

Proposals of French NGOs

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Développement**

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Through information provided by JANIC, the Japanese NGO platform for international solidarity, Coordination SUD was able to get to know the agenda put forward by the Japanese government for the **next G8 Summit to be held in Toyako, on the island of Hokkaido, from July 7th to 9th, 2008.**

After consulting French NGOs, and exchanging extensively with some of its international partners, **Coordination SUD, at this point of the preparation process for the G8, has decided upon a number of proposals, positions, and demands.**

These partially correspond to the priorities on the official agenda (world economy, African development, health, education, water, global warming and climate change), and also address themes that have not been given priority, but on which the Heads of State have made commitments (reforming multilateralism, development financing, promotion of peace and security).

Whatever the addressed themes, we ask the G8 Heads of State to take into account the objective of gender equality while making all their decisions, in accordance with their commitments in September 2005 at the United Nations General Assembly.

1 – World Economy

In a context of great uncertainty as to the extent of the financial crisis, and aware of the importance of reviving world economic growth, the NGOs express concern about the options selected by the governments and the consequences of economic growth without social and environmental control.

Indeed, instead of proclaiming a universal doctrine, it would be preferable to take into account the diversity of situations in each region and acknowledge the right of **each democratic government**, in association with its civil society, **to draw up development policies that it considers most in keeping with** the particular situation in its country. Globalization, which in many ways can have a positive effect, must not go against local, national, and regional development processes. Besides, **taking into account social and environmental rights, which are at the centre of economic and financial mechanisms** must encourage or force economic stakeholders to behave in a way that is compatible with public interest. What should be favored is **progress of both public law and private ethics**, both companies and citizens in their economic activities of production, consumption, savings or investments.

Consequently, we ask the Heads of State of G8 nations:

- To give up the **macroeconomic conditionality** imposed by international financial institutions (IMF, World Bank) which has caused social and economic tragedies in Sub-Saharan African countries, that is, those in which it was most strictly applied. On the contrary, it must be acknowledged that a government **has the right to protect an economic sector** when the country faces a situation of unequal competition which fails to guarantee its citizens' economic and social rights.
- To introduce **in the very core of economic mechanisms** the results of negotiations on **labor law** (ILO), on **environmental rights** (agreements for global environment), on **minority rights** (UNO). The **struggle against various forms of discrimination**, whether based on gender, handicap, religion or race, sexual preferences or any other factor, must be able to rely on agreements or international jurisdictions.
- To regulate **speculative funds flows**, especially hedge funds. We ask that this regulation be extended to other financial products, such as derivatives, which generate great financial instability. Taxation of fund flows, particularly those that are speculative in nature, would make it possible to discourage these movements and garner resources to finance public goods or solidarity transfers.
- To accept the introduction of **escape clauses** in WTO TRIPS agreements to conserve the right to health care, and also food sovereignty, and protect goods and knowledge of common interest against **the abuse of intellectual property rights.**
- To follow the **roadmap adopted at the UN Conference on climate**, held in December 2007 in

Bali, so as to adopt in 2009 a new multilateral regime replacing the one defined by the Kyoto protocol. The Bali Plan of action launched a negotiation process for the next two years. It involves developed countries, especially the USA, and also developing countries. The G8 nations must reaffirm their commitment to this process, and intensify political dialogue with developing countries in order to translate into an agreement the principle of «common but differentiated responsibilities». Industrialized nations, including the G8, must consider the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and reduce their emissions by at least 30% by 2020 with respect to 1990, to avoid a global warming of over two degrees. They must also undertake financing the fight against climate change, and especially seek innovative financial mechanisms for "mitigation" and "adaptation" efforts. In the field of mitigation, the needs for financing are estimated at more than 200 billion dollars by 2030. Lastly, the G8 nations must set the pace for technologies in the field of mitigation and adaptation, and facilitate their transfer to Southern countries.

