



# Labour Campaign for International Development

## Draft policy paper, January 2010

*“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”* — Martin Luther King Jr.

### Labour values supporting global justice

The Labour Campaign for International Development is a group of Labour supporters committed to ensuring that the Labour Party acts to support the interests of the world's poor.

We believe that a commitment to global justice is central to the mission of a progressive Labour Party, and that Labour's vision and record make it best placed to ensure that the UK remains a leader in international development.

We are proud of Labour's achievements, and are committed to ensuring that the Party maintains and strengthens its focus on global justice. We firmly believe that, in the best traditions of the Labour Party, a war on global poverty should be driven by principles of global solidarity, equality, decent work, empowerment and the realisation of human rights.

### Being Proud of Labour's Record

Ever since Labour's return to government in 1997, huge strides have been made in the UK's contribution to international development, to the point where UK aid programmes are now lifting 3 million people out of poverty every year. Some key actions have included:

- The creation of the independent Department for International Development
- A trebling of development aid, a commitment to increasing it to 0.7% of GNI by 2013, and the use of aid to reach the poor rather than to pursue narrow business interests.
- International leadership in forging a commitment from G8 countries to increase aid by \$50bn per year, and to cancel the debts of the world's poorest countries.

### How Labour's aid commitments should be strengthened in 2010

The gains of the last 13 years must not be squandered. In times of financial difficulty and climate stress, the world's poor suffer more than ever from crises not of their making. Labour must continue to stand by them, strengthening its commitment in 2010 by:

- **Making the 0.7% target legally binding** – the International Development Bill should be passed before the General Election, and the manifesto should include a commitment to ensure climate change adaptation funding is strictly additional to existing aid promises.
- **Enhancing the effectiveness of aid** – ensure funding is targeted at realising the rights of communities most in need, supports the development of effective states and active civil societies, and is not diverted towards serving commercial or foreign policy interests.
- **Introducing a Financial Transaction Tax**, with half of the proceeds used as an innovative and additional source of finance for development and climate change, again including a commitment in the General Election Manifesto

After the General Election, a 4th-term Labour Government should also show international leadership to agree ambitious measures to meet the Millennium Development Goals, including at the UN MDG Review Summit in September 2010. There should be an added focus on excluded communities, to the MDG targets that have been most neglected to date, and a commitment to incorporate human rights principles into a post-2015 development framework.



## Fighting poverty across government and beyond aid

Labour must keep and strengthen its promises on aid, but it must also ensure that the interests of the world's poor are prioritised across all government activities. Eliminating poverty is not just about aid. It is about ensuring that human rights and the fight against poverty are central to areas such as defence, trade, energy, financial and foreign policy. In particular, we call on the Labour Party to strengthen its commitment to the following areas:

- **Reshaping and democratising the global economy:**

The global financial and economic system has failed to provide a just, equitable or secure environment for low-income countries to control their own development. International Financial Institutions – as well as bodies like the G8 and G20 - should be reformed to allow a much stronger and equitable voice for developing countries. Trade deals should allow developing countries to control their own economic policies, while removing harmful subsidies imposed by rich countries.

- **Ensuring decent work for all:**

Reflecting Labour's belief in worker's rights and the role of full employment in social progress, the Party should fully support the decent work agenda by supporting the Global Jobs Pact negotiated by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in July 2009. Labour should also encourage all developing countries to have Decent Work Programmes and implement the core labour conventions of the ILO.

- **Preventing conflict:**

Violence and conflict are disastrous to development and human rights. Labour should ensure that it adheres to international human rights and humanitarian agreements like 'The Responsibility to Protect', support the International Criminal Court and lead in efforts to negotiate a successful Arms Trade Treaty.

- **Promoting human rights:**

The realisation of human rights - including social and economic rights like those to decent work, health, education, and water and sanitation – must be at the heart of government policy. Aid programmes should prioritise the most marginalised communities, while the UK must oppose political repression and discrimination of any type.

- **Supporting public services:**

Building quality and affordable public services is key to supporting universal access to healthcare, education, water and sanitation. Labour should help build the capacity of states and communities to develop public services, including by supporting the training and retention of personnel, and the removal of harmful user fees. Enforced liberalisation by the International Financial Institutions should be opposed.

- **Supporting cooperatives:**

Cooperatives are an essential means of helping producers access services, markets and obtain fair prices. Labour should work with the International Co-operative Movement to set up a co-operative agency for international development, to provide support and build capacity for co-operatives across the globe.

- **Prioritising gender equality:**

Investing in gender equality and preventing discrimination against women and girls is key to realising human rights and reducing poverty. Labour should support the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and ensure women are involved in the formulation of national development plans and poverty reduction strategies.

- **Tackling climate change:**

The impacts of climate change, while caused by economic activity in rich countries, are most keenly felt in the world's poorest communities. Labour must work for a just global climate deal to keep temperature rises at 2C, reduce its own CO2 emissions by 40% by 2020 and 80% by 2050, provide its fair share of the \$150 billion of adaptation funding needed by 2020, and ensure this is additional to the aid budget.