



**WOMANKIND Worldwide's Response to the  
UK Government's Third White Paper on  
International Development**

**April 2006**

1. **WOMANKIND Worldwide** (WK) is a UK-based international development charity that works in partnership with 60 organisations in over 20 developing countries. Through our work, we aim to enable women to voice their concerns and claim their rights and to work globally for policies and practices, which promote equality between women and men. <sup>1</sup>

## **Executive Summary**

### **Comments**

- The MDGs cannot be achieved without urgent and radical steps to improve the rights and status of women and girls since gender inequality and discrimination against women hinders economic growth, sustainable development, peace and human rights
- The draft White Paper on International Development and the six related speeches made by the DFID Secretary of State do not mention the linkages between gender equality and poverty eradication. This is a serious omission that undermines the credibility of the paper
- The draft Third White Paper provides an opportunity for DFID to transform its development policy and approaches by integrating women's rights and gender equality and thereby increasing the developmental effectiveness and impact of DFID's work

### **Key recommendations**

#### **Internal**

- Strengthen institutional capacity by creating a centralised gender unit, including gender competence in all job descriptions and strengthening staff capacity and performance on gender

#### **Policy and programmes**

- Ensure conceptual clarity around gender equality as a right and objective in itself in DFID's policies and strategies
- Increase financial resources allocated to promote and integrate gender analysis across DFID's programmes and policy
- Ensure policy coherence between DFID's objectives and commitments on gender equality and its policies and practice in other areas, including trade, economic growth and development assistance
- Take a lead on promoting gender equality in the programmes and policies of the European Community, international financial institutions, the United Nations and in its bi-lateral relations

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<sup>1</sup> For further information about our work visit [www.womankind.org.uk](http://www.womankind.org.uk)

## **Gender equality & women's empowerment: an essential pre-condition for eliminating world poverty**

2. It is now widely acknowledged that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will not be achieved without serious and urgent attention to the rights and status of women and girls. In 2005 the first MDG target to eliminate gender disparities in primary education was missed by over 90 countries. Had the target been met, an additional 14 million girls in South Asia would now be in school. The MDGs most off-track are those such as MDG 5 (improve maternal health) and MDG 6 (combat HIV/AIDS) that depend most heavily on improvements in the status of women. Gender inequality and discrimination against women hinder economic growth, sustainable development, peace and human rights.
3. Yet women around the world continue to bear a disproportionate burden of poverty, live with the harmful effects of gender-based violence and bear the brunt of the AIDS pandemic. They continue to have limited access to credit, land and training in new technologies, have fewer educational and employment opportunities than men and remain marginalised in decision-making processes that affect their lives and the lives of their families. For many women, this exclusion is further exacerbated by their experience of other forms of discrimination, such as discrimination based on race, ethnicity, class and religion.
4. It is worth reiterating then that the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment will not be realised without challenging the systems and power structures, including laws, political processes, administrative structures and procedures, which continue to exacerbate discrimination. Crucially, this requires political will, but also the recognition and involvement of women as fully-fledged actors for development, security and human rights at all levels, with particular attention given to the voices and concerns of the most marginalised, including widows, indigenous women, disabled women, the elderly and young girls.

## **DFID's role in promoting gender equality**

5. Historically, DFID has emphasised the importance of gender equality for poverty elimination and has played a leading role in promoting gender equality and women's human rights at the regional and international levels.
6. It has pledged to put gender equality and women's empowerment at the heart of UK development assistance. The 1997 White Paper on International Development, *Eliminating World Poverty: a Challenge for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, states that the empowerment of women is a pre-requisite for achieving effective and people-centred development. The 2000 White

Paper, *Eliminating World Poverty: Making Globalisation Work for the Poor*' emphasises there can be no equitable globalisation without greater equality and empowerment for women. And the 2000 Target Strategy Paper on '*Poverty Eradication and the Empowerment of Women*' sets out DFID's strategy, a twin-track approach combining focused actions aimed at women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming, for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women throughout all of its activities.

