

Communiqué of the G8 Youth Summit

3-9 April 2006

Leaders

In a world undergoing profound change for a continued commitment of the most industrialized countries to a fairer distribution of basic resources, such as sustainable energy and water, social resources such as education and health safety, and institutional resources such as the promotion of good governance and official law enforcement. We reaffirm and strengthen our commitment to the UN millennium goals. We welcome the work of our Ministers of Defense, Economy, Finance, Foreign Affairs, International Affairs and Social Care and fully endorse their reports as paths that we will embark upon.

Promotion of democratic processes

The G8 supports the promotion of democratic processes through open dialogue based on these four principles: rule of law, equality of citizens before the law, freedom of speech and media and the accountability of the authorities to the citizens, and regular free elections. Though reforms share a common inspiration and pursue common objectives, their sequence, content and pace will inevitably be modulated by a country's history and present circumstances. In order to promote and strengthen to role of multilateral institutions and international law we propose the creation of a UN Democratic Forum to engage in open and transparent dialogue about democratic processes. An expert panel on democratic processes which will be fully independent and representative of the UN member states will report to the UN General Assembly annually. This report should provide a basis for constructive and open dialogue within the UN General Assembly.

Reform of the UN

We strongly support the UN as a sustainable forum of global cooperation. It should be given a stronger position in the international system and G8 member states encourage an institutional reform of the UN. We believe that the present structure of UN is no longer effective in handling the current and future challenges of the world. Therefore we support the report of the Secretary-General's high-level panel on threats, challenges and change, entitled *A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility* and we encourage the urgent discussion and choice of suggested paths of reform.

Dialogue between developed and developing countries and the challenge of poverty

The G8 member states believe that our dialogue with the most rapidly economies in the world need to be widened in order to strengthen the global economy and to better understand market trends. Increased dialogue will promote transparency and policy coordination. We welcome the efforts of the G20 in promoting open dialogue.

Foreign Affairs

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom and the Secretary of State of the United States of America who met at the G8 Youth Summit 2006 for the following cooperative efforts

Democratization is an objective process by the people and for the people towards the polity characterized by: legitimate representation of people within a nation, equality of citizens before the law, rule of law, freedom of speech and media, respect of human rights. We consider democratization as a fundamental component of development and stability. We recognize democracy as a means for the world to achieve long lasting peace and security on a global level.

Global approach

We believe that democratization should first be initiated from within the nations themselves. We emphasize the role of the United Nations as an outlet to increase multilateral cooperation based on the following principles:

- international sensitivity towards local conditions, culture and values,
- active participation of people requiring free access to information and education,
- positive conditionality: assistance to governments willing to implement reforms.

We also underlined the importance of the economic development in any democratization effort. We strongly commit to encourage dialogue at all levels, be it religious, political or other. We stress the importance of civil society, particularly the role of grassroots pro democratic Non-Governmental Organizations that foster dialogue. Thus we believe that the funding of micro projects should be promoted.

With regard to Iraq

Respecting the sovereignty of the Iraqi people and government, we believe in the gradual withdrawal of foreign troops from Iraqi territory on the condition that Iraqi people can assure certain level of stability and order within their state. In the event that the Iraqi government should request the withdrawal of foreign troops, this decision should be complied with immediately, according to the United Nations Security Council mandate.

We recognize the necessary of training of stabilizing forces and we stress the role of the United Nations in the current crisis.

We encourage dialogue for national unity and support fair representation of multiple parties within the government and welcome the promotion of non-sectarian institution building.

We engage into promoting economic incentives to the Iraqi people so that they shall become aware of new opportunities which can occur in a democratic regime.

We stress the importance of motives in form of loans and grants from private or public sectors that shall aim to fund promising projects of Iraqi individuals and enhance the concept of entrepreneurship. Hereby, we also encourage regional Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

We believe that such economic development is possible in secure regions, which can serve as role models, thus fostering stability to the rest of the country.

