



House of Commons  
International Development  
Committee

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**Work of the  
Committee in Session  
2007–08**

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**First Report of Session 2008–09**

*Report, together with formal minutes*

*Ordered by the House of Commons  
to be printed 13 January 2009*

## International Development Committee

The International Development Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Department for International Development and its associated public bodies.

### Current membership

Malcolm Bruce MP (*Liberal Democrat, Gordon*) (Chairman)  
John Battle MP (*Labour, Leeds West*)  
Hugh Bayley MP (*Labour, City of York*)  
John Bercow MP (*Conservative, Buckingham*)  
Richard Burden MP (*Labour, Birmingham Northfield*)  
Mr Stephen Crabb MP (*Conservative, Preseli Pembrokeshire*)  
Daniel Kawczynski MP (*Conservative, Shrewsbury and Atcham*)  
Ann McKeichin MP (*Labour, Glasgow North*)  
Jim Sheridan MP (*Labour, Paisley and Renfrewshire North*)  
Mr Marsha Singh MP (*Labour, Bradford West*)  
Sir Robert Smith MP (*Liberal Democrat, West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine*)

### Powers

The Committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the Internet via [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk).

### Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at [www.parliament.uk/indcom](http://www.parliament.uk/indcom)

### Committee staff

The staff of the Committee are Carol Oxborough (Clerk), Ben Williams (Assistant Clerk), Anna Dickson (Committee Specialist), Chlöe Challender (Committee Specialist), Ian Hook (Senior Committee Assistant), Vanessa Hallinan (Committee Assistant), Miguel Boo Fraga (Committee Support Assistant) and Alex Paterson (Media Officer).

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# 1 Introduction

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1. This Report focuses on the work of the Committee during the parliamentary Session 2007–2008.<sup>1</sup> (Our previous annual reports have covered a calendar year). It reviews the work of the International Development Committee in relation to the objectives and core tasks established by the Liaison Committee.<sup>2</sup> As we have indicated in our previous annual reports, the core tasks do not apply equally to all committees and our Committee operates in a slightly different way from others. The Department for International Development (DFID), the Department whose area of work we monitor, generates little by way of legislation; it has no associated public bodies;<sup>3</sup> and the Secretary of State is rarely responsible for major public appointments. Much of the policy we examine is implemented jointly with other country and multilateral donors and often in conjunction with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which are both national and international. We therefore seek to influence policy nationally and internationally, in addition to ensuring the accountability of the UK Government and we have adapted the core tasks to these particular circumstances.

## Highlights of the Committee's work in 2007–08

2. During the 2007–2008 Session, the Committee held 49 meetings, of which 33 were public oral evidence sessions. We published 12 Reports which included a number of specific recommendations to Government on a variety of DFID policy areas.<sup>4</sup>

3. DFID's programmes are targeted towards achievement of the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) whose overriding aim is to halve the number of people living in poverty by 2015. All our inquiries—to a greater or lesser degree—focus on assessing the extent to which DFID's policies and activities are contributing towards meeting the MDGs. Our report this session on *Maternal Health* drew attention to one of the MDGs which is most off-track. In addition, this year we used our annual scrutiny of DFID's departmental report to take evidence from the Secretary of State on the outcomes of the UN High Level Event on the Millennium Development Goals held in New York in September. This event was part of the "Call to Action", launched by the British Prime Minister and the UN Secretary-General to give new impetus to the MDGs.

4. It has been our practice in this Parliament to examine DFID's work to tackle HIV/AIDS each year. Halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS is another of the MDGs. In July, we announced an inquiry into DFID's new HIV/AIDS Strategy which examined the extent to which DFID's new approach, set out in the Strategy, was likely to achieve the aim of universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support for HIV/AIDS by 2010. We published our report in time for World AIDS Day on 1 December 2008.

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1 The parliamentary Session 2007–2008 began with the State Opening of Parliament on 6 November 2007 and ended on 27 November 2008.

2 See Annex A

3 DFID sponsors one non-departmental body, the Advisory Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK; and wholly owns CDC Group plc, the main arm for the Department's interventions in private sector development.

4 See Annex C: Sessional Return. The Sessional Return includes information and statistics about the membership, work, and staff of select committees.

5. It is also our practice to examine DFID's programmes in specific countries to assess the extent to which these programmes have met DFID's stated aims. During this Session we have conducted inquiries into DFID's programmes in Afghanistan and China. We followed-up our 2007 report on the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) to take account of the worsening humanitarian situation there. We also held two one-off oral evidence sessions: on DFID's assistance to Burma (on which we first reported in 2007) following Cyclone Nargis; and on Iraq.

6. The UK now channels about 40% of its aid budget through multilateral organisations. We therefore decided it was timely to assess the extent to which funding delivered in this way achieved outcomes which matched DFID's objectives. Our reports on DFID's relationships with the African Development Bank, the World Bank and the World Food Programme, which examined these issues, are described below.

### Committee membership

7. We have had a number of changes to the membership of the Committee this Session.<sup>5</sup> Whilst this is generally the case, we are becoming concerned about how long it takes for members to be discharged and replaced. We appreciate that there are many factors to be taken into account in appointing Members to committees, but we believe that it would greatly assist select committees in carrying out their duties if membership changes were dealt with more speedily.

8. Our only female member was appointed to a Government post in September; at the end of the Session we were still awaiting her replacement. We were already sensitive about having only one woman on the Committee, particularly during visits to developing countries where female political representation is often much closer to parity than in the UK. The Department for International Development rightly exhorts the countries it works in to promote gender equality. We would regard it as extremely regrettable if the UK Parliament was shown to be unable to meet the standards it advocates by failing to find at least one female Member to join the IDC.

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5 See Annex C for details

## 2 Inquiries into Government Policy Proposals

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9. As in previous years, our activities in this Session have sought to follow the objectives contained in DFID's Public Service Agreements (PSAs). The PSA targets are largely based on the Millennium Development Goals, which have the overall aim of poverty reduction.

### Trade

10. Following on from our inquiries into *Fair Trade* and *EU Development and Trade Policies* in the last Session,<sup>6</sup> we have continued to press the case that international trade can play an important role in raising levels of human development and achieving sustainable poverty reduction.

11. Our report on *Development and Trade: Cross-Departmental Working* was published in December 2007 and was covered in last year's annual report.<sup>7</sup> That Report followed up issues raised in our 2006 report on *Conflict and Development* in which we made recommendations on the UK's implementation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines on Multilateral Enterprises in relation to the regulation of the activities of companies operating in developing countries.<sup>8</sup> Evidence we received from the OECD Working Group on Bribery convinced us that there had been little change. We urged the Government to act on the OECD's recommendation to introduce new anti-bribery legislation in the UK. Current UK legislation makes it very difficult for prosecutors to bring an effective case against a company for alleged bribery offences. Although the UK ratified the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention 10 years ago, it has so far failed to prosecute successfully any bribery case against a company. Since our Report was published, the OECD Working Group has again criticised the Government's failure to bring UK anti-bribery laws into line with its international obligations. We hope that the Bribery Bill, which is to be introduced in the 2008-09 Session, will address these shortcomings.

