



**Civil G8 2009
4 – 5 May
Campidoglio - Rome**

CSO REPRESENTATIVES' STATEMENT

as at May 5th – 15h00

WORLD ECONOMY, DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND LABOUR

Debt and conditionalities

We recognise the important role that G8 played in debt cancellation in 2005.

This has helped some countries, but there are still many countries that could benefit from debt cancellation.

G20 outcome includes significant new financial resources for poor countries, but appears much of this will be in form of loans through IFIs.

Unless IFIs are reformed and unless harmful conditionality policies are changed towards counter-cyclical mechanisms how can we ensure that these resources will benefit the poor?

G8 must give a response to the jobs crisis

G8 must take action to protect and create jobs

G8/G14 Labour Ministers recognised the social and economic risk of 50 million more unemployed – it is necessary to protect jobs to fix financial system, not just other way round

3 questions:

***Will the summit implement G8 labour conclusions by committing to:
more resources for active labour market policies;
encourage social dialogue to find alternatives to lay-offs;
decent work to fight poverty?***

Whole-of-country approach and accountability

We appreciate your effort to assess the combined contribution to the development of a country as the result of a comprehensive accountability exercise. However this exercise should not replace ODA and the 0.7% commitment made at Gleneagles, which must be reaffirmed beyond any additional innovative financing. It should also look at:

1. The whole policy framework including trade, agriculture policies, conditionalities,... to ensure overall coherence and aid effectiveness
2. Outflows as well as inflows (debt repayment, tax evasion, capital flight, transparency). The G8 should support the international agreement to establish a new cooperative tax environment by the end of 2009.
3. Social impact on development beyond the economic factors and quantitative analysis. The development we wish to see is compatible with the respect of human rights and the need for inclusiveness.

How can we ensure true accountability and transparency without a thorough analysis of policy coherence, overall flows and a qualitative analysis?

COMMON GOODS

The common goods are basic human rights: clean water and sanitation, health and healthcare and education. They are interdependent: lack of clean water causes 30% of child deaths, poor health keeps children and teachers out of schools, education of mothers brings a 50% decrease in under-5 mortality and education reduces poverty and child labour and improves peace and security. These services need to be delivered by publicly-controlled and accountable government systems. They should be guaranteed available to all including those in poor and rural communities and delivered to ensure gender equity. The G8's commitments in these areas are especially important as the economic crisis will increase poverty in developing countries and increase reliance on the public systems.

Water and sanitation

- Ensuring access to drinking water and sanitation and the sustainable management of water resources are more urgent than ever as climatic, demographic and economic change threaten our water security.
- The G8 must take advantage of the mandate given at last year's G8 to overcome the historic neglect of the sector and prioritise it alongside health and education.
- A new partnership between North and South is now needed, with Southern governments developing national plans for water and sanitation to meet the MDG targets and donor governments agreeing support for the development and implementation of those plans
- To achieve this, the G8 should not create something entirely new but take advantage of a process already underway to create a *Global Framework for Action* on water and sanitation – a process that is supported by African Governments, the key UN agencies, civil society organisations and a number of important donor governments
- We appeal to the G8 to add its collective weight and strengthen and shape this process in partnership with others, to ensure sanitation and water for all and address water security. The G8 should endorse the first High Level Meeting being held by UNICEF in April 2010.

Health

- In order to meet MDGs 4, 5 and 6 by 2015 and the G8 HIV Universal Access commitment by 2010, we ask that the G8 set out how the \$60 billion by 2011 for major infectious diseases and health system strengthening and the \$1.5 billion for maternal and child health care and voluntary family planning will be delivered. This needs annual commitments by country.
- The G8 should commit to support full funding for the Global Fund especially this year's Round 9 which needs emergency commitments from the G8.
- The G8 must acknowledge the \$10.2 billion annual shortfall for maternal, newborn and child health, including sexual and reproductive health and to reverse the lack of progress on maternal mortality, and set out plans to ensure it is fully funded.

- ODA for health and additional funds raised through innovative mechanisms, in accordance with the Paris Declaration, must be delivered by funding national health plans which are needs-based, comprehensive, budgeted and fully involve civil society. These plans need to ensure quality, public primary health care for all, free at the point of delivery with special regard to women of reproductive age and children.
- The G8 must protect human resources for health by signing a binding international code of conduct on ethical recruitment of health workers and by supporting the development of self-sustainable health workforces in G8 countries themselves. In addition, investments should target recruitment, training and retention of health workers to achieve the targets of 4.1 health care workers including community health workers /1000 population (building on the 2.3/1000 target).
- Finally, the G8 must ensure policy coherence: the G8 countries must instruct the IMF to cease obstructing public spending on healthcare and the G8 must ensure that the agreement on intellectual property rights protects access to affordable medicines.

Education

G8 countries have the responsibility to ensure that education is free, public, high quality and available to all for at least 9 years. In a world where over 70 million children do not have access to primary education, and where 250 million either drop out or have poor quality education, the G8 should:

- take concrete action to achieve the gender equity target in primary education (missed in 2005);
- take concrete action to reach hard-to-reach children, including increasing the education element of humanitarian aid and to Conflict-Affected Fragile States;
- reaffirm the pledge that “no country seriously committed to the achievement of Education for All agenda should be thwarted in this ambition for lack of resources”;
- commit to fully finance the \$1 billion gap for the EFA Fast-Track Initiative, highlighted in the 2008 G8 Communiqué;
- meet their “fair share” of the \$9 billion annual external financing requirement for primary education for all by 2015. Aid must be predictable and finance recurrent costs, in order that 18 million teachers can be trained, hired and paid decent wages.

Beyond primary education, the G8 has also the responsibility to support the full Education for All goals, including adult literacy, early childhood care and education, lifelong learning, gender equity and expansion of lower secondary education. To this end, the G8 should:

- contribute funding to achieve the minimum of \$15-16 billion per annum in aid to ensure EFA;
- deliver for the G8 Summit, a robust, frank, detailed progress review on support to FTI that includes a review of funds mobilised through in-country resource mobilisation and from the FTI Catalytic Fund;
- on the basis of this report and on the preliminary findings of the External Evaluation of FTI, the G8 should mandate reforms to the international financing architecture for

education, to ensure that it is fit for purpose of timely mobilisation of adequate resources for the achievement of EFA.

Questions for the G8 Sherpas

- ***Given that African governments, UN agencies, the World Bank and civil society from south and north are united in calling for a Global Framework for Water and Sanitation to coordinate and drive the sector, how will the G8 process strengthen and shape this initiative?***
- ***On the \$60 billion commitment made in 2007 on infectious diseases and health system strengthening, what will be each G8 country's contribution, when and how will this be delivered? This needs to be set out in the 2009 Communiqué.***
- ***After having repeatedly acknowledged, for instance in the Final Hokkaido Communiqué last year, how will the G8 fill the EFA-FTI \$1 billion gap in 2009?***

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND AGRICULTURE

Policy Statement

The world is undergoing crucial moments ecologically, economically and socially. One billion people suffer from hunger and nutrition deficiency on a daily basis.

Investments in agriculture development are far inferior to millions of dollars consecrated to importing food and making purchases of residual stocks from other continents.

Structural adjustment policies, Bretton Woods financial institutions and multinationals corporations have not improved nor addressed the situation. The present system of liberalisation and globalisation accentuates poverty and creates food dependency.

We promote food sovereignty as the right to defend local and regional markets and local production, and to invest on the role of agriculture for social and economic development in developing countries.

Bio-fuels have unintended negative consequences for food security. The competition for food uses and land for bio-fuels production is identified as one of the major cause for the recent food crises.

We have concerns regarding G8 countries policy aiming at trade liberalization in agriculture between regions having different negotiating power.

A small-scale agro-ecological farming model should be promoted because it is sustainable, inclusive and guarantees the protection of biodiversity and food security.

The G8 must respond to the on-going food crisis with decisive and effective policies that include the full participation of farmers organizations and CSOs.

Questions:

1) In the agricultural ministerial declaration we were glad to see a mention on several market regulation ideas but it mention also that “we need to sustain the benefits of globalization and open markets”. Do you think that this contradiction is not highly problematic when you discuss about concrete policies as food stocks aimed at reducing price volatility?

2) A major issue in term of food production is the access to natural resources including land. Multinational companies and wealthy government continuously grab land in developing countries to grow cash-crops, food and biofuels for export. How will the G8 countries act to address this issue?

3) The Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security (GPAFS) must be conceived as a UN-based network between International Organizations, scientists, donors, states, producers organizations, CSOs, private sector. In order to deliver concrete results and fight effectively the food crisis the GPAFS should include a political, a scientific and a financial pillar. What about the financial pillar? How will it be set up in order to monitor commitments and scale up ODA to support smallholders farmers and guaranteeing access to food with a special attention to child nutrition?

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Global governance requires:

- The good governance principle of transparency, accountability, participation and inclusiveness, and clarity of responsibilities;
- The leading principles of UN and international community such as human rights, inclusive and sustainable development;

These principles must be reflected and coherently applied across the global governance institutions and decision making bodies and processes.

G8 Accountability

G8 countries have made significant commitments to global issues including global fund and debt relief. However the G8 is losing credibility because the majority of its decisions are not implemented (Gleneagles commitments). Some G8 members such as Italy German and Japan have not ratified the UN Convention Against Corruption.

Can the G8, by the next summit, implements a robust system to monitor its pledges with a penalty for non performance including suspension from the G8 group?

UN Pillars

The G8 must actively promote UN processes on social and economic justice and sustainable development worldwide.

