

## **Preface**

This paper is designed to complement *Development Matters: Christian Perspectives on Globalisation*, the collection of essays prepared as background to the General Synod debate on international development in July 2001. It reproduces the international policy commitments prepared by Global View 2001, an alliance of 24 human rights and development organisations including Christian Aid and the Board for Social Responsibility's International and Development Affairs Committee.

People often feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of the problems of global poverty. 'But what can we do?' is a question often asked. These policy commitments provide a refreshingly specific answer. There will rightly be debate about their relative importance and feasibility and the essays in *Development Matters: Christian Perspectives on Globalisation* will provide more information for those who wish to explore the issues in more detail. But it is important that the Churches are fully involved in this debate. The Board is already engaged, through its network of World Development Advisors and Social Responsibility Officers in the dioceses and in partnership with Christian Aid, the World Development Movement and other agencies in taking this forward.

The policy commitments were initially drawn up with the General Election in mind, but I hope that after reflecting on the challenges posed by the policy commitments, and by *Development Matters: Christian Perspectives on Globalisation*, Christians and all who share their passion

for global justice will want to show their concern practically by pressing our Government to work with others for the change which is needed. This paper will have served its purpose if the General Synod debate leads to a stronger commitment throughout the Church to the urgent task of eradicating world poverty.

Rt Revd Humphrey Taylor  
Bishop of Selby  
Chair, International and Development Affairs Committee

## **GLOBAL VIEW 2001**

1. Global View 2001 is an alliance of 24 household-name charities and campaigning organisations with over three million supporters, working together to ensure that international issues do not fall off the agenda in the run up to the General Election. With domestic issues set to dominate public debate in the coming months, there is a danger that the issues affecting poor people throughout the world will be pushed aside. Global View 2001 believes politicians are underestimating public compassion. Recent research by Oxfam indicates that more than 70 per cent of the public are concerned about poverty in developing countries.
2. Global View 2001 believes that in today's inter-dependent world, 'foreign affairs' affects us whether we like it or not. Poverty in developing countries means lost markets for British business. Conflict in the Balkans leads to asylum seekers in Dover. British troops in Sierra Leone face weapons supplied by British arm dealers. Stock market crashes in South East Asia lead to job losses in the UK. Climate change leads to flooding across the UK.
3. Global View 2001 has drawn up a series of political commitments on international issues. It is taking these to all the main parties and their candidates to push for them to be included in each party's manifesto and for action from the next government.

Two over-arching themes run through all of these commitments: firstly, a promise to put poverty eradication and the attainment of the 2015 International Development Targets at the heart of all international policies, and secondly, a commitment to ‘joined-up’ government in order to achieve these targets. Progress towards achieving these commitments should be reviewed regularly at key international meetings, with an honest assessment of constraints and of the strategies needed to overcome them. Global View 2001 urges all parties to commit themselves to publishing an Annual Report outlining the UK Government’s overall contribution to the realisation of these targets.

4. With regard to specific policies, the Government is encouraged to take the following the action:

## **5. Aid**

- i) increase the aid budget on an annual basis with the aim of reaching the United Nations (UN) target of 0.7% GNP within ten years, and the current country average of 0.4% GNP by the end of the next parliament;
- ii) increase the proportion of aid that is spent on basic social services such as health and education to 20% of the total budget;
- iii) improve the quality of European Union (EU) development assistance and increase its poverty focus by ensuring that 70% is spent in the poorest countries;

- iv) use aid procurement and contracting to build southern capacity and untie all aid, including technical co-operation, by 2003; and
- v) ensure the swift and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to all civilians affected by conflict and natural disasters on the basis of need, rather than geographical proximity or political significance.

## **6. Health and Education**

- i) improve poor people's access to basic health care and to essential drugs by increasing the proportion of aid spent on basic social services to 20%;
- ii) lead a global initiative on basic education which ensures that no country committed to achieving universal primary education fails through lack of resources; and
- iii) influence the policies of governments and multilateral institutions to abolish user-fees for basic social services such as health and education.

## **7. HIV/AIDS**

- i) recognise the HIV/AIDS pandemic as a global emergency, devote commensurate resources to prevention and care programmes, ensure drugs and vaccines produced by the private sector are made available to all on the basis of need, and support national and international

institutions attempting to combat the pandemic.

## **8. Gender**

- i) ensure that all international action promotes gender equality and that the interests of women and girls are central to all aspects of development and conflict prevention policy and practice.

## **9. Democracy, Good Governance and Civil Society**

- i) ensure that all international policies promote and strengthen national and local democracy and good governance;
- ii) implement the OECD Convention on Bribery through stand-alone legislation to allow the prosecution of UK registered companies for bribery offences committed overseas; and
- iii) adopt a strategic approach to strengthening civil society and extend the Compact with the Voluntary Sector to cover government relations with civil society organisations in the South as well as the UK.

## **10. Development Education**

- i) ensure that all sectors of government, especially education departments, recognise the contribution of development education to lifelong learning for global citizenship, and

- for building public support for development;  
and
- ii) strengthen development education provisions to address the impact of globalisation on poverty, sustainable development, and basic rights, in order to help people understand the effects of economic and political power relations in a global society.

