

networker

WHY EUROPE MATTERS

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Features and news on Europe

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Next and post-2015

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bond
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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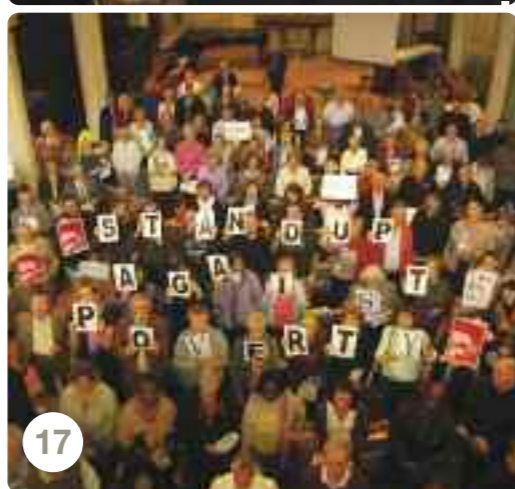
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Europe matters

We are delighted with the submissions and responses to the Bond Strategy 2011-16 consultation. Almost 90 people from 75 organisations attended one of the consultation events and we received nearly 60 written submissions from members, as well as submissions from the Bond Groups. Thank you to all who contributed, your guidance has been enormously helpful.

We are now testing an early draft of the Strategy to get some initial comments and observations. If your organisation would like to be part of this then please email: consultations@bond.org.uk

Members will vote on adoption of the final Strategy at the Annual Conference and AGM on 4 November. The Strategy outlines the future direction that we take together as Bond and I urge all members to be familiar with it. See page 10, 11 and the website, for more details.

For many reasons, not least because it is the biggest aid donor in the world, Europe is vitally important to international development and UK NGOs. Yet, as we all know, the issues are complex and finding ways to effectively engage can be difficult. In this edition, we look at why Europe matters and how members can connect with Europe through Bond – see page 8-9. Several articles look at specific areas that will impact on NGOs, including EU institutional reforms and discussions around the role of civil society in EC development cooperation.

With the UN MDG Review Summit just six weeks away and 2015 fast approaching, the spotlight is firmly on the Millennium Development Goals. Find out more about what Bond is doing in the lead up to the summit on page 6. While we focus on the near future, it is just as important to plan for what, if anything, should follow the MDGs. On page 7, the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) share early analysis of research into what CAFOD's Southern partners think should happen after 2015.

Registration is now open for the Bond Annual Conference and AGM on 4 November. The event, based on the theme of *Progressive development: NGO leadership to 2016*, will bring NGO leaders together to discuss and confront some of the most pressing issues of our time. Book your place now at this unique forum. Find out more on page 10.

Finally, *The Networker* is available to download from the website. Please share the link with your colleagues: bond.org.uk/pages/the-networker-magazine.html

Nick
Nick Roseveare
Chief Executive



About Bond

Bond is the UK membership body for non-governmental organisations working in the international development sector. We promote the exchange of experience, ideas and information and, as the UK's broadest network of international development organisations, provide our members with opportunities to influence change through collective action.

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Company limited by guarantee.
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About The Networker

The Networker is a bi-monthly publication that is sent to all Bond members and subscribers. It offers topical and forward-thinking features and news relevant to the sector, with the aim of inspiring thought, debate and reflection. It is complemented by a monthly e-bulletin, *Your Network*.

Contributing to The Networker

If you have an idea that you think would be of interest to readers, or if you would like to comment on this issue of *The Networker*, please contact Jemma Ashman, Communications and Marketing Officer: jashman@bond.org.uk

Publishing and copyright

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Bond membership. This issue was edited by Jemma Ashman.

Design

Neo – The Positive Change Agency

Print

Generation Press. A Carbon Neutral company. Printed on revive 100 Offset, 100% post consumer waste and manufactured at a mill accredited with ISO14001 environmental management standard. The pulp used in this product is bleached using a Totally Chlorine Free process.

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Member spotlight Mother Helpage UK



• The community are involved in Mother Helpage's Sri Lankan projects © Mother Helpage

Mother Helpage UK specialises in disaster response and emergency relief and currently works in almost 20 countries worldwide.

One of the countries we work in is Sri Lanka, a country that is still recovering from the 2004 tsunami and where civil war in 2009 left scores of innocent dead and thousands of families uncertain of their future.

Mother Helpage was already working on the ground, rebuilding the communities devastated by the tsunami and its consequences including unemployment, prostitution, drug-trafficking and even terrorism. In addition to providing relief services, we then faced the enormous task of helping people to live together in peace.

Srilanka Rehabilitation Village – an innovation in community care

As well as providing shelter, the Srilanka Rehabilitation Village was built by Mother Helpage to:

- help different communities to live in harmony and to understand each other irrespective of religion, caste or gender
- support people to earn a living through the small income generation programmes and

help them understand how to overcome the reasons of depression and inhuman behaviour

- prevent molestation of girls by providing them with sanitation units and water sources
- enable communities to educate themselves about the values of a safer society and how this contributes to a healthier country

We believe that community interaction increases the prosperity and the development of a country, and the village is just one of the pilot projects planned to rebuild communities and bring people together.

Our target for the Srilanka Rehabilitation Village is 300 houses, a number of schools, a community centre, water sources and sanitation units and to provide people with a sustained income source (for instance, by developing the agricultural farm, sewing centres and IT centres).

So far, we have constructed 50 houses, a primary school, a community centre, and more than 20 sanitation units and water sources.

For more information: www.motherhelpage.com
info@motherhelpage.com or 01582 486 660

Staff news

Welcome to all our new staff:

- Joanna Rea, International Advocacy Officer
- Katherine Astill, Sector Advocacy Officer
- Mariana Rudge, Advocacy Administrator

We are sorry to say goodbye to Eeva Sarkkinen, Membership and Networks Officer, who recently left Bond, and wish her well for the future.



New members

- Institute of Development Studies
- International Centre for Eye Health
- International HIV Fund
- Kibera in Need
- Lifeline Network International
- Mushy Chickens Community Interest Company
- UNISON
- Village by Village Ltd

Welcome back to:

- Action against Hunger Resource Alliance

Network spotlight CONCORD

CONCORD is the European confederation of relief and development NGOs. It represents over 1,600 NGOs which are supported by millions of citizens across Europe, Bond is a member of CONCORD.

From policy to politics

Our priorities for 2010 are:

- institutional reforms and the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty
- the quadrilogue process (see page 12 for more details)
- the MDGs and holding the EU accountable to its commitments

To approach these issues, we have become 'more political' by using the strength of our voice, our structure, and particularly our members to influence our work. While we are still learning how to do this, it has meant that over the last year we have met with Commissioner Piebalgs, Baroness Ashton, President Van Rompuy and President Barroso. We have also had numerous meetings with European Parliamentarians, spoken at the Informal Development Ministers meeting and at the Council Working Party on Development.

But to what end?

In late 2009, we managed to ensure that references to the five priorities in CONCORD's Spotlight Report on policy coherence for development were included in Council Conclusions.

Within the Quadrilogue, CONCORD is established as a leader among EU civil society organisations working in the field of development. The recently agreed External Action Service has been a long battle, with CONCORD drawing on its allies to ensure that poverty reduction remains at the core of development policy. While implementation will need to be monitored, we hope that the current agreement allows the Minister for Development Cooperation to fulfill his mandate. The Millennium Development Goals mobilised many CONCORD members and linked the work of the MDG task force with CONCORD's annual AidWatch report. The final EU positioning will demonstrate whether or not we have been successful with our messaging.



For more information: www.concordeurope.org
(for English, click on the Union Jack flag icon)

G8 and G20 Summits fail to deliver

In June, G8 and G20 leaders met in Canada to discuss the global economy, foreign policy and international development efforts. **Joanna Rea**, International Advocacy Officer, and **Elvira Kanichay**, Policy Coordinator, look at the outcomes and the way forward.



• Put People First rally, Toronto, as part of the G8 and G20 summit © Oxfam International

At the G20 meeting, discussions focused primarily on economic affairs including trade, banking and fiscal policies, while conversations within the G8 focused on aid and development alongside foreign policy and international security issues.

Both of these meetings presented an important opportunity for world leaders to reaffirm their commitment to promises made to people living in poverty around the world. Yet, G8 leaders fell short of this and the G20 Summit failed to adopt progressive policies.

Muskoka G8 Summit – an unhistorical moment?

The target year of the historic Gleneagles commitments to increase aid by \$50 billion and double aid to Africa is 2010, yet most G8 governments are off track to deliver these targets.

A G8 Accountability Report, a novel accountability tool published ahead of the Muskoka G8 Summit, confirms that while progress has been made, the G8 failed to reach their Gleneagles commitments, with the shortfall estimated to be between \$10 billion and \$20 billion.¹ The 2010 DATE report confirm that the G8 as a whole has failed to deliver what it promised five years ago.²

Even though the G8 Accountability Report states that targets have been missed in the year they were due to be met, the final G8 communiqué failed to mention them. This indicates a worrying retreat from these critical

aid targets at a time when developing countries face the consequences of an international financial crisis and a climate crisis.

Progress on maternal and child health

With the Canadian Government keen for a result to call their own, the G8 also announced a new initiative focused on maternal, newborn and child health, the "Muskoka Initiative".

This initiative aims to mobilise up to \$10 billion to support health care systems in developing countries over the next five years. While many Bond members welcome this focus on infant, child and maternal health, they have expressed concern about the lack of information about where the pledged finance will come from. Given that overall G8 aid levels have been frozen, funding already allocated to essential services such as education, water and sanitation could be recycled or double-counted to pay for this new initiative. This renewed commitment should be additional to, not instead of, existing aid pledges.

G20 leaders reiterate previous agreements

Development NGOs were hopeful that the G20, in the context of banking reform, would agree to move towards an international financial transaction tax (FTT) that could potentially raise hundreds of billions of dollars annually to deliver the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), support developing countries in their efforts to adapt to the devastating effects of climate change and respond to the impacts of the financial crisis. Unfortunately, the G20 failed to rise to this challenge and agree a global FTT, missing an important opportunity.

Instead of discussing new and progressive approaches to reform the global economic system and introduce a green recovery model, the main outcome of the G20 Summit was to reiterate previous commitments to its *Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth*.³



Bond engagement on G8/G20

In the lead up to the G8 and G20 Summits, Bond coordinated joint advocacy meetings with DFID, HM Treasury and the G8/G20 Sherpa to ensure that there was a strong voice for poverty and economic justice included in the agenda of each of these gatherings. Bond was also active in the international civil society G8/G20 working group that put together collective positions which were used to inform national campaigning and lobbying activities.

Where to next?

International and UK civil society is now focusing on the UN MDG Review Summit taking place in September 2010. Bond is working closely with members and international partners like GCAP to push for an ambitious and universal MDGs rescue plan. Read more about the MDG Review Summit on page 6.

Bond is also planning advocacy activities ahead of the next G20 Summit in South Korea on 11-12 November 2010. Updates on Bond's engagement can be found at bond.org.uk/pages/g8g20-canada.html



Written by Joanna Rea, Bond International Advocacy Officer, and Elvira Kanichay, Bond Policy Coordinator.
If you would like to get involved with advocacy or public campaigning around future G8 or G20 summits please email the Bond Advocacy team: advocacy@bond.org.uk or 020 7520 0250

References

- 1 The Accountability Reports notes a \$10billion shortfall whereas Oxfam GB estimates the shortfall to be closer to \$20billion and the OECD estimates \$18billion.
- 2 2010 DATE Report published on 25 May, Read more at www.one.org/report/2010
- 3 For more information on this Framework, see the 2009 and 2010 G20 communiqués at www.g20.org

Six weeks and counting

the road to the UN MDG Review Summit

With little more than a month before the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Review Summit and a disappointing draft of the Summit's outcome document, Bond is stepping up advocacy efforts. **Leo Williams**, Bond MDGs Advocacy Officer, highlights key activities ahead of the summit.