7. The UK government has committed itself to key international agreements on gender equality and women's rights, including the UN Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and UN Security Council Resolution 1325.
8. It has also committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and was vocal in pushing for linkages to be made between the MDGs and instruments such as CEDAW and the BPFA at the 2005 Commission on the Status of Women and World Summit.
9. It is, therefore, very disappointing to note ***the total absence of the linkage between gender equality and poverty eradication*** in the Third White Paper consultation document and in the series of six speeches made by Hilary Benn as part of the consultation process.
10. WOMANKIND is deeply concerned that this absence is symptomatic of an overall decline in DFID's commitment to the promotion of gender equality and women's human rights more generally. ***We believe a renewed focus on gender equality and women's empowerment is urgently needed.***
11. The White Paper process is an opportunity for DFID and the UK government to transform its development policy and frameworks to ensure that gender equality is meaningfully and effectively integrated across *all* of its work.
12. ***The starting point must be greater conceptual clarity around gender equality*** in this White Paper. DFID's policy and strategy documents tend to vacillate between the rights-based approach and one based on efficiency, depending on the sector.<sup>2</sup> ***Gender equality must be seen as a right and a development objective in itself***, as well as a goal in every intervention and area of DFID's work at the strategic and operational levels.

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<sup>2</sup> *Gender Equality and Mainstreaming in the Policy & Practice of the UK Department for International Development*, a Briefing from the UK Gender & Development Network by Mandy Macdonald, May 2003, p11

13. ***There must be better policy coherence between DFID's objectives on gender equality and its policies and practice in other areas***, such as trade, the environment and economic growth. This requires ***increased political will, resources and training for gender mainstreaming***.
14. These changes need to be ***matched by increased human resources***. In particular DFID should prioritise, as a minimum, the ***creation of a centralised gender unit, the inclusion of gender competence in all job descriptions and monitoring staff capacity and performance on gender in appraisals***.<sup>3</sup> And ***additional financial resources*** should be allocated to promote and integrate gender analysis across DFID's programmes and policy.
15. Finally, DFID should take the lead in ***working with other government departments, as well as other governments and intergovernmental organisations*** to encourage them to adopt a more coherent and strategic approach to tackling gender inequality and discrimination against women.
16. WOMANKIND Worldwide and other women's organisations in the UK and the Global South are committed to continuing to work in partnership with DFID to fulfil its commitment to promote gender equality and tackle poverty.
17. The rest of this submission is grouped into three main sections which reflect the focus of the White Paper consultation document. The submission responds to specific areas in the consultation document where we believe we can best contribute our expertise.

### **Reducing poverty and delivering development more quickly?**<sup>4</sup>

#### **Women & the economy**

18. Women continue to bear a disproportionate burden of the world's poverty, largely because economic policies and institutions are still failing to take gender inequality into account and women themselves continue to be underrepresented in economic decision-making. If the benefits of economic growth and development are to extend to everyone, economic frameworks must tackle women's systematic exclusion and protect human rights.

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<sup>3</sup> These recommendations are based on the recommendations WOMANKIND and other GAD Network (UK Gender & Development Network) members made to DFID in May 2003 (see *Gender Equality and Mainstreaming in the Policy & Practice of the UK Department for International Development*, UK Gadnetwork above). These concerns and recommendations were reiterated at a recent consultation for DFID's forthcoming Gender Evaluation

<sup>4</sup> The issues covered in this section provide answers to questions 1, 3, 4 & 5

19. In his first speech, Hilary Benn highlights the need to create more and better jobs in poor countries as a pathway to achieving economic growth and poverty reduction. However, efforts to create new employment opportunities and decent work for the poor will not succeed without tackling the multiple forms of gender inequality in employment: women tend to be concentrated in more precarious forms of employment in which earnings are low and make up the majority of workers in the informal sector in many countries; women's hourly and monthly earnings are generally lower than men's across almost all employment categories; and women tend to work long hours in unpaid household labour, which can restrict the forms of employment available to them.<sup>5</sup>
20. Economic growth policies to date, even if supplemented by social policies, have all too often failed to create the kind of **secure, protected employment** required to enable the working poor in the informal economy, the majority of whom are women, to earn an income sufficient to lift themselves out of poverty.<sup>6</sup> Progress on the goals of gender equality and poverty reduction require the UK and other governments to make decent employment and proper legal and social protection a priority, particularly for informal workers.
21. They also require special attention to be given to equalising the status and opportunities of male and female-headed households. This involves addressing the limited access of female-headed households to employment, property and income *as well as* the restricted access to and control over household assets often experienced by women in male-headed households.<sup>7</sup>
22. Combating poverty also requires improving the **terms of trade** for the poorest, especially women. 'Fairer trade' should mean not only more equitable trade policies, but guaranteeing women's land and labour rights, protecting women's agricultural activities, maintaining food security,<sup>8</sup> securing essential public services for all and ensuring that the benefits of trade reach the most marginalised.
23. DFID should support programmes to:
- **Eliminate constraints on women's access to affordable credit, information, technical advice and services**

