

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Can Africa halve its poverty by 2015?

Ms Clare Short
UK Secretary of State for International Development

Ms Clare Short, Britain's Cabinet Minister responsible for international development, will shortly be visiting Southern Africa. SARPAN is privileged to host Ms Short for a public debate during her stay in the region.

The visit comes not long after the conclusion of the Monterrey Conference on Finance for Development, a key event on Nepad's unfolding policy agenda for Africa's sustainable growth and development and participation in the world economy.

Ms Short will speak on the potential of the New Partnership for Africa's Development to promote the reforms necessary to halve poverty and to reach the Millennium Development Goals. She will focus particularly on governance, conflict, trade and investment, the future of development assistance and HIV/AIDS.

Ms Short will take a series of questions following her presentation.

Details:

Date: Thursday 4 April

Time: 2.30pm – 4.15pm, followed by cocktails

Venue: Gallagher Grill at Gallagher Estate, Midrand.

Parking: available at the venue

RSVP: before 3 April to sarpan@hsrc.ac.za or phone (012) 302 2334

About the speaker....

Clare Short is Secretary of State for International Development. A new ministry, created after the 1997 General Election, the Department for International Development promotes

policies for sustainable development and the elimination of poverty and manages Britain's programme of assistance to developing countries.

Of Irish ancestry, Ms Short was born in Birmingham on 15 February 1946 and was educated at St Paul's Grammar School there and at the Universities of Keele and Leeds. She graduated as Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Political Science.

A former Civil Servant at the Home Office, she entered the House of Commons in 1983 as the Member of Parliament (MP) for the Midlands constituency of Birmingham Ladywood, which she has held since then, and which is the area where she grew up.

From 1996 until the 1997 General Election she was Opposition spokesperson on overseas development. She was Shadow Minister for women from 1993 to 1995 and Shadow Secretary of State for Transport from 1995 to 1996. She has been Opposition spokesperson on environment protection, social security and employment. A member of the Home Affairs Select Committee from 1983 until 1985, she was Chair of the All-Party Group on Race Relations from 1985 to 1986, Member of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Labour Party since 1988, Chair of the NEC Women's Committee from 1993 to 1996 and Chair of the NEC International Committee since 1996. She is also Chair of the Human Rights Committee of the Socialist International since 1996.

Clare Short's main political interests are overseas development, employment equality. Widowed with one son, she lists swimming and her family as her main leisure pursuits.