On 20 – 22 September, heads of state and government will meet in New York to take stock of progress on delivering the MDGs and their promises to the poor. Yet, with just six weeks to go, the prognosis is less than encouraging.

Are governments keeping their promises?

The Draft Outcome Document, negotiated by UN member states, is disappointing. While it contains positive language, recognising the interconnectedness of the MDGs, committing to country-led development strategies, and focusing on an "Action Agenda for Achieving the MDGs by 2015", it includes no clear financial commitments or timetables to achieve the MDGs. Civil society is demanding concrete proposals for each of the MDGs, but there seems to be a lack of political will to include the needed level of detail.

Can the UK play a leadership role at the summit?

This is the Coalition Government's first UN Summit, and as such represents an opportunity for the UK to take a leadership role in efforts to achieve the MDGs by 2015. Deputy prime Minister, Nick Clegg, has been confirmed as the UK representative at the summit.

Secretary of State for International Development, Andrew Mitchell, recently pledged that the UK will "encourage all parties to work towards a clear action plan" and that he will ask world leaders to come to the summit ready to "make and deliver ambitious pledges".

To date, the Secretary of State has been less clear on the UK's concrete position or priorities for the summit, apart from emphasising a clear focus on maternal health.

Political will at the EU?

While the EU collective position asks member states to establish realistic, verifiable annual action plans for reaching individual targets, the EU stopped short of adopting its own MDG rescue plan. This watered down European position is not providing any pressure for the UK or other member states to adopt a stronger position towards the summit.

The road ahead

The weeks preceding the summit provide opportunities for civil society to secure commitments at the regional, national and global level. Global civil society will be organising meetings with country delegations, hearings in national parliaments and the coordination of 'The World We Want Charters' to present clear and concise demands to governments.

The focus now for Bond is to engage with the UK Government ahead of the summit, ensure meetings with the UK delegation and explore the possibility of side events at the summit. We will produce civil society briefings and statements in response to negotiations, working with members and international coalitions.

Campaigning on the MDGs

Bond members are also building public campaigns, culminating on 17-19 September, as part of the worldwide Stand Up and Take Action initiative. Read more about how to get involved in the Stand Up events on page 17.

To join this public campaigning to support the MDGs: campaigns@bond.org.uk 020 7520 0250



A final word

It remains to be seen whether governments have the political will to commit to a meaningful MDGs Rescue Plan, including financial commitments and timetables for action. What we do know is that this is exactly what is needed if we are to achieve the MDGs by 2015 and lift millions of people out of poverty.



Bond coordinated a statement by UK civil society organisations urging the UK Government to show leadership and take action on key issues ahead of the UN MDG Review Summit. *A last change to keep our promises* is endorsed by 54 organisations including many Bond members. To download it from the website, go to 'UK Advocacy' on the 'Millennium Development Goals' page.

For updates on the MDGs, visit the website: bond.org.uk/pages/mdgs.html

Join the Bond MDGs mailing list to keep up to date with MDGs news. Contact Leo Williams, MDGs Advocacy Officer: lwilliams@bond.org.uk or 020 7520 0231

A world beyond



IDS and CAFOD share some early analysis of their research into what CAFOD's Southern partners think should happen after 2015.

It took ten years to formulate and agree the original Millennium Development Goals. We have five years before they run out, and there are currently no concrete proposals on the table as to what should happen next. So, what should happen after 2015? What, if anything, would inspire a better world?

With IDS, CAFOD has been undertaking research to kick-start our thinking on post-2015 options, with a particular emphasis on the perspectives of those from developing countries. From April to June 2010, over 90 representatives from CAFOD's partner organisations in the South voiced their opinions, concerns and priorities on what should happen after the MDGs. Whilst we are still in the early stages of analysing this data, there are some clear patterns and issues emerging – and a definite sense that the international community needs to move fast to address the vacuum that will be left.

What do people say?

Predictably perhaps, our research revealed a wide range of opinion about the original MDGs. In common with commentators elsewhere, our partners voiced concerns that efforts to achieve the goals have not been successful, that they neglected the structural causes of poverty and excluded other important issues. Donato Ochan Hakim, from SSOPO in Sudan, said "the MDGs were based on the assumption that every country had the same conditions and issues". Abbe Justin Nzunzi, from the Bukavu Justice and Peace Commission, suggested that "The MDGs have combated the effects of poverty, but not the causes".

Taken as a whole though, CAFOD partners were positive about the goals, with 92% agreeing that on balance, the MDGs were a good thing. Our partners praised the initiative for improving awareness of development issues, spurring commitment from governments and turning the fight against poverty into a global movement. As Regina Salvador-Antequisa, from EcoWEB in

the Philippines said, the MDGs "unified the development aims of the whole world". Linus A Mayembe, from DACHEP in Tanzania, said the framework "targeted the most forgotten areas of development". Partners felt that the MDGs have had a modest impact on improving gender equality and addressing HIV/AIDs.

A framework for global development

An issue our partners were strongly united on, however, was that they wanted some kind of internationally agreed, overarching framework for global development, after the MDGs run out. 90% of partners were behind this suggestion, arguing that a framework was important for building global solidarity, political commitment and momentum for development. George Boran, of Centro de Capacitação da Juventude in Brazil, stressed the importance of agreeing targets and priorities: "Without priorities, everything is important and therefore nothing is important". Philip Kamara, Director of Caritas Makeni, Sierra Leone said a framework should be "a guide and spring board for the world's nations in pursuing development", whilst Oppa Rukara, of Caritas Masvingo in Zimbabwe, said a framework "assists in seeing the world as a village". Overall, early analysis of our data shows two key messages coming through:

1 Get the process right

Whilst there will be enormous disagreements on what a post-2015 framework should look like, there is no doubting the demand for an open, inclusive and participative process to generate it. "It should be a collective discussion. Include civil society, governments, donors, but it should also include citizens", said Rosilene Wansetto, of Rede Jubileu Sul Brasil, Brazil. Partners stressed the importance of learning lessons from the original MDG process, and working in a partnership between North and South.

Given the growing time-pressure, establishing a process that citizens in developing countries find satisfactory may well be a considerable challenge.

2 Get context-specific

A key demand from our partners that any new framework emerged needed to take better account of country contexts than the original MDGs. From Afghanistan to Kenya; Columbia to Brazil, our partners stressed that any framework must engage with the unique development challenges faced by different countries. Such sensitivity was an important part of building country ownership, and making a framework practically meaningful. As Luciane Udovic and Bernard Lestienne of Grito dos Excluídos in Brazil put it, "development comes from within and not from outside cultures".

Indeed, the early indications of our research suggest there is a strong appetite in Southern civil society organisations for a post 2015 global development framework. The international community – and we use this term in the broadest possible sense – needs to move fast in order to make it happen.

A draft version of the CAFOD/IDS report will be used in workshops this Autumn, with full publication in the New Year. We hope that Bond NGOs will join us in calling for a vigorous, inclusive debate on the future of development – encompassing North and South – that needs to be started at the earliest opportunity.



Written by Amy Pollard, CAFOD and Andy Sumner, IDS. With Monica Lopes and Agnès de Mauroy, CAFOD
For more information: apollard@cafod.org.uk a.sumner@ids.ac.uk

Europe: opportunity or threat?

Jenny Brown explains why Europe is so important to UK NGOs and how, through the Bond European Policy Group, Bond members can make a difference to EU policy and practice.

Development agencies cannot afford to ignore the EU. If we do, we miss the chance to influence the world's biggest aid donor, and a major player on, for instance, trade and climate. The EU has increasing global influence, and reaches into many other inter-governmental structures. Politically and as a donor it has a massive impact on the lives of the world's poorest people, and we need to make sure that impact is positive. And that's where Bond comes in.

Influencing the EU through Bond

Influencing the EU requires understanding of how its institutions work, and what's going on, and few agencies are able to stay on top of relevant information and processes on their own. The Bond European Policy Group (EPG) provides a forum for sharing information, and for undertaking joint advocacy on issues of fundamental importance. Influencing EU policy, even more than UK-focused advocacy, is far more effective when done together and Bond through the EPG is a respected contributor in both London and Brussels.

The direction and principles of EU policies are set by the member states (the Council), with the detail being fleshed out by the Commission and Parliament. The EPG starting point for advocacy is therefore the UK Government as a member state.

We meet regularly with DFID, and other Government departments to ensure that the UK promotes policies in the Council that are the best possible for development. Crucially, Bond has put a lot of time into getting to know and understand the new Government – these relationships will be vital as we continue to promote our development agenda in the context of the continuing financial crisis.

There are 27 member states, and however supportive the UK Government might be the others also need to be persuaded. Bond is an active and influential member of CONCORD, the cross-EU coordination of development networks and national platforms, and plays a significant role in its strategic thinking and policy development. Through CONCORD, the EPG's impact extends beyond the UK, supporting advocacy in many other member states as well as in Brussels.

Benefit to Bond members

For Bond members, the EPG is an important resource. At Christian Aid we recognise the need to influence the EU on a wide range of development and budget policies, to ensure a policy framework which enables rather than impedes our work with partners to eradicate poverty. But we, like other agencies, do not have the capacity to work on all the relevant issues so we are committed to support the EPG as a way of adding value to our own work and progressing our own priority issues including tax and climate change.

Recent achievements

- Through lobbying HMG and through CONCORD, the EPG helped achieve significant changes to the initial proposals for the EU's current budget priorities ('Financial Perspectives'). Eventually development was confirmed as a core and separate element rather than as part of the wider foreign policy section with all the risks that that would carry.

- Ahead of the European Parliament elections in June 2009, the EPG produced a manifesto that was used as the basis for contact with UK MEP candidates. Following the elections we met with a number of UK MEPs and have established on-going relationships.
- The EPG worked closely with CONCORD on the institutional reforms emerging from the Lisbon Treaty, and produced briefings which were referred to with appreciation in high-level political fora. Thanks to the work of the EPG and colleagues across Europe the proposals look set to be much more protective of development as a separate priority. That is a real triumph, but we continue to monitor and respond.

What's next?

Negotiations for the next Financial Perspectives are about to start and we are ready. We will work on an EU strategy following the MDG Review Summit to push the EU to make a major contribution towards the achievement of the MDGs. We will continue to encourage the EU's commitment to policy coherence for development, and we will continue to cooperate with others across Bond, including the Funding, Climate and European Neighbourhood Groups, as well as with external networks such as the UK Aid Network.

Much of what Bond members do has an actual or potential EU angle and together we can identify and support these opportunities to great effect. The EPG is at the centre of the action – join us!

Jenny Brown is Senior EU Relations Advisor at Christian Aid and on the Steering Committee of the Bond European Policy Group.

For more information about the Bond European Policy Group and our work in Europe:
bond.org.uk/groups
bond.org.uk/europe



Europe at your fingertips

Europe is important but how can Bond members engage? Here are just some of the ways.

Bond EC Funding Advice Line

The European Commission (EC) is an important source of funding for civil society organisations working in international development, providing high value, multi-annual grants over a range of sectors and geographic areas.

Competition for funds is fierce, and application procedures are demanding. Post contract, ensuring compliance with EC grant management procedures is also a huge challenge. To help members through this maze of procedures, the Bond EC Funding Advice Line provides a support service to subscribers on applying, managing and reporting on EC grants.