### Multilateral aid agencies

12. International organisations have a critical role to play in helping developing countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Multilateral institutions, including UN agencies, the European Commission and the World Bank, now receive over 40% of DFID's total budget, amounting to billions of pounds annually. We decided that it was timely to inquire into DFID's relationships with three multilateral bodies.

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6 Seventh Report of Session 2006-07, *Fair Trade and Development*, HC356; Fifth Report of Session 2006-07, *EU Development and Trade Policies: An update*, HC 271

7 Third Report of Session 2007-08, *Work of the Committee in 2007*, HC 255, paras 8-10

8 Sixth Report of Session 2005-06, *Conflict and Development: Peacebuilding and Post-conflict Reconstruction*, HC 923-I, paras 105-119

### ***DFID and the World Bank***

13. Towards the end of 2007, DFID announced a 49% increase in its funding for the World Bank bringing its contribution to £2.1 billion over three years. Our inquiry took place against the background of DFID becoming the largest contributor to the International Development Association, the arm of the Bank which focuses on the world's poorest countries. Our inquiry included a visit to Washington DC for discussions with World Bank President Robert Zoellick and other senior World Bank staff.

14. Our Report concluded that the World Bank is a vital component in the international development system. It is a major provider of development funding, analysis and advice. Its lead is often followed by other donors and agencies. Given its profile, the Bank comes under considerable scrutiny from civil society, opinion formers and commentators. We believed that not all of their views were constructive and that some organisations seemed to have an instinctively hostile attitude to the Bank which was not always founded on evidence.

15. However, we agreed that the Bank was not perfect. We concluded that the UK, as a major contributor to the Bank, should not only articulate a vision for its reform, but must pursue this with vigour. We believed the UK would have greater influence if DFID appointed a full-time Executive Director to the World Bank (rather than the post being a Treasury appointment with responsibility for both the Bank and the International Monetary Fund) and argued this case with officials when we were in Washington. We were pleased that the Government listened to our arguments: two days before our evidence session with the Minister, DFID announced that it would appoint a full-time UK Executive Director to the World Bank.

16. We were also anxious to see reform of World Bank governance and concluded that adequate representation of developing countries in World Bank decision-making was not only a question of fairness, but was also one of effectiveness as greater ownership by developing countries would lead to more effective Bank programmes. We also believed that the Bank should alter the system of selection of its President to make it transparent and based on merit, rather than being in the gift of the United States. Governance issues have moved on since our Report, with announcements at the Autumn Meetings of the World Bank and IMF in October 2008 that the Bank would move to a merit-based system for selecting its President and that representation for African countries would be enhanced. We held an evidence session with the Secretary of State in November which explored these issues in more detail (see below).

### ***DFID and the African Development Bank***

17. The UK contribution to the African Development Bank (AfDB) has also substantially increased. DFID's allocation to the African Development Fund (ADF)—the development arm of the Bank—doubled in the latest replenishment in November 2007 from approximately £200 million for 2005–07 to £417 million for 2008–2010. A series of significant reforms are changing the way the Bank is run, and this process has been intensified since Donald Kaberuka became its President in 2005. Our inquiry into the AfDB's work was therefore timely. It included a visit to its headquarters in Tunis where we met Mr Kaberuka, and a number of senior officials.

18. Our Report concluded that record donor support for the AfDB offered the opportunity to make real changes to poor people's lives—but only if the effectiveness of its strategies were maximised. We praised DFID for influencing many of the most significant reforms to the Bank, but recommended that it must now keep a watchful eye on their implementation and that it should use its position of influence to push for more meaningful delegation of responsibility to decentralised offices. To assist this, we argued that DFID—now that it is the Bank's largest bilateral donor—should press for changes in the Bank's Board structure to ensure that the UK and other influential donors' leverage at the Bank is in line with their rising financial contributions.

19. We said that the Department must be clear on how it expected the Bank to participate in climate change work in Africa. We also recommended that DFID should continue to press for closer collaboration between the AfDB and the World Bank. We concluded that the AfDB's contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals went far beyond its direct expenditure of development resources to encompass its role as a Bank for Africa, a collective voice for development on the continent and a regional leader. We recommended that DFID continue its worthwhile and highly creditable support to ensure the institution fulfilled its promise.

### ***The World Food Programme and Global Food Security***

20. The UN World Food Programme is another multilateral body which receives substantial amounts of DFID funding and one which was very much in the spotlight in 2008 following the steep rises in food prices which have had a devastating impact on the world's poor. In this context, we decided to undertake an inquiry into the *World Food Programme and Global Food Security*. Our inquiry focused on how the UK could best support the agency in carrying out both its humanitarian work and its broader efforts on food security. We also examined some of the factors behind the food crisis. We took the opportunity provided by a visit to Ghana to go to the WFP-managed UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Accra. We also visited the UN food agencies' headquarters in Rome in May. We took evidence in Westminster from Josette Sheeran, the WFP's Executive Director, as well as other experts on food security.

21. We concluded that the causes of the global food crisis were complex and outcomes were uncertain but that it would be sensible to prepare for higher prices in the medium term. We warned that up to 20 million additional tonnes of food might be needed to feed new groups of people being pushed into poverty by food price rises, and that as a result annual donations of around US\$3 billion to the WFP might need to double to US\$5–6 billion. Our view was that the WFP should clearly be identified as the lead UN agency on hunger.

22. We highlighted that, although the share of under-nourished people in the global population had decreased, the absolute number of such people in three regions—sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Western Asia—had increased since 1990, even before the recent deterioration caused by rapidly rising food prices. We argued that nutrition was under-funded and under-emphasised by the UK Government, the international community and the UN system. We were shocked that DFID lacked both a specific nutrition policy and measurable targets for assessing progress in reducing malnutrition. We recommended that DFID add a new indicator under Millennium Development Goal 1

in its 2008–11 Public Service Agreement to enable its work on nutrition and hunger to be properly targeted and measured.

23. We concluded that agencies such as DFID and the WFP must also look beyond the current crisis and address long-term drivers of food security. This would require DFID to refocus on agriculture, and ensure that its new support for research was accompanied by efforts to assist poor farmers in entering markets. We said that new technologies such as biofuels and genetically modified crops offered both challenges and opportunities to developing countries. We highlighted as positive steps the establishment of a UN Taskforce and its Comprehensive Framework for Action on food security, and the UK's proposed Global Partnership for Food and Agriculture.

