



DFID Department for
International
Development

1 Palace Street London SW1E 5HE

Dr Adrian Hopkins
Chair
Email: ahopkins@taskforce.org
and

From the Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP
Secretary of State

Telephone: 020 7023 0134
Email: pssofs@dfid.gov.uk
Website: www.dfid.gov.uk

Simon Bush
Vice-Chair
NTD NGDO Network
Email: sbush@sightsavers.org

1st July 2010

Dear Adrian and Simon,

Thank you for your letter of 9 June seeking EU support for a reference to neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) within the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) framework.

I represented the UK at the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council on 14 June. The Council Conclusions set out an agreed framework of key principles, for example, reaffirming the EU's commitment to increasing spending on aid to reach 0.7% of GNI by 2015 but did not focus on individual MDG issues. We will continue to pursue these (including references to NTDs) through the UN MDG Summit discussions being held in New York.

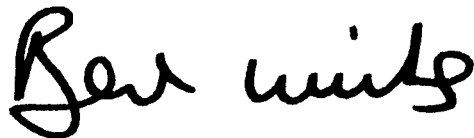

The Department for International Development (DFID) recognises that successfully addressing the NTD challenge is fundamental to achieving the MDGs, particularly MDG 6. The UK works closely with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the USA on NTDs. We are particularly keen to ensure a good fit between the programmes funded by the UK and the priorities of the Global Health Initiative's NTD Strategy.

Last year Italy, as G8 chair, helpfully raised the NTD profile. As you know, it is important for the NTD community that your network encourages other donors, including the G8, to match our level of commitment. It is equally important that we seek support on this issue

from beyond the traditional set of funders, to include the G20, many of whom have experiences and success stories of their own to share.

As you point out, working on NTDs is a good investment in development terms. We have also found that NTD programmes are integrated so that they contribute to the broader goal of strengthening health systems in country.

DFID is working on strengthening possible references to NTDs at the MDG Summit. I wish you well in your efforts in the months leading up to the MDG Summit and thereafter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben White". The script is cursive and fluid.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Mitchell". The script is cursive and fluid.

ANDREW MITCHELL