

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

21 April 2005

The Bamako Declaration on the Millennium Development Goals¹

We, Members of the African, Caribbean, Pacific - European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly, meeting in Bamako, Mali, from 18 to 21 April 2005, declare our unwavering support for a renewed global effort to ensure the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

At the turn of the Millennium our leaders met at a Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly and agreed on a programme aimed at reducing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by half by 2015.

The world's leaders decided to work towards attaining the MDGs, recognising that defeating poverty is a global challenge. Its attainment is in the vital interests of all humanity. A number of actions have been identified, commitments made and indicators agreed so as to measure progress in achieving the MDGs.

As the UN General Assembly prepares for its five-year review of the MDGs, we are alarmed at growing indications that, as a global community, we are not currently on course to reach the MDGs. Credible research has suggested

- that the number of poor people in Africa, rather than declining, is set to increase from 319 million in 1999 to 404 million by 2015
- that progress has been insufficient in eliminating gender disparities
- that people in small island states in the Caribbean, the Pacific and off the coast of Africa are facing increasing challenges as a result of more frequent, and more severe, storms and floods attributable to global climate change
- that on the present course it will take more than 100 years to attain the development goals identified as needing to be reached by 2015.

The Joint Parliamentary Assembly² represents a sizable proportion of the world's elected representatives. We call on our leaders to commit themselves at the highest level to a renewed effort to attain the MDGs by 2015. In particular we support calls being made for a "big push", involving the identification of new initiatives to propel the process forward at a faster pace. This must include at least the following:

- New, more comprehensive, debt cancellation and debt reduction measures, in a context in which the total foreign currency debt of Sub-Saharan Africa, excluding South Africa, stands at the unsustainable level of \$186.7 billion compared to a gross geographic product of \$217 billion, and debt repayment and debt service continue to exceed aid flows
- Steps to ensure fair trade rules for developing countries so that they are able to expand exports of products where they either have or can acquire competitive advantage, by removing tariff and non-tariff barriers and by eliminating agricultural export subsidies that impede export expansion by developing

¹ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 April 2005 in Bamako (Mali)

² The JPA comprises parliamentarians from 77 ACP countries and Members of the European Parliament from 25 European countries

countries, without imposing unfair reciprocal obligations on the developing countries

- More effective partnership to address capacity building and the productive economy constraints that many believe are the fundamental barriers to developing countries becoming effectively integrated into the world economy
- Greatly enhanced efforts to achieve universal primary education, with special attention to education for girls, gender equality, and to enhance all areas of health, including reproductive health, and an increase in levels of funding for a broad range of sexual and reproductive health services,
- Mainstreaming of environmental considerations into all policy areas in order to achieve sustainable development,
- Recognising that all this requires increasing resource flows to developing countries by at least an additional \$50 to \$70 billion.

We call on the EU Member States to ensure that the commitments made by the European Council in Barcelona in March 2002 are expeditiously implemented, including

- establishing timeframes for each of the 15 member states that agreed to the Barcelona commitments in 2002 to reach the UN target of 0.7% of GNI well in advance of 2015, with credible annual increases leading to an EU average of 0.51% by 2009
- exploring innovative sources of additional funding
- pursuing efforts to eliminate the debt overhang of poor countries in order to boost public expenditure to reach the MDGs
- increasing trade-related assistance
- deadlines for full market access for goods and services from low income countries by 2010
- a deadline for the total elimination of agricultural export subsidies that distort markets for farmers in developing countries
- effective policy coherence, in order to maximise the positive effects of measures in other policy domains on development policy, and to prevent other policies from negatively impacting on development policy.

We call on the EU countries, other industrialised countries and countries in transition to be open to new proposals and commitments that may be identified in the MDG review process.

We call on the ACP countries to implement fully the commitments made as part of the MDG process, including

- the fight against corruption
- improved public expenditure management
- the promotion of legislative measures to ensure that poor people, women and other disadvantaged groups can participate fully in economic life
- reinforcement of sectoral policies in the social sector, including health
- support for a fast track initiative on basic education.