



**Proposals from French NGOs
G8 in Muskoka and G20 in Toronto
June 25-27, 2010**



In 2010, the world is once again facing financial torment following the crisis in 2008, making necessary austerity measures for which populations will have to keep paying. An additional sixty-five million people have already been pushed into poverty following the crisis in 2009. Two thirds of the way to the deadline, the midterm review of the MDGs planned by the United Nations General Assembly will show that we have fallen alarmingly behind: seventy-two million children do not have access to any form of education; nine million children under the age of five died in 2007; more than 350,000 women die from complications due to pregnancy or delivery every year; one billion people worldwide suffered from hunger in 2010; and inequalities in rights persist between men and women. In response to these challenges, it is up to the political determination of France and the other G8 and G20 countries to carry the existing solutions.

- Materialize Promises in the Field of Financing

The aim is to follow-up on the commitments in regard to official development assistance (ODA) and universal access to AIDS treatment and prevention services (G8 Summit in Gleneagles in 2005), Africa (twenty-five billion dollars per year promised during the summit in Heiligendam in 2007), food security (twenty billion dollars promised at the summit in L'Aquila in 2009), and the climate (thirty billion dollars promised at the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh in 2009). It is imperative that progress be made on the necessary resources, notably *via* innovative financing by establishing taxes on financial transactions.

- Continue the Transparency and Accountability Efforts

In terms of transparency, the reports by experts show the difficulty of fund traceability linked to differences in currencies, commitment calendars and real disbursements. This obstacle is not insurmountable if a consistent methodology is adopted and if the group of experts works in a timely manner before the summits.

In terms of accountability, the role of the parliaments of the G8-G20 countries is essential. Coordination SUD expects that the G8-G20 countries, and France in particular, report to the national representation, and that the commitments made during the G8 and G20 summits be the subject of annual discussion in Parliament.

- Improve Aid Effectiveness and Prioritize Certain Basic Components

This can mean giving priority to supporting smallholder farming or strengthening health and education personnel, for example, as close to the populations as possible.

Improving aid effectiveness depends on the construction of partnerships that respect the processes and democratic life of each country, the establishment of a range of financial instruments and aid implementation modalities, capacity building for all actors, and establishing overall policy coherence (cooperation, foreign policy, trade policy, etc.) so that policies do not contradict the strategies defined by each country to reduce poverty and inequalities.

Finally, the evolution of global governance is close to France's heart. On this subject, NGOs question the legitimacy of the G8 and G20 Summits constituted on an ad hoc basis and self-proclaimed. While the establishment of the G20 made it possible to expand to include emerging countries, this reform was not enough to attain fair and equitable global governance.

1. Development Financing: Taxes on Financial Transactions

The financial crisis triggered in 2008 is a reminder that it is urgent that we set up market regulation mechanisms and raise new innovative financing to face up to the global challenges of financial stability, development and the environment.

French NGOs ask that France and the countries at the G20 Summit in Toronto:

- Establish a tax on financial transactions. At the very least, France must convince its neighbors (Eurogroup) to institute a tax on currency exchange transactions.
- Utilize the revenue raised by this new form of international taxation to meet international needs in regard to the MDGs, development, and the climate.
- Demand a calendar of work at the IMF in order to study all possibilities to tax the financial sector and financial transactions, notably those with regulating effects.
- Establish or renew the tax on traders' and banks' profits and remuneration. In France, extend the tax on traders' bonuses beyond 2009.

2. World Health: Improve Maternal and Infant Health

Attainment of the MDGs for maternal and infant health has fallen the furthest behind. Despite a reduction in maternal and infant mortality rates, progress is still much too slow.

Coordination SUD asks that France and the G8 countries in Muskoka:

- Make explicit reference to the Global Consensus for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health approved in L'Aquila in 2009, and propose an action plan that includes emergency obstetric care.
- Return legal abortion to the G8's action plan, as the lack of reference to legal, safe abortion services would mark a very regrettable step back from past commitments and would be a considerable gap in the strategy to fight maternal mortality.
- Invest massively in human resources in the health care sector. More than four million additional health care professionals are said to be needed in developing countries. As recommended by the WHO, Coordination SUD asks that the G8 countries promise to devote at least 25% of their health-related ODA to strengthening human resources.
- Support for free access to primary health care for pregnant women and children under the age of five.
- Mobilize financial commitments equal to the challenges, specifically an additional thirty billion dollars from 2009 to 2015 for targeted interventions (Global Consensus), and twenty billion dollars per year to shore up health care systems (Secretary-General of the United Nations). Coordination SUD asks that the G8 countries collectively commit to allocating ten billion additional dollars to the health sector.

3. Agriculture: Improve Food Security Worldwide

To halve the number of people suffering from hunger, coordinated and appropriate support for the agricultural, food security and nutrition programs that the G8 countries have promised to finance is crucial. Coordination SUD asks for:

- **Improvements to the G8 countries' commitments in L'Aquila in 2009** (twenty-two billion dollars over three years). Coordination SUD asks that France honor its political commitments to 2011 with this financing counted as ODA and allocated in the form of grants as much as possible; and ensure that its commitments target the development of agriculture that is socially and environmentally sustainable (Joint Statement on Global Food Security).
- **Implementation of the "Rome Principles"** (World Food Summit, 2009). Coordination SUD asks France to continue its efforts to support the elaboration of national agriculture and food plans underway in many developing countries, coordinate and integrate France's future field interventions into national plans and programs, and strongly encourage the countries that sit on the Committee on World Food Security to ensure that it plays the role of global financial coordination fully, and insist on the creation of a specific mechanism to this effect.