With regard to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict

We believe that respect for democracy in Palestine shall strengthen the credibility of our intentions and our efforts to help bring democracy to those who want to pursue it.

We recognize the steps toward democracy in Palestine have thus far achieved and we stress the

importance of Hamas engagement into political and diplomatic procedures thus countering the globalization of violence. We welcome the first steps towards dialogue achieved. We stress the importance of coordination of multilateral efforts.

We believe sanctions of any kind hinder the process of the fledgling democracy. We also believe that aid for Palestinian people aimed at improving the well-being is necessary to the stability of the region. We shall tolerate no acts of violence. If there are such, all relations be it political or financial will be interrupted until further resolutions.

We encourage the direct dialogue between the two involved parties. Finally, we highlight our intention to avoid double-standards in our relations by urging upon both parties to comply with their international commitments, such as Oslo agreements, Roadmap and UN documents.

Defence

We, the Ministers of Defence of the G8 Youth Summit 2006, realize the importance of global demilitarization as a means to promote the respect of universal human rights and maintain international peace and security.

Conventional Weapons Non-Proliferation

Regulation of the Use of Anti-Personnel Land Mines.

The G8 recognize the indiscriminate and inhumane nature of anti-personnel landmines, which is detrimental to the development of numerous states. The G8 supports the universal ratification of the 1980 Convention on Prohibition or restriction on the use of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its five protocols. At the upcoming review conference of the CCW in July 2006, the G8 will suggest a review of the second protocol, with the aim to promote more responsible technology regarding anti-personnel landmine detectability, self-destruction, and a ban of long-lived mines. The protocol should also include an efficient verification scheme, including a regular commission tasked with providing annual reports regarding protocol implementation and casualty figures resulting from anti-personnel landmines, with a view to promoting increased transparency. We pledge our assistance in measures such as legislation and education of civilians on anti-personnel land mines in order to meet the protocols' requirements. As an eventual goal, we support the universal ratification of the 1999 Ottawa Treaty.¹

We recognize that ineffective fragmentation weapons pose a risk similar to anti-personnel landmines in post-conflict areas. We promote discussion between NATO, Russia, and Japan regarding these weapons. We believe that by increasing their effectiveness, only the intended targets will be affected. We affirm that in this discussion there should be the regulation of the sale and use of these weapons. We reaffirm our commitment to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. We shall propose an additional protocol regarding cluster bombs and fragment weapons at the Review Conference of the 1980 Convention this July 2006.

“Grey Zones” under Adopted Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty

¹ *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction*

We recognize that there are areas in Europe that are still not covered by the CFF Treaty and call on all the European States to sign and ratify this treaty. We strongly urge that all countries that have signed the CFF Treaty also ratify the Adapted Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty. We believe this treaty should be extended to other regions and serve as an example for cooperation in conflict zones all over the world. We reaffirm our support to those countries that need help in the process of reducing forces. We recognize that this treaty should be revisited regularly to ensure compliance and adequate adaptation to modern times.

Movement towards an Arms Trade Treaty

The G8 recognizes the devastating impact of the widespread availability of small arms and light weapons and the lack of an international treaty regarding the trade in conventional arms. We will therefore propose the opening of negotiations on an Arms Trade Treaty will special focus on small arms and light weapons (SALW). Definitions of SALW and the scope of the treaty regarding dual-use goods should be elaborated at the beginning of Arms Trade Treaty negotiations.

