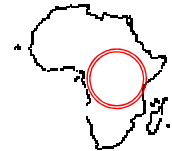




**ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**  
**on the GREAT LAKES REGION of AFRICA**  
tel: +44 (0)20 7219 1165 fax: +44 (0)20 7219 0922 [www.appggreatlakes.org](http://www.appggreatlakes.org)  
Room 514, Portcullis House, House of Commons, SW1A 2LW



## Updated Activity Report February 2008 – July 2009

### INTRODUCTION

This document provides a summary of the activities of the APPG on the Great Lakes Region of Africa from February 2008 – May 2009. This period has once again been busy for the APPG, with a wide-ranging agenda including three missions to the region, a number of parliamentary debates, two major reports, and the successful launch of the Congo Now! campaign. In our 10<sup>th</sup> year we continue to be among the most active Groups in parliament. Despite the limitations of our resources we are exceptional in the seriousness with which we have engaged in parliamentary action to highlight and respond to the problems of one of the most conflict-affected and under-developed regions of the world.

As a result of the renewed crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo from September 2008, the APPG's Parliamentary activity has been more focused than the preceding year on that conflict. But major activity has also taken place in relation to the other countries under the APPG's remit, in particular Burundi (which Members visited in March 2009) and Rwanda. There will always be areas where we can do more and do better, and a workplan setting out our plans for 2009-2010 will be produced for the autumn session – members wishing to suggest specific ideas for this are as ever invited to get in touch. The next interim activity report is planned for February 2010, with a full report due at the end of the next parliamentary year.

A checklist setting the APPG's actual achievements against the targets set out in our last workplan is included (it should of course be noted that the many activities not in the workplan were also carried out). Numerous routine activities have been omitted from this report for reasons of space – for example routine briefings for members of the APPG and our extensive informal contacts with civil servants and ministers. Links or attachments for a

selection of meeting reports and other relevant documents have been included with this report: for further details please contact the APPG.

#### Selected highlights

- Major field mission and policy report on impunity and violence against women, led by UK Supreme Court judge and APPG member Lord Jonathan Mance.
- Parliamentary field visit to Kinshasa and the conflict zone in eastern DRC.
- Mission to Burundi, including parliamentary seminars and Presidential meeting.
- High-level policy roundtable discussion on Rwanda addressing issues of political space and long-term reconciliation.
- High-level policy roundtable discussion on Congo addressing strategies for ending the conflict in the east, issues of political space and prospects for the next elections.
- Congo Now! 2009 awareness-raising and policy campaign, with a week of events culminating in an evening at the Southbank Centre featuring Thandie Newton. Expanded campaign planned for 2010.
- Concentrated lobbying campaign in response to the crisis in eastern Congo: three parliamentary debates, numerous formal and informal ministerial contacts and parliamentary questions, and public statements.
- High-level meeting on the OECD Guidelines to press for further action to strengthen the corporate accountability mechanism and generate concrete suggestions for reform.
- Successful legislative and lobbying efforts to close loopholes in the law that have allowed genocide suspects in the UK to go free, in partnership with the Aegis Trust and other APPGs.
- Event to mark the APPG's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with Douglas Alexander, Secretary of State for International Development.

#### Contents

|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| 1) Democratic Republic of Congo   | Page 3  |
| 2) Rwanda                         | Page 8  |
| 3) Uganda                         | Page 10 |
| 4) Burundi                        | Page 11 |
| 5) Institutional development      | Page 12 |
| 6) Annotated workplan for 2008/09 | Page 14 |
| 7) Financial summary              | Page 21 |

## 1) DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

### Advocacy on conflict in eastern DRC

- Since the sharp deterioration of the situation in eastern Congo began in late August 2008 the APPG has been advocating for a response both to the immediate crisis and its underlying causes. A major lobbying effort in favour of both reinforcements of UN military capabilities on the ground in the short-term and a longer term political solution was undertaken, with two ministerial meetings in the space of a few weeks as well as letters, parliamentary questions and other initiatives (see full records attached.) The Group welcomed HMG's co-sponsorship and support for UN Security Council Resolution 1843 (20 November 2008) which authorised an increase of the troop ceiling by 3,000, but Members pressed HMG on multiple occasions about the need for a rapid deployment and possibilities for faster reinforcement from an EU force, and on the need to press the Rwandan government to play a positive role in overcoming the current crisis.
- Four parliamentary debates on the crisis were held between 06 November and 10 December – two in the House of Lords and two in the House of Commons. This is in addition to oral parliamentary questions (HoL) and during Prime Minister's Questions. (See attached document giving full detail of parliamentary activity)
- The APPG released both a UK press release on the crisis, and a separate joint statement issued simultaneously in London and Kinshasa in conjunction with Congolese parliamentary colleagues in the DRC-UK Friendship Group. Both condemned the violence and urged the UK and Congolese government to exert all pressure possible towards a peaceful resolution; the need for the Government of Rwanda to play a positive role was also stressed. The statement was a first practical output from targeted efforts to develop the link between the two parliaments into an effective partnership (see statement attached).
- The APPG met with Foreign Office minister for Africa, Lord Malloch Brown, on two separate occasions to raise the issue of the crisis. The first meeting took place as the Foreign Secretary returned from the DRC with his French counterpart and covered issues relating to that trip and the government's immediate response – NGO representatives were also present. The second meeting took place after Lord Malloch Brown returned from his own visit to Kinshasa, Goma and Kigali; the minister briefed parliamentarians about his trip, and fielded the targeted policy concerns of the MPs (see full records attached).

