Submission No 33

Review of Australia's Relationship with the Countries of Africa

Name: Mr Gordon Noble
Director

Organisation: Responsible Investment Consulting Pty Ltd

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

From: Gordon Noble [mailto:gordon@responsibleinvestment.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 8 January 2010 1:45 PM
To: Committee, JSCFADT (REPS)
Subject: Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with the Countries of Africa

Secretary of Committee
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

I refer to the Committee's inquiry into Australia's Relationship with the Countries of Africa.

Due to time constraints we have not been able to make a written submission to the committee. We would however be able to make a verbal submission.

Our particular area of interest is the role of the private sector in post conflict and post disaster zones.

We believe that responsible investment into Africa can play an important role in transitioning the continent to a stable financial basis, alleviating poverty and providing resilience to future disasters and conflicts.

Our argument is that a collaborative approach that brings together civil governments, NGOs, military and the private sector is required to create the conditions upon which sustainable, long term investment can be based.

Given the predominance of Australian investment into Africa that is focused around mining and engineering investments we believe that the Australian Government has the potential to play an internationally important leadership role in establishing the conditions for future sustainable investment.

We would be happy to elaborate on our views in a verbal submission to the Committee.

Our Background

Andrew MacLeod

Andrew McLeod has held a variety of positions within large and small business environments in the private and public sector. After holding positions with the Australian Army and Dunhill Madden Butler in Melbourne, he accepted a role in the International Committee at the Red Cross working in countries such as former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. In October 2005 the United Nations sent him to Pakistan to co-ordinate the massive earthquake relief in Kashmir. Between October 2005 and May 2008, he was based in Pakistan and, from May last year to May this year, in The Philippines, dealing with typhoon relief and recovery. Andrew MacLeod has recently been appointed as the CEO of the Committee of Melbourne (See http://melbourne.org.au/)

Gordon Noble

Gordon Noble has worked in a variety of positions in the finance sector including roles with a major bank, industry super fund and trade unions in Australia and the UK. In 2007 Gordon worked for the international secretariat of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (www.unpri.org) . Gordon is the founder of boutique consulting firm Responsible Investment Consulting Pty Ltd, whose clients have included the Responsible Investment Association Australasia, Australian Council of Superannuation Investors, Zurich Financial Services Australia and ACT Treasury. Responsible Investment Consulting Pty Ltd specialises in providing advice on the impact of environmental, social and governance issues on investment performance. Gordon is also a contributing editor with Investment & Pensions Asia. For more information go to www.responsibleinvestment.com.au

If the Committee has an interest in Gordon Noble and Andrew MacLeod providing a joint verbal submission at a public hearing (preferably in Melbourne) please contact Gordon Noble on 0411 109 998.

Regards,

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