The G8 believes that an Arms Trade Treaty must reflect several key principles:

1. Respect for international commitments, in particular those decreed by the UN Security Council
2. Respect for human rights in country of final destination
3. Careful consideration of the internal situation of countries of final destination, in particular the existence of tensions or armed conflicts
4. Preservation of regional peace and security
5. National security of signatory States to this treaty
6. Behavior of buyer country with regard to the international community
7. Avoidance of diversion beyond the buyer countries
8. Compatibility of arms exports with the technological and economic capacity of the recipient country
9. Standardization of effective tracking mechanisms
10. Standardization of national licensing procedures and coordination, and effective law enforcement
11. Inclusion of ammunition trade

Taking Action against Existing Conflicts:

We recognize the destabilizing effects of conventional weapons in emerging countries and we are committed to providing increased financial resources to the United Nations Development Fund and its partners in this regard. The fight against the proliferation of illicit arms must take place on three fronts. First, we pledge to lend our support to governments and competent regional authorities in order to help them address this problem. Secondly, we are committed to direct action by peacekeepers to take part in appropriate, sustainable counter proliferation measures. Thirdly, this involves increased peacekeeping training of national armed forces, proper education of people in these areas, and addressing the link between the illegal arms trade and its financing, which is often to the plundering of natural resources.

Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone in Southeast Asia

We fully support the principles set forth in the 1995 Treaty of Bangkok regarding the Southeast

Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. The G8 supports the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones as an effective tool towards regional disarmament. The protocol to the Treaty of Bangkok has not yet been signed by the nuclear weapons states because of lingering concerns pertaining to the treaty's area of application. We reaffirm our desire to reach consensus on this issue and to that end, we encourage further dialogue amongst the concerned countries in order to reach an agreement and make the protocol's ratification by the nuclear weapons states possible.

Elimination of the Nuclear Threat

While recognizing that all states have the right to use civilian nuclear technology under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, we condemn those states which use this as a cover for clandestine nuclear programs. We reaffirm our support for the IAEA and its verification activities and expect all states to fully comply with their NPT obligations. We realize that the use of nuclear energy can be necessary at the present time, yet we are committed to increased research and development in alternative renewable energy sources as a long-term solution. Not only will this meet the world's ever increasing energy needs, but also it will reduce the threat posed by illegal nuclear activities. We reaffirm our commitment to the safe storage and disposal of nuclear waste.

We, the Ministers of Energy of the G8 Youth Summit 2006 put forth the following cooperative efforts. We acknowledge that “energy egoism is a road to nowhere”² and that our earth stands at the brink of a serious energy crisis. Global energy, demand is anticipated to increase by sixty percent over the next twenty-five years and an approximate two billion people are currently lacking modern energy services. To face this threat, we set forth the following proposal.

Oil, gas and coal

The majority of today's energy is produced by the burning of oil gas and coal. However, these resources are exponentially depleting, rendering this pattern unsustainable in a long-term and damaging our environment. Our approach must be two-fold; decreasing our dependence on finite resources whilst working towards market transparency.

Our main concern is the stability of the energy market and prices. We believe that we can stabilize price fluctuation through the creation of “Regional Demand Coalitions” (RDCs). The creation of these RDCs would favour the creation of a more simplified and transparent demand supply structure of the energy market. We encourage investment in the research and development of more efficient extraction, transportation and conversion of resources. However, this should not compromise the research and development of alternative energy technologies.

We propose the creation of an agreement to set higher efficiency standards every five years. To ensure the integrity of the international transportation network of energy resources, we propose the creation of an independent multinational monitoring body. A feasibility study should be undertaken regarding the structural and practical implications.

We consider the creation of an independent multinational monitoring body for the integrity of the energy transportation network to be a constructive step towards security and market stability. There are different possibilities for this proposal, one of them being a multilateral agreement.

Nuclear Power

Nuclear power currently forms a small percentage of the global energy supply. Nuclear power is carbon neutral. In addition, it is a proven and reliable technology, therefore we consider it to represent a viable option during the transition from carbon emitting to alternative energy sources. All of the following will be carried out with the utmost commitment to a continuous improvement of both safety and security of nuclear sites in conjunction with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Until we are able to supply our global energy demand with alternative sources, nuclear energy will continue to be part of the world's energy portfolio along with the carbon emitting resources. We understand that the following risks exist.

