



Parliamentarians for Global Action

Eradicating Global Poverty: Parliamentary Action Agenda for the 21st Century

21st Annual United Nations Parliamentary Forum
PROGRAMME

September 29 – 30, 1999

Co-Sponsored by:

The Government of the United Kingdom
The Government of Switzerland
The Government of Austria
The United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Objectives of the 21st Forum:

- Share national-level strategies for meeting internationally agreed-upon poverty eradication indicators
- Learn about best practices and strategies from issue experts and practitioners
- Forge new partnerships for poverty eradication with international donors, civil society, and the private sector
- Work with industrialized countries and their parliamentarians to promote aid, debt relief, trade and investment policies which create a macro-level framework conducive to poverty eradication

Day I: September 29, 1999

9:00 – 9:45 Registration (*United Nations Visitors' Lobby: 46th Street and 1st Avenue*)

10:00 – 10:45 Opening Session

Venue: Conference Room 3

- ◆ Welcome Remarks by PGA President, Mr. Allan Rogers, MP (United Kingdom)
- ◆ Opening Remarks by H.E. Mr. Arthur N. R. Robinson, President, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

10:45 – 11:05 Personal Testimonial by Mr. Lee Stringer, Author, *Grand Central Winter*

11:00 – 13:00 Session I: New Partnership for Social Development: Government and Private Sector

Challenge:

Official development aid will not be sufficient to lift over a billion people out of poverty in the next 15 years. *How to foster new partnerships that are committed to social between government, private sector, and civil society? How do we develop innovative methods of development financing, e.g. the Tobin Tax?*

11:00 – 12:00 *Panel Discussion* Chair: *Sen. Francisco Tatad (Philippines)*

Speakers: Mr. Lorne Nystrom, MP (Canada)
Dep. Marcos Cintra (Brazil)

12:00 – 13:00 *Group Discussion*

13:00 – 15:00 *Break for Lunch: No scheduled event*

15:00 - 15:15 **Presentation on Human Development and Poverty** by *Dr. Richard Jolly, UNDP*

15:15 – 16:30 Session II: Financing for Development

Challenge:

Official development assistance is now at its lowest level in twenty years. In this environment, it is more critical than ever for developing country governments themselves to make important changes at the national level to lift the poor out of poverty by allocating resources to key social programs. Defense spending, for example, even in the most poorest countries take up the bulk of the national budget. *How can donor countries overcome the 'donor fatigue' to fulfil the financial commitments? How can developing countries better allocate their resources to benefit the poorest segment of their society?*

15:15 – 16:00 *Panel Discussion* Chair: *Ms. Helen Beim, MP (Denmark)*

Speakers: Ambassador Ellen Margrethe Løj, State Secretary, Head of South Group, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark
Dr. José Horacio Jaunarena, Ex-Minister for Defense, Argentina
Mr. Siba Das, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Deputy Director of the Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP
Mr. Sadig Rasheed, Director, Programme Division, UNICEF

16:00 – 16:30 *Group Discussion*

16:30 – 16:45 **Coffee Break**

16:45 – 18:00 Session III: Generating Employment, Labor Rights and Development

Challenge:

While micro-credit and entrepreneurship have been heralded recently as a way for the poor to lift themselves out of poverty, they are only one avenue; expansion of employment opportunities in the formal sector – with good conditions -- must remain a key development objective. The rights of workers is an important area where human rights development objectives intersect. *What are the strategies to generate employment while promoting a global architecture for effectively protecting the rights of workers?*

16:45 – 17:15 *Panel Discussion* Chair: *Dep. Ibrahima Fall (Senegal)*

Speakers: Dr. Julia Lopez, Director of Equal Opportunity, Rockefeller Foundation
Ms. Marjorie Newman Williams, Deputy Director, Programme Division, UNICEF
Mr. Franklyn Lisk, Director, International Labour Organization Liaison Officer with the UN

17:15 – 18:00 *Group Discussion*

19:00 – 22:00

Defender of Democracy Awards Ceremony and Dinner
United Nations Regal Plaza Hotel (by invitation)

Day II: September 30, 1999

10:00 Second Day Opening Session

Alumnus Presenter: Deputy Minister for International Development, George Foulkes, MP (United Kingdom)

10:15 – 11:30 Session IV: Gender Equality – Education, Reproductive Health and Economic Potential

Challenge:

Gender inequality is strongly associated with poverty, and programs aimed at increasing access to education, reproductive health and income generating opportunities for women will greatly decrease poverty in society as a whole. In some countries, cultural practice and official laws serve as obstacles to women seeking loans to start business or expand production. *What are the successful programs of empowerment of women that help lift their families out of poverty?*

10:15 – 10:45 *Panel Discussions* Chair: *Ms. Sirpa Pietikäinen, MP (Finland)*

Speakers: Ms. Margaret Catley-Carlson, Former President, Population Council
Ms. Noeleen Heyzer (Singapore), Executive Director, UNIFEM
Ms. Faye Wattleton, President, Center for Gender Equality
Dep. Jean-Michel Dubernard, (France)

10:45 – 11:30 *Group Discussion*

11:45 – 13:00 Session V: Alliances with Civil Society for People-Centered Development

Challenge:

Community-based development is engaged by a multitude of actors such as village-level groups, community-development NGOs, broad-based development associations, and religious groups. There are many ways that developing country governments can work with and support these actors in a common struggle for poverty eradication. *How can governments create a positive environment for NGO development as well as to promote the growth of microenterprises and the informal sector?*

11:45 – 12:15 *Panel Discussion* *Chair: Dr. A. Moyeen Khan, MP (Bangladesh)*

Speakers: Lic. Ana S. de Kessler (Argentina), Secretary of State for Small and Medium Enterprises, PGA Business Council Member
 Mr. Robert Shaw, General Manager, the Aga Khan Foundation
 Minister John. H. Vaughn, Education and Social Justice Ministries, Riverside Church

12:15 – 13:00 *Group Discussion*

13:00 – 15:00 Luncheon Session:

Introduction:: Sen. John Connor (Ireland)

Luncheon Speaker: Mr. Masood Ahmed, Vice President, The World Bank, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management (PREM) Network

15:00 – 16:30 Session VI: Debt Relief

Challenge:

No strategy for pro-poor growth and poverty eradication can be pursued without addressing the fundamental obstacle of debt. In sub-Saharan Africa, over 20% of GNP is used for debt repayments which is four times more than is spent on healthcare. The Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) is a welcome initiative but is often criticized as being too slow and too limited. *What are the strategies to provide faster, wider, and deeper debt relief to developing countries?*

15:00 – 15:45 *Panel Discussion* *Chair: Dip. Marcelo Lopez Arias (Argentina)*

Speakers: Mr. Djibril Diallo, Director, Division of Public Affairs, Bureau for Resources and External Affairs, United Nations Development Programme
 Cong. Javier Diez-Canseco (Peru)
 Sen. Francisco S. Tatad (Philippines) (invited)

15:45 – 16:30 *Group Discussion*

16:30 – 17:00 Closing Session