What support can the advice line provide?

At the proposal writing stage:

- supports users with advice on specific issues relating to information requirements and ways of completing applications
- advises on detailed interpretation of the rules and regulations of the EuropeAid Standard Contract and on problems that arise from day to day management of contracts
- provides other more generalised information on EC matters such as types of funding available

The service is there for queries great and small – there is no such thing as a 'silly question'. Despite all the rules and regulations, there are many grey areas in EC contract management, and it can be good to discuss options before deciding on a course of action. There is no limit on use.

Who provides the service?

Angela James is Bond's EC trainer and an expert on EC funding issues. She draws on many years experience of working on proposal writing and contract management with CSOs in the UK, Europe and developing countries.

How much does it cost and how can I access it?

The annual subscription rate depends on the organisation's Bond membership category. Go to the website for full details: bond.org.uk/ecfal

"The EC Funding Advice Line is an outstanding information service and resource."

"Taking part in the Bond European Policy Group has helped us gain better understanding of and engagement with the EU and relevant stakeholder. As a small NGO this would have been difficult to achieve on our own."
 Amber Wilson-de Vries, International Children's Trust

Bond learning and training

Several courses focus on how NGOs can influence the EU and access, manage and report on EC grants, including:

- EU corridors of power
- Fundraising from institutions: writing winning proposals
- Introduction to EC funding
- Managing EC contracts and reporting on EC grants

For more information on these and all Bond courses: bond.org.uk/learn



Bond groups

Two Bond groups have a specific focus on EU institutions:

- European Policy Group provides joint analysis of EU policy developments and coordinates advocacy initiatives targeting the EU
- EC Funding Group provides information sharing on technical EC funding issues and joint analysis and influencing of EC funding environment

Other Bond groups and UK networks also target EU institutions on specific issues.

bond.org.uk/groups
bond.org.uk/europe



Progressive development: NGO leadership to 2016

This year, the Bond Annual Conference and AGM will focus on NGO leadership, as the need to find new and creative responses to some of the most pressing issues of our time become apparent.

The next five years, for Bond, international development and UK NGOs is likely to be even more demanding than the last.

The economic effects of the global financial crisis continue to both hit the lives of women and men living in poverty and jeopardise the commitments, North and South, to achieve the MDGs, while the effects of climate change on poor peoples lives are worsening. At the same time, we are working in a new UK political and economic context, presenting both opportunity and challenge, and the very way NGOs operate – our accountability and effectiveness – is increasingly questioned. Now more than ever, we need to raise our game and find progressive and creative responses.

With a focus on NGO leadership to 2016 and the civil society contribution to meeting these challenges, the Bond Annual Conference and AGM brings Bond members together to discuss and confront these pressing issues.

Be a part of this energising renewal of our collective commitment; register to attend and join other NGO leaders in this unique forum to listen, learn, contribute, and connect.

Registration now open

The Annual Conference and AGM is for Bond members only.

Registration is open to the 'main contact' and 'director contact' in the first instance. If you are not one of these contacts, you can still register and will be put on a waiting list.

bond.org.uk/annualconference2010

What to expect

- A broad programme to stimulate thought, debate and action
- High-profile speakers with a deep level of knowledge in their field of work

- Active and participatory sessions covering a range of interest areas
- Unique opportunity to engage with other NGO leaders and peers

Details of the day

The day will open with a welcome from Anna Feuchtwang, Bond Chair, and will close with remarks from Nick Roseveare, Bond Chief Executive.

- 1 We are delighted that **Andrew Mitchell**, Secretary of State for International Development, will give the keynote address.
- 2 **Moving forwards together: Bond Strategy 2011-16** will give members the opportunity to get a clear understanding of the new Bond Strategy. Working in small groups, you will share and discuss ideas on how to take the strategy forward, focussing on what the priorities should be and how they might be implemented.
- 3 **Interactive parallel sessions** give members the opportunity to take part in group discussion and activities on a particular issue or topic of interest.

Choose one of six participatory sessions – full details are on the website:

1. Maintaining and building public support for development
2. Good, better, best? Proving and improving our value
3. Advocacy Leadership Forum
4. Good practice in institutional and trust funding: the principles of good donorship and NGO grant management
5. The tip of the iceberg: widening the environment debate
6. Responding to conflict: working in, on or around conflict and insecurity

“It was enlightening to meet so many people from such a range of organisations. This led to lively debate.”

Annual Conference and AGM 2009 delegate



4 **The future role of civil society in African development** panel session will hear the perspectives of high-level panellists from inter-governmental, private sector, donor and civil society organisations on how big a contributor civil society can be to development efforts in Africa. We have invited Samira Ahmed of Channel 4 News to moderate the session.

5 The day also includes the **AGM business** where members will approve the annual accounts, vote to adopt the Bond Strategy 2011-16, hear about changes to Bond's governance structure and get an update on the Statement of Principles review.

All delegates are invited to an **evening drinks reception** to network with other sector leaders and colleagues.

“A very good day – I am leaving with important questions that need to be answered by my organisation.”

Annual Conference and AGM 2009 delegate

For full details: bond.org.uk/annualconference2010

Fit for the future

Anna Feuchtwang, Chair of Bond and Chief Executive of EveryChild, outlines three crucial pieces of work that will strengthen the Bond network over the next five years.

Bond's capacity to bring us all together so we can speak with a strong voice and challenge and hold to account those that can make a difference is critical. At 370 members, our size and our diversity make us strong but it is our ability to work together for a common goal that makes us irresistible.

It's been a tough year for my organisation, EveryChild. We have suffered the double whammy of a fall in our income and a fall in the buying power of sterling. We have had to make cuts but worse is the knowledge that the global recession is making life harder and more dangerous for the children that we work with.

This will be a familiar scenario for Bond members as we grapple with a harsh economic climate, a rapidly shifting political environment and diminishing public support for international development. So, it is even more important that we work collectively to ensure that issues of global poverty, inequity, injustice and climate change stay high on the agenda.

This year, three distinct pieces of work will strengthen Bond and set it on a clear and progressive path. Together they will determine the future for Bond so it is vital that where possible members contribute to their development.

Bond Strategy 2011-16

Many of you have contributed to developing the Bond Strategy 2011-16 by completing the consultation questions or taking part in one of the consultation events or special meetings. The quantity and quality of engagement was impressive and many new ideas have been generated and common themes have emerged. A first draft of the strategy will be tested with members in August – if you want to comment on it please email: consultations@bond.org.uk. We will also be producing a report which will give detailed feedback so that you know we have listened to what you have said

and understand what we did with your suggestions.

In October, the final draft will be sent to members along with the AGM papers, and at the AGM on 4 November (details on page 10 and the website) we will discuss it further and take a vote on it. Inevitably there will be some aspects that you won't entirely agree with or areas you think should have had more emphasis but I am confident that there will be enough that we can feel positive about to pass it. Once adopted, it will be ready to implement from April 2011.

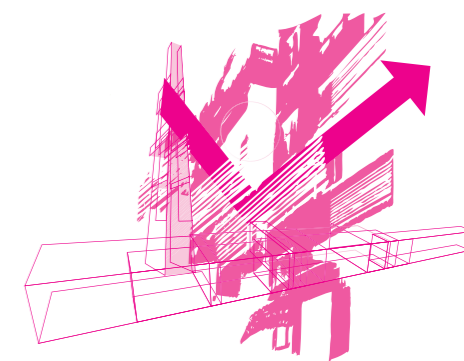
Governance review

The board and the way it works has changed a great deal since Bond was first set up. At the beginning, the board played a central role in the running of the organisation and, as the organisation has matured, the board has stepped back into a governance role but we have never carried out a review with members about how Bond is governed.

At last year's AGM, the trustees made a commitment to review the composition of the board to ensure that it meets the current and future needs of Bond in time for the 2010 AGM. Following discussions, the Board have come up with a proposal on which we would like to consult the wider membership.

With the provision to include 20 people, we think that our current board size is too big. Governance specialists recommend between 10 and 15, and we think 12 would be about right. We would also like trustees to be elected as much for their skills set and experience in governance as for the parts of the sector they come from.

We will be writing to the directors of all Bond members with the proposal and we will be encouraging members to give us their views so that we can recommend changes at the AGM.



Statement of Principles

When EveryChild joined Bond six years ago, I must have signed up to the Statement of Principles because it is a condition of membership, but I do not remember its significance and it certainly did not provoke any deep discussion within my organisation. Members currently are not required to be accountable to it and it has not been reviewed or discussed since it was introduced eleven years ago. So, it feels right to take another look.

The Statement of Principles is a way of showing that membership of Bond stands for something. It could also be a way of promoting and protecting our reputation as a sector. But to make it do these things, it needs to become an active part of membership.

At the 2009 Annual Conference and AGM, a group of directors from across the membership had a look at the principles and concluded that they should be reviewed and their use revised. We are taking this work forward in parallel with the work on the Bond Effectiveness Programme so we can build on learning, and will discuss it further in one of the afternoon sessions at the Annual Conference – see page 10 and the website for more information.



Anna Feuchtwang was elected Chair of Bond in November 2008 and has been on the board since 2005. During this time, she has been involved in reviewing and making changes to the way the Board works and has represented Bond on many occasions. For more information go to the 'About us' page on the website: bond.org.uk

Where next for European civil society?



European institutions and NGOs are currently in discussions about the role of civil society in EC development cooperation. But what will it mean for UK NGOs? **Joni Hillman** investigates.

In 2003, The European Commission, the European Parliament, EU member states and NGOs met in Palermo to reach consensus on how to improve civil society participation in EU development policies and implementation.

Following an evaluation of the EU budget line for NGOs (B7-6000, later 21 02 03 and now known as Non-State Actors and Local Authorities), EuropeAid, the part of the European Commission that manages EU aid, initiated what became known as 'Palermo I'.

With recent significant changes in EU-NGO development co-operation (see box) and the EU budget for 2013 – 2018 looming, the EC has seen fit to revisit and refine its relationship with civil society in both Europe and the developing world.

The process

The discussions, which are being referred to as 'Structured Dialogue', 'Palermo II' or the 'Quadrilogue', officially began in March 2010 and will continue until the spring of 2011, concluding with a conference. Over this period, there will be four meetings in Brussels and three regional seminars attended by representatives from the European Commission, European Parliament, EU member states and civil society.

Additionally, there are three thematic working groups examining specific issues in detail on:

- 1 The roles and added value of civil society in external co-operation, from programming to evaluation
- 2 Complementarity and coherence with the Accra Agenda for Action
- 3 EC aid delivery mechanisms

What is at stake?

The potential changes that the Structured Dialogue may bring are of interest to UK NGOs since the EC is the largest international development donor in the world and makes significant contributions to European NGOs. Given the current global

economic situation we don't expect to see substantial increases in the funds available to civil society organisations from the EC, however, the dialogue is an opportunity to examine funding priorities, grant-giving and management processes.

Civil society input into the Structured Dialogue is being co-ordinated by CONCORD, the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development. Questions arising from the discussion and some of the recommendations that CONCORD is making include:

- Should the EC instigate a PPA-style unrestricted funding line that looks to build longer-term strategic funding relationships with high-performing organisations?
- Can EC funding processes encourage collaboration amongst NGOs?
- Could the 'calls for proposals' system be changed?

What has happened so far?

Bond has been ensuring its positions are reflected in the discussions by inputting into CONCORD's various working groups – the Funding for Development and Relief Group, the Policy Forum and the CSO Effectiveness Group. Initial positions were adopted at the CONCORD General Assembly in June but there is still scope to refine these positions as the working groups take part in the next meetings.