### ***The Annual Autumn Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund***

24. It has been our practice to take evidence from the Secretary of State on the outcome of the Autumn Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. In 2007 we incorporated this work into our inquiry into the World Bank. In 2008, the Meetings were dominated by the global financial situation. Our evidence session took place in November and we used this opportunity also to question the Secretary of State on the UK's objectives for the meeting of the G20 later that month to discuss reform of the international financial institutions.

25. The session discussed initial assessments of the impact of the financial crisis on developing countries and the response of the Bank and the Fund to this. We also examined the World Bank's development report on agriculture and its response to food price rises earlier in the year. We discussed progress made on reform of the governance structures of the Bank as well as the Bank's proposals on climate change, including carbon financing and carbon markets, and the proposed Strategic Framework for Climate Change and Development. We will return to many of these climate change issues in our forthcoming inquiry into *Sustainable Development in a Changing Climate* (see below).

### **DFID's New Water and Sanitation Policy**

26. Water and sanitation are essential to development, underpinning and impacting upon other issues such as health, education, conflict and economic growth. The Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation—which DFID is focused on achieving—aim to halve the proportion of people without sanitation and water by 2015. On 1 May 2008, our 2007 Report on *Sanitation and Water* was debated in Westminster Hall.<sup>9</sup> DFID's new Water and Sanitation Policy was launched on 28 October 2008.<sup>10</sup> This commits £200 million of DFID funding over the next five years to help up to 25 million people across Africa gain access to safe water and basic sanitation. As well as providing crucial support in Africa, the new policy will help up to 30 million people in South Asia to gain access to sanitation.

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9 HC Deb, 1 May 2008, Cols 141-174 WH

10 *Water: An increasingly precious resource. Sanitation: A matter of dignity*, DFID, October 2008

27. At the policy launch event, tribute was paid to the Committee for the role our Report had played in formulating DFID's new policy.<sup>11</sup> We were pleased that DFID had taken note of many of the Report's recommendations in its new policy, particularly the focus on sanitation and water resources management. It was encouraging to hear that, under its new strategy, DFID will work harder to integrate sanitation with health and education programmes, a step we strongly recommended. During the launch event, the Chairman was asked to comment on the new policy, alongside international experts in the sanitation and water sectors. He highlighted key messages from our Report, including the importance of matching human resources and expertise within developing countries—and within DFID—to the Department's expanded funding for sanitation and water. A lively debate followed in which over 100 representatives from the sectors, including from developing countries, participated. We saw at first-hand the challenges of providing water and sanitation in Asia's largest country, China, during our visit to the country in December 2008.

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11 *Sanitation and Water*, HC 126-I, Sixth Report of Session 2006–07

## 3 Inquiries into areas seen by the Committee as requiring examination because of deficiencies

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### Maternal Health

28. We began an inquiry into maternal health in autumn 2007. The main purpose of the inquiry was to examine how donors—particularly DFID—could better support progress towards Millennium Development Goal 5, which seeks a reduction by three-quarters in the level of maternal mortality worldwide and universal access to reproductive health by 2015.

29. The Committee heard oral evidence from a wide range of non-governmental organisations, academics, and international organisations during five evidence sessions at Westminster between October and December 2007. We timed our first evidence session to coincide with a major international conference on maternal health in London in October and were fortunate to be able to use this opportunity to hear evidence from leading UN officials, including the Executive Director of the UN Population Fund, Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, and from Dr Grace Kodindo, an obstetrician and maternal health activist working in Chad, one of the countries with the highest maternal mortality ratios. One evidence session was held in the week of World AIDS Day and explored the close intersections between maternal, sexual and reproductive health and with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This was in line with our practice of maintaining an annual focus on progress towards halting the global HIV/AIDS epidemic.

30. We published our Report in March to coincide with Mothers' Day in the UK. It highlighted that there is considerable uncertainty about the real scale of maternal mortality, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, and argued that it is reasonable to assume that up to one million women die each year in childbirth. Many of these deaths are largely avoidable through simple interventions, such as the presence of skilled birth attendants. Progress towards meeting the MDG has been very slow and indeed in some African countries maternal deaths are increasing due to HIV prevalence, conflict and weak health systems. We highlighted that a primary factor in this had been a lack of political will and international advocacy to improve maternal health in developing countries. We concluded that DFID needed to continue to play a leading global role—despite its headcount restrictions—in pushing this neglected Millennium Development Goal far higher up the global agenda. To achieve this, we advised that the UK Government should take full advantage of a series of crucial opportunities offered in 2008, including a UN High Level Event on the MDGs in September. We questioned the Secretary of State on progress made on maternal health issues at this Summit during our evidence session in October.

## Working Together to Make Aid More Effective

31. DFID's budget continues to rise sharply as the UK works towards the target of allocating 0.7% of Gross National Income to Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2015. Under the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review settlement, DFID's budget will increase to £7.9 billion by 2010–11, an increase of around 36% over the three years. This is a trend which we have frequently praised and continue to support. However, we have also repeatedly made clear that DFID must not assume that greater inputs necessarily deliver better poverty reduction outcomes. We embarked on an inquiry to examine how DFID was working with other donors and with developing countries to ensure that its rising budget was spent effectively and that the principles of the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness were being adhered to.

32. In March 2008 we visited Ghana for discussions with the Ghanaian Government, civil society representatives, public servants, community leaders and representatives, and donor community representatives. In May 2008 we visited Rome, Berlin and Copenhagen to discuss coordination with governments, civil society representatives and our counterparts. We also held a video-conference with Swedish Parliamentarians and officials from the Swedish Development Agency (SIDA).

33. Our report was intended to influence DFID's contribution to the Accra High Level Forum held in September, a conference of donors and partner countries at which progress against the Paris Declaration was assessed and next steps discussed. We urged DFID to make progress in two key areas: the division of labour among donors; and developing countries' ownership of the development process. The Government's Response to our Report set out the main achievements of the Accra Forum.<sup>12</sup> Our Report was tagged as relevant to the debate in the House in November on International Aid Transparency.<sup>13</sup>

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12 Seventh Special Report, Session 2007-08, HC 1065

13 HC Deb, 13 November 2008, cols 1006-1056

## 4 Inquiries into departmental actions

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### HIV/AIDS: DFID's New Strategy

34. It has been our practice in this Parliament to examine different aspects of the challenge presented by HIV/AIDS each year and to publish a report to coincide with World AIDS Day. DFID published its new HIV/AIDS Strategy in June 2008;<sup>14</sup> this provided the natural focus for our 2008 inquiry.