## **11. Debt**

- i) press for further debt cancellation in order to reduce debt burdens to sustainable levels, and make judgements about eligibility on the basis of development needs rather than strict adherence to economic conditions;
- ii) press for reform of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative to deliver quicker and deeper debt relief, and to extend the number of eligible countries;
- iii) ensure that Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) genuinely prioritise poverty reduction and are developed by the governments and people of developing countries; and
- iv) press for the creation of an independent mechanism for delivering debt relief and preventing the build-up of future unsustainable debt

## **12. Reform of the International Financial Institutions**

- i) press for further reforms of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank to improve transparency, representation, and accountability;
- ii) ensure that poverty reduction goals are fully integrated into all international financial institutions (IFIs) programmes;
- iii) ensure that the governments and people of developing countries take the leading role in the design, implementation, and evaluation of all assistance programmes; and
- iv) ensure that World Bank activities take adequate account of the need to combat disease, tackle conflict and environmental problems, and disseminate appropriate technologies to the least developed countries;

## **13. Trade**

- i) press the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to make poverty reduction and sustainable development the main objectives of trade and investment agreements, with an immediate focus on the achievement of the 2015 International Development Targets;
- ii) implement WTO reforms on transparency, accountability, and participation to ensure that the interests of developing countries are fully reflected in the outcome of future trade negotiations;



- iii) press for legally binding clarification on the relationship between the WTO and multilateral agreements on environment, development, and human rights to ensure that they are mutually supportive of sustainable development;
- iv) invest in capacity-building for developing countries to enable them to participate in WTO negotiations, and to take advantage of existing trade preferences;
- v) ensure that the EU's position in any future round of trade talks adequately reflects the concerns of developing countries and supports:
  - (a) improved market access for developing country products, including duty free access for *all* products from the Least Developed Countries;
  - (b) an end to the dumping of subsidised agricultural exports;
  - (c) reform of the Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS); and
  - (d) agreement to enable technology transfer, and to protect access to seeds and essential drugs.

## **14. Investment**

- i) encourage the EU and others to support the development of an international agreement on competition policy with a view to regulating the activities of Trans-National Corporations;

- ii) ensure that any new international rules on foreign investment:
  - (a) strengthen the rights of governments to ensure that inward investment meets sustainable development priorities;
  - (b) enforce the responsibilities of foreign investors towards the communities and societies in which they invest; and
  - (c) are negotiated in a forum that can put poverty reduction, the environment, and human rights at the heart of the agreement.

## **15. Core Labour Standards**

- i) promote, under the leadership of the International Labour Organisation, a multilateral agreement on labour which would set targets and identify the measures needed to achieve core labour rights, including financial support, reform of WTO, IMF, and World Bank policies, and possible use of trade incentives.

## **16. Corporate Responsibility**

- i) promote corporate responsibility strengthening human rights, core labour and environmental standards, and the role of business in conflict prevention; and
- ii) support voluntary initiatives, such as the Ethical Trading Initiative, as a first step

towards increased transparency, accountability, and poverty focus by transnational corporations.

## **17. Export Credits**

- i) ensure that all support provided by the Export Credit Guarantees Department is consistent with the attainment of wider government objectives on poverty reduction, sustainable development, and human rights.

## **18. Capital Flows**

- i) take steps to tackle the destabilising effects of short-term, mainly speculative capital flows, to include giving due consideration to the introduction of a small tax on currency transactions, the proceeds of which would be spent on international development.

## **19. Climate Change**

- i) meet the target of reducing UK greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2010 and take a lead in pressing for a further international reduction agreement, which results in significant reductions in global emissions, and is fair in its distribution of rights to use of the global atmosphere.

## **20. Biotechnology and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)**

- i) Support and strengthen the Biosafety Protocol to enable developing countries to regulate imports of GMOs.

## **21. Conflict Prevention and Resolution**

- i) issue a policy statement which sets out a 'joined-up' approach to conflict prevention and peace-building initiatives by all relevant government departments, and provides coherence to the broad range of inter-related policies aimed at tackling the root causes of conflict and promoting long-term stability;
- ii) work with the UN Secretary-General to develop clear and internationally agreed criteria for taking decisions concerning interventions aimed at protecting civilians;
- iii) use the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Geneva Conventions as the framework for all government policy on countries in conflicts and ratify the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict; and
- iv) ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and support its universal implementation as a matter of urgency.

## 22. Arms

- i) Introduce new legislation on strategic export controls in order to:
  - (a) control arms brokering and shipping agents through registration and licensing of all deals;
  - (b) promote democratic accountability through prior parliamentary scrutiny of arms export licences;
  - (c) establish strict controls on licensed production and technology transfer; and
  - (d) establish a system for monitoring the end-use of arms after export.
- ii) seek international support for a new obligation on the users of weapons that have the same post-conflict impact on civilians as anti-personnel mines, including anti-vehicle mines and cluster submunitions, to take full responsibility for their clearance.
- iii) ensure a ‘joined-up’ approach to conflict prevention at UK, EU, and international levels by directing all policy instruments towards tackling the root causes of conflict and promoting long-term stability;
- iv) strengthen the national criteria governing arms exports by adopting a presumption against licensing military equipment to countries where they might be used to abuse human rights, fuel conflict, or undermine development; and

- v) work with the UN Secretary-General to develop clear and internationally agreed criteria for taking decisions concerning interventions aimed at protecting civilians.

### **23. Children in Conflict**

- i) use the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Geneva Conventions as the framework for all government policy on countries in conflicts; and
- ii) sign and ratify the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

### **24. Asylum**

- i) uphold the 1951 Refugee Convention and ensure that the UK meets all its international obligations in full, abolish the recently introduced voucher scheme for asylum seekers and replace it with a cash-based system in order to avoid stigmatisation and discrimination and take a lead in educating public opinion on immigration and asylum issues and promoting their coverage in the media in a fair and accurate manner.