

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

--WESTMINSTER--

Twinned with UNA Connecticut For World Peace, Disarmament, Development and Human Rights



PUBLIC MEETING

Globalisation and the fight against poverty

HE Dr Ismail Serageldin

former Vice-President, The World Bank

House of Commons, Committee Room 10

Thursday, 29 November, 6.30 pm

arrive early to clear security

(in the name of Oone King MP, Chair, UN Parliamentary group)

This meeting offers us the first opportunity to review the outcome of the World Trade Organisation's extended meeting in Doha and the delayed and relocated meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. These organisations have sought to work more closely together but critics claim that their joint attraction to the perceived benefits of globalisation do not adequately address the world's continuing asymmetry in wealth and in access to good healthcare, education and governance. Southern nations, the G24, insist that the Bretton Woods institutions should themselves manifest the same degree of transparency demanded of them in return for development aid, tariff reductions and enhanced access to markets. So, have those cathartic moments of September 11 changed their collective thinking? If the momentum of the war against terrorism can transform it into a renewed war against poverty, are the World Bank, the IMF and the WTO sufficiently aware of what is needed of them?

Recently returned to Egypt, his home country, few are better placed than Ismail Serageldin to lead discussion on how we should map the route towards a better, fairer world. As a Vice-President of the World Bank from 1992 to 2000, he led initiatives in agricultural research, the World Commission for Water in the 21st Century and programmes to 'Assist the Poorest'. He was seen as an innovator, introducing more of the "non-economic" facets of development into the mainstream paradigm including social issues, gender, environment, culture and governance. He has been an ardent advocate of the poor and the marginalised. In June 2001, Aarhus University, Denmark, voted him "the best lecturer in the world".

See www.serageldin.com.

For more information, contact David Wardrop, Chairman, Westminster UNA

61 Sedlescombe Road, London SW6 1RE Tel 0207 385 6738

e-mail davidwardrop@lineone.net