**Society of Biology to the Science and Technology Select Committee inquiry on Science and International Development**

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1. The Society of Biology welcomes the Committee’s inquiry into this topic which is an important part of international collaboration in science.

2. The Society of Biology is a single unified voice for biology: advising Government and influencing policy; advancing education and professional development; supporting our members, and engaging and encouraging public interest in the life sciences.

3. We welcome and support the submission of the Institute of Physics to this inquiry which helpfully notes the contribution which learned societies can and do make in this arena.

4. Many of the varied schemes supported by learned societies, institutions and individual funders, focus on closely defined approaches and settings and necessarily operate on a small scale. The small number of scientists engaged with these programmes is a significant impediment to critical review and assessment for sponsoring organisations. Given the overarching remit of the Department for International Development (DfID) it could be helpful if it could act as a repository of knowledge about these schemes as a whole, and maintain oversight of success indicators so as to allow the spread of good practice.

5. In order to address and solve global challenges a network of well-functioning international collaborations is essential. Expanded capacity for UK scientists to link with and work alongside overseas local experts would be a significant advantage in this regard. As well as supportive involvement with capacity building, and targeted help for locally-needed facilities, options to form relationships with relevant UK institutions could be valuable.