35. We published our Report on 30 November in anticipation of World AIDS Day on 1 December. We acknowledged DFID's position as a global leader on HIV/AIDS and welcomed the £6 billion funding commitment made in the Strategy to strengthen health systems in developing countries which we believed would be effective in building up the capacity of health services in low-income countries to provide the prevention, treatment, care and support which people living with HIV/AIDS desperately need. However, we found the Strategy to be strong on rhetoric but lacking the necessary detail on how it would be implemented at country level. It contained few measurable targets for how the money would be spent or how its effectiveness in achieving the desired outcomes would be measured. We were concerned by the initial absence of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to accompany the Strategy although this was subsequently published at the beginning of December. We look forward to the Government Response providing answers to the many questions that we felt were not addressed in the Strategy or in DFID's evidence to us.

### The Humanitarian and Development Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

36. In February 2008 we began a short inquiry into the *Humanitarian and development situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories*. This followed up the findings in our Report on the Occupied Territories published in January 2007 and took account of the worsening humanitarian and security situation in the region, and in particular in Gaza.<sup>15</sup> We heard evidence by videolink from John Ging, the Director of the UN Relief & Works Agency (UNRWA) Operations in Gaza, as well as from NGOs and the Secretary of State, and from Rt Hon Tony Blair in his capacity as Middle East Quartet Representative. Our Report was published in July.

37. Our view was that it was essential for Israel to reopen Gaza's borders. The humanitarian situation in Gaza had been (and indeed remains) acute. Food, fuel and water were in short supply and the public health system had been under severe pressure. We found that Israel had not fulfilled its obligations to ensure the health and welfare of the Palestinian population and believed that the international community had allowed this situation to continue for too long.

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14 DFID, *Achieving Universal Access: the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world*, June 2008

15 Fourth Report of Session 2006–07, *Development Assistance and the Occupied Palestinian Territories*, HC 114-I

38. We welcomed attempts by Tony Blair to reduce strategic checkpoints and his initiatives to support economic development in the West Bank, although we were cautious about supporting measures which might reinforce the occupation. We also discussed his efforts to improve Palestinian security in the West Bank. A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas was agreed shortly before our Report was published. We were hopeful at the time that this would provide an opportunity to move the peace process forward and improve the humanitarian situation by opening the borders. However, after some initial improvement the borders remained closed for a large part of the six-month ceasefire and the security situation deteriorated. The situation became far more serious following the breakdown of the ceasefire, the resumption of rocket attacks on southern Israel and the Israeli assault on Gaza which commenced in late December 2008. This has involved massive loss of civilian life and has deepened the humanitarian crisis facing the people of Gaza. This report is not, however, an appropriate vehicle for us to comment on the situation. We expect to return to the subject in the future.

### Burma: follow-up

39. Our 2007 Report on *DFID assistance to Burmese internally displaced people and refugees on the Thai-Burma border* was debated in Westminster Hall on 6 December 2007.<sup>16</sup> We described in last year's annual report how the Government had in the end gone a long way towards accepting the recommendations made in our Report about the substantial increases needed in aid for Burma, although this acceptance came after the Government had given us its formal response.<sup>17</sup>

40. We undertook to return to the issue within a year as we regarded the issues as sufficiently serious to require an early follow-up. The situation in Burma had changed significantly in the months since the publication of the Report. The regime had harshly repressed demonstrations in September 2007. This was followed by devastation of many parts of the country when Cyclone Nargis hit Burma at the beginning of May 2008, affecting some 2.4 million people and killing many thousands. The Committee held a one-off evidence session with the Secretary of State for International Development and the UK's Ambassador to Burma in July to discuss progress on the recommendations we had made and to assess the UK's contribution to relief efforts after the Cyclone.

### Reconstructing Afghanistan

41. Our inquiry into Afghanistan began in the last parliamentary Session and the process was covered in our annual report last year. Our Report was published in February. We were dismayed that, as a result of 30 years of conflict, Afghanistan remained one of the poorest countries in the world and one which would clearly not meet any of the Millennium Development Goal targets by 2015. We believed the UK and the international community had a responsibility to assist Afghanistan to achieve lasting peace, stability, reconstruction and development and fully supported the UK Government's effort in Afghanistan. We highlighted that much remained to be done on improving women's

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16 *DFID Assistance to Burmese Internally Displaced People and Refugees on the Thai-Burma Border*, HC 645, Tenth Report of Session 2006–07; HC Deb, 6 December 2007, cols 321-352WH

17 Third Report of Session 2007-08, *Work of the Committee in 2007*, HC 255, paras 19-23

rights; donor co-ordination and interaction with the Government of Afghanistan; counter-narcotics; security, particularly the role of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police; justice reform; and civil-military relations. We concluded that Afghanistan would need substantial development assistance for a long time to come. Our Report was debated in Westminster Hall on 10 July.<sup>18</sup>

## DFID and China

42. We began our inquiry into *DFID and China* in February 2008. The UK's development relationship with China is in transition: DFID expects to phase out its £30 million annual bilateral programme by 2011 and is moving instead towards a development partnership with China. This forms part of a joint agenda across the UK Government to influence China's role in global sustainable development issues such as climate change and energy security. We thought it was timely to look at the appropriate size and scope of DFID's aid programme in China; the Department's 'added value' compared to other donors to China; and its strategy for phasing out its bilateral programme by 2011.

43. China's economy has experienced massive growth which has helped to reduce poverty in the country. However, 10% of the population still live on less than \$1 a day, concentrated amongst ethnic minorities, the elderly and people with disabilities. Huge inequalities exist in terms of access to basic services such as education, healthcare, sanitation and water, which remain out of reach for many poor people. The effect of China's rapid growth is being felt far outside its own national boundaries and means that China has become an influential development actor in its own right. Securing sufficient natural resources to drive growth and finding new markets for Chinese goods has led to an increasingly close relationship with many African countries, in particular.

44. We were due to visit China in June 2008. However, the Sichuan earthquake in May resulted in the postponement of the visit. This was rescheduled for December. We held two evidence sessions in May 2008 and a further session in November. We will take evidence from a DFID minister and officials in January.

## Humanitarian response to natural disasters

45. We visited Pakistan in June 2006 as part of our inquiry into the *Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters* and saw for ourselves the reconstruction work taking place following the South Asia earthquake in October 2005.<sup>19</sup> On our return we decided to commission the National Audit Office (NAO) to conduct a review of the response by the Department for International Development and others to this disaster. The review was published in June 2008.<sup>20</sup> We are grateful to the NAO for its contribution to our work which we will draw on when we next look at the UK's humanitarian response to major disasters.

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18 HC Deb, 10 July 2008, cols 489-536WH

19 Seventh Report of Session 2005-06, *Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters*, HC 1188-I

20 NAO, *The UK's Response to the South Asia Earthquake*, June 2008 available on the NAO website at <http://www.nao.org.uk/publications>

## Climate change

46. Poor countries will suffer most from climate change, which threatens to reverse development gains and halt economic advances. DFID is therefore stepping up its efforts to assist developing countries to respond to climate change. In October 2008 we announced a new inquiry into *Sustainable Development in a Changing Climate*. In the run-up to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in 2009, this inquiry will examine the potential conflict between economic development and climate change mitigation. It will consider how the UK Government can best promote development which is sustainable and lifts people out of poverty and the steps it is taking to encourage effective adaptation strategies in developing countries. We intend to begin oral evidence sessions early in the new parliamentary Session.