Upcoming meetings

14-17 September
Regional Workshop, Paraguay

13 October
Third Working Group Session, Brussels

16-19 November
Regional Workshop, India

February 2011
Regional Workshop, European Neighbourhood

Spring 2011
Final Conference, Hungary

What's driving Europe's examination of its relationship with civil society?

- New budget lines: There are now a variety of EC 'financial instruments' open to both European and Southern civil society organisations
- New civil society stakeholders: Southern civil society is becoming increasingly successful in obtaining EC funding directly, rather than relying on European partners
- European Delegations: Lisbon Treaty means delegations will have an enhanced and more political role in European development co-operation as part of the European External Action Service
- International agenda on CSO effectiveness: Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and subsequent Accra Agenda for Action have focused attention on donor alignment, harmonisation, NGO effectiveness and 'added value'
- The EC has evaluated 'CSOs as a Channel of Aid' and the Court of Auditors produced a report: *Preliminary observations on the EC's management of Non-State Actors involvement in EC development co-operation*

The Bond EC Funding Group will discuss EC funding delivery mechanisms in the context of the Structured Dialogue at their meeting in September. Please join the group in the members' area of the Bond website for more information.

Documents relating to the Structured Dialogue process can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/25drmb2>

CONCORD positions and recommendations on each thematic area can be found on the Bond website (member log in required): bond.org.uk/pages/structured-dialogue.html

For more information please contact Joni Hillman, Donor Advocacy Officer: jhillman@bond.org.uk



Building an effective future



An update on the Bond Effectiveness Programme including highlights from the latest meeting and reflections on effectiveness from Sightsavers International.

On 22 June, 45 people attended the Bond Effectiveness Programme quarterly meeting.

There was an update how the programme is progressing, with particular focus on the results of two independent studies commissioned by Bond (see link below). The studies reviewed 10 NGO quality frameworks, and effective partnerships between UK development organisations and Southern NGOs. The findings formed the basis of a discussion on how to improve the structure and components of the draft NGO Effectiveness Framework.

Building an Effectiveness Framework

Participants considered how to increase the functionality of the Effectiveness Framework and also offered suggestions on how best to drive the process over the next six months. Practical propositions were also made about how the Effectiveness Programme can both influence and benefit from other effectiveness initiatives nationally and globally.

One of the key issues raised by one group is the need to study and promote the incentives which lie behind the drive to become more effective. Another group raised the issue of ensuring that the Effectiveness Framework remains something which is useful for small to medium sized NGOs which often have limited resources.

The road ahead

We are grateful for all the guidance and time commitment offered by members involved in the programme. We are confident that by end of 2010 the Effectiveness Framework will be ready for the many agencies who want to become more effective, but we will also have made progress on identifying what compels organisations to become more effective.



Graphic representation of discussions at the 22 June meeting © Paul Richardson/Bond

Five minutes with...

Caroline Harper
CEO, Sightsavers International



Why is effectiveness important to you?

Obviously at Sightsavers we want to know that the money we are spending is being spent effectively, is not being wasted and is actually having an impact on the ground. Today, donors and supporters are increasingly keen to see this.

I support the Bond Effectiveness Programme because I think in today's environment, which continues to be more uncertain, the Government is going to have a really hard time persuading the public that aid money should continue to be spent at the same level, let alone be increased.

Having something that demonstrates how effective we are as a sector is becoming absolutely imperative. Unless we come together and do this, it will be imposed upon us.

What did you learn from doing the Sightsavers partner survey?

It was a while ago now, in 2004-2005. We had situations where the vision and mission of the international NGO were not aligned with those of the partner. We also had power balance issues, and found that we were demanding more and more accountability of the partner because we were being driven by donors. There was not enough accountability at the beneficiary end because when you have money flowing from donors to international NGOs to the partner, inevitably that leads to imbalances of power.

We did find out positive things, for example, most of our partners were very committed. The survey showed we had a strong relationship with most of them, and that the good partnerships were those that were not just about grant making but about capacity building and development.

From there we developed a partnership policy which we have now rolled out almost everywhere. Part of that was to develop tools that could be used to assess partnerships. This involved looking at the financial strengths of the partner, the capacity beyond that and how we might work together. They now have a suite of tools that they can use when working with partners. It wasn't just about qualitative information – the survey actually led to some really specific things to help guide future field work.

What components should the Bond Effectiveness Framework encompass?

That is a big question! I think it needs to look at how organisations are delivering against the objectives they set for themselves. The most important thing is that it helps NGOs with the really difficult question of 'did I actually achieve what I set out to do?' But first of all, Bond should look at the various frameworks that exist now and see if we can pull the best things from them. I think it is essential to keep it simple; do not reinvent the wheel, and make sure that it's actually useful and not too theoretical.

Download the Comparative Study of Quality Frameworks and Approaches to Partnership study: bond.org.uk/pages/the-latest-updates.html

Read the summary and previous meetings notes: bond.org.uk/pages/past-meetings-and-events.html

Sign up to the next Effectiveness Programme meeting on 23 September: bond.org.uk/pages/future-plans-and-meetings.html



Coalition Government reiterates UK commitment to fight global poverty

Since forming a new Coalition Government in May 2010, the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats are shifting the political rhetoric of the election campaign to a governing agenda and new policies. **Elvira Kanichay**, Bond Policy Coordinator, looks at DFID's new ministerial team and possible changes to international development policies.

Since the election, the Coalition Government has ringfenced the aid budget and reiterated their strong commitment to international development issues.

Yet, what are emerging political differences to the previous Government on development and what are the expected changes in the fight against global poverty in a new political landscape?

Commitment to DFID and the international development budget

The new Government has recommitted to the existence of DFID as an independent department and Secretary of State for International Development, Andrew Mitchell, is a member of all cabinet meetings and the newly established National Security Council.

The Queen's Speech on 25 May included a commitment of the new Government to spend 0.7% of GNI from 2013 although no reference was made to enshrine this into law as was committed to in the Coalition Agreement. During International Development Questions in July, Andrew Mitchell confirmed his commitment to the legislation yet was not clear about the process and contents of such a law.

In the budget announcement on 22 June, Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, confirmed the protection of DFID's budget, a decision that has been warmly welcomed by the UK NGO community.

Whilst the financial and institutional context of UK international development policy has not changed, DFID's policies have already been shifted to reflect the new Government's focus on cost efficiency, value for money and greater transparency.

A new DFID leadership

Andrew Mitchell, Secretary of State for International Development, is joined by fellow Conservative MPs Alan Duncan as Minister of State and Stephen O'Brien as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. All three bring with them specific expertise on international development issues:

- Andrew Mitchell served as the Conservative Shadow Secretary of State for International Development from 2005 and led the project Umubano in Rwanda and Sierra Leone since 2007, a Conservative Party Social Action Project
- Alan Duncan also served as Conservative Shadow Secretary of State for International Development (from 2004-2005) and has taken a keen interest in international affairs during his parliamentary career
- Stephen O'Brien has in recent years been very active campaigning against poverty, for instance as chair of the All Parties Parliamentary Group on Malaria and on Tanzania as well as vice-chair of the All Parties Parliamentary Group on Debt, Aid and Trade

Except for the political level, DFID's organisational structure has not changed since the election. However, new priorities are currently being shaped to replace some of DFID's previous policies.

A new strategic framework for DFID's work can be expected as DFID White Papers, as agreed under the previous Government, no longer fully reflect DFID priorities.

New priorities for DFID

In early keynote speeches and articles, Andrew Mitchell has highlighted his key priorities for the months ahead and how he



• Top: Andrew Mitchell, Secretary of State for International Development. Middle: Alan Duncan, Minister of State for International Development. Bottom: Stephen O'Brien, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development © DFID/ Russell Watkins

intends to change DFID's way of working and policies.

In a major speech in June, he outlined his priorities for tackling global poverty based on the Coalition Government agreement and previous Conservative positions:

- Fighting global poverty is a moral imperative and in the UK's national interest
- Promoting policy coherence across Whitehall
- UK aid needs to be well spent and effectively implemented with a focus on results, outputs and outcomes instead of inputs
- Key themes of DFID's new political direction are transparency, accountability, responsibility, fairness and empowerment
- Implementing a UK Aid Transparency Guarantee which includes publishing all information about DFID programmes and projects and independent impact evaluations

- Establishing an Independent Aid Watchdog to monitor the effectiveness of UK aid

Many of these initiatives and policy priorities follow a trend towards greater transparency and effective aid that UK NGOs have been calling for over a number of years. NGOs are keen to engage with the new leadership on these issues, sharing expertise on how to best implement the new priorities on the ground and define the details of new political initiatives.

The effectiveness of international aid has been an ongoing issue resulting in the 2005 Paris Declaration and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action. A new High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness is coming up in South Korea in 2011. The Government's renewed focus on this area is to be welcomed yet there are some concerns about too narrowly focusing on measurable short term outputs to prove the value for money of aid spending rather than long term development impact.

Bond engagement

Bond has been leading sector-wide discussions on analysis and engagement with the new Government. A Bond Advocacy Leaders Forum discussed how the international development sector should adapt to new realities and what changes we need to make in our collective campaigning and our policy positions to bring about change.

Bond is also supporting members and Bond groups to establish a dialogue with relevant departments to ensure that our collective priorities, as outlined in the *Vote Global Manifesto*, are reflected in the Government's agenda for development.

Read how the Coalition agreement compares to the *Vote Global Manifesto*: bond.org.uk/pages/the-new-uk-government.html
We will keep members regularly informed of Government updates and changes in DFID.

A new Parliament



• Nadhim Zahawi MP holds a copy of the joint statement by UK civil society organisations on the MDGs © Jay Butcher

The UK Parliament has a total of 650 MPs, out of which 232 are new. Many are Conservative MPs relatively new to the agenda of international development while many Labour champions of the fight against poverty did not get re-elected.

The international development sector needs to engage with Parliament to ensure strong support for the fight against global poverty and for the demands outlined in the *Vote Global Manifesto*.

While Select Committees and All Parties Parliamentary Groups are reforming, many



• Caroline Lucas MP shows her commitment to the MDGs © Jay Butcher

Bond members are already actively engaging with new and returning MPs.

Debates on global poverty and the variety of questions during recent International Development Questions in the House of Commons show that there is a strong interest among Parliamentarians on our issues.

International Development Parliamentary Reception

In June, Bond, together with 24 member organisations including Tearfund, WaterAid, Oxfam and CAFOD, organised an International Development Parliamentary Reception to engage new and returning MPs.

Hosted by Ann McKeichin MP (Labour) and Alistair Burt MP (Conservative, FCO Minister), over 40 representatives of the House of Commons and the House of Lords heard keynote speeches from Stephen O'Brien MP, DFID Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, and Deo Nyanzi, Coordinator of the Uganda National NGO Forum.

MPs and Peers were invited to sign on to an Early Day Motion on the MDGs to start a discussion in Parliament ahead of the UN MDG Review Summit on 20-22 September 2010.

Further engagement with Parliament

Bond will continue to work closely with Parliament particularly ahead of the UN MDG Review Summit encouraging MPs to ask relevant questions and initiate debates in Parliament on international development and the MDGs.

How to engage with the new Parliament

Through individual MPs

There are many ways of engaging with the new Parliament. The first route in is through building a relationship with individual MPs who take an interest in your issues. NGOs can then channel Parliamentary questions through individual MPs and encourage them to table questions on their issues in Parliament.

