

REF: 82960



From the Secretary of State

HRH The Prince of Wales
Clarence House
London SW1A 1BA

DFID Department for
International
Development

1 Palace Street, London SW1E 5HE

Telephone: 020 7023 0134

Email: privatesecretary@dfid.gov.uk

21 February 2008

Your Royal Highness -

It was good to meet with you on 30 January and learn more about your charities and their excellent work.

A number of action points came out of our discussion. As promised, I am writing to let you know how these are being taken forward.

First, I would be delighted to meet with representatives of your charities in May. Could I ask that your office contacts my Diary Secretary to make arrangements

Our Civil Society Team (Steve Nally - tel: 01355 843199) and Sierra Leone team would be happy to meet with officials from the Build Environment Foundation and Youth Business international to discuss options for funding and collaboration.

I share your deep concern about climate change and interest in the role of rainforests. So I am pleased that our Climate and Environment group have just held a very constructive meeting with Directors of your Rainforest Projects. I understand they will continue to meet at least once a month.


As promised, I have also attached an update about the MDG Call to Action.

- should receive invitation to the 6 May business in the next few days.

You also asked about possible support for the Turquoise Mountain Foundation in Afghanistan. we have moved away from funding smaller scale initiatives such as this - and towards funding larger-scale Government programmes.

Nevertheless, as a UK-based organisation, Turquoise Mountain is eligible to apply for funding through our Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF). Our Civil Society Team would be happy to provide more information.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours ever,

DOUGLAS ALEXANDER

Millennium Development Goals Call to Action

1. In 2000, at the Millennium Summit, 189 countries declared that they would spare no effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We have made some progress, in many countries on every continent, when the right policies and right reforms have been combined with sufficient resources. But seven years later and half way to 2015 we are not on track to meet our historic commitments.
2. The Eighth Millennium pledge was that we would "develop a global partnership for development". The MDG Call to Action, which was launched by Gordon Brown and UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon seeks to galvanise the entire international community to face up to this development emergency.
3. The purpose of the **MDG Call to Action** is to:
 - Build an international consensus about what needs to be done to meet the 2015 targets.
 - Engage a broader set of players – not just governments in the north and south but also the private sector, trades unions, faith groups, civil society, cities.
 - Set milestones (steps towards the MDGs) so that progress can be measured and every partner can be held accountable for their contribution.
 - Build a shared sense of collective progress, to foster optimism and momentum, inspire action and counter fatigue.
4. As part of this Call to Action, we are asking companies to implement concrete initiatives that apply their **core business skills and expertise in a transformative and scalable manner** that will enhance growth and wealth creation to help meet the MDGs. This is not about encouraging more philanthropy or corporate social responsibility, but producing business ideas that are both commercially viable and help to achieve the MDGs.
5. Initiatives might achieve one or more of the following:
 - **Generate significant new employment opportunities** in developing countries;
 - **Improve the quality of supply chains**, helping local businesses to diversify, and/or become internationally competitive;
 - **Include innovations and/or technologies** which make it easier for individuals and businesses to make a living.
6. A meeting on 6 May 2008 in London will showcase the concrete initiatives taken by these lead companies and provide an opportunity for companies which have not yet signed up to the Declaration to do so.

12/03/08



Secretary of State
PS/PUSS - GM/ET/SM
PS/Nemat Shafik
Mark Lowcock
Sue Owen
Martin Dinham
Comms Division
Special Advisers
Diary Secretary - SoS /GM/ET/SM

7th March, 2008

For info: Peter Verby

Dear Douglas,

I was so very pleased to receive your letter of 21st February, following up our conversation at Clarence House on 30th January, in which I was delighted to note that several points were already the subject of further work, notably on climate change. I have asked my Rainforest Project team to keep me closely up-dated on their further contacts with your Climate and Environment Group and, like you, hope that this dialogue can continue through regular meetings. I am very encouraged by the real progress the team seems to be making...

I know that the Chief Executives of my various charities are very much looking forward to welcoming you to the offices of my Foundation for the Built Environment in Shoreditch in May and I cannot thank you enough for finding time in your programme to undertake this visit. Conscious of your busy schedule, I have asked the Chief Executives to be as succinct as possible! But I do hope that their presentations will give you a sense of what I have been trying to achieve over all these years and, perhaps, highlight some more areas in which we can work ever more closely with your Department.

It was a great pleasure to see you in January and I much enjoyed our conversation. It was extremely good of you to have written in such a helpful way and I look forward to further discussions with you on future occasions.

Yours most sincerely

Manny