- Before the 2008 summer recess, the APPG met with DFID minister, Gillian Merron MP, to discuss DFID's engagement in the DRC. The meeting covered several areas including security sector reform, funding mechanisms and the level of support provided by DFID (see attached meeting note for a full record).
- On 13 January 2009, the Group met with DFID minister Ivan Lewis to discuss more recent developments in the DRC as well as issues of political space in Rwanda and the APPG's forthcoming trip to Burundi. This meeting was attended by senior civil servants from the department. The Group's members had an in depth conversation with the minister about reinforcements of MONUC, and discussed bilateral relations of the DRC and Rwanda in dealing with issues of the FDLR.
- The Chair Eric Joyce MP and other members of the APPG wrote to ministers on three separate occasions in relation to the crisis in the east, and asked a number of oral and written questions. Other members of the APPG also wrote to ministers in their personal capacity.

#### Congo Basin Forests

The APPG has continued its lobbying on the preservation of the Congolese rainforests and the protection of communities living in them. On 21 October 2008 the APPG held a briefing session for parliamentarians and government. The meeting heard from representatives of the Rainforest Foundation as well as one of their local partners from the DRC. Representatives from DFID were present to take part in the discussion and talk about the government's work on the issue through the Congo Basin Fund and the Eliash Review. APPG member (and former Prime Ministerial special envoy on forests) Barry Gardiner MP also took part in the meeting. Rainforest issues were highlighted in the APPG's last major report on the DRC, and plans are still on the table for a Parliamentary mission to the DRC rainforests in late 2009 or 2010.

#### Congo parliamentary mission – April 2008

Members of the APPG undertook a five-day mission to the DRC in April 2008. APPG Chair Eric Joyce and Members Judy Mallaber and Jeremy Corbyn visited Goma in North Kivu with the aim of highlighting the ongoing conflict there, and met with local NGOs, diplomats, and parties to the Amani process. The mission also spent time in Kinshasa and met with government ministers, the Presidents of the Senate and National Assembly and a wide range of Congolese parliamentarians, international and Congolese civil society actors, diplomatic

representatives from the UK and other countries, MONUC and other agencies. The visit included the re-launch of the DRC/UK Friendship Group, and resulted in a full report with recommendations, Congo: Unfinished Business (See: <http://tinyurl.com/lqugkk>)

#### Violence against women

- A major report on the epidemic of sexual violence which has swept across much of the DRC was launched in a joint event with the Associate Parliamentary Group on Women, Peace and Security on 27 November 2008. Justice, Impunity and Sexual Violence in Eastern Congo is the product of the APPG's mission with the Swedish Foundation for Human Rights, a project led by APPG member Lord Jonathan Mance, a senior Law Lord and High Court Judge, who also played a very active role through the production of the report. Lord Mance participated in a roundtable event with NGO partners to discuss the key findings of the report as well as speaking as part of the panel for the report's launch alongside the DFID Director for East and Central Africa at DFID, the FCO Director for Equatorial Africa, and Mary Claire-Faray, a Congolese women's rights activist (the full report can be found on the APPG's website: <http://tinyurl.com/lxf8be>).

- In June 2009, the APPG facilitated the visit of Congolese Senator Eve Baziaba Masudi, one of the DRC's leading campaigners for women's rights and for ending sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) against women and girls in the DRC. Over four days, the APPG coordinated meetings with the Labour Women's Network and Conservative Women's Organisation and other women's groups, with individual MPs and peers and held a high profile round table, chaired by Eric Joyce, at which members, representatives of DFID and FCO, key academics and members of civil society discussed the current SGBV crisis in the DRC. The Senator's visit generated an increased appetite amongst both UK and Congolese parliamentarians to continue discussion on this issue and the APPG has written letters to the head of the Senate, National Assembly and to key parliamentarians in the DRC outlining recommendations that the visit produced. The APPG hopes to host a delegation of Congolese MPs in October 2009 in the UK parliament, during which these recommendations and additional actions will be discussed.

#### Congo policy roundtable

On 15 July 2009, the APPG hosted the second in a series of roundtable discussions (the first session focused on Rwanda, see page 8) bringing together experts from civil society and academia together with parliamentarians and senior representatives from FCO and DFID. The roundtable was conducted behind closed doors and under the Chatham House Rule to

enable a free and open exchange of views on politics, governance and peacebuilding issues in the DRC. An outline of the points raised at the meeting is in production and is available to APPG members. This document will form the basis of further lobbying and a copy will be presented to ministers in the autumn session.

#### Awareness raising: Congo Now!

Increasing public awareness of the situation in the Congo has the potential to greatly improve the environment in which the APPG makes its approaches to the UK government and was one of the priorities identified in the last workplan. The APPG proposed and led an initiative with a group of NGOs, the photojournalist Susan Schulman, and the Southbank Centre to organise a week of events in May 2009, as well as a longer term awareness raising initiative. The week began with a media event with West Ham and DRC footballer Herita Ilunga and included a debate at Chatham House, a film screening by Human Rights Watch, and a linked but separate public meeting with Mark Malloch-Brown to allow wider access to the policy discussion. Congo Now! 2009 culminated in a major event in the Purcell Room at the Southbank Centre on 7 May. The event was designed to be positive, showcasing the extraordinary vibrancy and creative energy of the country, its people, and above all its women, while highlighting the problems they face as well. It brought together an extraordinary cast including Thandie Newton and the V-Day campaign, Congolese musicians and writers, comedian Andi Osha, and a panel of expert contributors.

Congo Now! 2009 also brought together a coalition of more than a dozen NGOs, including almost all significant UK-based organisations working on DRC issues, and generated a joint press release and a detailed policy letter to the UK government pressing them on key issues. (See press release, letter and government response attached.) On the basis of the success of Congo Now! 2009, the Southbank Centre agreed to host a larger event in 2010, intended to incorporate a wider range of events and generate greater media coverage.

#### Congo: Unheard Voices – photo exhibition

On 2-6 March the APPG held a parliamentary exhibition of photos by Susan Schulman, shown together with explanations of the context in eastern DRC, full briefings and APPG reports, and material from NGOs. The exhibition was held in the Upper Waiting Hall of the Palace of Westminster, a prime location to influence and inform Parliamentary colleagues.

### Human rights defenders

On 14 July 2009 the APPG in collaboration with Protection International hosted a meeting on the protection of human rights defenders in the DRC. The meeting concentrated on the case of Radio Okapi journalist, Serge Maheshe, who was gunned down by uniformed men in Bukavu in 2007. The APPG was strongly engaged in efforts to protest on the flawed trial of his supposed assassins and to press for a proper investigation into the case. The meeting heard from Sophie Rudil from Protection International, who had just completed a report on the Maheshe case, Anneke Van Woudenburg of Human Rights Watch and representatives from the FCO. The meeting highlighted the fact that human rights defenders still face repression in the DRC, and discussed ways to improve parliamentary action. Further follow-up is planned.

### OECD Guidelines Roundtable meeting

On 20 July the APPG hosted a roundtable discussion on the OECD Guidelines. The meeting was designed to generate concrete proposals for the upcoming review of the OECD Guidelines, and to urge the UK government to play a leading role in the effort. Chaired by Lord Mance, the meeting brought together industry, legal experts and NGOs to generate proposals on increasing the effective enforcement of the Guidelines. Main discussion points focussed on whether the guidelines should integrate stronger sanctions, what other sanction mechanisms could be triggered by an NCP citation, and the role the Government and private sector could play in holding companies to account. The meeting also discussed compliance and the need to improve and flesh out the content of the Guidelines to better assist companies. The participants agreed to urge the UK Government to take a lead in improving the enforcement of the Guidelines both domestically and internationally.

## 2) RWANDA

### UK legislation on genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity

Since November 2008 the Group has been working in partnership with the Aegis Trust and other parliamentary colleagues to amend UK legislation for the prosecution of those suspected of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. As the law stands, if one of these crimes had been committed outside the UK before the passage of the International Criminal Court Act, suspects cannot be tried in UK courts. As a result, where suspects cannot be extradited as an alternative, they will go free in the UK. This loophole in legislation was highlighted in April 2009 when the High Court prevented the extradition for four Rwandan men suspected of involvement in the genocide.

We had originally pursued legislation through as a Private Members' Bill in the House of Lords, working closely with Lord Carlile and other Peers, before it was decided that submitting a parliamentary amendment offered a better route for reform. Following lobbying efforts in which we played a strong role, the Justice Secretary announced that the government will insert amendments to the Coroners and Justice Bill which is currently in the House of Lords that will extend jurisdiction for these offences back to 1991. These changes to legislation are expected to be on the statute book in the autumn.

### Rwanda policy roundtable

In November 2008 the APPG brought together high-level civil servants, leading academics and NGO representatives to discuss issues of UK policy and long-term reconciliation and political space in Rwanda. The roundtable was designed to build on the issues raised in the report of the APPG's mission to Rwanda in 2007 (see <http://tinyurl.com/m7gnpg>).