Through All Parties Parliamentary Groups

Another route of influencing is working with All Parties Parliamentary Groups (APPGs)

related to international development issues. The advantage of APPGs is that they already represent interested groups of MPs from all parties and often have events and newsletters that NGOs can contribute to or jointly organise. Some APPGs are coordinated and funded by NGOs.

Through the International Development Committee

The International Development Select Committee scrutinises DFID's work and holds inquiries into different aspects of it

such as aid effectiveness and DFID's programmes in different countries. NGOs are invited to give written and oral evidence to this committee reflecting DFID's performance and policies.

To learn more about how to influence the new Government and Parliament, attend the *Bond UK corridors of power* course: bond.org.uk/learn

To engage in Bond advocacy with decision makers: advocacy@bond.org.uk

A perfect match

ICA:UK and the Humanitarian Centre, both members of the Bond Small NGOs Group, offer some tips and advice on recruiting and working with volunteers and trustees.

As a small NGO, ICA:UK often recruits volunteers as it seeks to grow its capacity and impact. Volunteers currently working with us play a governance role (our trustees) or a more task/programme focused role, for example, helping with our Youth Participation programme, improving our website, supporting the development of a marketing strategy and assisting with fundraising.

With a few exceptions (usually personal contact), all our volunteers are recruited through free online advertising. As well as our website, we also use a range of other local and national websites. Many of our current trustees were recruited through www.reachskills.org.uk (although this site has now introduced a fee for trustee recruitment) or www.charityjob.co.uk. The latter site yielded the most responses in our recent round of trustee recruitment and has the added advantage that other sites seem to use it as a source of material. This means that your adverts get spread more widely than otherwise.

A good source for IT volunteers is www.it4communities.org.uk which matches up people with IT skills wanting to volunteer and charities looking for such skills. Our website volunteer, Simon Keslake, came to us this way and he continues to be a real asset to us.

Recently, we have noticed that the line between volunteering and work experience is less clear. Under the Future Jobs Fund, we pay the worker the same costs as we would for a volunteer but they are paid for

the work they do by the Fund. This scheme is coming to an end, but it is likely to be replaced by a further scheme relating to community service.

What we have learnt

- The value of having a clear Volunteer Policy (www.ica-uk.org.uk/our-structure under 'Our staff and associates') which sets out what volunteers can expect from us, and vice versa. This creates the context within which volunteers can be managed effectively
- The importance of balancing what we want with the volunteer's own motivation and finding a way of working which suits and benefits both of us. This may include ensuring there is not overdependence on their contribution- volunteers may want to move on!
- Recognition that the free services offered by some volunteering websites tend to be more regionally focused, thus limiting your search to your own area. In the context of a national charity seeking trustees, or ready to work with volunteers virtually, this may be a disadvantage
- Not to underestimate the capacity required to recruit, induct, support a volunteer well
- How small things can make a difference, for example, offering volunteers training opportunities, reimbursing expenses quickly and in cash

For more information about ICA:UK: www.ica-uk.org.uk

Join the Small NGOs Group

The group is a forum for small Bond member organisations to get together to share ideas and information, and to learn from each other and from specialists in areas of common interest.

For more information go to the Small NGOs Group page in the members area: <http://groups.bond.org.uk/>

The next Small NGOs Group meeting is on 28 September. More details will be available nearer the time.



• Volunteers bring a wide variety of skills and experience

Working with trustees: tips from the Humanitarian Centre

As CEO of a small, rapidly growing organisation, we would not have come this far without the goodwill and effort of a committed, skilled and well-connected Board of Trustees. Here are some ideas for making this important relationship work:

1. Before recruiting trustees, work out what skills, contacts experience or other attributes you need – balance the Board to have a mixture of skills and perspectives.
2. Invest time in introducing individual trustees to the organisation and briefing them on current activities and issues. Find out what they would be willing to contribute.
3. If there are tasks that you would like them to take on, then ask. Trustees often want to help, but need guidance as to what they can most usefully do.
4. Encourage individual trustees to have oversight of specific activities or areas in the organisation to be able to represent them to other trustees.
5. Prepare meetings thoroughly, so that trustees can get to strategic issues. Brief the Chair beforehand so that they know what decisions you need to have made during the meeting.
6. Think of trustees as ambassadors to different constituencies, ensure that they remain well-briefed about the organisation's activities and successes and update them regularly.
7. Encourage trustees to review their collective work on an annual basis; this helps everyone to take a step back and evaluate their roles.

As with most volunteer involvement – you tend to get out what you put in!

For more information about the Humanitarian Centre: www.humanitariancentre.org



Trustee and volunteer resources

A full list of resources is on the Small NGOs Group page of the website. Log into the members area and join the Small NGOs Group: bond.org.uk

CTN the Trustee Network

The CTN website includes signposting to information and services for trustees, learning and sharing opportunities, and a trustee-finder where charities can search and advertise for trustees:

www.trusteenet.org.uk

NCVO governance and leadership

Their website has an extensive range of resources on governance and leadership, including Trustee Bank, a free service to advertise or view trustee vacancies, which also provides information about becoming a trustee and on recruitment and induction practices: www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/governanceandleadership

The Essential Trustee: what you need to know

The Charity Commission website has extensive guidance on trustee roles and responsibilities.

www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/cc3.asp

Free meeting rooms in central London

CAN Mezzanine offers meeting rooms in central London free of charge for trustee meetings.

www.can-online.org.uk

Reach Skilled Volunteers

Helps voluntary organisations find skilled volunteers with the right management, professional, technical or business expertise throughout the UK. Reach also has a service called TrusteeWorks which helps organisations find trustees:

www.reachskills.org.uk

NIDOS – Code of Good Practice for International Volunteering

Useful guidance for international development NGOs on quality of international volunteering opportunities and schemes: www.nidos.org.uk/recruitment/volunteer.asp

Volunteering England

Their Good Practice Bank has a very extensive range of information sheets, articles, case studies, and links on everything to do with volunteering:

www.volunteering.org.uk

For more information about the Humanitarian Centre: www.humanitariancentre.org

Stand Up for the MDGs

Make your voice heard on the issues that matter in the lead up to the MDG Review Summit in September.



On 17-19 September, people across the world will stand together for a breakthrough plan to end poverty at the MDG Review Summit on 20 – 22 September (see pages 6-7).

In the UK, Bond will collect together all of the action numbers from NGOs working on the MDGs and present these at Liberal Democrat Party Conference, shortly before the UK's representative, Nick Clegg, leaves for the summit. UK actions will be represented

alongside campaigns from around the world in New York during the summit.

If your organisation is campaigning on the MDGs or if you will have staff or supporters at the Liberal Democrat Party conference, please contact Tim Gee, Campaigns Communications Officer:

tgee@bond.org.uk
020 7520 0253

For more information:
bond.org.uk/campaigning
bond.org.uk/pages/mdgs.html

Read *A last chance to keep our promises*, a joint statement by UK civil society organisations ahead of the UN MDG Review Summit:
bond.org.uk/pages/mdgs-uk-updates.html

Campaigning Coordination Team election

The Campaigning Coordination Team is the UK leadership body for collective campaigning on international development. The team is preparing to work on a mass lobby on international development in 2011, and finding new ways of working together in the new political context.

Following reforms agreed in late 2009, an election has now taken place. The new NGO members are:

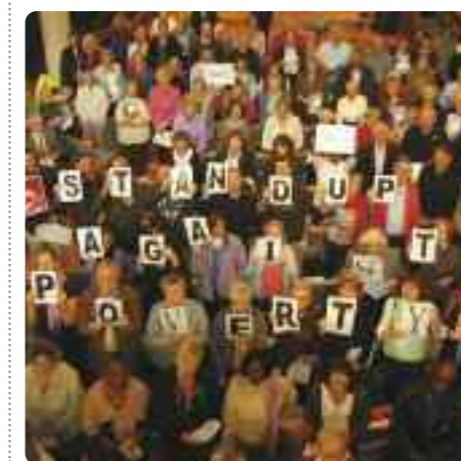
- Martin Kirk, Head of UK Campaigns, Oxfam
- Jenny Ricks, Head of Campaigns, ActionAid
- Ben Niblett, Campaigns Team Leader, Tearfund
- Ruth Tanner, Director of Campaigns and Policy, War on Want

- Anne Callaghan, Campaigns Manager, UNICEF
- Julian Oram, Head of Policy and Campaigns, World Development Movement

They will join members of the Global Economic Justice Networks, including Nick Dearden, (Director, Jubilee Debt Campaign), Gideon Rabinowitz, (Coordinator, UK Aid Network), Ruth Bergan (Coordinator, Trade Justice Movement) and Owen Tudor (Head of European and International Relations, TUC).

The new team will also make way for three co-opted places.

For more information: campaigns@bond.org.uk



In brief...

Freedom Bill

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has launched an online consultation on a bill with the aim of restoring civil liberties and democratic rights in Britain.

Bond will work with members to amend the Bill so that infringements on the right to campaign are mitigated. Contact Tim Gee, Campaigns Communications Officer, to influence and/or take part in Bond advocacy: tgee@bond.org.uk

International development at the forefront of EU external policy

After months of in-fighting, turf wars and negotiations, a deal has been reached on the European External Action Service. Will it improve links between development and foreign policy and increase the EU's global role? **Mikaela Gavas** from the Overseas Development Institute investigates.

The shape and functions of the European External Action Service (EEAS), created by the Lisbon Treaty, were agreed by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Spanish EU Presidency, with implementation expected this autumn.

Designing a model which translates the principles of EU development cooperation enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty into operational structures has been a challenge. For the first time, all aspects of external action including the Common Foreign and Security Policy must share the goal of reducing poverty in developing countries (Article 21) and, legally, to ensure that the primary objective of development cooperation is "the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty" (Article 208).

The options

Various models were put forward, each with its own risks. For example, separating development cooperation and foreign policy would risk policy incoherence, institutional rivalry, duplication, mixed messages and different objectives pursued geographically. Alternatively, uniting all external policies under one roof would risk diverting funds from poverty reduction to security policy, thereby weakening Europe's \$15 billion aid programme and making it harder to deliver the Millennium Development Goals.

However, in the best case, engaging Baroness Ashton and her development team could strengthen coordination between different parts of European institutions

enabling the EU to raise the profile of international development and deliver greater coherence between aid and other policies.

How have EU contributions fared in the final deal?

An open letter by the European Think Tanks Group in May 2010 and a subsequent policy brief in June 2010 set out four tests for the new service design:

- To promote coherence of all internal and external EU policies and instruments with development objectives
- To ensure aid programming is informed by development principles rather than foreign policy
- To have a properly staffed development service
- To be accountable to the European Parliament.

What is the deal?

The EEAS will coordinate all external action and bring together all geographical desks. It will oversee political coordination of external action, whilst leaving the management of programmes to EuropeAid. The stated intention is to improve the links between development and foreign policy, combine the Commission's technical expertise with the Council's political weight, and thus increase the EU's global role. The European Parliament will have a say over a large portion of the EEAS's finances, and will be informed in advance of strategic and policy decisions.



by the EEAS. However, in case of disagreement between the Development Commissioner and the High Representative, the College of Commissioners will make the decision. With little staff capacity to defend his position, this may put the Development Commissioner at a disadvantage.

On staffing, the European Think-Tanks Group advocated a Director General (DG) responsible for development, supported by strategic policy staff, with authority over the development units transferred into the EEAS from the Commission. In practice, DG development will be sliced down the middle with geographical desks moved over into a DG Thematic in the EEAS. The DG Thematic will deal with a wide range of issues, from climate change to development cooperation. Staff left in DG Development would do well to merge with EuropeAid, creating a policy and implementation directorate, thus increasing DG Development's control over operational budgets and its political relevance.

