

## *Submission to Ministers*

To : Michael Anderson (*agreed – 20 July 2010*)  
Private Secretary

From: Nick Dyer  
Ext: 0905  
Date: 29 June 2010  
CC: Submissions list  
Directors  
PRD Group Heads  
Heads of Cabinets

### **HANDLING OF PUBLIC COMMITMENTS**

#### **Issue**

1. Which previous public commitments DFID should track and honour.

#### **Recommendation**

2. The SoS endorses a small number of commitments previously made to the international community and/or to the UK public (see paragraph 7).

#### **Communications and parliamentary handling**

3. We do not recommend any proactive external communications. But we will communicate decisions to staff and will take opportunities as they arise to restate those commitments which the Secretary of State endorses. For those that we are proposing to drop we recommend the following defensive lines :
  - There are over 100 existing DFID public commitments on the books. We have reviewed these and retained those that fit with new Ministerial priorities, are as outcome focused as possible, and will deliver value for money.
  - This does not mean work will stop in other areas. But we will only judge ourselves against commitments and outcomes that we assess pass the fitness test. The on-going bilateral and multilateral aid reviews will help set new priorities.

#### **Timing**

4. Routine. We have an office meeting booked for 23 July to discuss.

## Information

5. DFID is holding over 100 public commitments mainly from previous White Papers. Many, particularly input/spending targets, had high profile. Ministers are providing strategic direction and new priorities and we need to ensure a clear understanding of the status of existing public commitments.

## Advice

6. The full list of commitments we recommend dropping is at Annex 1. These have been categorised by those we think have strong public backing and are likely to be resisted; will upset other government departments; have individual vocal support; will be overtaken by new Ministerial priorities or initiatives; or are unlikely to be noticed. There will be stakeholders who will argue we should keep some of these eg. the US and the Gates Foundation with respect to polio and neglected tropical diseases. The recommendation however is that DFID no longer tracks and judges its performance publicly against these commitments. But we will ask Directors to review whether the areas of work or the specific spending targets should still be retained internally. And where work is not in line with new Ministerial policy priorities or not proving value for money, it should go.

7. We recommend retaining 19 commitments which we judge to be in line with Ministerial policy priorities, feature in the Structural Reform Plan and/or are unlikely to be overtaken by other initiatives currently under development. In particular we recommend that nearly all the input spending targets are scrapped. These fail to meet the new focus on outputs/outcomes. But we do suggest retaining six :

| Commitments to keep   | Rationale   |
|---|---|
| 1. £1 billion to <b>food and agriculture</b>  | A G20 commitment. US likely to track closely. No time frame specified.  |
| 2. An additional £1 billion to the Global Fund to fight <b>AIDS, TB and malaria</b> over 8 years from 2008 - 2015   | A financing commitment the Fund and NGOs expect. An alternative would be to make the remaining 2011 – 2015 portion subject to the Multilateral Aid Review   |
| 3. Allocate an amount equivalent to 5% of <b>budget support</b> funding to help accountability  | A Green Paper commitment  |
| 4. Increase the proportion of spend, currently around 2.6% of DFID's budget, to <b>research</b> to improve our evidence base and strengthen the UK's leadership in this field | A recasting of an existing volume commitment. Reflects Ministers' support for research and innovation and their intention to provide evidence of impact. There is also an expectation of this level of funding from Whitehall departments |
| 5. £1.5 billion for Fast Start <b>climate finance</b>   | Agreed by the Secretary of State already  |
| 6. A further £250 million to an expanded IFFIm to support <b>health services</b>  | Agreed by the Secretary of State already  |

The Secretary of State has separately decided that we do not yet need to make a decision on capping the proportion of ODA spent on climate change to 10%.

Additionality in the short term is unlikely. Other commitments we propose retaining are :

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| 7. Reach 12 million <b>malnourished children</b> in six priority countries   |
| <i>Combine and recast the following three commitments to one that is results focused</i>   |
| 8. i. Increase support through the Met Police, CPS and Interpol, to help developing countries to recover stolen assets; ii. Provide new ways to gather intelligence, working with the private sector and SOCA; iii. Support a new IMF Trust Fund aimed at strengthening anti-money laundering systems in developing countries. |
| 9. Seek stretching targets for the Multilateral Development Banks to increase their proportion of energy sector lending to <b>clean technology</b> by 2012 – <i>but recommend recasting to a rise in 'absolute' terms rather than a 'proportion' of lending</i>  |
| 10. Explore the use of Advance Market Commitments to stimulate demand for renewable energy and other <b>low carbon technology</b> in developing countries  |
| 11. Conduct a strategic review of the UK's development programme to improve our efforts on <b>climate change</b>   |
| 12. Deliver on our commitments to invest in sustainable forestry management and seek new ways of raising finance to pay for forest management and reduce deforestation and degradation.  |
| 13. Make all DFID's operational activities in the UK and overseas <b>carbon neutral</b> by 2012  |
| 14. Focus our development support in <b>fragile countries</b> on 4 new objectives of : inclusive political settlements; addressing underlying causes; supporting core functions; and meeting the public's expectations, in order to promote peaceful states and societies  |
| 15. Treat access to <b>security and justice</b> as a basic service.  |
| 16. Help partner governments to abolish <b>user fees at the point of use for basic health services</b> and help them tackle other barriers to access including discrimination against women.   |
| 17. Support an international treaty to regulate the <b>arms trade</b>  |
| 18. Continue to <b>allocate aid</b> based on the principles of country income, population size and confidence that resources will be used effectively <i>[Note: to discuss whether we should shift to allocations based on MDG need]</i>   |
| 19. The UK is committed to deliver on the commitments made in the Paris Declaration on <b>Aid Effectiveness</b> which were reaffirmed in the Accra Agenda for Action   |

8. We have consulted with other Directors on the contents of this submission and they agree.

Nick Dyer