### Genocide memorial event

On 1 April the APPG organised an event to commemorate within parliament the 15th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda, as part of the ongoing effort to address the consequences of the killings and prevent any recurrence. The event was attended by the UK Minister for Africa, representatives from civil society, the Ambassador of Rwanda, a survivor of the genocide, and MPs and Peers. The Minister and others read testimonies and spoke on issues related to the genocide and support for survivors.

### Mashirika – Africa’s Hope

On 10 November 2008 the APPG (in conjunction with the APPG on Genocide Prevention and the Aegis Trust) hosted Rwandan arts group Mashirika to perform in parliament as part of their tour of their UK. The performance was followed by a policy discussion on Rwanda chaired by Eric Joyce MP and including Stephen Crabb MP, HE Clavier Gatete, Rwandan Ambassador to the UK and James Smith, Director of the Aegis Trust. The discussion covered issues of recovery and reconciliation in Rwanda as well as Rwanda’s role in the DRC, and was attended by a variety of parliamentarians including front benchers from both sides of the House.

### Lobbying on specific issues of concern

The APPG had a number of contacts with the Rwandan Ambassador and concerned UK ministers in reaction to the decision by Rwandan authorities to suspend the BBC Kinyarwanda service’s FM broadcasts in the country, and will continue to follow this and similar issues of media freedom. The APPG has had regular contact with Rwandan embassy on a range of other issues. Following the arrest of Rose Kibuye on her arrival at Frankfurt Airport in November and subsequent transfer to France, the Group’s chair, Eric Joyce MP, met to the Rwandan Ambassador to the UK and to discuss the incident.

### Rwandan students’ association event

On 21 July 2008, Jeremy Corbyn MP chaired an event in parliament organized in conjunction with the main network of Rwandan students in the UK, aimed at encouraging dialogue between them and parliament. The event, entitled The role of diplomacy in the Great Lakes Region, was attended by the Rwandan students as well as individuals from the APPG’s network of NGO and government contacts. Speakers at this event were Ronnie Rutasingwa, representing the Rwandan students, and James Wizeye, First Secretary of the Rwandan Embassy in London.

### 3) UGANDA

#### Ministerial engagement

The Group organised a round-table meeting in November with Africa Minister Mark Malloch Brown, MPs and Peers, and civil society to discuss the Juba process and issues of democratic space. The meeting was well-attended by MPs and Peers, and focused on strategies to re-engage Kony in the peace process, how to react if (as subsequently proved to be the case) he did not give up violence, the issue of the return of refugees displaced by the conflict, conditions in northern Uganda itself, and reconstruction efforts. The APPG remains in contact with NUAPP and other groups to coordinate our activities.

#### Uganda briefing

In advance of the ministerial meeting the APPG produced an extensive briefing paper for MPs and spoke with key parliamentary participants, the paper included a range of policy recommendations which the minister was invited to address in the meeting. (See briefing note attached).

#### Parliamentary meeting on children in conflict

In June 2009 the APPG organised a meeting to discuss issues of protection for children in armed conflict across the Great Lakes region, with a particular emphasis on the issue of children who have been, or still are, child soldiers in Northern Uganda as a result of continued LRA fighting. The meeting considered the combined role of the FCO, DFID and MoD across the region and how children could be better protected by their policies and funding. Boniface Mush'ayuma, Regional Adviser for the Great Lakes region for The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, spoke, as did representatives from UNICEF, War Child, Save the Children UK and Invisible Children. Representatives of DFID and FCO were present at the meeting. The APPG hopes to follow up on some of the recommendations made at this meeting with a further child protection discussion in the autumn.

#### 4) BURUNDI

##### Parliamentary mission to Burundi

As set out in its 2008-2009 Workplan, the APPG mounted a full parliamentary mission to Burundi in March 2009 in conjunction with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The mission included meetings with the President of Burundi, the Presidents of the Assembly and Senate, a wide range of Parliamentarians, civil society, FCO and DFID officials, and Burundian politicians on a range of issues including political tensions and the elections, efforts to reach a final agreement with the FNL rebels, human rights and governance, violence against women, the situation of the BaTwa, and issues of development. A key focus was seminar sessions with Burundian MPs, aimed at reinforcing ties between the two parliaments and building capacity and understanding equally on both sides. The mission produced a full report with recommendations which have been submitted to FCO.

##### Follow-up meeting with DFID Minister

Following the parliamentary visit members of the APPG met with Ivan Lewis, DFID minister responsible for Africa, to discuss UK involvement in the country and political and development support in the lead up to the 2010 elections and beyond. Members of the APPG also intervened on a number of occasions to raise issues related to the findings of the report in the chamber. Further follow-up is envisaged.