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<sup>5</sup> UNIFEM, Progress of the World's Women, 2005, p3

<sup>6</sup> *ibid*, p7

<sup>7</sup> See *Female Household Headship and the Feminisation of Poverty: Facts, Fictions and Forward Strategies*, Sylvia Chant, May 2003, for a more detailed examination of the links between the 'feminisation of poverty' and women-headed households

<sup>8</sup> This is particularly crucial in the context of Sub-Saharan Africa's spiralling HIV/AIDS epidemic

- **Promote decent employment for both women and men as a target, rather than an outcome of economic policies, including MDG strategies and poverty reduction strategies**
- **Improve national labour force statistics and national poverty assessments to include informal women workers**<sup>9</sup>
- **Address gender inequalities in different household circumstances, which impact on women's greater vulnerability to poverty**
- **Undertake thorough impact assessments of trade policies to better understand their impact on the poor and particularly women**
- **Strengthen a gender perspective within the WTO and in the trade and industry departments of other governments through the recruitment of Gender Advisors and provision of training on integrating a gender perspective**

### Promoting gender equality in new aid modalities

24. The new aid modalities place country ownership of development processes at the heart of partnerships between donor governments and developing countries. To date, however, analyses of existing mechanisms for aid allocation, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and Sector-Wide Approaches (SWAP) indicate that gender analysis is inadequate or absent in these mechanisms and that there is a failure to consult poor women in a meaningful way in the design and implementation of such policies.<sup>10</sup>
25. The new aid architecture and specifically the reforms outlined in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness provide an opportunity to make development assistance more effective and to further the gender equality agenda. This requires gender equality to be integrated throughout the Paris agenda and in national development strategies, rather than being seen as a separate issue.
26. It also requires governments to see **the poor, and particularly women, as key stakeholders in the development of their country** and to involve them in all aspects of national development planning and resource allocation.
27. Accountability is a key principle of the new aid modalities. Commitments to gender equality will not, however, be realised unless this principle extends to not only the recipients of development aid, but to *all* development partners. This includes ensuring institutional accountability inside donor agencies and setting out clear accountability roles of different

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<sup>9</sup> *idem* note 6, p7

<sup>10</sup> See, for example, *Failing Women, Sustaining Poverty: Gender in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers*, Report for the UK Gender & Development Network by Ann Whitehead, May 2003

development actors, including civil society, the private sector, governments and international financial institutions.<sup>11</sup>

28. Reforming the way aid conditionality is designed and applied is crucial to improving aid effectiveness. DFID's commitment to make its own aid conditions more transparent and to make compliance with international human rights obligations a condition of Poverty-Related Budget Support (PRBS) is to be welcomed.<sup>12</sup> However, it is vital that the conditions for aid disbursement are applied consistently and rigorously and are strongly linked to those of other donor governments and international financial institutions.

29. WOMANKIND recommends that DFID:

- ***Ensure gender equality is integrated into the guidelines, indicators and benchmarks for implementing the Paris Declaration***
- ***Ensure that accountability mechanisms include gender-sensitive indicators and are in-line with international human rights instruments such as CEDAW***
- ***Ensure that national commitments to gender equality set out in CEDAW reports and national action plans on gender are integrated into national development plans and processes***
- ***Develop improved guidelines for mainstreaming gender equality in country-level sectoral programmes***
- ***Ensure that independent assessments of the gendered impact of reform proposals are carried out before aid conditionalities are put in place***
- ***Strengthen assessment tools for allocating aid and provide greater transparency around the criteria for aid conditionality***
- ***Ensure that its own conditionality guidelines for Poverty-related Budget Support are implemented rigorously and that women's rights are taken into consideration when approving PRBS***
- ***Revise the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Bill to include a requirement for gender-disaggregated data to determine how much money is being spent on gender-related programmes through aid assistance***

### **Giving poor women a voice**

30. Women make up half the population of developing countries and a disproportionate number of the poor. It is vital that they are able to participate in local and national debates on development and resource

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<sup>11</sup> This was a key conclusion of a joint Eurostep and Social Watch report, *Accountability Upside Down: Gender Equality in a Partnership for Poverty Eradication*, February 2005 which traced policy evaporation in the different stages of the development process and found an increasing gap between commitment and implementation at each stage

<sup>12</sup> *Partnerships for Poverty Reduction: Rethinking Conditionality*, DFID, March 2005

allocation. MDG 3 also includes a target to increase women's participation in political decision-making. However, they continue to face a number of barriers, including economic hardship, violence, political oppression and unequal power structures, which prevent them from participating in such fora. For those women living in 'fragile states', where conflict may be one of the factors sustaining poverty, these barriers can be even more insurmountable.