On accountability, Ashton's original proposal included a Secretary-General holding enormous power but no parliamentary oversight of the EEAS or decisions involving Community funds.

Does it pass the tests?

On policy coherence, the text states:

"In its contribution to the EU external cooperation programmes, the EEAS should seek to ensure that these programmes respond to the objectives for external action as set out in Article 21 and that they respect the objectives of EU development policy in line with Article 208. In this context, the EEAS should also promote the fulfilment of the objectives of the European Consensus on Development and the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid."

Although 'seeking' to ensure policy coherence may not be the strong and ambitious statement one would hope for, it is strengthened with references to the commitment to policy coherence for development in the Lisbon Treaty and the European Consensus on Development.

On aid programming, the Commission and the EEAS will jointly identify and analyse country needs, priorities and performance and allocate aid accordingly. The proposals will be submitted by the High Representative and the Development Commissioner to the College of Commissioners, thereby creating a 'dual key' or veto over aid programming. Commentators argued that the wording of the original text was too vague regarding the authority of the Development Commissioner over programming.

The text now clearly states that aid programming is the responsibility of the Development Commissioner, which means the Development Commissioner will sign off on all programming documents produced

The Members of the European Parliament insisted that the three Commissioners working with Ashton and her three deputies – who would be seen as 'politically responsible' – should represent the service in its contact with Parliament.

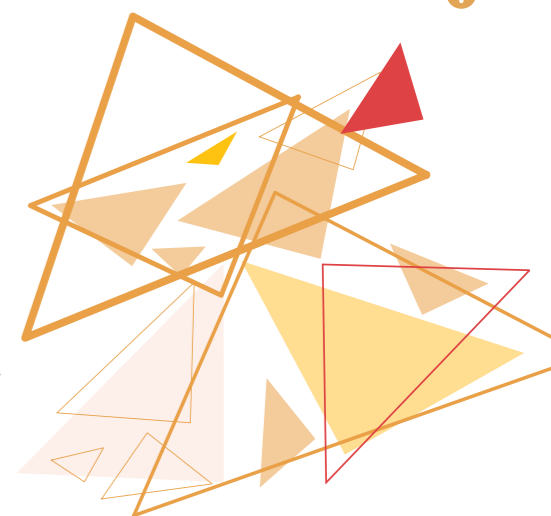
Parliament won this battle, ensuring that senior appointees to the EEAS are politically accountable to Parliament when carrying out their duties. The final text states that Ashton's deputies will be the Foreign Minister of the country holding the rotating EU presidency, and for the Communitarian area of the service's activity, the relevant Commissioners: Štefan Füle, Czech Commissioner for enlargement; Andris Piebalgs, his Latvian colleague responsible for development, and Kristalina Georgieva, Bulgarian Commissioner for humanitarian aid. Parliament also won the battle to have discharge authority over the entire budget of the EEAS. This is a big win for the European Parliament which could, in the future, be used as leverage for influence.

Final thoughts

While there would have been better ways to organise this and the result is not ideal, it is certainly not dire. On paper, international

development occupies a place at the forefront of the EU's external policy and some safeguards have been put in place to protect its poverty focus. What really matters now is how it will work in practice.

Written by Mikaela Gavas, Research Associate at Overseas Development Institute.
For more information: www.odi.org.uk
For more information about Bond's work in Europe bond.org.uk/Europe
bond.org.uk/pages/eu-reform.html



Whats on offer Books for NGOs

Evaluating Transnational NGOs; Legitimacy, Accountability, Representation

Edited by Jens Steffek and Kristina Hahn
Palgrave Macmillan 2010

This collection of essays – part of a research project based at the University of Bremen – examines some of the strategies available for NGOs seeking to improve relationships with their members and the groups they work to represent.

The combination of contributions from both academics and practitioners provides a broad view of the current academic discourse as well as a handbook for anyone looking to ensure that their organisation is working toward becoming more accountable to their Southern partners. I found Chapter 10, examining NGO's 'right to representation' within UN negotiations, particularly useful, with its clarity in spelling out some of the conflicts between

organisations and their beneficiaries, when presenting their position on an international stage.

While the subjects covered do offer a broad range of examples of the myriad of approaches to these topics, with case studies, analysis and literature reviews, this collection may better serve as a starting point for those wishing to begin the process of reviewing their organisations relationships with their stakeholders.

Written By Eilidh Macpherson, Advocacy and Campaigns Officer at Conserve Africa.

Want to get published?

If you would like to share your views on a book that others might find useful or interesting, please contact Jemma Ashman, Communications and Marketing Officer: jashman@bond.org.uk or 020 7520 0256



A meeting of minds

Following the latest summit of EU and Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) heads of state, the Bond Latin American and Caribbean Group reports the key outcomes.



• Potato farmer in Peru tends to his crops © Photochris/Dreamtime.com

The Summit of LAC and EU heads of state in Madrid on 18 May 2010 focussed on innovation and technology for sustainable development and social inclusion.

Held every two years, this is the sixth summit of its kind, the first, in Rio de Janeiro aimed to foster political, economic and cultural understanding between the two regions and to develop a strategic partnership.

The EU is the second largest trade partner with the LAC region and the largest development partner – representing 45 per cent of aid to the region. It was difficult to predict with certainty who from the UK Government would attend in the run up to the summit in mid-May, since the General Election was due on 6 May.

Engaging with the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office

After the UK General Election, the Bond Latin American and Caribbean Group subgroup for the summit met with the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Americas team. Their discussion included areas of EU policy where the UK could use its influence. Key points were:

- The EU multiparty trade agreement with the Community of Andean Nations (specifically Peru and Colombia)
- The EU association agreement with Central America

- Governance
- Economic models
- The impact of extractives industries
- The environment and climate change
- Violence against women
- Indigenous rights
- Human rights abuses
- Democracy and human rights
- Civil society in the region

Civil Society makes its voice heard

CONCORD (see page 4) the Mesa de Articulación (Latin American platforms, networks and coalitions) organised an EU-Latin America civil society forum in March. It produced a civil society declaration to present to the EU-LAC Summit, calling for improved participation of civil society. The Bond LAC Group sent comments on the declaration to the social forum organisers.

Five bi-regional working groups discussed the following issues, for inclusion in the declaration:

- The financial crisis and the development model
- Innovation, technology and media
- Democracy
- Human rights
- Migrants and indigenous people
- Association agreements and regional integration
- Financing for development and development cooperation

Alternative 'Peoples' Summit'

There was also a simultaneous meeting of the Europe-LAC bi-regional network of civil society movements Enlazando Alternativas between 14 and 18 May.

Participating civil society organisations held workshops on key issues, including free trade agreements. They also held a protest march and there was a bi-regional session of the Permanent People's Tribunal (PPT). The tribunal, which is independent, examines and provides judgements related to alleged violations of human rights by European companies operating in LAC.



"The EU is the second largest trade partner with the LAC region and the largest development partner"

Who attended the summit?

The UK's new Foreign Secretary, William Hague, visited Spain to attend a meeting of EU, Latin American and Caribbean Foreign Ministers, a day before the EU-LAC Summit.

Newly appointed Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Liberal Democrat Jeremy Browne MP, represented the UK at the Summit. His ministerial responsibilities include Central and South America and human rights.

Summit focuses on trade

The final declaration of the EU-LAC Summit affirmed both regions' commitment to human rights, the fight against impunity, condemnation of gender-based violence, climate change, an improvement in development cooperation policies towards the LAC region and a reduction in poverty in the region – especially through support of the UN Millennium Development Goals. However, the real focus of the Summit was on trade agreements.

Next steps

The Bond LAC Group sees the issue of trade agreements between the EU and the Latin America and Caribbean as vital to follow up. This is an area that is of particular interest because of concerns around human and environmental rights, as well as the level of UK companies' and UK-listed companies' activities in the region."

For more information about the Bond Latin American and Caribbean Group: bond.org.uk/groups (click on Latin American and Caribbean Group)

Bond members can access more information by logging onto the members' pages and going to the 'Groups home' page: <http://groups.bond.org.uk/>

Official Summit Declaration http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/lac/index_en.htm

Linking Alternatives Summit (Enlazando Alternativas) Declaration www.enlazandoalternativas.org

Group spotlight: European Policy Group



The Bond European Policy Group is a working group of Bond members set up to develop advocacy and policy initiatives on European Union (EU) development policy issues.

UK NGOs have been increasingly pooling their resources and expertise to speak out with one voice on cross-cutting EU development issues. As the Bond think-tank on EU development policy, the group is a key forum for this work, ensuring effective representation of UK development NGOs in the EU and maximum impact of Bond's work with its sister NGO platforms across the EU.

The European Policy Group believes that the EU's international role should be to deliver on international commitments to eradicate poverty, promote economic justice and fair trade and realise universal human rights. As a first step towards these goals, the EU should make a significant contribution towards

achieving and surpassing the Millennium Development Goals in sustainable, inclusive and equitable ways

The group is open to all Bond members who want to participate in joint advocacy and campaign activities and is led by a steering committee which meets on a regular basis and is made up of about ten members.

The group works closely with CONCORD, the UK Aid Network and other Bond groups, meets regularly with DFID Europe Department and other relevant targets and is currently focusing on the following priorities:

EU Institutional matters:

- Implications for development of EU institutional reforms following from the coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty
- EU Budget review and next Financial Perspectives

EU development policy and practice:

- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- EU leadership for more and better aid

To join the group: bond.org.uk/pages/epg.html

To know more and get involved in Bond's EU work: bond.org.uk/pages/europe.html

About the Bond groups

As a network we can maximise our impact by working together. The member-led groups are a vital part of the network and cover a range of interest areas including conflict, environment, disability, funding, European policy, and advocacy. They focus on sharing expertise, knowledge and experience to influence decision makers at many levels.

Bond members can join a Bond group, attend a group meeting or get involved in online discussions on the members area of the website – log in from the main homepage and click on 'Groups home': www.bond.org.uk

For more information: bond.org.uk/groups



Group meetings

Advocacy Capacity Building Group

Thursday 5 August
2.00pm – 5.00pm
Topic: tools and approaches to advocacy planning.

Disaster and Risk Reduction Group

Wednesday 1 September
1.00pm – 5.00pm
Topic: disaster risk reduction and recovery brainstorming. A detailed agenda will be posted on the website shortly.

Quality Group

Tuesday 21 September
9.00am – 5.30pm
Join the Bond Effectiveness Programme quarterly working meeting to feed back and help shape the Effectiveness Programme.

Small NGOs event

Tuesday 28 September (afternoon)
Details to be announced.



Welcome to new Bond group chairs

A warm welcome to newly elected Bond group chairs, co-chairs and coordinators:

- Jazz Shaban, World Vision UK – Disability and Development Group (Chair)
- Jessica Mercer, CAFOD – Disaster and Risk Reduction Group (co-Chair)
- Shailesh Kataria, RICS Build Action – Disaster and Risk Reduction Group (co-Chair)
- Joanna Watson, Tearfund – Advocacy Capacity Building Group (co-Chair)
- Kate Munro, IIED – Development and Environment Group (Coordinator)

The chairs and co-chairs lead on group meetings, coordinate strategy development and work planning, take responsibility for reporting the group's activities, and representing the group externally.

Consortia: what are the legal pros and cons?

To work more collaboratively, many NGOs consider forming or joining a consortium. Here, Advocates for International Development (A4ID) give us a beginners' guide to the legal issues.