##### Parliamentary meeting with Burundian Foreign Minister

On 13 July 2009, members of the APPG met with HE Augustin Nsanze, Foreign Minister of Burundi and HE Laurent Kavakure, Burundian Ambassador to Brussels (there is no Burundian embassy in the UK). The meeting was primarily aimed at raising issues relating to increasing overall UK assistance to Burundi and concerns in advance of the upcoming elections. Members at the meeting pledged to follow up during the next parliamentary session with ministries here in the UK. (See attached minutes of the meeting)

##### Parliamentary briefing session from Human Rights Watch

On October 7, the Group held a briefing for MPs and Peers with Human Rights Watch researcher Neela Ghoshal and other civil society representatives to cover key issues of concern in relation to media freedom, ethnic politics, political prisoners, potential challenges in the peace process, and the FNL. The meeting record was circulated to the wider membership of the Group.

## 5) INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### APPG 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration

On 3 December 2008, the APPG celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a reception in the Atlee Suite, House of Commons – a real milestone and an indication of the Group’s institutional longevity. The event was attended by many people who have been involved with the Group over the past 10 years, including the Group’s members, civil servants, individual from NGOs and the regional diasporas. The reception heard from Mike Thomson, a BBC journalist has reported from the region for many years, Oona King, the Group’s founding chair, former APPG staff, and Douglas Alexander, Secretary of State for International Development, whose participation highlighted the good working relationship the Group has with DFID and FCO.

### Funding

Funding issues remain a constant demand on the APPG’s capacity. The income from our recurring contributors only allows us to budget for our core costs. In the past year the APPG has made efforts to diversify its funding sources, and has made applications to a number of trusts (notably the Pulden Puckham Charitable Foundation and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust) and to civil society partners. As a result World Vision has agreed to fund the APPG, a useful step forward. Unfortunately, due to organisations feeling the pinch on their own financial resources, this has been balanced by one significant contributor informing us that they will not be able to contribute to the APPG’s core budget for the financial year 09/10. We hope this organisation will rejoin our contributors in the following financial year. We have also been unable so far to secure the much preferable 3-year funding agreements with the funders, although more efforts remain to be made in this sphere.

### Membership

The Group’s membership has continued to increase since our last activity report, and we have made progress in the stated goal of involving members more effectively to facilitate some practical engagement with the problems of the region. We now have around 220 members from all of the mainstream and most of the minor parties from both Houses of Parliament – roughly a 10% rise over last year. Increasing our membership continues to be an ongoing concern for the Group, especially with an election approaching which will inevitably see some of our members departing. We have also had more MPs approaching the Group to request membership rather than the other way around. Although not all APPGs publish membership figures, from the available information we believe that we are the

single biggest All Party Group in parliament, a point worth celebrating given the UK's few historical links with the region.

#### Relations with NGOs and others

The Group has continued to act as a conduit through which NGOs, experts, academics, and the public can provide input into the parliamentary process. Our regular contact with partner organisation helps us build effective coalitions, and our wide range of relationships with practitioners and policy experts helps us refine the information we provide to members to guide decisions on our lobbying strategy.

#### Staff

The APPG has strengthened its staffing base with two new Associate Coordinators, who work in coordination with the APPG Coordinator. As a result we have strengthened our overstretched capacity overall without significantly increasing our core costs. Mention needs to be made of the dedication and hard work of the Associate Coordinators in particular, who contribute significantly more than their salaried hours. Mention should also be made of the current interns, Patricia Ngongo and Naomi Wiseman, who have made a tangible contribution to the APPG through the projects under their responsibility.

For further information, please contact the APPG office on 020 7219 1165.