- To contribute **to radical changes in our production and consumption methods**. The dead-ends of the dominating energy model force us into making these changes willy-nilly. They must be implemented area by area, beginning with the most energy-consuming sectors. Incentives and disincentives, especially the idea of taxing at an international level those who destroy scarce resources, must drive economic stakeholders and consumers to develop attitudes compatible with public interest and eco-development. Financing by bilateral and multilateral aid agencies, beginning with those of the World Bank, as well as export aid agencies, must be redirected to energy efficiency and renewable energies. This will make it possible to relate the « climate » and « energies » objectives in a consistent way and at no cost. Regarding energy production, we support the majority of experts who favor the trilogy: energy efficiency, energy saving and renewable energies. Renewable energies can represent 35% of the energy needs by 2030. We therefore ask for the immediate implementation of the « renewable energy » plan prepared for the Gleneagles G8 summit (2005), the importance of which was reaffirmed in Heiligendamm (2007). In the drafting of these plans, and more generally of public policies, citizens must have their say, but unfortunately **decision making in matters of energy** remains mostly in the hands energy producers, depriving citizens of any chance of expressing their preferences and influencing the policies and measures adopted. A well-informed and confident dialogue must be built in this area.
- To impose on economic stakeholders an **obligation of transparency**. Transparency is a determining factor in the **fight against tax evasion and laundering of crime and corruption money**. International accounting standards must make it compulsory for multinational firms to publish their accounts for each of the countries (instead of aggregated accounts), and specify the amounts given to local administrations or their representatives. We ask that much more determined efforts be made against tax and legal havens, through retaliatory measures against countries that do not fall in line with the 40 + 9 FATF recommendations against money laundering, and the OECD in the matter of fiscal information exchange. In particular, we feel it is extremely important that G8 nations promote international transparency standards banning the use of **Banking secrecy** in the face of any legal or fiscal procedure, and imposing the **registration of true owners of funds** held by Trusts or Foundations. An effective struggle against financial circuits of mafia and human trafficking, in particular those involving women and children, requires no less. Lastly, given the losses incurred by national tax departments, we ask that measures be taken against **fiscal dumping** which causes sharp erosion of public finances.
- To encourage **citizens to change their attitudes** and serve public interest by their economic activities as producers, consumers, savers or investors. This change is seen today through movements such as mutual funds, responsible investment, ethical consumption or fair trade. Administrations must support these movements by using incentives (especially tax measures or public procurement).

2 – African Development

African countries encounter considerable difficulties in their development, but, while isolating the case of Africa, the problems of other regions of the world must not be obscured, nor should the

international causes of the African ill-development be forgotten.

As Civil Society Organizations from the North, we do not have the means to offer solutions in the place of our African partners. Nevertheless, the responsibility of G8 national governments is directly involved in a certain number of issues:

We ask the Heads of State of G8 nations:

- To consider the **African Civil Society organizations**, which, in their associations, take part in development actions or information campaigns. These organizations create the **conditions for emerging democracies** founded on the separation of powers, the strengthening of citizens' organizations, the defense of human rights, the strengthening of a free press, equality among men and women. We have no doubt that « good governance » will arise more from such democratization processes than from the conditionality imposed by external powers.
- To monitor **extractive industries**, the majority of which, being powerful and having multiple connections, plunder African communities and their natural heritage, generally escape local taxation and ignore the minimal social and environmental rights.
- To take into account the **devastating consequences of the volatility of tropical agricultural product prices**, which leave the negotiators of the WTO all the more cold as this issue would lead them into thinking about regulating corresponding international markets, and thus touch upon an issue that remains taboo for most of them. We ask that the regulation of international markets of tropical products, and also the recognition of the right to protect economies, particularly subsistence agricultures, which cannot offer resistance to an often unfair competition, be introduced and discussed in trade negotiations, be it in the context of the WTO's Agricultural Accord, of the Cotonou Accord, or particularly in Economic Partnership Accords, and in the agricultural policy reforms of G8 nations, especially the *Farm Bill* and the CAP.
- To consider the extent of the **consequences of global warming** on particularly vulnerable African economies and populations. We ask the governments of G8 nations to think about this when they take standpoints in the framework of post-Kyoto negotiation on mitigation and technology transfers, and while supporting and financing the efforts of African countries to adapt to climate changes.
- To acknowledge and support the **role of diasporas**, especially African diasporas, represented by associations of migrants, who strive for democratization and development in the host country as well as in their country of origin.

3 – Social Rights and Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

Declaring that certain rights are universal means that the responsibility of respecting them must also be universal. But respecting social rights has a high economic cost, for they imply, particularly in poor countries, setting up and operating social services, most often public services or those supported by public financing, in the areas of health care and education, and even food, housing, water and sanitation. NGOs therefore pay attention to the accessibility and quality of these services, to the definition of public policies and hence to the mobilization of national and international financing which help implement them.