31. WOMANKIND and its partners believe that **tackling the epidemic of violence against women** is one of the most urgent priorities for *all* governments. Not only is it a gross violation of women's human rights, but it constitutes a serious impediment to development and the achievement of the MDGs and to women's ability to participate in political and civil life. Ending violence against women, in all its forms, requires the support, leadership and sustained financial and political commitment of DFID and the rest of the donor community to put in place a combination of measures, including legal, infrastructural, educational and health initiatives geared towards prevention, protection and punishment.
32. DFID needs to promote an integrated and co-ordinated strategy to tackle violence against women, both in the UK and around the world, by working with and supporting the efforts of existing local, national and international coalitions. In the recent *Making the Grade* report of the End Violence Against Women Campaign, November 2005, DFID scored 2.5 out of 10 for its integrated coverage, planning and resources to stop violence against women. DFID and the UK government should lead by example by drawing up an integrated strategy to tackle violence against women in the UK,<sup>13</sup> and support developing countries to do the same.
33. Violence against women also plays a crucial and devastating role in increasing the risk to women of **HIV infection**. It is both a cause and consequence of infection, and as such is driving the spread of the epidemic. However, while some progress has been made separately on ending violence against women and halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, States have thus far failed to create integrated and effective responses that address the interconnectedness of the two pandemics. **Strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention and care must address existing gender inequalities and unequal power relations** and ensure that women are able to participate in HIV/AIDS policy development and programming.
34. DFID has supported a range of gender equality initiatives that create the space for poor women to have a say and ensure their priorities are placed on the development agenda. The institutional mechanisms which promote

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<sup>13</sup> For further information about this campaign, see [www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk](http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk)

and protect spaces for women's voices in policy-making need to be supported and prioritised in the new aid modalities.<sup>14</sup>

35. Consultation and meaningful engagement with all sectors of civil society, including the most marginalised, are key components of **good governance**. The lack of a clear transparent process for listening to and responding to the views of the poor in developing countries in the White Paper process is of grave concern. WOMANKIND has tried, where possible, to engage its partners in this process, but the lack of time does not lend itself to a meaningful engagement with the recipients of DFID's aid. If the emphasis in this White Paper is to be on development beyond aid, accountability and good governance, it is critical that DFID reflect on its own processes for engaging with its partners.

36. WOMANKIND recommends that DFID:

- ***Fund and support institutions, legislations and frameworks that promote access to information, justice and meaningful participation in decision-making on development***
- ***Support and prioritise spaces for women's voices in the new aid modalities***
- ***Actively promote efforts to make tackling violence against women in all its forms an integral part of economic and social development programmes, including poverty reduction strategies***
- ***Promote integrated responses to HIV/AIDS that deal with gender inequality and the root causes and consequence of the gender-specific manifestations of the disease***
- ***Work with other UK government departments to draw up an integrated strategy to tackle violence against women in the UK***

### **Creating the conditions necessary for reducing poverty**<sup>15</sup>

#### **Women, conflict and development**

37. The Third White Paper consultation document pays particular attention to the needs of fragile states and countries emerging from conflict. Hilary Benn's speeches also reflect the increasing recognition of the human security and development nexus and the recent focus on the 'Responsibility to Protect' doctrine.

38. It is important that these new approaches incorporate a gender perspective and an understanding of the different ways in which women

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<sup>14</sup> For further recommendations, see the full report of the joint meeting of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) and OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality, January 2006

<sup>15</sup> The issues covered in this section provide answers to question 6

and men are involved in and impacted by conflict and of how their different needs and access to resources shape their responses to and participation in peacebuilding and development processes.<sup>16</sup>

