



The World Bank and The Centre

invite you to a seminar on:

Achieving the MDGs: The Need for Urgent Action

at The Centre, Avenue Marnix 22, B-1000 Brussels

on 26 May 2005 from 10.00 to 12.00

(Coffee will be served from 9.30)

More than 180 world leaders agreed unanimously to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the UN Millennial Summit in New York in September 2000. Yet with just a decade left to go, progress toward the MDGs has been slower and more uneven across regions than originally envisaged, with Sub-Saharan Africa falling far short.

The World Bank's new 2005 Global Monitoring Report is calling for stepped-up action, and points to opportunities created by recently improved economic performance in many developing countries.

The Monitoring Report outlines a five-point agenda designed to accelerate progress:

- Ensure that development efforts are country-owned. Scale up development impact through country-owned and led poverty reduction strategies;
- Improve the environment for private sector-led economic growth. Strengthen fiscal management and governance, ease the business environment, and invest in infrastructure;
- Scale up delivery of basic human services. Rapidly increase the supply of health care workers and teachers, provide larger and more flexible and predictable financing for these recurrent cost-intensive services, and strengthen institutional capacity;

- Dismantle barriers to trade. Through an ambitious Doha Round, including major reform of agricultural trade policies - and also increasing "aid for trade";
- Double development aid in the next five years. In addition, improve the quality of aid, with faster progress on aid coordination and harmonisation.

As the world's largest donor, the EU is expected to play a significant role in taking these points forward. The European Commission has produced a report on the EU's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

with:

- **Zia Qureshi**, World Bank Focal Point on MDGs
- **Bernard Petit**, Director, DG Development, European Commission
- **H.E. Fernando Whanon Ferreira** - Ambassador of Cape Verde and Chair of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors (TBC)
- **Christiane Overkamp**, Director, CIDSE

The seminar will be chaired by Peter Verhille of The Centre.

Please register by sending an email to meet@thecentre.eu.com with 'May 26' in the subject field and stating clearly your name and organisation.

For directions to The Centre, visit www.thecentre.eu.com/directions