Access to health care, education, food, energy, drinking water and sanitation remains an illusion for almost a third of human beings, especially women and children. To relieve public finance and cooperation budgets, international financial institutions have encouraged privatization of these traditionally public services. **The NGOs ask for an independent assessment of the privatizations** that have been implemented in the past fifteen years in these social sectors with a more or less marked economic dimension. They would like to know if privatization of these various sectors has brought about an important development of private investments, and if it has helped substantially increase access.

For the past decade, the G8 has been voicing its thoughts on most of these subjects and has committed itself to cooperate in achieving MDGs (health care, education, food, water and sanitation, gender equality and empowerment of women), and mobilizing international financing (public development aid, public/private joint financing, innovative mechanisms).

The NGOs now remind the Heads of State of G8 nations of their requests and proposals in these various areas:

3.1 - In most regions of the world, the right to health and health care is not ensured; access to health care infrastructure and treatment can therefore be given only at a cost that excludes poor and marginalized people.

At the current pace of development, the Millennium Goals related to health care (MDG 4, 5, 6) cannot be achieved by 2015. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the region that is furthest behind in this matter, more than a century would be needed to complete these international undertakings. To avoid this failure, it is now essential to implement a genuine emergency plan for world health. Thirty years after the Alma Ata declaration on universal access to primary health care, **we wish that this year 2008 will be the opportunity to fully remobilize the international community on the issue of global health.**

We ask the Heads of State of G8 nations:

- To consider access to health care services a **right and not a paid service**, that is, health care services must be given special treatment, or quit the GATS negotiation within the WTO.
- To ensure that the **primacy of public health imperatives be respected**; this has been endangered in certain situations by a wild application of **intellectual property rights**. In fact, despite the fact that States have recognized this primacy, and that it is acknowledged in the TRIPS agreement, bilateral pressure by some of the most developed countries prevents the application of this principle. We ask the G8 to publicly invite the pharmaceutical industry to apply to AIDS drugs the patent pool technique, which the electronics industry has applied to DVD players, enabling their prices to be reduced considerably in a span of a few years.
- To undertake long term investment in all the aspects of reinforcing health care systems, beginning with the **adoption of the 50/50 principle recommended by the WHO** (2006 report on world health).
- **To ensure better coordination of their public development aid** and make a long term commitment in the framework of budgetary programs over many years to help the partner States effectively cover recurring costs faced by health care structures (payment of salaries, stocking essential drugs, etc...).

In the framework of reinforcing health care systems, we invite the G8 to **focus its efforts on the reinforcement of human health care resources and the improvement of financial accessibility to primary health care.**

In order to facilitate the stabilization of medical staff in countries faced with acute shortages, we ask that the governments of G8 nations :

- **Provide financial and technical support for drafting and implementing national plans** for reinforcing human resources in health care, and commit themselves, in the same way as they did in the framework of the Education for all - fast-track initiative (FTI), to make up the deficit of resources needed for financing these plans.

Seeing the growing number of low income countries which, following the Gleneagles G8, launched into exemptions and dispensations, the G8 governments have today the responsibility of helping these countries put this new policy in place effectively and permanently. In this respect, we ask that G8

nations :

- Reaffirm unambiguously the commitment made at the Gleneagles Summit to promote **free access to primary health care** especially for the most vulnerable users such as pregnant women and children. Beyond the reaffirmation of past commitments, the G8 nations as well as the main international donors must provide real and suitable financial support, in order to **facilitate the implementation of this policy of dispensation** (total or partial) and to help compensate the loss of resources caused by the suppression of user fees.
- Agree on formulations of **health risk cover** (compulsory/ optional medical insurance, mutual health insurance...) without slowing down the implementation of free access policies in the poorest countries and/or for the poorest people.
- To provide, in accordance with the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit's commitment, 60 billion dollars meant for three pandemics (malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS), and enable **universal access to treatment for AIDS in 2010**. As the United States had undertaken mobilizing 30 billion dollars for the period 2009-2013, the other G8 nations must agree amongst themselves about sharing the remaining 30 billions due by the end of 2008. Moreover, and according to the G8 commitments in 2007, the Heads of State must closely watch over the reconstitution of IMF resources based on needs (needs reaching US \$ 6-8 billions in 2010). Lastly, we ask that the G8 give a mandate to UNAIDS to publish an annual report on the follow-up of commitments made about the fight against AIDS and on the quality of the operations undertaken thanks to these funds.
- To facilitate **partnerships or sponsorships** between North and South health care services, thus enabling Southern countries to ensure quality care.

