

Andris Piebalgs  
Commissioner for Development

Brussels, 9 February 2010  
Ref: B935

Dear Mr Piebalgs,

**Subject: Human Rights must be at the core of relief efforts in Haiti and of the fight against poverty through MDGs**

Ahead of the informal meeting of Development Ministers of the EU on 17 and 18 February, Amnesty International calls for two important issues to be discussed:

- the protection of human rights for effective relief and sustainable recovery in Haiti
- the centrality of human rights for development and the practical application of human rights into all MDG efforts in light of the upcoming UN General Assembly's High-level Plenary Meeting on MDGs from 20 to 22 September 2010

**HAITI**

The following measures should be prioritized in the allocation of humanitarian aid and reconstruction of Haiti:

- Ensure the protection of children from abuse, exploitation and irregular adoption processes.
- Maintain security and law enforcement.
- The transfer of internally displaced persons must be voluntary, unless the safety and health of those affected requires evacuation.
- All actors involved in the relief and later efforts of reconstruction should integrate the prevention of and response to all forms of gender-based violence, in particular sexual violence, in their programmes.
- Staff of European forces, both civil and military, should be governed by strict standards of conduct.
- Take all necessary steps towards cancelling Haiti's debt given that insistence on repayment would hinder Haiti's ability to meet its human rights obligations.

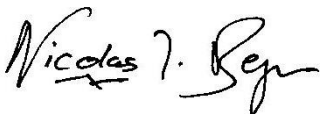
**MDGs**

We urge the EU Member States to initiate and express support for the General Assembly, in the Outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting, to:

- Adopt a common position reaffirming the agreed language in the 2005 World Summit Outcome and stating that *'gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are essential to advance achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.'*
- Pledge to take specific actions to ensure consistency with human rights, including references to the need to ensure non-discrimination, gender equality, participation and accountability.

We are at your disposal for discussing these issues further and would be grateful for feedback on how these matters are being taken forward.

Yours sincerely,



Nicolas Beger  
Director  
Amnesty International EU Office



Esteban Beltrán  
Director  
Amnesty International Spain

Cc: Miguel Angel Moratinos, Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs