ANGLICAN CHURCH OF BURUNDI

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Response from the Anglican Church of Burundi to the report from the International Development Select Committee.

The Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi welcomes and is encouraged by the report of the International Development Select Committee that recommends that the UK government should reconsider its decision to end its bi-lateral aid to Burundi.

The Archbishop, the Most Rev. Bernard Ntahoturi, who gave evidence to the select committee in July said, "A continuation of DFID's work in Burundi will hopefully attract private entrepreneurs and investors who will initiate new opportunities that will contribute to the political stability and prosperity of both the country and the Great Lakes' Region. Since our priority in the areas of development is the reduction of poverty we would like to invite DFID to explore with us; civil society in general and the Anglican Church of Burundi in particular; the possibility of making the extensive non-government provision of basic services work more effectively for those we all endeavour to serve, especially in the areas of health, education, food security, environment protection, water and sanitation".

The Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi is grateful to all those who made submissions to the committee and to the Anglican Alliance with whom it jointly made its own submission.

Commenting on the report Sally Keeble, Anglican Alliance director, urged the Government to accept the findings of the report. "The Anglican Church in Burundi acted as a powerful advocate for the people, and the Select Committee has taken on board the Church's proposals. This report makes the clear case to reinstate the programme in the interests of the people of Burundi and their security. I hope that the Government will listen to the compassionate voice of the Select Committee, and reinstate the programme. "

The Committee recommended:

- The UK Department for International Development should reconsider its decision to end its bilateral aid programme in Burundi.
- There should be more investment in development progress in Burundi especially agriculture, to increase trade.
- The regional dimension to the conflicts in the Great Lakes should be fully recognised, including the fragile security in Burundi and more investment was needed to improve the situation in the country.
- If the UK Government ended the bilateral programme it should ensure there was a clear exit strategy.
- The UK Government should continue to be an active advocate for Burundi in international forums. (ACNS 4967)

In light of the recommendations of the report the Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi urges the UK government to respond positively in Burundi's favour.