These include:

1. The transportation, storage and disposal of fuels and waste.
2. Proliferation.
3. Unknown future costs and risks.

² Quoted: Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin, BBC Monitoring, 1 March 2006.

We propose that within the IAEA framework, programs that deal with these issues should be implemented. To ensure effectiveness of these initiatives, we propose to introduce a clause that obliges the producers of nuclear energy to designate a certain percentage of their profits to research and development directed towards reducing the aforementioned risks, within these international programs.

We support the cooperation in research dedicated to fusion projects such as ITER. We emphasize that countries producing nuclear energy should continue to invest in the improvement of safety and energy efficiency of nuclear technologies.

Alternative Energy and Fair Distribution

As this time alternative energies are a much under-used and under-resourced option. Given the huge potential of this untapped energy resource, we advocate expanding on the progress initiated by the Kyoto Protocol. A more wide-ranging agreement is required, which we have entitled the International Sustainable Energy Agency Agreement (ISEAA) for the purposes of this proposal.

The objectives of the mission are to ensure climate protection and provide global energy security. We believe these goals are achievable by transmitting alternative energy technology to countries lacking modern energy services and by stimulating global cooperation in research and development of alternative energy technologies.

In order to achieve these objectives, we propose the creation of several institutions: a global Network of Research and Development Centres and a regulatory commission. This initiative for a Research and Development Centre Network is comprised of a coordinating centre for each alternative energy area, which is to facilitate cooperation of the research centres of the member states. An administrative centre is to be established to handle day-to-day activities. Each centre is intended to coordinate projects between countries with MES and those who lack them. Where feasible, the projects ought to be located in countries lacking MES so as to disseminate technology and skills.

The purpose of this International Sustainable Energy Agency (ISEA) is to develop and disseminate sustainable energy worldwide. An annual technical summit will be dedicated to facilitate trade. A prize initiative to stimulate ecological responsibility is to be awarded annually. We suggest naming that prize after Dennis Meadows, the author of a report entitled *The Limits of Growth*, which introduced the topic of exhaustion of resources to the Roma Club. The ISEA will fund research coordinating centres to join the agency and contributions to funding are to be determined on a fair and appropriate basis. This protocol will be re-evaluation every five years.

Conclusion

Attempting to resolve the question of global energy security has led us to conclude that each form of energy will have its own role within a defined timeframe. It has become evident that it is paramount to guarantee environmental protection in a fair and transparent market.

To conclude, we have to make the right investment at the right time for each kind of energy.

In addition, not only must we advance the development of alternative energy technologies to ensure the protection and sustainable use of our resources, but we must also recognize our responsibilities to guarantee that countries lacking MES have working access to alternative energies, especially those with the greatest need.

This proposal of alternative energy and fair distribution is a working base for further development of a plan of action.

Finance

We, the Ministers of Finances of the G8 Youth Summit 2006, put forth the following cooperative efforts.

Our world is becoming more and more interdependent and interconnected – nevertheless Africa bears the burden of inequality that threatens all humankind, peace, security and stability on a global scale. We believe that the future of Africa lies in the development of the principles agreed upon at Gleneagles regarding debt cancellation. Improved access to health care and water supplies, a move towards fair trade, African economic independence and full participation in the international community.

Promoting economic growth to Africa

The ministers of finance support the debt cancellation agreed at Gleneagles in 2005. Today, the challenge of debt remains for several African nations and there is a need to work with Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC). In addition to continued African action towards the positive conditions that lead to debt cancellation, a reform of the system should be considered. The money cancelling the debt should not come from the World Bank or IMF funds that have already been designated for other projects. This needs to be done carefully in order to retain the funds necessary for the solvency of the banking systems and financial markets of our nations. We propose a structure over a period of time from the lending Institutions or the current carriers of the debts. The loss will occur as a staged failure or loan default. This approach will also reinforce more responsible lending practices for commercial banks that encourage more due diligence and responsibility on the side of the lender.

