



Inter-European Parliamentary Forum  
on Population and Development



The World Bank



The Parliamentary Network on  
the World Bank



# G-8 INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIANS' CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA 2005

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND ◆ 6-7 JUNE 2005

*"Africa's development requires action for Africa to be a domestic political issue in developed countries. That, in turn, requires both political leadership and political support. This can come from parliamentarians, the electorates, the media, the private sector and civil society as a whole". Para 10., 'Making it Happen' "Our Common Interest, Report of the Commission for Africa, March*

## ◆ CONFERENCE OUTLINE

### I. JUSTIFICATION

Development has moved to the top of the international policy agenda during the United Kingdom's G8 Presidency in 2005 and its Presidency of European Union in the latter half of 2005. The fight against poverty will be highlighted at several international meetings this year, including July's G8 Heads-of-State meeting in Scotland and at September's UN summit on the Millennium Development Goals in New York.

Africa's development challenges are commanding particular attention during this "Year of Development." The Commission for Africa, which brought together public and private-sector leaders from both donor countries and Africa to design a comprehensive blueprint for addressing the development needs of the continent, delivered its report on March 11. The Commission's recommendations are intended to help shape the agenda of the G8 Heads of State Summit in July in Gleneagles, Scotland, particularly to:

- Help improve governance and build effective states
- Help build peace and create security across Africa
- Improve the opportunities for good health and education
- Create opportunities for economic growth
- Increase resources for Africa through more and better aid, debt relief and fairer trade

### II. 2005 Edinburgh Conference

Recognizing that parliamentarians play a key role in advancing the development agenda, particularly in mobilizing the necessary resources and in holding government leaders to account on their commitments, the Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (IEPPFD), in collaboration with UK-based NGO Interact Worldwide, the World Bank and the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank (PNOWB) have decided to convene a meeting of parliamentarians to create support for the G8's commitment to devise a set of specific actions for Africa's development.

The Conference will examine broad development issues of specific concern to Africa, paying particular attention to HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health issues, and also including:

- supporting sustainable development and agriculture
- building effective nations and good governance
- promoting peace, security, conflict prevention and resolution
- developing the private sector and strengthening the capacity to trade
- aid, trade and debt relief: the role of donor countries

The conference is expected to produce a forward-looking declaration recommending steps parliamentarians might take to promote and to monitor the implementation of commitments made by G8 and other donor countries.

#### **PURPOSE**

To foster dialogue among policy makers from the G8 countries, and other European and African countries on the main subject to be raised at the G8 Heads-of-State summit meeting in July 2005: the development challenges facing the African continent. The conference will also provide an opportunity to debate the recommendations of the Commission for Africa report, with a particular focus on recommendations related to HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health issues.

#### **HOSTS**

The Scottish Parliament in collaboration with Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (IEPPFD).

#### **ORGANIZERS**

IEPPFD and Interact Worldwide.

#### **Sponsors**

IEPPFD, Interact Worldwide, the World Bank and the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank (PNoWB).

#### **DATE AND VENUE**

The Conference will take place on 6 & 7 June 2005 in Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom, in the Scottish Parliament on the 6<sup>th</sup> and in the Roxburgh Hotel on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **AGENDA**

The conference will be in plenary with two segments of simultaneous special thematic sessions all day on the 6<sup>th</sup> and a half day on the 7<sup>th</sup> June. Official interpretation in English & French will be offered (other languages to be determined).

#### **COST OF PARTICIPATION**

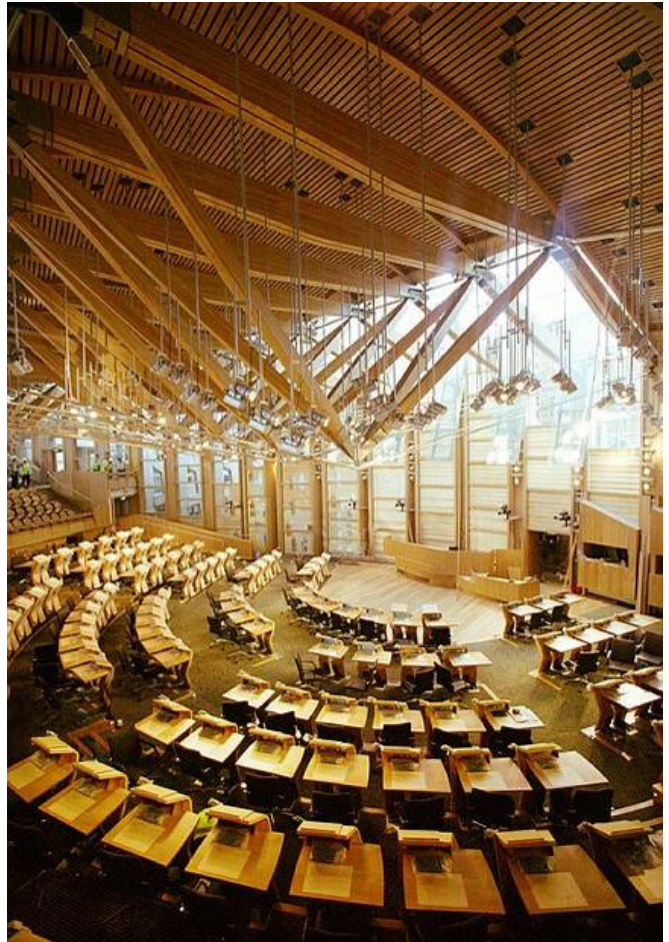
For parliamentarians and other invited guests, the conference budget can, at request, cover the cost of travel and other necessary expenses. Observers are asked to pay for their own travel and accommodation costs.