6) Annotated workplan for 2008/09

Democratic Republic of Congo

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ • Launch event on violence against women<br/>Discussions with FCO and DFID on a joint ministerial meeting with Gillian Merron and Mark Malloch-Brown are advancing steadily and the event is likely to take place in late November, although dates are still being explored. The APPG will use the meeting to present findings from its recent major report on violence against women. The involvement of Lord Mance in further follow up to the report is agreed and his senior position will add considerable weight.</li> <br/> <li>✓ • Support for the peace process in eastern DRC The APPG we will continue to press the UK government to act in support of efforts to end the conflict in eastern DRC. The APPG’s approach will stress the need to avoid civilian casualties and to deal with the FDLR as well as with other illegal armed groups – notably the CNDP.</li> <br/> <li>✗ • Parliamentary mission (rainforest issues and political contacts) The APPG is in discussions with NGOs on a parliamentary mission to visit communities threatened by poor governance in the forest sector and specifically the concessions review process. The visit is intended as an opportunity for MPs to get first hand experience of the issues and to put the spotlight on UK engagement with them, as well as to meet with and lobby relevant Congolese ministers, political figures and civil society in Kinshasa. However, the mission will also involve time to make political contacts and press on key APPG issues outside of forests.</li> <br/> <li>✓ • An event with DFID to discuss forest issues and UK policy – particularly engagement on the concessions review – is planned for October 2008. Other forest-related activity will be planned to follow up on the forests mission.</li> <br/> <li>✓ • Congo Week The APPG has proposed to its civil society partners a concentrated week of events on the DRC (tentatively in May/June 2009) aimed at generating some of the wider public resonance associated with Darfur or similar crises (although realistically on a different and substantially smaller</li> </ul> | <p>The APPG launched its report on SGBV Justice, Impunity and Sexual Violence in a joint event with the APG on Women, Peace and Security on 27 November 2008</p><br><p>See page 3</p><br><p>Rainforest meeting held in Parliament on 21 October 2008 – see page 4</p><br><p>Congo NOW! ran in May 2009, an expanded version is being planned for 2010</p> |
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| <p>scale). There has been significant interest and the APPG will make further efforts to move discussions forward. We will also provide parliamentary backing and involvement in any eventual event, although we do not have the capacity realistically to organise the Congo Week as a whole. If the event does not go ahead, the APPG will in any case make occasional initiatives where it can to continue the Media Campaign of which the Congo Week would be the culmination, notably through exhibitions and events in parliament.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ • Parliamentary visit In keeping with the intention of having a greater number of visits with more tightly-focused objectives, the APPG has suggested the possibility of a second visit to the DRC in 2009, with a different group of parliamentarians. This will be dependent on an assessment of need, but one suggestion is that it could include a focus specifically on children's issues. Whatever its focus, the goal would be to time the visit immediately before a Congo Week, if one takes place, to tie in media coverage and parliamentary involvement.</li> <li>✓ • Adjournment debate The APPG will aim to secure an adjournment debate on the DRC before Easter 2009, with precise subject depending on timing. The immediate aim is to hold a debate on the deteriorating conflict in the east, but dates are dependent on the ballot for adjournment debates.</li> <li>✓ • Lobby on education We will continue to lobby for education in the DRC to be a UK aid policy priority, in particular the provision of free primary education. The APPG will raise the issue directly with DFID through contacts with ministers and staff, and will follow up with DFID its plans for support to the education sector, including discussion of non-traditional and flexible forms of education (eg 'emergency education').</li> <li>✓ • December 3<sup>rd</sup> Congo celebration The APPG is planning an event in parliament to encourage parliamentary engagement with the DRC on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The event will focus on the DRC but include other countries as a celebration of the 10 years of the APPG's existence.</li> <li>✓ • Raise issues related to vulnerable children The</li> </ul> | <p>An APPG delegation visited the east and Kinshasa in April 2008</p> <p>Eric Joyce MP held an adjournment debate on women in DRC on 31 March 2009 (see <a href="http://tinyurl.com/nmazkg">http://tinyurl.com/nmazkg</a>)</p> <p>The APPG held a reception to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 3 December which heard from Douglas Alexander, Secretary of State for International Development</p> |
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|            | <p>position of street children and efforts to demobilise child soldiers are of especial concern. The APPG will aim to mount at least one parliamentary event on the issue with its sister APPG on Street Children. We will continue to press HMG to integrate support for these groups into aid programmes, and to more broadly to integrate the promotion of the umbrella rights in the Convention of the Rights of the Child.</p>   | <p>See page 10</p>  |
| <p>✓</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby on specific human rights issues The Group plans a targeted push on human rights and political freedom in the DRC to coincide with the upcoming HRW report on the issue (due out in November). The APPG will raise specific human rights cases as it has done in the past (for example for the murders of Serge Maheshe and Pascal Kabungulu), and will lobby HMG for human rights and democratic accountability to be a key aspect of UK engagement. The Group will press for the UK to promote the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders.</li> </ul>  | <p>Regularly raised specific human rights issues with HMG as well as holding meetings with Congolese human rights groups, as well as on deportations and human rights defenders</p>                     |
| <p>✓</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen links with DRC parliamentarians The April 2008 APPG visit was a valuable opportunity for the APPG to expand links with DRC parliamentarians. However, significant work remains to be done to build on the re-established Congo-UK Friendship Group and make more effective use of parliamentary contacts. Any future visits to Kinshasa will include a component of parliamentary relationship-building, and efforts are underway to encourage a visit to the UK by DRC parliamentarians. The Group will continue to press DFID for adequate support to improve the capacity of the legislature; the participation of MPs and Peers has already been offered for DFID capacity-building programmes, and will work with the Inter-Parliamentary Union to coordinate their own efforts with any APPG visits.</li> </ul> | <p>We continue to cooperate with the UK-Congo Friendship Group which was re-launched during the APPG visit to Kinshasa. We also received DRC Senator Eve Baziaba for a visit to London in June 2009</p> |
| <p>N/A</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election monitoring Assuming funding can be found, the APPG aims to provide MPs and Peers to take part as observers in future elections in the DRC, including the local elections.</li> </ul>  | <p>With local elections still to come, there were no opportunities for monitoring. However the issue of prospects for a free election in 2011 was raised with ministers.</p>                            |

