



June 7, 2005

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC
USA

Prime Minister Tony Blair
10 Downing Street
London
United Kingdom

Dear President Bush and Prime Minister Blair:

As parliamentarians from G8, European and African countries meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland in advance of the G8 Summit, we urge you in your discussions today in Washington to agree to advance concrete and measurable actions to address the human development needs of the hundreds of millions of people living on the continent of Africa.

Millions of Africans are dying from AIDS, hunger, conflict and the consequences of extreme poverty. Immediate action is required to reverse this on-going human tragedy. Your leadership, with the support of the citizens of the United States and the United Kingdom, as well as that of other G8 and wealthy nations in Europe, can save lives, create hope and promote opportunity for the people of Africa. Therefore, the outcome of your discussions today may well set the tone for both the G8 Summit as well as the future of development and investment in Africa.

As parliamentarians, we believe action is needed now. Words and promises are no longer enough when the future of an entire continent is at stake. The time has come for urgent and sustained action on aid, trade and debt relief to improve the quality of life for the over three hundred million Africans who live in extreme poverty on less than \$1 per day. Inaction and the prospect of a further deterioration of the human condition have the potential not only to lead to failed African states, but to place at risk the stability of the entire continent. Such a prospect cannot be allowed to become reality.

Your nations, along with the other G8 partners, have the economic power and strategic ability to partner with the people of Africa to initiate a positive new era of development, investment, trade and good governance. With your support and determination this partnership can not only overcome the serious challenges Africa faces today, but also prepares a brighter future for the next generation of African children and families.



Together, we urge the United States and the United Kingdom to strongly support and promote the goals put forth by the Commission for Africa as a blueprint for action at the upcoming G8 Summit at Gleneagles. We are ready to work with you and the leaders and parliamentarians from other wealthy countries and African countries to take responsible, urgent action to achieve success for Africa's future through leadership in the following four areas:

- G8 leaders should commit to a time table for doubling aid to Africa by 2010. An additional US\$25 billion is needed, according to estimates by the Commission for Africa.
- G8 leaders should commit to substantially reducing tariff rates for agricultural products, fully eliminating agricultural export subsidies, and boosting aid for trade assistance to enhance Africa's capacity to trade.
- G8 leaders should agree to eliminate the unsustainable bilateral and multilateral debt of the poorest nations.
- African leaders and the people of Africa should lead efforts to tackle their continent's development challenges: investing in people, empowering African women, supporting sustainable development and agriculture, building effective nations and good governance, promoting peace and security, and developing the private sector.

President Bush and Prime Minister Blair, we urge you and your governments to support these initiatives and commence with a new partnership to strengthen and sustain Africa's future.

Yours Sincerely,

Parliamentary delegates to the Edinburgh G8 International Parliamentarians' Conference on Development in Africa 2005

Hon. Betty McCollum
Member of U.S. Congress

Lord David Steel
House of Lords, UK

Mark Lazarowicz
Member of Parliament, UK

Ann McKechin, MP
United Kingdom

Rt. Hon. Gavin Strang, MP
United Kingdom

Hon. Masatoshi
Wakabayashi, MP, Japan



Hon. Sergey Afendulov, MP
Russian Federation

Hon. Nikolay Gerasimenko,
MP, Russian Federation

Hon. Gian Paolo Landi di
Chiavenna, MP, Italy

Hon. Bert Koenders, MP,
The Netherlands

H.E. Nathan Nabeta Igeme,
Minister of Trade, Uganda

Hon. Mary Henry, Member
of Senate, Rep. of Ireland

Hon. Priscilla Misihairabwi-
Mushonga, MP,
Zimbabwe

Hon. Ruth Genner, MP
Switzerland

Hon. Francesco Martone,
Senator, Italy

Hon. Belinda Bidwell, MP
Gambia

Hon. Leon Bio Bigou, MP
Benin

Hon. Louis Chimango, MP
Malawi

Hon. Yohannes Dawit, MP
Ethiopia

Hon. Habeeb Fasinro, MP
Nigeria

Hon. Beatrice Kiraso, MP
Uganda

Hon. Justin Malawezi, MP
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Hon. Norbert Mao, MP
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Hon. Angeline Ndo Engolo
Evina, MP, Cameroon

Hon. Marie-Rose Nguini-
Effa, MP, Cameroon

Hon. James Omingo
Magara, Kenya

Hon. Famara Sarr, MP
Senegal

Hon. Elioda Tumwesigye,
MP, Uganda

Hon. Ben Turok, MP
South Africa

Hon. Delia Blanco, MP
Spain

Hon. Alain Destexhe, MP
Belgium

Hon. Jeppe Kofod, MP
Denmark

Hon. Carina Hagg, MP
Sweden

Hon. Arminas Lydeka, MP
Lithuania

Hon. Miguel Angel Martin,
MP, Spain

Hon. Gonzalo Robles
Orozco, MP, Spain

Hon. George Tsereteli, MP
Georgia

Hon. Birute Vesaite, MP
Lithuania

Hon. Patrick Harvie, MSP,
The Scottish Parliament