## Support for Development

47. The current economic downturn is creating a dangerous time for development. Initial predictions that the developing world would be insulated from the worst of the financial turbulence have not proved correct. The financial crisis is also testing the depth of international donor support for development. Reductions in the level of official development assistance would clearly compound the problems which developing countries are already facing as well as putting at risk the global targets set for development expenditure and the likelihood of reaching the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Public support is essential to an effective development policy and this could also be threatened if the economic downturn continues to affect the real economy. We have therefore decided that our next inquiry will examine these two facets of support for development under the title “Aid under pressure: support for development in a global economic downturn”.

## 5 Examination of Expenditure and Public Service Agreements

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48. We have continued our practice of conducting an inquiry into DFID's own Annual Report. For this year's inquiry we went beyond our usual evidence session with the DFID Permanent Secretary. We took oral evidence from the Secretary of State to hear his views on the outcomes of a major international conference, the UN High Level Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which took place in New York in September. DFID's objectives, as set out in its Public Service Agreements are directly tied to the MDGs. Global progress on the MDGs is therefore inextricably linked to the assessment of DFID's own effectiveness. The UK has been at the forefront of efforts to revitalise momentum towards achievement of the MDGs by 2015, a deadline which seems worryingly close given the lack of progress on a number of the targets in many parts of the world, particularly sub-Saharan Africa.

49. Our inquiry also looked at what DFID's expenditure is achieving. We have criticised DFID previously for measuring inputs rather than outcomes. We were keen to assess what more could be done to improve DFID's impact evaluation. We took evidence from the Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact (IACDI) which DFID has recently established to improve its performance on evaluation. IACDI's terms of reference require its Chair to write to the Secretary of State annually to provide an assessment of DFID's evaluation process and to copy the letter to us. We will comment on the letter and on DFID's performance in our forthcoming report on the DFID Annual Report 2008.

## 6 Other areas of activity

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### Major appointments

50. Nemat (Minouche) Shafik was appointed Permanent Secretary of the Department for International Development in March 2008. We welcomed her first appearance before us in July to give oral evidence on the DFID Annual Report 2008.

51. The Department for International Development announced that the Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact (IACDI) was to be set-up in May 2007 to help DFID evaluate the impact of UK aid. The IACDI had its inaugural meeting in December 2007. As referred to above, we took the opportunity to hear from its Chair and two of its members in an evidence session in July on the DFID Annual Report 2008.

### Examination of draft legislation

52. The Department has not produced draft legislation during this Session.

### Committees on Arms Export Controls

53. The “Quadripartite” Committee was renamed “the Committees on Arms Export Controls” on 10 March 2008 to reflect its work better.<sup>21</sup> We continued our contribution to the Committee, together with members of the Defence, Foreign Affairs and Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Committees. Together we carry out detailed scrutiny of the Government’s controls on exports of equipment and technology with a military application.

54. Our joint Report was published in July.<sup>22</sup> We found the Government’s Review of Export Controls to have been a constructive process that had addressed many of the issues which we had raised over several years. But we believed that the challenge of increased globalisation of the defence industry, the fast pace of technological development, changing proliferation patterns and the threat from terrorists meant that any gaps in legislation could have serious consequences for the UK. We urged the Government to make it illegal for British citizens overseas, as well as everyone living in the UK, to trade in any form of arms or weaponry between overseas countries without a licence. We also pressed the Government to extend its existing rule covering the trade of certain “high risk” items to all goods and technologies on the UK’s Military List, which covers military, security and para-military goods, software and technology and arms, ammunition and related materiel.

55. In previous reports, we had expressed concern about the effectiveness with which the export control regime has been enforced. However, having reviewed the evidence this year, we were encouraged by the increase in the number of seizures, the level of penalties imposed by the courts and the increase in resources devoted to compliance.

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21 Committees on Arms Export Controls PN03, Session 2007–08, 4 March 2008  
[http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_committees/arms\\_committees/arms\\_committees\\_0708\\_pn03.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/arms_committees/arms_committees_0708_pn03.cfm)

22 First Joint Report of Session 2007-08, *Scrutiny of Arms Export Controls (2008): UK Strategic Export Controls Annual Report 2006, Quarterly Reports for 2007, licensing policy and review of export control legislation*, HC 254

## Conferences

56. Our Chairman attended conferences of chairmen of foreign affairs, development and co-operation committees of EU countries in Ljubljana and Paris in 2008 organised by the Slovenian and French EU presidencies. These conferences offer a valuable opportunity to discuss our work with our European counterparts. The Chairman also attended the Joint Committee Meeting on the European Union and Development Cooperation held in Brussels in June 2008, the World Tourism Conference in the Philippines in October 2008 and the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank Annual Conference held in Paris in November 2008.

## Visit to DFID Office in London

57. In January 2008 the Committee visited the Department for International Development's headquarters in London for informal discussions with officials and Ministers. The discussions included DFID's policy priorities, budget support, climate change, and external communications.

## Seminars

58. We have continued our practice of holding informal seminars as an integral part of medium- and large-scale inquiries. These "teach-ins", held before formal evidence sessions begin, provide an opportunity for us to discuss key aspects of the inquiry and raise our knowledge base. During this Session we held such seminars on coordination for aid effectiveness and on the World Food Programme. In March 2008—prior to the evidence sessions on the African Development Bank—we met Mark Lancaster MP who provided an informal briefing on his internship at the African Development Bank's Tunis headquarters. We also had an informal briefing session at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in January 2008 to discuss a range of issues including the comparative advantages of EU and bilateral aid; and harmonisation and alignment.

## Informal meetings and engagement with other parliaments

59. In a new departure, our Chairman gave evidence in April to the European and External Relations Committee of the Scottish Parliament in its inquiry into international development.

60. We continued our practice of meeting members of other parliaments wherever possible and we make every effort to ensure we meet developing country parliamentarians during our inquiry-related visits. In November 2007 we met a delegation of Afghan MPs in a joint meeting with colleagues on the Defence Committee. In February, we met members of the EU Committee of the Hungarian Parliament. In April we held an informal meeting with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Economics and Security Committee to discuss our Report on Afghanistan. We met Ewout Irrgang, a Member of the Dutch Parliament, in October to discuss European Partnership Agreements (EPAs). We also had an informal meeting with Anne-Marie Idrac, the French Minister of State for Foreign Trade.

