



September 6, 2005

The Honorable Steen Gade
Parliament of Denmark
Ved Amagerport 5, 2. tv., 2300 Copenhagen
DENMARK

Dear Colleague,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the Sixth Annual Conference of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB), which will be held in Helsinki (Finland) on October 21-23, 2005. The subject of this year's conference is: *Beyond the 2005 Year of Development: What Now?*

This year's edition will bring together some 200 parliamentarians from around the world with World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz and other development leaders. Since our Network's last yearly gathering in February 2004, not only the World Bank but also the IMF, UNDP and the WTO have replaced their top leadership. We have invited the heads of all four organizations to Helsinki (President Wolfowitz has already confirmed his participation).

Our conference will take place at a crucial time. This year has presented an unprecedented opportunity to tackle issues related to international development. In Helsinki, we will review the outcomes of July's G8 "development summit" in Gleneagles, Scotland and September's United Nations summit in New York on the Millennium Development Goals as well as preview December's important WTO ministerial meeting in Hong Kong on the Doha Development Agenda. Our conference will identify what we parliamentarians now can do to promote action on aid effectiveness, international trade, climate change and other pressing issues.

We will also report on the Network's activities: the Parliamentarians' Implementation Watch on the Millennium Development Goals, the committees on trade for development and HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria, the field visit program evaluating Poverty Reduction Strategies. We will assess our regional chapters. We ask you to prepare for the meeting and bring innovative ideas and initiatives.

Hosted by the Parliament of Finland, the conference is organized by the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank, in collaboration with the World Bank, the Parliament and Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I hope that you will be able to join us in Helsinki and look forward to a fruitful dialogue.

Sincerely yours,

Bert Koenders
MP, The Netherlands
Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank