

Accountability: Robust, Credible, Public and Inclusive

Recommendations: We urge the U.S. Executive branch to take a strong leadership role at the July 2009 G8 Summit and call for immediate action to implement a robust, credible, public and inclusive monitoring and accountability framework. We request these points to be included in the G8 communiqué:

1. The G8 needs to monitor the programmatic implementation and outcomes, on the ground, in each country as well as the financial inputs.
2. The G8 should make public the mission statements for the experts' groups, the names and identification of experts appointed to the groups, and schedules of meetings at least 20 days prior. This should include a detailed listing of G8 commitments that will be subject to the monitoring process.
3. The G8 experts groups should be mandated to seek, and authorized to receive, input and comments from other international organizations (OECD Development Assistance Committee, African Union etc.), recipient governments as well as civil society groups as they prepare reports on implementation of commitments.
4. The consolidated reports by the experts groups should be made public 30 days prior to the 2009 Summit.

Problem: G8 countries have made significant commitments during past Summits. However their success is not determined by the contents of the communiqué but on whether the commitments are kept.

Background: In recent years the G8 has established a number of "expert groups" to work on issues between Summits. This new work is essential to understand the impact of G8 countries' commitments. This is a very positive development which InterAction applauds and urges its expansion. G8 monitoring needs to be robust, credible, public and inclusive. Without a credible and transparent monitoring and accountability mechanism it is impossible to determine implementation of commitments.

The 2009 G8 summit will convene in a time of unparalleled global economic turmoil. The outcomes of the 2009 G8 will send a clear signal whether the G8 will keep its commitments to poor countries.

To facilitate comparisons, the G8 countries must adopt a common baseline and provide disaggregated data to enable the experts to assess progress. The experts should utilize standard and quantifiable terms, common and quantifiable benchmarks, and a transparent and accessible methodology.

Hokkaido Summit: The G8 monitoring process began modestly in 2007 with a report on health. At the 2008 Hokkaido Summit this process was significantly expanded to include corruption, education, water and sanitation, Africa, and food security. We call upon the G8 countries to continue and expand the monitoring process at the 2009 Summit in Italy.

This paper is not endorsed by the InterAction Board or its members.

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