61. We had several meetings with representatives of international organisations, including: John Ging, Director of UNRWA Operations in Gaza; Laurens Jolles, Head of UNHCR

Syria; and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. We also met Robert Sebbag, the Vice-President of Sanofi-Aventis, a multinational pharmaceutical company and Jonathan Paye-Layleh, a Liberian journalist working for the BBC and winner of the 2008 Speaker Abbot Award for journalism.<sup>23</sup>

## Video-conferences

62. We continued to use video-conferencing to provide opportunities to hear from key witnesses who cannot easily attend sessions at Westminster. In April, John Ging, the Director of the UNRWA Operations in Gaza, gave us a very graphic description of the grave humanitarian situation in the Palestinian Territories as part of our inquiry described above. Colleagues from the Swedish Parliament and officials from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency discussed their country's development policy with us by videolink in June, as part of our aid effectiveness inquiry. We also took evidence by video-link from Lucy Chesire, an HIV/TB advocate based in Kenya, as part of our inquiry into DFID's new HIV/AIDS Strategy. We find the use of such technology beneficial in increasing the range of our contacts. However, its reliability is sometimes an issue.

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23 The Speaker Abbot award was launched by the UK Parliamentary Press Gallery in 2003 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Press being allowed into the back row of the public gallery as of right. It is awarded to a journalist who is considered to have made the greatest contribution internationally to the protection, promotion and perpetuation of parliamentary democracy.

## Annex A: Core tasks and objectives established by the Liaison Committee

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The core tasks and objectives which the Liaison Committee has set for departmental select committees are as follows:

To inquire into:

- Government policy proposals
- areas seen by the Committee as requiring examination because of deficiencies
- departmental actions
- associated public bodies
- major appointments
- implementation of legislation
- major policy initiatives.

Examination of any draft legislation

Examination of expenditure

Examination of Public Service Agreements.

## Annex B

**Table 1: Subjects covered by the International Development Committee in Session 2007–08**

Subject	Evidence sessions in 2007–08	Outcome
Department for International Development Annual Report 2007	0	Report, November 2007
Development and Trade: Cross-departmental Working	0	Report, December 2007
Iraq	1	One-off oral evidence session, January 2008
Reconstructing Afghanistan	2	Report, February 2008
Maternal Health	4	Report, March 2008
DFID and the World Bank	3	Report, March 2008
DFID and the African Development Bank	2	Report, May 2008
Burma: follow-up	1	One-off oral evidence session, July 2008
Working Together to Make Aid More Effective	3	Report, July 2008
Scrutiny of Arms Export Controls (2008): UK Strategic Export Controls Annual Report 2006, Quarterly Reports for 2007, licensing policy and review of export control legislation [Committees on Arms Export Controls]	3	Report, July 2008
The World Food Programme and Global Food Security	2	Report, July 2008
The Humanitarian and Development Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories	3	Report, July 2008

The Annual Autumn Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund	1	One-off oral evidence session, November 2008
DFID Annual Report 2008	3	Report to be published
HIV/AIDS: DFID's New Strategy	2	Report, November 2008
DFID and China	3	Oral evidence in progress

**Table 2: Visits by the International Development Committee in 2007–08**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose of visit</b>
<b>Overseas visits</b>	
Washington	Inquiry into DFID and the World Bank
Ghana	Inquiry into Working Together to Make Aid More Effective
Tunisia	Inquiry into DFID and the African Development Bank
Rome, Berlin and Copenhagen	Inquiries into Working Together to Make Aid More Effective and the World Food Programme and Global Food Security
China	Inquiry into DFID and China
<b>UK visits</b>	
DFID offices, 1 Palace Street, London	Informal briefing with Ministers
Overseas Development Institute, London	Informal briefing
<b>Visits in a representative capacity</b>	
Lisbon, Portugal	European Development Days Conference (delegation — 1 Member)
Ljubljana, Slovenia	Conference of EU Foreign Affairs and Development Committee Chairs (delegation — 1 Member)
Brussels, Belgium	Joint Committee Meeting on the European Union and Development Cooperation (delegation — 1 Member)
Paris, France	Conference of EU Foreign Affairs and Development Committee Chairs (delegation — 1 Member)
Cebu, Philippines	World Tourism Conference (delegation — 1 Member)

Paris, France	Annual meeting of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (delegation — 1 Member)
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**Table 3: Liaison Committee criteria relevant to 2007–08 inquiries**

	Government and European Commission policy proposals	Examination of deficiencies	Departmental actions	Associated public bodies	Implementation of legislation	Expenditure	Evidence from Minister	Public Service Agreements
DFID Annual Report 2007		√	√			√	√	√
Development and Trade: Cross-departmental Working	√	√	√				√	
Iraq		√	√			√	√	
Reconstructing Afghanistan		√	√			√	√	
Maternal Health		√	√			√	√	√
DFID and the World Bank	√		√			√	√	
DFID and the African Development Bank	√		√			√	√	
Burma: follow-up		√	√			√	√	
Working Together to Make Aid More Effective		√	√			√	√	√
Scrutiny of Arms Export Controls (2008): UK Strategic Export Controls Annual Report 2006, Quarterly Reports for 2007, licensing policy and review of export control legislation [Committees on Arms Export Controls]		√	√		√		√	
The World Food Programme and Global Food Security	√	√	√			√	√	

The Humanitarian and Development Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories		√	√			√	√	
The Annual Autumn Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund		√	√			√	√	
DFID Annual Report 2008		√	√			√	√	√
HIV/AIDS: DFID's New Strategy		√	√			√	√	√
DFID and China		√	√			√		

## Annex C: Sessional Return 2007–08

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The Committee was nominated by the House of Commons on 13 July 2005.

<b>Members</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>
Bruce, Malcolm (Chairman)	46 out of 49 (including 4 CAEC)
Battle, John	33 out of 49 (including 4 CAEC)
Bayley, Hugh	33 out of 49
Bercow, John	14 out of 49
Burden, Richard	38 out of 49 (including 2 CAEC)
Crabb, Mr Stephen (added 8.11.07)	23 out of 49
Davies, Mr Quentin (discharged 19.11.07)	0 out of 2
Duddridge, James (discharged 10.3.08)	12 out of 17
Kawczynski, Daniel (added 10.3.08)	10 out of 32
McKechin, Ann	29 out of 49
Ruddock, Joan (discharged 8.11.07)	0 out of 0
Sheridan, Jim (added 19.11.07)	18 out of 47
Singh, Mr Marsha	27 out of 49 (including 1 CAEC)
Smith, Sir Robert	41 out of 49
<b>Overall Attendance:</b>	<b>58.1 %<sup>A</sup></b>

<sup>A</sup> Not including concurrent meetings

Total number of meetings:	49 <sup>B</sup>
Of which:	
Number of meetings at which oral evidence was taken	33
Number of times oral evidence was taken partly or wholly in private	0
Number of wholly private meetings	16
Number of concurrent meetings with other committees <sup>A</sup>	5

<sup>B</sup> These included 5 Committees on Arms Export Controls meetings held concurrently with the Defence, Foreign Affairs, and Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Committees (listed as concurrent meetings (CAEC) in the attendance table above)

### Other activities

Informal meetings (including overseas visitors)	14
Conferences/Seminars hosted	3

### Staff

Details of the permanent staff of the Committee during the Session can be found in the Committee's publications.

