their girls and young women, to provide them with equal economic opportunities in society, and to improve national economic performance to have fewer households living below the poverty line. These are also vital parts of a strategy to reduce poverty, which is our primary goal.

Please rest assured that the World Bank finances programs that are within the legal framework of countries, and does not promote or advocate for changes in legislation to make abortion legal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Yaw Ansu', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Yaw Ansu  
Sector Director  
Human Development  
Africa Region