Can the G8 commits to participate in the discussion on the new global financial and economic architecture within the UN General Assembly?

We ask G8 representation in the UN conference on the economic and financial crises in June 2009 to be at the highest level (meaning heads of state should be present)

Further we suggest that the fourth sherpas meeting could be held in June, at that UN conference.

IFI institution

The recent commitments of the G20 will not produce the expected results if the International financial institutions such as World Bank, and IMF are not significantly reformed:

Can the G8 commit to enact immediately the appropriate reform of the IFI including

- ***A balanced distribution of power***
- ***Southern countries participation in the decision making mechanism***
- ***Transparent and competitive selection of the leaders***
- ***The end of double standards which means creating policy space for developing countries to determine their own development programs?***

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIROMENT

The fundamental crisis underlying key themes such as water access, agricultural production and climate change is the relationship between humans and the natural environment. Health and security of human beings are inextricably linked to the health of natural ecosystems and it is therefore critical to protect these systems.

We call on G8 countries to show leadership and support a global deal in Copenhagen which is equitable and consistent with the most recent science. A prerequisite for an effective and equitable global deal is commitment to deep emission reductions by G8 and Annex 1 Countries, meaning a mid-term target for Annex 1 countries of at least 40% reduction by 2020 in comparison to 1990 emission level and a long-term global target of at least 80% reduction by 2050.

New and additional funding must be provided by the G8 countries for mitigation (including REDD) and adaptation. Annually, there will be a need of at least \$150 billion for mitigation and adaptation in Developing Countries. This funding must be routed through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and must be managed under the guidance and authority of the Conference of the Parties.

Public and private international finance supported by G8 countries (multilateral development banks, export credit agencies, transnational corporations) should support the transition from fossil fuel use to low carbon alternatives and not be used to finance continuing dependence on fossil fuels. Programs of action on technologies and strategic technology cooperation efforts should support the 'technology action program' approach of new Copenhagen treaty.

Adaptation and mitigation need large scale cultural change, and education and capacity building are important components that should also be supported.

The G8 itself needs a coherent and climate friendly energy policy which avoids unsustainable solutions such as nuclear power and puts in place the necessary standards and safeguards to avoid negative impacts of their policies, for example biofuels. The transition to low-carbon and climate resilient development pathway must replace and add to the jobs that may be lost.

Climate Change adaptation measures must include strong focus on maintaining integrity of natural systems and preventing their degradation and destruction.

Questions:

- 1. We are happy that now nobody denies human induced Climate Change is happening and we need action. Now we need YOU to take action and take leadership not only in words but also in deeds. Is the G8 ready to commit to a target of at least 40% reduction by 2020 in comparison to 1990 emission level as proposed by AOSIS? Do you agree with a long-term global target of at least 80% reduction by 2050?**
- 2. What level of new and additional funding is the G8 willing to commit for mitigation (including REDD) and adaptation annually (the suggestion is at least \$100 billion for mitigation for Developing Countries and at least \$50 billions, primarily for adaptation in LCD and vulnerable countries)? Will the G8 promote this funding to be routed through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to be managed under the guidance and authority of the Conference of the Parties? Is the G8 willing to transform existing public and private financial flows to ensure that they are truly climate coherent and stop supporting the continued use of fossil fuels?**
- 3. What steps are the G8 countries going to take in order to fulfill their commitments under the biodiversity convention? What are the measures that the G8 proposes to take to reverse the loss of biodiversity?**

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

1. Accountability:

One of the biggest weaknesses in the G8 commitments is that they lack appropriate mechanism for holding the governments accountable for them. They are to a large extent self-accounting even though CSOs continue to do independent monitoring. However there are no sanctions for none implementation. The reason this is so is because they are essentially political commitments made at the executive level without any overseeing authority either at the global level or at the National level. The only way to guarantee enforcement is if other democratic institutions and citizens in CSOs and wider social movement at the National level can have effective input into the processes since it is citizens' taxes and other National resources that are being pledged or utilised.

2. Not punishing the victims:

The global Financial crisis like all other development challenges have different different impact on different social groups, countries and regions. In seeking global solutions it is important to take note of the fact that Women, Youth, Children, the poorest and weakest feel the impact more than everybody else therefore rescue packages must include effective initiatives based addressing the special needs of these groups. Also Special attention must be placed on Societies in armed conflict or just emerging from conflict where one cap may not fit all.

3. The crisis is not just a financial one but has deep implications for the way we live, consumption patterns that are not sustainable and endangering our universe. So we cannot afford to just tinker with the system the G8 leadership must commit themselves to seeking fundamentally different solutions in a multilateral frame work for all humaNITY. It cannot be Business AS USUAL.

For instance UN-Habitat estimates that this existing over 1 billion people homeless across the world is likely to raise by over 70% to 1.7 billion by 2020. Therefore are needed to support the difference viable models for public and rural polices, to afford the right to housing and to support sustainable alternatives.

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