### Specialist Advisers during the Session

Dr Sibylle Bauer, Professor Wendy Graham, Regina Keith and Simon Maxwell.

### Witnesses

Oral evidence was given during the Session by the following categories of witnesses:

Number of appearances by:	
Cabinet Ministers	8
Other Ministers	5
Members of the House of Lords (2 of whom were Ministers)	2
Number of appearances by officials from, or representatives of:	
Department for International Development	19
Other departments comprising:	
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	2
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	4
Ministry of Defence	2
Number of appearances by:	
European Commission	1
Appearances by other witnesses	75

### Overseas Visits

Date	Destination	Members	Staff	Purpose	Cost
6-8.11.07	Lisbon <sup>A</sup>	Bruce	1	European Development Days Conference	£2,431.75
25-27.11.07	Washington DC	Bruce, Bayley, Duddridge, McKechin, Singh, Smith	2	Inquiry into DFID and the World Bank	£25,066.76
3-13.3.08	Ghana	Bruce, Bayley, Crabb, Singh, Smith	2	Inquiry into Co-ordination for Aid Effectiveness	£31,897.36

Date	Destination	Members	Staff	Purpose	Cost
16-18.3.08	Ljubljana, Slovenia <sup>A</sup>	Bruce	1	Conference of Foreign Affairs and Development Committee Chairman	£1,291.74
1-3.4.08	Tunis, Tunisia	Bruce, Bayley, McKechin, Singh	2	Inquiry into DFID and the African Development Bank	£10,069.80
11-16.5.08	Rome, Berlin and Copenhagen	Bruce, Bayley, Singh, Smith	2	Inquiries into Co-ordination for Aid Effectiveness and the World Food Programme and Global Food Security	£17,294.91
20-21.7.08	Paris <sup>A</sup>	Bruce	1	Conference of Foreign Affairs and Development Committee Chairman	£1,505.98
21-24.10.08	Philippines <sup>A</sup>	Bruce	1	Inquiry into Sustainable Development in a Changing Climate	£9,900.00 (estimated outturn)
20-21.11.08	Paris <sup>A</sup>	Bruce	1	Annual Meeting of the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank (PNoWB)	£1,700.00 (estimated outturn)
24.11.08	The Hague <sup>A</sup>		1	Inquiry into Sustainable Development in a Changing Climate	£475.00 (estimated outturn)
30.11-10.12.08	China	Bruce, Battle, Bayley, Bercow, Singh, Smith	2	Inquiry into DFID and China	£55,000.00 (estimated outturn)

<sup>A</sup> Travel in a representative capacity

*Visits to European Institutions*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Cost</b>
25.6.08	Brussels <sup>A</sup>	Bruce	1	Joint Committee Meeting on the European Union and Development Cooperation	£1,174.29

<sup>A</sup> Travel in a representative capacity

*UK Visits*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Cost</b>
15.1.08	Overseas Development Institute	Bruce, Battle, Bayley, McKechin, Singh, Smith	3	General Briefing	
29.1.08	DFID Offices, London	Bruce, Battle, Burden, McKechin, Smith	3	General Briefing	

*Reports and Oral and Written Evidence*

<b>Title</b>	<b>HC No. (2007–08)</b>	<b>Date of publication</b>	<b>Government reply</b>
First Report: <i>DFID Annual Report 2007</i>	64-I	15.11.07	Received 4.2.08: published as First Special Report Session 2007–08
Oral and Written Evidence: <i>DFID Annual Report 2007</i>	64-II	15.11.07	Not applicable
Second Report: <i>Development and Trade: Cross-departmental Working</i>	68	4.12.07	Received 4.2.08: published as Second Special Report Session 2007–08
Third Report: <i>Work of the Committee in 2007</i>	225	24.1.08	Not applicable

<b>Title</b>	<b>HC No. (2007-08)</b>	<b>Date of publication</b>	<b>Government reply</b>
Fourth Report: <i>Reconstructing Afghanistan</i>	65	14.2.08	Received 21.4.08: published as Third Special Report Session 2007-08
Oral and Written Evidence: <i>Reconstructing Afghanistan</i>	65-II	14.2.08	Not applicable
Fifth Report: <i>Maternal Health</i>	66	2.3.08	Received 9.5.08: published as Fifth Special Report Session 2007-08
Oral and Written Evidence: <i>Maternal Health</i>	66-II	2.3.08	Not applicable
Sixth Report: <i>DFID and the World Bank</i>	67-I	5.3.08	Received 8.5.08: published as Fourth Special Report Session 2007-08
Oral and Written Evidence: <i>DFID and the World Bank</i>	67-II	5.3.08	Not applicable
Seventh Report: <i>DFID and the African Development Bank</i>	441-I	13.5.08	Received 8.7.08: published as Sixth Special Report Session 2007-08
Oral and Written Evidence: <i>DFID and the African Development Bank</i>	441-II	14.5.08	Not applicable
Eighth Report: <i>Scrutiny of Arms Export Controls (2008): UK Strategic Export Controls Annual Report 2006, Quarterly Reports for 2007, licensing policy and review of export control legislation</i>	254	17.7.08	Cm 7485, published 3.11.08
Ninth Report: <i>Working Together to Make Aid More Effective</i>	520-I	17.7.08	Received 23.9.08: published as Seventh Special Report Session 2007-08
Oral and Written Evidence: <i>Working Together to Make Aid More Effective</i>	520-II	17.7.08	Not applicable
Tenth Report: <i>The World Food Programme and Global Food Security</i>	493-I	23.7.08	Received 6.10.08: published as Eighth Special Report Session 2007-08