Rwanda

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓</li> <li>✗</li> <li>✗</li> <li>✓</li> <li>✓</li> <li>✓</li> </ul> | <p>Round table on reconciliation and other long-term issues The APPG is planning a meeting in October or November 2008 to discuss long-term issues in UK engagement with Rwanda, including reconciliation, aid (including the 10-year Memorandum of Understanding), and political tensions. The aim is to inform UK policy and demonstrate parliamentary interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjournment debate The APPG failed to secure a debate on Rwanda or Burundi in the 2007-2008 session, but will aim to do so in 2008-2009. Suggested topics include new measures to pursue those responsible for the genocide, the future of the Memorandum of Understanding and wider UK engagement in Rwanda, and regional issues.</li> <li>• Meet with Rwandan ministers and President The APPG will aim to meet with President Kagame and any relevant Rwandan ministers who come to the UK, to directly raise the key issues outlined above, including UK engagement, development, political space and regional stability. At least one visit by Kagame is expected in the session.</li> <li>• Lobbying on regional stability We will continue to lobby HMG and the Rwandan and DRC governments for more effective action to bring an end to the FDLR insurgency and the presence of other illegal armed groups in the DRC, address the root causes of ethnic tension, and improve overall regional stability.</li> <li>• Monitoring of the UK-Rwanda MoU The APPG has raised concerns over progress on issues of political freedom in Rwanda with both the UK and Rwandan governments, was in close contact with DFID during the drafting of the current Memorandum of Understanding on aid between the UK and Rwanda. The APPG will continue to monitor the implementation of the MoU and specifically provisions on political space and human rights.</li> <li>• Follow up to action on genocidaires in the UK and elsewhere The APPG has discussed the need for specific legislation to close the gap preventing the UK from prosecuting genocide suspects it is unable to extradite for any reason. If the outcome of further consultations planned for fall 2009 indicates it is</li> </ul> | <p>A closed door roundtable meeting took place on 13 November 2008 bring together various policy experts, HMG and parliamentarians. See page 8</p> <p>The APPG failed to secure a debate from the Speaker but will continue efforts in the upcoming parliamentary session</p> <p>A request will be made to the Rwandan embassy to facilitate a meeting on the occasion of Kagame's next visit.</p> <p>Wrote to ministers on several occasions and raised issues with officials on an on-going basis</p> <p>We maintain a constant dialogue with HMG on the MoU</p> <p>The APPG has successfully lobbied on amendment to domestic legislation</p> |
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|  | <p>needed, we will lobby for such legislation, possibly by seeking to introduce a private members bill. We will continue to raise specific cases of alleged genocidaires in the UK.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parliamentary performance on genocide and reconciliation The APPG will host the Mashirika performance group in the House of Commons on November 10, 2008, in an event designed to increase parliamentary interest and raise issues of reconciliation.</li> </ul> | <p>See page 9</p> |
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## Burundi

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed parliamentary visit<br/>An APPG mission to Burundi has been proposed by the UK Foreign Office, with the aim of building capacity in the Burundian parliament and encourage dialogue between the different parties; it would also provide an opportunity for more general contacts and raising specific issues of concern. The MPs would meet key political and civil society figures (including the president if possible) and take part in training seminars for the Burundian parliamentarians, with the additional idea that these could also provide an informal forum for contacts between the parties and promote efforts to reduce political conflict. Discussions with the FCO are still at an early stage, but if they go well a visit should take place in Winter 2008 or Spring 2009. The usual follow-up would be pursued, including a renewed effort at securing a parliamentary debate, and follow up meetings with UK ministers and parliamentarians.</li> </ul> | <p>An APPG delegation visited Burundi in March 2009. See Page 11</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parliamentary discussion meeting<br/>The APPG intends to hold an event in parliament in fall 2008 to discuss issues relating to Burundi and UK engagement with FCO and DFID, and to launch Nigel Watt's new book 'Burundi: Biography of a small African country'. The intention is that the meeting will include discussion of future UK political and material engagement with Burundi, including for the 2010 elections.</li> </ul>  | <p>The event, planned for December 2008, fell through due to competing demands from the publisher. Other events including a parliamentary briefing and a meeting with Burundian Foreign Minister were held.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging UK engagement<br/>In addition to activities around the mission, the APPG will continue to use the usual range of</li> </ul>  | <p>In July 2009 the APPG held a meeting in London with the Burundian Foreign</p>  |

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| <p>Parliamentary activities – in particular PQs, meetings with ministers, and events in parliament – to keep Burundi on the government agenda. The APPG will consult with its NGO partners and other sources on specific issues as they arise.</p> | <p>Minister aimed a encouraging UK and parliamentary engagement with Burundi</p> |
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## Uganda