First, it is important to be clear what your aim is for working in a consortium. Some consortia are formed to bid for funds, others to increase the profile and impact of campaigning and others to help NGOs respond better to their beneficiaries' needs.

To avoid problems, ask the right questions at the start. This will help set accurate expectations for working relationships and avoid disputes and disappointment. Be clear about the consortium structure, each member's role and how the consortium will be managed.

What are the different consortium models?

Lead member consortia: Some consortia work with a lead member in charge but without a separate legal entity running the consortium – from a legal point of view, these do not have any identity separate from the individual members. They may start out with a non-binding memorandum of understanding covering how the parties intend to work together. However, it is important to note that:

- If the consortium develops to receive funding from a donor agency, at some stage more formal contracts will be necessary
- Since the lead member of a contractual consortium is likely to have a significant level of influence over other members, it will be taking on the risk of any contracts and be legally responsible for fulfilling obligations to donors
- From the lead member's point of view, it will be important to pass on the risks and obligations to other consortium members through appropriate sub-contracts

Separate legal entity consortia: Setting up separate legal entities for a consortium can give members a more equal footing. It may help to manage risk, as the consortium can be set up as a company with individual

members' liability for the consortium's debts limited to a nominal sum (usually £1). However, the members are likely to have to make contractual commitments to the consortium – for example to provide certain services – and will be liable to the consortium if they fail to honour these commitments.

Setting up a new legal entity may:

- Help to develop a strong brand and facilitate bids for funding
- Formalise the relationships between consortium members
- Be too expensive for smaller projects, particularly those which will only run for a short time. Whether a separate entity is set up or not, the consortium will require all members to commit resources

The new legal entity is most likely to be a company limited by guarantee (which may be a charity). If the consortium includes members which are for-profit businesses, as well as charities, a limited liability partnership may be a more tax efficient vehicle.

How do we make sure the obligations are genuinely shared?

In both lead member and separate entity consortia, it is important that the terms and conditions imposed by donors are passed on to consortium members. This is particularly important in relation to:

- termination, or suspending and clawing back funds
- monitoring and reporting requirements
- timing of payments (unless the lead member intends to cash flow the programme)
- intellectual property
- publicity or visibility requirements
- ownership of equipment and capital assets



“Ask the right questions at the start. This will help set accurate expectations for working relationships and avoid disputes and disappointment.”

- any contractual provisions that the head funding agreement specifies must be passed on to sub-contractors/grant recipients (these may include contractual requirements to comply with anti-terrorism and/or anti-corruption law or requirements for funders to be able to enforce some of their contractual rights directly against the consortium members, by-passing the lead organisation)

The importance of clarity

Even without external funding, consortium members must be clear what contributions each member is making (whether financial, providing services or other resources) and how the consortium will be managed. You should also consider what will happen if a member wants to leave the consortium (and whether a member can be expelled by the others).

It can be difficult to agree proportionate and appropriate agreements between consortium members, especially if funders impose long and complicated contracts. You may need the funder's consent for work to be delivered by a consortium, and will also need to consider local law in the countries where the consortium is operating.



Written by Stephanie Biden, a solicitor at Bates Wells and Braithwaite, specialising in advising charities and NGOs.

Advocates for International Development (A4ID), a Bond member, facilitates the provision of free legal advice to development organisations.

For further details: www.a4id.org

This article is only general introduction to the relevant legal issues. You should seek specific legal advice for specific situations.



Sector Update



New Bond Sector Advocacy Officer

Katherine Astill joined Bond as Sector Advocacy Officer in June. Her role is to monitor developments in regulation of international development NGOs, and includes putting together Bond's positions on changes in regulation and advocating our position to the UK Government, and other regulators and decision makers.

In Katherine's words

The post of Sector Advocacy Officer is a fantastic opportunity for me to develop my areas of expertise as a lawyer and a policy adviser. I am a barrister and have worked in private practice specialising in property law and as a government lawyer, and I was for some years a policy adviser at CAFOD,

looking at private sector issues such as ethical trade and transparency in the natural resource sector. I am particularly looking forward to the challenge of representing the views of the Bond's diverse membership on technical and complex issues.

I begin the role at an exciting time, as the advent of the Coalition Government creates both threats and very real opportunities for the sector. Both the ideological bent of the Government towards civil liberty and the need to cut the deficit will lead to deregulation. Deregulation may enable NGOs to cut costs and direct more spending towards their mission activities, but Bond also wants to ensure that the sector is well supported by appropriate regulation. On the other hand, policy drivers such as maximising tax revenue and protecting the UK from the terrorist threat may lead to tighter regulation. New regulation could be expensive for NGOs and Bond will seek to ensure that any new measures are proportionate, clear and able to be implemented by members through their existing procedures as far as possible.

In formulating Bond's positions, I would like to gather the views of as many Bond members as possible and over the next months I plan to seek out members' views on a variety of upcoming issues. I welcome any input from members who have a problem or an idea about a regulatory issue and members should not hesitate to contact me: kastill@bond.org.uk 020 7520 0252

Proposed Freedom Bill

Would you welcome the end of red tape that takes up resources in your organisation?

Would the scrapping of some piece of financial or HR or health and safety regulation make it easier for your organisation to operate?

Is your organisation unnecessarily restricted from campaigning freely?

This is your opportunity to make such proposals to the Government, which is inviting ideas for the introduction of basic rights and freedoms to protect individuals from abuses of power to be included in a Freedom Bill later in 2010.

Either feed in your suggestions to Bond or directly to:

<http://yourfreedom.gov.uk/cutting-business-and-third-sector-reglations>

<http://yourfreedom.gov.uk/restoring-civil-liberties>



Changes to NGO financial reporting requirements

The Finance Act 2010 introduced a significant change into the regulation of payments by charities to overseas bodies. It is important for Bond members, because they run the risk of losing tax relief on payments to overseas organisations if they do not comply.

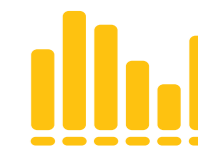
Under the old regime, payments to overseas bodies were classified as charitable and attracted tax relief, if the trustees of the charity considered that they had taken reasonable steps that the money would be used for charitable purposes. Now, however, payments will only attract tax relief if the trustees have taken such steps as HMRC considers are reasonable in the circumstances. Since the amendment took effect, HMRC has updated its guidance on reporting of payments to overseas bodies and provided some examples of what it expects in different scenarios. It is expected that some further examples will be added over the next few weeks.

Bond's viewpoint

Bond does not oppose the amendment as we believe that it supports policy goals that we share with the government, that:

- charities should pay their taxes
- Government should protect society from the terrorist threat
- charities should be transparent and accountable

However, we are very concerned that such regulation should be proportionate, clear and easy to implement. It may be that the amendment will in practice not affect larger Bond members, who already have appropriate procedures in place. Small and medium sized NGOs, however, may find meeting the new requirements more challenging and we would like to hear from any members with their views about the amendment and whether – or not – they have difficulties complying. HMRC has left the door open for further meetings with Bond and other sector platforms, with a view to clarifying and changing the guidance further, and it would be very helpful have as much input as possible from members in these discussions.



For more information see the 'Law and Regulation' pages in the 'Sector' section of the Bond website which has links to the HMRC website.





UK



Parliamentary recess

The House of Commons will be on recess from 29 July until 6 September 2010, and the House of Lords will rise on 28 July with a return date still to be confirmed.

Party conferences

The annual party conferences will take place this autumn, with the Green Party starting the season in Birmingham from 10-13 September.

The Liberal Democrat Party is holding their party conference in Liverpool from 18-22 September. A full debate on international development is on the agenda, with their International Development policy paper expected to be discussed at the conference.

The Labour Party will follow in Manchester from 26-30 September.

The Conservative Party will meet in Birmingham from 3-6 October, when 13,500 representatives are expected to attend.

Bond members are organising joint events on international development at each one of the conferences of the three main parties. Please check the Bond website for more details: bond.org.uk/pages/uk-policy.html

DFID review of multilateral aid

Secretary of State, Andrew Mitchell, has announced that the UK Government will re-evaluate its funding of international agencies such as the European Union, the World Bank and United Nations, in a drive to direct money at only the most effective organisations.

The 'Multilateral Aid Review' is expected to continue over the coming months and will inform the spending review process.

The Bond European Policy Group will follow the discussion closely and update members as more information is released by DFID. Other networks active around this review are the UK Aid Network and Bretton Woods Project.

DFID is also undergoing reviews of its bilateral aid and emergency response. Please contact the Bond Advocacy team for more information: advocacy@bond.org.uk 020 7520 0252



EU

Belgium takes on the Presidency of the EU

The Belgium Presidency of the European Union began on 1 July and takes place at a particularly critical time for development with the UN MDG Review Summit being held in New York in September, the EU-Asia Meeting taking place in Brussels in October and the EU-Africa Summit in Tripoli in November.

Belgium's priorities on development include fragile states, as well as good governance and the respect and promotion of democracy and human rights. Financing for development and Aid effectiveness will also be subject of particular attention.

For more details: <http://tinyurl.com/26jx5pj>

Review of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement

The revised Cotonou Partnership Agreement was signed in Burkina Faso on 22-23 June. The Cotonou Agreement forms the basis for EU development cooperation with the African, Caribbean and Pacific states and is reviewed every five years.

The 2010 amendments seek to improve EU policy coherence for development and the role of national parliaments and non-state actors in cooperation. Cooperation and political dialogue is also enhanced in the areas of the MDGs, climate change, food security, state fragility, HIV/Aids. The revision further contains enhanced regional integration provisions and makes the African Union a partner to the agreement.



* Human rights will be one of the Belgium Presidency's priorities © Photochris/Dreamtime.com

EU Council meeting

16 September

Brussels, Belgium

The EU Council will meet on 16 September in Brussels. The Heads of State will discuss EU external policies and may also touch on the MDGs.



International

65th Session of the UN General Assembly

14 September
New York, USA

The ordinary session of the UN General Assembly has a provisional agenda that contains several items, including international peace and security, African development, disarmament and human rights promotion.

UN MDG Review Summit

20-22 September
New York, USA

The UN High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (UN MDG Review Summit) will take place from 20-22 September at UN Headquarters in New York.

The summit will focus on the progress made towards the internationally agreed MDGs and on defining the actions that will need to be taken to ensure that they are met.

Bond is working in the UK and internationally with partners and allies to significantly increase the pressure on governments and elicit concrete actions to reach the MDGs by 2015.

From 17-19 September 2010, UK citizens will join with millions of people around the world to participate in Stand Up and Take Action Against Poverty when all kinds of actions will take place in order to shine a spotlight on the MDG Summit, and show support for a positive outcome. For more information see page 17 and <http://standagainstopoverty.org>

Read more about the MDGs and planned advocacy on page 6.

UN DPI/NGO Annual Conference 2010, "Advance Global Health: Achieve the MDGs"

30 August-1 September
Melbourne, Australia

The 63rd UN Annual Department of Public Information (DPI) / Non-Governmental Organisations Conference will be themed "Advance Global Health: Achieve the MDGs".

