



## PRESS RELEASE

### Public lecture on governance challenges in Africa and the role of the African Union

*First event in the monthly series of Maastricht Debates*

December 8, 2006

On December 19, 6.00 pm Ambassador John Shinkaiye will give a public lecture on governance challenges in Africa and the role of the African Union. Shinkaiye is Chief of Staff of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. The discussant is João Gomes Cravinho, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Portugal. This public event is organised by the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. It will take place on **December 19 at 6.00 pm in La Bonbonnière, Achter de Comedie 1**, Maastricht.

#### Maastricht Debates

Starting on December 19, each month a public debate will take place on issues of international cooperation and globalisation. The *Maastricht Debates* is a new platform for debate and networking for and by Maastricht organisations and actors. Each debate is organised by issue experts from within the Maastricht network together with internationally oriented study associations. The 2006-2007 series focuses on 'governance' as the overarching theme. See at [www.maastrichtdebates.net](http://www.maastrichtdebates.net).

#### January debate on education

The January debate will be on the need to invest more in developing world's youth population. With Manny Jimenez, lead author of the World Development Report 2007, and Director of Human Development in the World Bank's East Asia and the Pacific Department. The debate will take place on January 23 at 8 PM in the Auditorium of the Maastricht University, Minderbroedersberg.

#### Network organisation

The *Maastricht Debates* is a collaborate initiative of the University Maastricht ([www.unimaas.nl](http://www.unimaas.nl)), the Netherlands Chapter of the Society for International Development (SID, [www.sid-nl.org](http://www.sid-nl.org)), Europe-open ([www.europe-open.info](http://www.europe-open.info)) and the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM, [www.ecdpm.org](http://www.ecdpm.org)). It receives financial support by the National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO, [www.ncdo.nl](http://www.ncdo.nl)) and operates in collaboration with the Municipality of Maastricht ([www.maastricht.nl](http://www.maastricht.nl)) and Concordantia, the study association of the European Studies program of the University Maastricht ([www.concordantia.com](http://www.concordantia.com)).

It is the intention to link-up with representatives of other Maastricht-based and regional organisations to ensure broad support and commitment, for instance as advisor, co-organiser or host of one of the events. This is in line with the ambition to become an important multi-actor platform for debate.

The *Maastricht Debates* is explicitly seen as one activity within a larger programme of the Society of International Development (SID). SID aims to stimulate the public and political debate on international cooperation in the Netherlands and beyond, among others with its lecture series in Amsterdam and Utrecht.

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For **more information** on the **Maastricht Debates**, see [www.maastrichtdebates.net](http://www.maastrichtdebates.net) or contact Huub Mudde, project coordinator at [huub@europe-open.info](mailto:huub@europe-open.info) or T. +31-(0)621275064.

For **more information** on the **ECDPM** and the **lecture** by Ambassador John Shinkaiye, see [www.ecdpm.org](http://www.ecdpm.org)