39. Women have a crucial role to play in conflict prevention, resolution and reparation efforts, yet while there is a growing recognition of women's agency in peacebuilding, they continue to be largely sidelined or ignored in all aspects of post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding processes.
40. **UN Security Council Resolution 1325** sets out clear guidelines to promote women's role in all aspects of conflict prevention and resolution. The UK government has shown its commitment to implement the principles of 1325 by developing a cross-governmental National Action Plan to implement its provisions. This commitment must now be translated into concerted action matched by increased resources for the accelerate implementation of these provisions.
41. We welcome the establishment of the new **Peacebuilding Commission** and support the commitment in its founding resolution to integrate a gender perspective and involve women equally in all aspects of its work. HMG should use its influence to ensure these commitments are acted upon in the implementation of the Commission's work and should further recommend that the PBC extends its mandate to conflict prevention as well as post conflict reconstruction.
42. The **Responsibility to Protect** framework is currently gender blind, which seriously limits its usefulness. The UK should take the lead in ensuring that existing experience and research on gender, peace and security are incorporated into all three segments of the Responsibility to Protect framework – i.e. responsibility to prevent, responsibility to react and responsibility to rebuild – with particular attention paid to CEDAW and UN Security Council Resolution 1325.<sup>17</sup>
43. WOMANKIND urges DFID to:
  - **Support and learn from informal and innovative grassroots initiatives led by women's organisations, which can be a significant force for change by increasing the inclusiveness, transparency and sustainability of peace processes and reconstruction**

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<sup>16</sup> For a more detailed exploration of these issues see WOMANKIND's Submission to the International Development Select Committee Session on Conflict and Development, January 2006 and the White Paper submission of the UK Working Group on Women, Peace & Security of which WOMANKIND is a member

<sup>17</sup> For an in-depth analysis of both why and how gender should be integrated into the various aspects of the R2P framework, see UNRISD publication New Voices, New Perspectives "A Sight for Sore Eyes: Bringing Gender Vision to the Responsibility to Protect Framework", October 2005

- ***Pay greater attention in its analysis to ‘forgotten,’ less visible conflict and post-conflict communities which are often neglected by official peace processes***
- ***Encourage the integration of a gender perspective in Disarmament, Demobilisation & Reintegration (DDR) processes***
- ***Support women’s contributions to operational conflict prevention by increasing resources and support for early warning systems (EWS) to monitor countries at risk of conflict and ensuring that a gender perspective, including gender-sensitive indicators of conflict, are fully integrated into the EWS***
- ***Ensure gender balance within the Peacebuilding Commission and a well-resourced gender office to ensure the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the Commission’s work***
- ***Ensure that a gender perspective is integrated into the Responsibility to Protect framework***

#### **Building a gender focus into humanitarian responses**

44. It is important that DFID links its ***humanitarian principles*** to broader, long-term development concerns to ensure the sustainability of its assistance. Gender equality is central to both. Therefore there needs to be a clear and consistent gender focus throughout humanitarian responses which adequately recognises that women are amongst the most vulnerable in times of disaster and conflict, but also are key actors in prevention and mitigation efforts.<sup>18</sup>

45. As DFID has said, the principle of partnership is a key dimension of effective humanitarian responses. Locally-based civil society organisations should be natural partners of DFID, given their understanding of the local context and knowledge of the affected area, but women’s organisations are often excluded from these processes. The sustainability of any response requires involving the most marginalised in needs-assessments and aid delivery.

46. WOMANKIND calls on DFID to:

- ***Strengthen efforts to translate into practice existing international agreements and instruments, including the Sphere Project Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, to promote gender equality and women’s rights in humanitarian work***

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<sup>18</sup> For further recommendations, see WOMANKIND’s ‘Comments on DFID’s Draft Humanitarian Policy,’ February 2006

## Reforming the international development system <sup>19</sup>

### UN Management Reform

47. The UN plays a unique and critical role in universal standard setting and monitoring in areas such as human rights. Legally-binding instruments such as the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women could not have been negotiated by any other body and are important instruments for holding governments to account and pushing forward the human rights that underpin development and democratisation. The UN should continue to act as a role model and to set the standard for gender equality and the promotion of women's human rights by ensuring a **gender balance in newly created UN bodies, increasing the number of women in senior and policy-making levels in the UN Secretariat and establishing a properly-funded UN body to lead on gender mainstreaming and the promotion of women's rights.**
48. Women's organisations and other civil society organisations have been and continue to be strong advocates of the United Nations and have played an active role in shaping its crucial work on peace and security, development, human rights, the environment and, of course, on gender equality.
49. However, the position of women in high-level UN posts remains woefully inadequate and the mechanisms and processes dealing with UN reform have failed to display a consistent and visible commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment. For example, **the new High-Level Panel on UN system-wide coherence** in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment has only 3 women out of 15 members. Furthermore, little or no consideration seems to have been given to the implications of the current reforms on the women's equality agenda.
50. Paragraph 59 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document states that governments undertake to 'strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender'. We recommend that DFID and HMG advocate for concrete proposals to advance gender equality and strengthen gender machineries in the context of UN reform.
51. Specifically, WOMANKIND recommends that DFID and the UK government use the UK's membership of and position in the UN to:
- **Add additional women to the High-Level Panel on UN system-wide coherence**

