



INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND
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February 24, 2006

Ms. Christine McCafferty, MP
Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development, and Reproductive Health
Mr. Richard Ottaway, MP
Chair, Hearing Steering Committee
House of Commons, Westminster
London, SW1A 2LW
United Kingdom

Dear Ms. McCafferty and Mr. Ottaway:

Thank you on behalf of the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Mr. Rodrigo de Rato, for your letter of January 13 inviting the IMF to provide information on a parliamentary inquiry "Population Growth—Impact on the Millennium Development Goals."

The topic of your inquiry is timely and an area of growing global importance. As you are aware, the IMF is an international organization with the mandate to promote global financial and economic stability and monetary cooperation. We also assist our member countries in their efforts to reach the MDGs within the area of our expertise (please see attached factsheet). While the IMF does not provide direct advice on issues related to population growth, we recognize that different fiscal—particularly expenditure policy—measures may well influence population growth, and therefore, the attainment of the MDGs. For example, improved access to health care services, would, in the first instance, help to reduce maternal and child mortality rates and increase population growth, or spending on HIV/AIDS treatment and programs influences both the rate of population growth as well as the productivity of those gainfully employed.

IMF staff has compiled the attached summary sheet of public expenditure policies and population growth, reference material on the IMF and the MDGs, the fiscal dimensions of sustainable development, and papers on the impact of public expenditure on education, health, human capital, and growth.

We hope you will find the information useful for your inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas C. Dawson".

Thomas C. Dawson
Director
External Relations Department

Attachments