Title	HC No. (2007-08)	Date of publication	Government reply
Oral and Written Evidence: <i>The World Food Programme and Global Food Security</i>	493-II	23.7.08	Not applicable
Eleventh Report: <i>The Humanitarian and Development Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories</i>	522-I	24.7.08	Received 23.9.08: published as Ninth Special Report Session 2007-08
Oral and Written Evidence: <i>The Humanitarian and Development Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories</i>	522-II	24.7.08	Not applicable
Twelfth Report: <i>HIV/AIDS: DFID's New Strategy</i>	1068-I	30.11.08	Awaited
Oral and Written Evidence: <i>HIV/AIDS: DFID's New Strategy</i>	1068-II	30.11.08	Not applicable
First Special Report: <i>DFID Annual Report 2007: Government Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2007-08</i>	329	20.2.08	Not applicable
Second Special Report: <i>Development and Trade: Cross-departmental Working: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2007-08</i>	330	20.2.08	Not applicable
Third Special Report: <i>Reconstructing Afghanistan: Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2007-08</i>	509	1.5.08	Not applicable
Fourth Special Report: <i>DFID and the World Bank: Government Response to the Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2007-08</i>	548	19.5.08	Not applicable
Fifth Special Report: <i>Maternal Health: Government Response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2007-08</i>	592	22.5.08	Not applicable

Title	HC No. (2007-08)	Date of publication	Government reply
Sixth Special Report: <i>Sixth Special Report, Government Response to the Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2007-08, DFID and the African Development Bank</i>	988	21.7.08	Not applicable
Seventh Special Report: <i>Seventh Special Report: Government Response to the Committee's Report on Working Together to Make Aid More Effective</i>	1065	14.10.08	Not applicable
Eighth Special Report: <i>Eighth Special Report: Government Response to the Committee's Report on The World Food Programme and Global Food Security</i>	1066	14.10.08	Not applicable
Ninth Special Report: <i>Ninth Special Report: Government Response to the Committee's Report on The Humanitarian and Development Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories</i>	1067	14.10.08	Not applicable
Oral and Written Evidence: <i>Iraq</i>	319	12.3.08	Not applicable
Oral and Written Evidence: <i>Burma: follow-up</i>	946	9.7.08	Not applicable
Oral Evidence published on the Internet: <i>DFID and China</i>	596-i	27.5.08	Not applicable
Oral Evidence published on the Internet: <i>DFID and China</i>	596-ii	27.5.08	Not applicable
Oral Evidence published on the Internet: <i>DFID Annual Report 2008</i>	945-i	6.8.08	Not applicable
Oral Evidence published on the Internet: <i>DFID Annual Report 2008</i>	945-ii	18.11.08	Not applicable
Oral Evidence published on the Internet: <i>DFID Annual Report 2008</i>	945-iii	18.11.08	Not applicable
Uncorrected Oral Evidence published on the Internet: <i>DFID and China</i>	596-iii	24.11.08	Not applicable

<b>Title</b>	<b>HC No. (2007–08)</b>	<b>Date of publication</b>	<b>Government reply</b>
Uncorrected Oral Evidence published on the Internet: <i>The Annual Autumn Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund</i>	1195	18.11.08	Not applicable
Written Evidence published on the Internet: <i>DFID and China</i>		12.5.08	Not applicable
Written Evidence published on the Internet: <i>DFID Annual Report 2008</i>		8.7.08	Not applicable
Written Evidence published on the Internet: <i>The Annual Autumn Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund</i>		18.11.08	Not applicable

### *Government replies to Reports for Session 2006–07*

None.

### *Formal Minutes*

The Formal Minutes of the Committee were published electronically after each meeting of the Committee. They are available on the Committee's website at <http://www.parliament.uk/indcom>.

### *Divisions*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>
17.7.08	Two, on amendments proposed to the Chairman's draft Report on the Humanitarian and Development Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

### *Debates*

Committee reports were debated on 3 occasions in Westminster Hall. Committee reports were tagged on the Order Paper as being relevant to debates in the House of Commons or Westminster Hall on 2 occasions.

*Number of oral evidence sessions for each inquiry during the Session*

<b>Inquiry</b>	<b>Number of oral evidence sessions</b>
Burma: follow-up	1
DFID and China	3
DFID and the African Development Bank	2
DFID and the World Bank	3
DFID Annual Report 2008	3
HIV/AIDS: DFID's New Strategy	2
Iraq	1
Maternal Health	4
Reconstructing Afghanistan	2
Scrutiny of Arms Export Controls (2008): UK Strategic Export Controls Annual Report 2006, Quarterly Reports for 2007, Licensing Policy and review of Export Control Legislation	3
The Annual Autumn Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund	1
The Humanitarian and Development Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories	3
The World Food Programme and global food security	2
Working Together to Make Aid More Effective	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>

# Formal Minutes

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**Tuesday 13 January 2009**

Members present:

Malcolm Bruce, in the Chair

John Battle  
Hugh Bayley  
John Bercow  
Richard Burden

Daniel Kawczynski  
Mr Marsha Singh  
Sir Robert Smith

Draft Report (Work of the Committee in Session 2007-08) proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 62 read and agreed to.

Annexes agreed to.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the First Report of the Committee to the House.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 21 January at 9.30 am

# List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament

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The reference number of the Government's response to each Report is printed in brackets after the HC printing number.

## Session 2007-08

First Report	DFID Departmental Report 2007	HC 64-I&II (HC 329)
Second Report	Development and Trade: Cross-departmental Working	HC 68 (HC 330)
Third Report	Work of the Committee 2007	HC 255
Fourth Report	Reconstructing Afghanistan	HC 65-I&II (HC 509)
Fifth Report	Maternal Health	HC 66-I&II (HC 592)
Sixth Report	DFID and the World Bank	HC 67-I&II (HC 548)
Seventh Report	DFID and the African Development Bank	HC 441-I&II (HC 988)
Eighth Report	Scrutiny of Arms Export Controls (2008): UK Strategic Export Controls Annual Report 2006, Quarterly Reports for 2007, licensing policy and review of export control legislation	HC 254 (Cm 7485)
Ninth Report	Working Together to Make Aid More Effective	HC 520-I&II (HC 1065)
Tenth Report	The World Food Programme and Global Food Security	HC 493-I&II (HC 1066)
Eleventh Report	The Humanitarian and Development Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories	HC 522-I&II (HC 1067)
Twelfth Report	HIV/AIDS: DIFID's New Strategy	HC 1068-1&II

## Session 2006-07

First Report	DFID Departmental Report 2006	HC 71 (HC 328)
Second Report	HIV/AIDS: Marginalised groups and emerging epidemics	HC 46-I&II (HC 329)
Third Report	Work of the Committee in 2005-06	HC 228
Fourth Report	Development Assistance and the Occupied Palestinian Territories	HC 114-I&II (HC 430)
Fifth Report	EU Development and Trade Policies: An update	HC 271 (HC 622)
Sixth Report	Sanitation and Water	HC 126-I&II (HC 854)
Seventh report	Fair Trade and Development	HC 356-I&II (HC 1047)

Eighth report	DFID's Programme in Vietnam	HC 732 (HC 1062)
Ninth report	Prospects for sustainable peace in Uganda	HC 853 (HC 1063)
Tenth report	DFID Assistance to Burmese Internally Displaced People and Refugees on the Thai-Burma Border	HC 645-I&II (HC 1070)

**Session 2005-06**

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