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<sup>19</sup> The issues in this section respond to questions 11, 14 and 15

- ***Ensure gender equality issues are explicitly considered under each of the panel's themes***
- ***Mandate the panel to hold consultations with civil society groups, particularly those working on women's rights, to ensure consideration of the impact on women of any proposed reforms***
- ***Significantly strengthen, upgrade and better resource the systems and machineries, including the UN women's machineries, through which gender equality can be advanced at the international and country level and establish a properly-funded UN body to lead on gender mainstreaming and the promotion of women's rights.***
- ***Redouble efforts to consult with NGOs worldwide, especially in developing countries, with a fund to assist southern NGO's participation in meetings and conferences***
- ***Ensure that new proposals for reform of NGO relations to the UN strengthen rather than reduce existing forms of access and participation***
- ***Increase the number of women in senior and policy-making levels in the UN Secretariat***

### **The new Human Rights Council**

52. The establishment of a new Human Rights Council offers an opportunity to strengthen the UN human rights machinery and to ensure that the rights set out in instruments such as CEDAW are fully implemented. The UK and other governments must now act to ensure the new Council is a strong and effective body.

53. In the past, sexual and reproductive rights have proved a contentious issue at the Commission for Human Rights (and in other UN fora) and this looks set to continue unless governments firmly oppose efforts to undermine this fundamental issue of human rights. It is vital that the UK government continues to challenge this opposition and actively promote and advocate for a rights-based approach to reproductive and sexual health and rights.

54. In the past, NGOs have played a key role in the work of the Commission. WOMANKIND and other women's organisations around the world have also increasingly made use of the mechanisms to advance women's rights, in particular, the use of Special Rapporteurs. We would like to see these mechanisms preserved.

55. WOMANKIND would like DFID to:

- ***Ensure that the review of NGO participation and the system of special procedures that will be undertaken in the first year of the newly-created Human Rights Council does not lead to an erosion of***

***current levels of NGO engagement with the Commission on Human Rights or to a weakening of the essential work of the Independent Experts***

- ***Challenge efforts to undermine existing commitments to and progress on women's human rights, including in the arena of sexual and reproductive health and rights***

## **The EU**

56. The EU has an extremely important role to play in achieving gender equality through development co-operation. DFID must continue to use its influence at the EU level to strengthen coherence and improve effectiveness of EU Member States' aid.

57. WOMANKIND recommends that DFID:

- ***Ensures its own policies are coherent with EU policies on gender equality and poverty reduction***
- ***Encourages other EU Member States to comply with their obligations to integrate gender equality into poverty reduction efforts***
- ***Works with other EU Member States to develop more effective measures of accountability and mechanisms for monitoring how gender equality is taken into account in direct budget support, SWAPs and PRSPs***
- ***Continues to press for EU aid to be poverty-focused and spent mainly in low-income countries***
- ***Strengthen the EU's gender advisory capacity to ensure the EU has the capacity to and dedicated resources to be able to support and monitor gender mainstreaming in its policy and programmes***

## **International Financial Institutions**

58. The participation of women in decision-making must include their participation at all levels of management and policy-making in the international financial institutions, such as the World Trade Organisation and the other Bretton Woods Institutions.

59. WOMANKIND calls on DFID to:

- ***Support the creation of mechanisms which allow women to input into the decision-making processes of these institutions at the local level as well as ensuring that the specific needs and concerns of women are taken into account***
- ***Promote gender balance in the senior decision-making posts of the IFIs***

- ***Implement and regularly assess gender mainstreaming policies, including gender budgeting as a tool for monitoring and assessing the differentiated impacts of EU policies on women and men, and for supporting gender equality objectives***
- ***Support the use of feminist economic analysis in the planning, design and implementation of the IFIs' economic policies***

For further information about the policy issues highlighted in this submission  
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