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ • Ministerial meeting on the northern Uganda The APPG will meet with Mark Malloch-Brown in November 2008 to discuss the latest developments in the northern Uganda peace process and the UK response.</li> <li>✓ • Follow up to Uganda peace process The APPG will continue to press more generally for the UK to play an active role in reaching a resolution to the conflict, and to contribute fully to reconstruction efforts in the North, including by increasing the proportion of bilateral assistance directed to the northern districts.</li> <li>✓ • Parliamentary event on Uganda The APPG intends to have at least two parliamentary events on Uganda in the 2008-2009 session, with civil society and government participation. Format and content will be elaborated in consultation with the APPG members and civil society.</li> </ul> | <p>See page 10</p> <p>Issues raised in Ministerial meeting and in contacts with civil servants</p> |
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## Regional issues

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ • Improve the functioning of the UK National Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines The APPG will meet with BERR minister Gareth Thomas (or his replacement) to press for shortcomings in the reform of the OECD Guidelines Process to be addressed as a matter of urgency, as one part of efforts to improve corporate accountability for companies operating in the DRC and elsewhere. The APPG will take a close interest in the functioning of the UK NCP through its nominated member of the NCP Steering Board. It will press for the NCP to be an effective and fair instrument for corporate accountability, and to promote the Guidelines in Africa. If necessary, the APPG's Joint Working Group on Corporate Accountability will be reconvened to discuss areas where improvements could be made.</li> </ul> | <p>Although we have not held a meeting at ministerial level a roundtable on the Guidelines was held in July 2009 and the APPG's coordinator regularly engages with the NAP. The report of the Roundtable will be presented to ministers and at this stage a meeting will be requested to discuss its contents. See page 6</p> |
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| ✓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Widening the network The APPG will continue work to improve ties and coordination with relevant organisations, notably the Amani Forum (regional parliamentarians), EURAC (European civil society), and AWEPA (European parliamentarians). In addition, the APPG will endeavour to coordinate its own efforts for maximum effect with compatible activities by civil society, parliaments, and other bodies, and will seek to promote coordination among the various bodies working on the Great Lakes region in the UK.</li> </ul> |  |
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Institutional issues

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| ✓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the depth of Member engagement Having increased the membership of the APPG to more than 200 members – making us probably the largest APPG in Parliament – the major focus now will be on developing the involvement of individual parliamentarians and increasing the overall engagement of members in Great Lakes issues. The aim of the APPG will be to provide an effective tool for Members to pursue interests in Great Lakes issues.</li> </ul> | <p>The Group's membership has increased by around 10% over the past year, and some progress has been made on facilitating deeper engagement, though more remains to be done. See page 12</p> |
| ✗ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish 3-year funding agreements The APPG will discuss with its NGO partners measures to stabilise funding for the group. A number of partners have agreed to 3-year funding agreements, allowing longer-term planning and more efficient use of resources. Currently we are extremely cost-effective, running a full-time office with a permanent coordinator for around £35,000 a year.</li> </ul>  | <p>Only one MoU agreed</p>   |

## 7) Financial Summary for year ending 31 March 2009

| <u>Income</u>                            | <u>£GBP</u>      |        |
|--|------------------|--------|
| Core funding                             | 25,000.00        | Note 1 |
| Core funding in arrears                  | 6,500.00         | Note 2 |
| DRC trip                                 | 6,900.00         | Note 3 |
| Other income                             | 48.03            | Note 4 |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                      | <b>38,448.09</b> |        |
| <hr/>                                    |                  |        |
| <u>Expenditure</u>                       |                  |        |
| DRC trip                                 | 6,490.31         |        |
| Burundi trip                             | 196.29           |        |
| Egypt trip                               | 350.02           |        |
| Salaries                                 | 25,918.24        |        |
| Refreshments                             | 606.90           |        |
| Cash expenditure                         | 590.00           | Note 5 |
| Exhibitions                              | 1,318.19         |        |
| Office costs                             | 172.36           |        |
| Website                                  | 668.66           |        |
| Translation                              | 259.44           |        |
| Rwanda roundtable meeting                | 516.55           |        |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration | 900.00           |        |
| Miscellaneous                            | 584.13           | Note 6 |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>                 | <b>38,571.09</b> | Note 7 |
| <b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>                   | <b>(123.06)</b>  | Note 7 |

### Notes:

- 1) Core funding recurring annually from: CAFOD, Christian Aid, International Alert and Tearfund. An additional one off grant was given by the Woodward Foundation. All income has been declared to the Parliamentary Commission for Standards.
- 2) Core funding from 2006/07 paid in arrears from: CAFOD and the Rainforest Foundation. The Rainforest Foundation remains in arrears for 2007/08.
- 3) Funding for the DRC trip from: CAFOD, Christian Aid and International Alert.
- 4) Interest on bank account.
- 5) Majority of cash expenditure is intern costs.
- 6) Miscellaneous cost include: UK travel expenses, the framing of an official gift from the President of the Congolese National Assembly, and a joint launch event with DFID.
- 7) DFID are to repay to cost of the Coordinator's trip to the Trading for Peace conference in Cairo. This is outstanding.

Full accounts are available on request.