#### **PARTICIPANTS**

Approximately 80 participants are expected to attend the conference, including:

- ❖ 24 parliamentarians from G8 countries
- ❖ 20 parliamentarians from African countries
- ❖ Parliamentarians from European countries
- ❖ Panelists and resource persons (including experts from the Commission for Africa and the Millennium Project)
- ❖ Representatives from international organizations such as the World Bank, UNFPA, and other UN agencies, IPPF, the European Commission, African Union and NEPAD.
- ❖ Selected non-governmental organisations

#### PLENARY CHAMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT



#### **EXPECTED OUTCOME**

- ❖ A Declaration that spells out concrete actions for parliamentarians to take prior to and after the G8 Summit in Gleneagles in July 2005.
- ❖ Heightened public support. The conference will offer a compelling platform for parliamentarians of all countries attending the G8. Through media, public and parliamentary attention, the conference will promote awareness about sexual and reproductive health issues and support for addressing Africa's development.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

More information on the conference can be obtained at:

IEPPFD  
Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development  
23 Rue de Luxembourg, Boîte 3  
1000 Brussels  
[www.ieppfd.org](http://www.ieppfd.org)  
Tel 32 2 500 86 50  
Fax 32 2 511 67 62

### III. COMMISSION FOR AFRICA FINDINGS ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

#### **Extracts from the Report of the Commission for Africa**

*"Rates of maternal mortality in Africa are the highest in the world. More than 250,000 women die each year from complications in pregnancy or childbirth compared to 1,500 in Europe. Up to 19 per cent of these deaths are attributable to unsafe abortion, which further increases the risk of HIV infection. In the coming decade, Africa will have its largest number of childbearing women. Without greater access to contraception, antenatal care and skilled attendance at delivery, safe abortion and post-abortion care, the numbers of deaths will accelerate. Despite this, less than half of the international financial commitments made on sexual and reproductive health rights in Cairo in 1994 have been implemented. This has serious consequences for improving public health and addressing the HIV and AIDS epidemic effectively.*

*African governments must prioritise sexual and reproductive health within their vision of health systems and integrate HIV and AIDS treatment and care into it as set out in the UN's New York Call to Commitment. Some donors are effectively unable to fund these services. Those that can should compensate and complement their funding so sexual and reproductive health services are delivered, with HIV and AIDS treatment and care integrated into them. This would include increasing the availability of condoms, attended births, emergency obstetric care and referral systems, and improving safe abortion services. Further details about the HIV and AIDS response required are given in section 6.4. The UN Population Fund*

*(UNFPA) should work closely with AU/NEPAD and WHO to ensure that a clear sexual and reproductive health strategy is integral to the AU/NEPAD Initial Programme of Action. Recommendation: African governments must show strong leadership in promoting women's and men's right to sexual and reproductive health. Governments must be accountable for ending the stigma and gender discrimination associated with sexual and reproductive services. This will require working in partnership with civil society, particularly religious and traditional leaders. Recommendation: Donors should do all they can to enable universal access to sexual and reproductive health services. UNFPA estimates that an additional US\$300 million a year is required to make up the gap in reproductive health commodity requirements."*

Other references to sexual and reproductive health and rights include:

#### **Strengthening Infrastructure: essential medicines and commodities**

*"Ensuring reliable access to and proper use of safe, effective and affordable diagnostic tests, medicines, vaccines, and reproductive health goods, such as condoms, are essential to health and a key function of effective health systems. It is estimated that nearly half of people in Africa do not have regular access to essential medicines. Effective distribution and management of health goods are essential to improving access and must be part of health system strengthening." (p.185)*