This is the third time the conference is held outside UN Headquarters in New York. The idea is that by holding the conference in different parts of the world, it can be more diverse, and increase the geographical representation of NGOs associated with the UN DPI. For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/38o4axb>

The future of civil society

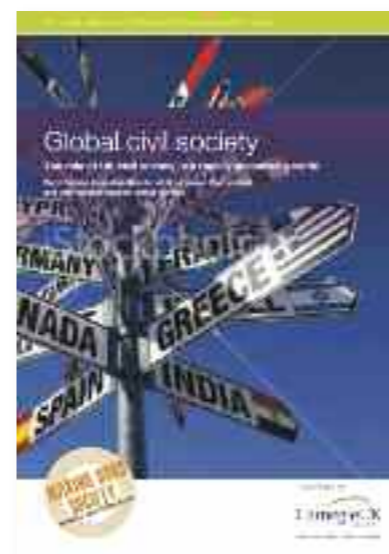


Global Civil Society: The role of UK civil society in a rapidly globalising world Kumi Naidoo

The Carnegie UK Trust has recently published a think-piece by Kumi Naidoo as part of the Inquiry into the Future of Civil Society.

The paper examines why – despite all the citizen mobilisation around tackling the convergent crises of our time – humanity is still failing to deliver solutions commensurate with the urgency and scale of the global challenges we face. Setting the role of UK civil society organisations in a global context, the paper aims to determine the responsibilities of UK civil society in supporting social movements in other countries.

To find out more: visit: www.futuresforcivilsociety.org



Fair Trade on the Fringe

14 – 22 August 2010
Edinburgh

During the Edinburgh International Festival, Fair Trade on the Fringe will be offering a selection of fairly traded products. The event is an ideal platform for organisations and businesses to sell and promote their work to a local and international audience.

Now in its second year, this nine-day showcase aims to highlight the range of Fair Trade products available in Scotland. It will raise awareness that choosing to buy fair trade products means better quality and also a better way of life for the people that make and produce them.

For more information: <http://businessfightspoverty.ning.com/events/fair-trade-on-the-fringe>

Collateral Damage – Women in Conflict

4 – 8 August
St Mary's University College, Belfast

Documentary photographer Jenny Matthews has travelled all over the world, working for human rights and development organisations. These images, taken in different conflicts around the world, not only demonstrate the lasting legacy of conflict, but highlight the consistent trend of inequality and discrimination that feeds conflict and undermines our responses to it.

To attend: grainne.teggart@amnesty.org.uk

PhotoVoice 2010 Workshops in Participatory Photography

Book now

1 day
Provides an overview of the processes, principles and key elements of participatory photography methodology.

- 22 September (no photographic experience necessary)
- 10 November (for people with a photographic background)

3 days
Designing, running and facilitating a participatory photography project for photographers, social change practitioners and other professionals.

- 14, 15 and 17 September
- 17, 18 and 19 November

For full details: www.photovoice.org/whatwedo/services-and-training



Ethical.TV

Ethical TV is a global online TV website that streams films, interviews and video blogs about ethical issues. It covers everything from health and human rights to education and the environment.

Ethical TV works through partnership with agencies across the ethical field, from community led organisations to national and global agencies such as Save the Children, Shared Interest, and the United Nations to stream inspiring and educational films to encourage thoughtful and active participation. Ethical organisations are invited to send films to upload to the site.

For more information: www.ethical.tv

Interculturality Awards

The Baring Foundation is running a special initiative to promote intercultural dialogue. A major element of this is the creation of the 'Awards for Bridging Cultures' to reward good practice at the local level.

The deadline for applications is Monday 13 September 2010 so if you have a project that you think is eligible, look closely at the awards criteria and apply online: www.bridgingcultures.org.uk

Small Charities Coalition



The Small Charities Coalition exists to help small charities access the skills, experience and resources they need to achieve their aims. Small charities can join and share their skills with one another. Large charities can get involved and provide free professional development for their staff.

For more information: www.smallcharities.org.uk

Ecohealth 2010

The Third Biennial Conference of the International Association for Ecology and Health

18-20 August 2010
London

This conference will bring together academic institutions, government bodies and civil society groups to discuss jointly the major challenges facing people, wildlife and ecosystems internationally in 2010 and the future.

Placing major emphasis on the perspectives of peoples most vulnerable to the harms of ecosystem destruction, including indigenous peoples, women, and young people, the three main themes for the conference are:

- urban ecohealth
- biodiversity and ecohealth
- sustainability and future priorities for ecohealth

For more information: www.ecohealth2010.org

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

16 September 2010
www.unep.fr/ozonaction/events/ozoneday

The International Day of Peace
14-16 September
<http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org/>

Development People

"We want to engage water-focussed UK NGOs on the issue of water justice in tourism"
Tricia Barnett



• Fishermen's livelihoods in India are under threat from tourism. © Tourism Concern

As the holiday season takes hold, **Tricia Barnett**, Director of Tourism Concern, provides a stark reminder of the negative impact that tourism can have on local communities.

Describe your role at Tourism Concern?

In the early days, Tourism Concern was very focussed on development education and campaigning because we knew that tourism is a fantastic window for teaching people about a whole range of development issues. Until you go on holiday, the disparity between those with wealth and those who are poor are remote from you – you only see them on television or read about them in newspapers. Holidays bring you face-to-face with development issues.

Now my role is now much more focussed on trying to get the tourism industry to understand what human rights are and what they need to do to ensure human rights are respected and protected in their overseas business activities. Before we started working on this, UK tour operators didn't know what corporate social responsibility was, nor did they have any interest in understanding the impact that tourism has on people living in destinations. Now, I would say they are taking

a lead globally, although there is still a long way to go. I think that is in a huge part due to Tourism Concern.

Our efforts to highlight exploitation in the tourism industry have forced it to look at how it works. Tourism Concern is a human rights campaigning organisation, although since the 26 December 2004 tsunami we have been involved in a development project to empower coastal people whose homes and livelihoods are threatened by tourism developments.

What inspired you to work in the sector?

I didn't come into tourism thinking it was part of the development sector. In my early life, I spent a huge amount of time travelling around the world for my own enjoyment. It wasn't until later that I realised that I was part of a brigade that had opened up regions to mass tourism and the consequences of that were that local people and visitors no longer had a relationship of hospitality and mutual benefit. It had

become a relationship of quick money and rapid growth. This was often in a way that was against the best interests of the local people.

I wanted to understand that better and explore the roots of tourism, and I became increasingly interested in what needed to happen to ensure tourism's benefits were equitably shared.

What are you working on at the moment?

Our priority at the moment is water, and the way that water is abused by resorts around the world. For 20 years, we have been hearing stories about impoverished communities living near hotels and resorts who go without water, while tourists play on golf courses and swim in the pool, which the developers provide without thinking about sharing water provision with locals. With climate change increasing water scarcity in many tourism destinations, combined with tourism's ongoing expansion – particularly in

developing countries where access to water for the poor remains inadequate, the situation is likely to become far worse.

What outcome do you hope this will have?

We would love UK development agencies to understand the role of tourism and its impact on local people's human rights, including the environment. Tourism is a serious issue and it dovetails into the work of many development agencies.

We want tour operators in this country to take on board the fact that they have power over the development and construction of hotels and resorts that can help ensure that the water needs of local people are met, as well as the resort's needs. We would like our on-site research to inform guidelines for tour operators and local authorities on how best to achieve fairness in water distribution.

What is the most rewarding and most difficult part of your job?

The most rewarding part is meeting people on the ground; listening to their stories, meeting the activists, and knowing that Tourism Concern is fulfilling a need. Whether it is meeting with the indigenous Mursi people of south Ethiopia and trying to analyse and understand why the relationship they have with tourists has become so exploitative and unpleasant for both sides, to people who are campaigning against coastal regulations that promote tourism at the expense of fishermen's livelihoods in India, it is a serious privilege to meet with them.

What are the most common challenges that Tourism Concern faces in its work?

The two main challenges are land issues – people's right to their homes and livelihoods – and finding the finance to support us to do the work. It used to be that people were displaced from their homes for conservation and tourism in national parks, in East Africa for example. Now they are being displaced from their homes by international tour operators.

Tourism is marginalised from the thinking of funders, NGOs and other agencies. Many see tourism only as a positive – it brings money to people – and are not open to discussing the other side. In disasters and emergencies, for example, all we ask is that development agencies include tourism into their needs assessments. It might not apply, but actually you might find that the farmer can no longer farm because the water used to irrigate his crops is being diverted to the tourism resorts. Tourism seeps deeply into all sorts of development issues, and certainly has impacts on agriculture, farming and fishing.

What, in your opinion, is Tourism Concern's most significant achievement?

We have lots of them! We saved 20,000 people from being uprooted from their homes for a major development in Zanzibar; we assisted in empowering coastal people in Sri Lanka and India post-tsunami to challenge their displacements and loss of livelihoods; we got the UK Government to change the way it works around Foreign Office advisories which still penalised countries if there had been a 'terrorist attack' several years after issues had been resolved.

One of the most important things has been to get sustainable tourism onto the agenda in schools and universities, and to transform the way tourism is taught.

Where would you like Tourism Concern to be in five years time?

Not to be fretting about income, and being able to support those who come to us for help in a more sustainable way.

What is the key challenge for the international development sector in the coming year?

From a Tourism Concern perspective, I feel that the sector should be asking for more support to ensure that the activities of British businesses overseas are working alongside human rights guidance for business. The sector needs to be encouraging that with all the businesses they work with, and encouraging the Government to take that on board.

"Tourism is marginalised from the thinking of funders, NGOs and other agencies"

Tricia Barnett is the Director of Tourism Concern. Visit the website for more information about their work: www.tourismconcern.org



• Cultural exchanges foster greater understanding. © Tourism Concern

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Building better North/South partnerships

9 September

For people working directly with Southern partners, this course explores programme partnerships and the dynamics of the relationships. Using your own experiences and case studies, you will look at the principles behind effective partnership working, how they translate into practice and the challenges and pitfalls.

Project planning using a logical framework approach

14-15 September

A logical framework approach can encourage transparency and flexibility in planning a project with stakeholders. It is a powerful way to focus ideas, coordinate resources and pinpoint future difficulties and opportunities. This course enables you to understand both the approach and the central importance of applying it in a participatory way in your work.

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Introduction to international development

21-22 September

Whether you want to work more effectively in improving lives through development programmes or strengthen your fundraising communications with potential donors, this participative course provides a vital introduction to key and emerging issues in international development. The course includes free online support, with extra resources and activities to help you embed the learning back in the office.

Fundraising from institutions: writing winning proposals

29-30 September

This course will help you put together a funding proposal for institutional funders, especially those who use a two stage process: DFID, the EC and Comic Relief. The course emphasises the narrative sections of concept notes and full proposals, and assumes that you know the basics of logical framework analysis.

Monitoring and evaluation for accountability

7 October

If you are responsible for developing monitoring and evaluation systems, or need to improve an existing system to record and analyse project information, this course is for you. It will help you understand the purposes of monitoring and evaluation and how to set up systems that satisfy multiple stakeholders.

Fundraising from trusts, foundations and companies: know your targets

13 October

This course sets the policy, finance and decision making context in which trusts, foundations, companies and high net worth individuals operate. It will enable you to understand and empathise with your targets and develop a strategic plan for broadening your donor base and increasing your success rate in raising money.

Fundraising from trusts, foundations and companies: skills for success

14 October

This participative course builds on *Fundraising from trusts, foundations and companies: know your targets* (see above) and concentrates on introducing powerful techniques for making an immediate impact, writing a persuasive application and building a long term relationship.

UK corridors of power

18-19 October

If you want to influence UK policy, you need to learn how to work with the current Government and Parliament. This course gives you right up to date information and tips, and includes a visit to the UK Parliament and guest speakers sharing their experience of working inside and outside Parliament and Government.

Introduction to advocacy

21 October

To plan effective campaigns and influence decision makers to change policy you need a clear understanding of the advocacy process, its purpose and impact. This participative course will explore the issues involved in policy work, lobbying and public campaigning, and the skills and techniques you will draw on.