3.2 – The **right to education** is also poorly respected in most of the poor countries. Education services are still highly insufficient in terms of quantity and quality.

We ask the Heads of State of G8 nations:

- 1 To support the « **Education for all** » goal (EFA), especially by confirming the commitment of the G8 nations in the *Fast Track* initiative, and hence a mechanism for channeling the international PDA based on national plans of the EFA program.
- To place **inclusion at the heart of basic education planning** and promote a system of education that aims at fulfilling needs of all children (girls, children from ethnic minorities, from families having financial problems, or nomadic families, children with sensorial, physical or mental deficiencies). It must be acknowledged that every child can learn according to a specific scheme corresponding to his/her development capacity. Efforts must be developed if we want to achieve **gender equality in education**. Governments must support programs that encourage a favorable and safe environment for girls, creating teaching material, and training teachers who are aware of the gender imbalance. Special attention must be given to **handicapped children**. They must be helped to join standard schools. According to the 2007 Report on the Education For All program, 77 million children do not go to school (of whom a third are handicapped). In the whole world, only 2% of handicapped children are given education, mostly in special schools.
 - To join together and fight against the **critical shortage of human resources**, beginning with a massive investment in training, and appointing teaching staff. According to UNESCO, there is a shortfall of 18 million teachers in attaining the goal of education for all by 2015, and 4 million of these only for achieving universal primary schooling.
 - To increase their share of **public aid allotted for strengthening basic education systems** and thus, respect the commitment made at the 1995 UN conference in Copenhagen to allot 20% of PDA, as against the present 10%, to social services. Moreover, educational cooperation and **aid from G8 nations must become more visible, transparent and predictable**, to enable governments to draft long term public policies, that is, covering a period of at least 10 years. Lastly, thanks to their cooperation programs, G8 nations must simultaneously strive for suppression of school fees in education systems in poor countries and an improvement in the

quality of existing systems.

- To decide upon the creation of a **permanent monitoring agency** on the financial commitments and the disbursements for education by G8 nations, which would enable the **publication of an annual report** on the progress made in the perspective of « Education For All ».

3.3 - **Right to food** remains an illusion for 850 million people who are chronically hungry, and for two billion people who suffer from poor and insufficient food. The issue is complicated because food production is the work of three billion peasants (and 1.3 billion farms) who can maintain themselves in agriculture only if they benefit from satisfactory agricultural prices. The solution cannot come from a unlimited drop in prices of agricultural products and food stuffs, as the producers are already on the path to pauperization and often exclusion. The question is then to find out how to **favor solvency of people who are victims of hunger**, which, given the number of victims, can only be possible by their rehabilitation in the economy. It goes without saying that in emergency situations, free food aid is indispensable, but this should not destabilize the volatile and often collapsed markets.

An analysis of this food chain, which starts from a great majority of poor producers and ends in insolvent consumers, reflects on the negotiation of the Agricultural agreement of the WTO and the need to revitalize agriculture and local and regional economies. We are at the heart of one of the current overwhelming questions in terms of consequences, as they concern the lives of nearly three billion peasants and as many poor consumers. Taking into consideration of this double half of humanity, excluded or on the path of exclusion in the economic, trade, social and environmental policies of G8 countries, is essential, and policies for development aid remain only drops of water if the main economic motor continues to marginalize the majority of our people. The NGOs ask that **the blocking of the agricultural trade negotiation** be put to profit to restart reflection and negotiation on other criteria allowing the **revitalization of peasant agricultures**, particularly those from African and Asian countries who remain mostly peasant (China and India included). We ask that **financial mechanisms** be taken up for analysis, that would both allow the revitalization of peasant farmers-which implies eschewing competition due to mass import of products, even the largely subsidized surplus - and improve the solvency of poor consumers concerning food products by helping them create economic activities which would generate income.

3.4 - Access to safe drinking water and sanitation is a prerequisite for any development. It is a **universal right**. Reducing by half the number of people deprived of access to safe drinking water is one of the MDGs, but the international community has not mobilized adequate means. It remains one of the themes where the difference between speech and the reality of consensual efforts is most blatant. Therefore, we ask the governments to **implement the commitments already made**, instead of making promises.

We ask the Heads of state:

- To implement the **Action Plan** announced during the June 2003 G8 Evian summit, which has not been followed up at all. This commitment was put on the agenda by UNDP (report on human development 2006), where it was presented as an international emergency. To be operational and to train the non governmental stakeholders, a similar plan must be discussed, estimated, targeted and firmly fixed with, in a time frame. It should allow the identification of forces and the means that can be mobilized, as well as the obstacles that have to be overcome, by involving all concerned public bodies: Southern and Northern states, local communities, from the South and the North, and international and regional development organizations and banks. It must include a follow-up-cum-review mechanism to explain the progresses, delays and problems encountered.
- To organize **financial mobilization** as announced in 2003. According to the United Nations, the levels of aid are less than those of 1997, and the portion of the aid dedicated to water and sanitation has come down from 8% to 5%, at a time when the community recalled the crucial role of the sector to attain the remaining development goals! The G8 must make a strong and precise announcement for mobilization of international aid for this neglected sector. Innovative and decentralized financing schemes must be announced and developed, but above all, public aid must

play its role, show the way and commit itself to a collective dynamic, bringing in public and private stakeholders to cooperate, if needed, in the multi actor programs like the one considered at the World Summit on sustainable development held in Johannesburg in September 2002.

- To consider access to safe drinking water and sanitation as a **universal right**. Access to safe drinking water must be guaranteed in public amenities under the control of local groups or local governments. Indeed, it has been noted that private investments, particularly those involving water multinationals, are failing, and it is up to the territorial communities to mobilize finances and maintain effective regulation of water and sanitation services, whether the management of these services is ensured by public agencies or delegated to private managers under sub contract.
- To recognize that access to water and sanitation is a **necessary investment** for other sectors. Funds allocated to water have a major positive impact on health, food, education and women's condition. On the other hand, absence of prioritization of this sector in national budgets will engender enormous costs, human and economic. Threats weighing on resources should not be used as an excuse for lack of action. They are mainly due to wrong choices and a refusal on the part of the deciding authorities to adopt a real management logic integrated with the resources, one which however remains crucial if we wish to ensure our water resources in the mid and long term.
- To accord **priority to marginalized populations** and choose suitable approaches. To place financial gains above social interest is to eliminate all possibility of serving those who have been accorded priority status by the WTO. Public stakeholders must take on the need for investment and look for economic solutions that allow a larger access. If they fail to take up this foremost responsibility concerning investments, these priority and needy groups will never be able to participate in the recovery of costs, as underlined by the UNDP in its 2007 report on human development. To reduce these costs, and at the same time ensure a better appropriation, the users must participate in the planning, construction, management and maintenance of the distribution systems and services. It is necessary to adapt technical and managerial solutions to the surrounding environment. Elected representatives of the users must participate in public meetings and defend the rights and the wealth of the concerned communities.

4 – Development Financing

We are facing an **enormous deficit in development financing** in the countries of the South. This deficit is in the form of a massive debt, a de-capitalization of production and economic units, a deterioration, even a disappearance of natural heritage and a pauperization of a section, often the majority, of the population. This financial deficit results in low investments and the impossibility of financing social policies and the implementation of social services necessary for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

International solidarity, if it really wishes to be effective, must reaffirm itself through **financial transfers** capable of stabilising the growing imbalances and historical predation mechanisms and by a desire to **reform economic mechanisms that create structural imbalances** among different parts of the world.

We ask the G8 Heads of State to **reactivate all financial transfers between the North and the South**, particularly those which flow from OECD countries to the Least Advanced Countries, i. e. :

- To program the increase of **public development aid (PDA)**, so that it attains at least 0.7% of their GDP. The essential part of the corresponding budgetary credits must be oriented to the poorest countries and the lowest sections of society and permit the realization of the MDGs. In accordance with the Paris Declaration, discussions on PDA must be started in every country, between the government, the parliament and civil society organizations. Nevertheless, these discussions can have any political standing only if, on the one hand, the government is a democratically elected one, and on the other, civil society organizations organize themselves at the national level. Finally, the debate must concern support to public policies and to national or local private initiatives, drafted independently, i.e. outside macroeconomic conditionality.

- To redefine **the PDA area**, notably by not enlarging it to include new fields – for example, to actions linked with security policies, immigration, cultural or linguistic influences, exports – and by doing away with items that are included in accounts today, but do not contribute any kind of resource for the development of the country – for example, debt cancellation, particularly trade debts, school fees of foreign students registered in their individual capacity at universities, taking in refugees, support to trust territories -. In short, Coordination SUD asks that the DAC define the notion of « Real PDA », which in France represents only 55% of the aid announced.
- To recognize a **shared responsibility in the excessive indebtedness** of the South countries. This shared responsibility is largely found in the case of « **odious** » **debts**, such as those that are legally defined, negotiated with dictators, without any kind of hope that the populations that are victims of the concerned regimes could benefit from them. Beyond the programs already committed to with other heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC), **debt cancellation** must be thought of for countries for which insolvency is a known fact and where the debt acts like a brake to stall development and an obstacle for achieving the MDGs. According to the countries, this cancellation could be total or partial in keeping with the financial needs of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The total cost of such an initiative would represent on paper between 400 and 600 billion dollars. In reality, the major portion of the cancellations correspond to just entries in the accounts books of the creditor public or private financial agencies, the insolvency of the concerned country having been declared years or even decades ago.
- To put in place a **legally binding international framework** so as to put the onus on all **indebted** stakeholders. Such a body conceived with all concerned parties in the framework of the United Nations, could inspire « the charter of responsible financing ». Only clear rules of the game that are equally applicable to all debtor countries, whether poor or of medium income, and all creditors, whether public or private, belonging or not to the Paris Club, will allow the resolution of the questions raised by the existing debts and the problems encountered by the action of the rapacious money lending funds or by rapid indebtedness of the HIPC. Nevertheless, the commitment of the G8 nations in favor of « responsible loans » will never be credible unless they recognize and are accountable for the very often irresponsible nature of their loan policies in the last few decades. In the same spirit, the proposition, launched by the G7 in June 2007, of a « charter of responsible loan » is a very good idea, under the condition that the responsibility of the lender not be limited to respecting solvency limits fixed by the IMF. In addition, such a charter would have no meaning unless the rules of indebtedness are actually imposed on all the stakeholders, public and private.
- To implement **innovative mechanisms for development financing**, the foremost being **international taxes**, which could allow the participation of the « winners of globalization » in financing world public wealth creation, in fighting against climate change or strengthening social services leading to achieving MDGs. Beyond adopting the **pilot tax on plane tickets**, which when launched, allowed the collection of substantial funds without having to come up against any particular resistance from tax payers and the users of air transport, we ask the G8 nations to pursue the study of jointly putting in place other taxes concerning other taxable products and other tax payers. Priority must be given today to taxation on financial transactions and taxation on the stakeholders or on the actions that contribute to the degradation of the environment or climate change. Thus a Carbon tax could contribute substantially to the considerable funds needed to finance mitigation and adaptation actions linked to climate changes.
- To take into consideration the issue of levels and volatility of **prices of tropical agricultural commodities**. Some of these products have not benefited from the recent steep price rise tendencies witnessed in most agricultural raw material. Unfortunately, these tropical products are of particular interest to the poorest of poor countries and their agricultural producers. An increase and a stabilization of agricultural prices would constitute a major transfer of finances to poor States and their producers without penalizing their consumers. The entire question of **market regulation** for these products is still a current preoccupation.
- To increase their contribution to the **World environment fund**, a financial mechanism of conventions on world environment adopted in and since Rio, and to **ad-hoc voluntary funds**,

created in the framework of each of these conventions (for example Special Fund for climate change, Fund for least advanced countries, etc.). Simplified access procedures for beneficiary developing countries must be put in place.

- To agree on the elimination of all structures and tolerance facilitating **tax evasion**, beginning with **banking secrecy** and **tax havens**. According to the World Bank, international cash flows linked to corruption, crime and doubtful tax practices, represent anywhere between 1000 to 1600 billion dollars every year, of which half concerns developing countries. These flows escape national taxation and to a potential international taxation. They undermine development and democracy and of course ban the possibility of constructing an efficient, stable and equitable international financial system. The current financial crisis, the extent of which continues to grow, should lead the Heads of State to redefine healthy and transparent bases for an international finance that has become elusive and fragile.
- To defend the **sovereignty of States and local communities**, whose choice in matters of economic and tax policies must be recognized and respected. This sovereignty is generally achieved by **ending macroeconomic conditionalities**. In the final declaration at Gleneagles on 8 July 2005, G8 nations affirmed that *« it is for the developing countries themselves and their governments to pursue their policy of development. They must decide, plan and organize their economic policies depending on their own development strategies, and for which they must assume responsibility before all their fellow-citizens. »*. This affirmation is even today contradicted by the maintenance of strong conditionalities in matters of economic policies and by the development of selective aid based on the respect of these macroeconomic conditionalities.

5 – Towards a world of Peace and Security

The best weapon for peace is without doubt international law, on condition that the international community takes efforts for checking its application and, where needed, ensures its enforcement. NGOs strive for the institution of this state of international law and the creation of jurisdictions that can condemn and punish any violations.

We ask the G8 Heads of State:

- To refer, in case of conflict, to the UNO, which is the legitimate body to determine a position of law, to recall laws of war and International humanitarian law (IHL) and to decide, when conditions are proven necessary, to send a force to keep peace or monitor the respect of peace agreements.
- To apply Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council on the **role of women in conflict prevention and conflict resolution**.
- To recognize the **International Court of Justice** and thus find legal means to fight against the impunity of the perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- To ban **the production and use of unconventional weapons**, particularly those that target civilian populations. The governments must hence ratify and commit themselves to respect the **agreement on banning land mines**. They must join the Norwegian government's initiative and reach an **agreement banning cluster bombs**. This process initiated in February 2007 (to which France is a party) today consists of 138 states, and seeks to ban the production, stockpiling and trade and use of these weapons, by the signing of a legally binding treaty by the end 2008. This year is a determining one for agreeing on the terms of the future treaty. This is why, the G8 member states must participate without further stalling the Oslo process which would put an end to disastrous humanitarian consequences of these weapons, 98% of their victims being civilians and 27% children.
- To negotiate in the UNO **an international treaty permitting restrictions on weapon trade**.

6 – Reform of multilateralism

Multilateral institutions were put in place in the aftermath of the Second World War according to the principles defined by the winners of the war. In sixty years the world has radically changed, while the institutions have remained much the same. The reform of the UNO and its agencies, and also of the international financial institutions known as Bretton Woods, is on the agenda but negotiations have not made headway, in the face of much-needed redistribution of powers and a reorganization of competencies, each one indispensable for the progress of world governance.

6.1 – Concerning the **reform of the UNO**, the NGOs recall the necessary progress, and are ready to participate in the drafting of proposals for themes which concern them. They ask the Heads of State :

- To enlarge the Security Council.
- To strengthen the « Economic development and social progress » focus, and make it the real ground for international discussions.
- To create an « Environment » focus.
- To strengthen the « Human Rights » focus.
- To strengthen the « International Law » focus to enable consistency in the international legal corpus, i. e. harmonization of civil, political, commercial, economic, social, environmental and cultural rights and the accountability of standards.
- To create a body for structured dialogue with civil society organizations.

- To improve emergency humanitarian aid reform, called Clusters, led by the United Nations System. Order should be brought between the different coordination systems, greater attention paid to internal moves, greater transparency brought in management and distribution of finances, criteria specified for recourse to armed forces for logistic help, modalities defined for follow up and review of humanitarian actions, lastly, greater importance given to partnerships with institutions and local associations.
- 6.2 - Concerning **reforms of the international financial institutions** (IFI), the NGOs recall the changes that they feel are a priority. They ask the Heads of State :
- To work towards the real integration of the IFIs into the UNO and subject them to the International law negotiated by the UNO or by its specialized agencies.
 - To favor reform of internal governance of institutions by changing the weight of States in governing boards, by increasing the number of seats allotted to developing countries most concerned by the policies of the IFI, by reorganizing constituencies on a regional basis, by introducing a double majority (number of States /shareholders weightage), thus doing away with the system based on a tax qualification, by refusing the right to veto to any State whatsoever, and lastly by opening up the mode of selection of the Managing Director of the IMF and the president of the World Bank to all candidates.
 - To request a more diversified recruitment in the IFIs, to ensure a better balance in terms of gender, geographical origin, and, which is far from being the case today, training programs to promote a multidisciplinary approach to development, and a contradictory debate within the institutions.
 - To refuse the macro-economic conditionality imposed by the IFI.

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