We support international cooperation to promote a fairer and more equitable system of trade, create better value for money and generate more income from exports. We also see adoption of a more equitable approach to Africa In international trade as a priority for the WTO, and look forward to a proposed action, plan from them.

In order to stimulate African economic development, we encourage firms from developed countries to engage in Joint ventures with local partners. We also emphasize the negative cost of misappropriated tax havens for developing economies by their government, and corporate leaders, and would enlist the cooperation of multinational corporations to re-invest into the local economy for a period of time after realization of revenue. In order for this not to deter investment in the region, a deferred tax incentive may be employed.

In the African market there is an increasing gap between multinational corporations and micro enterprises, this gap creates a need to have more medium and small enterprises. Investment in microfinance is an excellent way to empower local people and to foster entrepreneurship. We intend to increase the number of micro" financing initiatives to increase, especially those which would work with an integrated socio-financial approach. We advocate a coordinated approach between the African Development Bank, NGOs, and commercial banks that have developed local knowledge, and understand how to direct the microfinance potential, following the well-established principle of "borrowing to invest," the finance ministers advocate mass simultaneous investment in all areas of the developing economy as the most efficient way to stimulate development in Africa. This would mean that improvement in one area, such as access to clean, drinking water, will support development in other areas, such as health and education.

Securing water supply, healthcare and education

The finance ministers recognize the need of all African citizens to have access to clean drinking water. Significant investment is needed to build facilities for water purification, and distribution. A small tax on consumption of water and energy in developed countries could fund this. Management of the facilities would be undertaken, by public-private partnerships under the leadership of the state, with a progressive system of pricing.

The finance ministers propose three variants to improve healthcare in Africa by increasing access to low-cost medicine. Firstly, this would involve negotiations between the G8 countries and the pharmaceutical Industry to maintain prices in the North, but commercialize cheaper medicine in Africa in exchange for tax incentives. Alternatively, development aid should be untied in order to allow the possibility of purchasing cheaper generic drugs. The final possibility would be for donors to buy drugs directly and distribute these as aid to the African population. This variant has the advantage of avoiding financial corruption. Such actions would be supported by an increase in direct investment in research and development to find innovative solutions for medical care in difficult conditions.

In order to support the Millennium development goals the Finance ministers recognize the need to direct funding towards healthcare education and disease prevention for all. This is most important for vulnerable populations such as refugees. In addition, poor quality refugee facilities must be replaced, by permanent support systems with strong healthcare provision and a guarantee of sexual security.

Fostering development aid

The finance ministers intend to increase development aid as agreed in Gleneagles accompanied by focus on state capacity building. The promotion of democracy and the continuous fight against corruption can be encouraged by financial reward mechanisms. In this frame we support reform of the legal system and encourage states, private companies and NGO's to collaborate for financial transparency. We commit ourselves to more effective coordination of our development aid and more specific targeting of projects across the African continent.

The finance ministers, recognize that the current system for allocating development contracts is not sufficiently competitive or transparent. We would like to ensure development aid is not tied to the work of a single company or a particular nation. Furthermore, in cases where proposals of equal merit are presented from both African and non-African companies, the African proposal will be preferred.

To secure stable and predictable financing for development we decide the following:

International monetary transaction tax

We will set up a working group for an investigation of the viability of a tax on international monetary transaction. This working group will consist of professional experts. Their results are to be presented to the next G8 Summit in 2007.

Tax on privately owned weapons

We will launch internal discussion on taxing of privately owned weapons and return to this proposal at the next G8 summit.

Closed fund

In association with the World Bank and private investors we will establish a closed fund of previously defined amounts of money for the African region that guarantees lower risks for investments. It will be managed by the venture capital from developed countries. We will also encourage the various foundations in our countries to focus their work in the next five years more on African issues and take over responsibility for certain projects.

Town twinning

We encourage involvement of civil society and regional authorities of G8 countries in African development by promoting close partnerships between towns or areas in the G8 countries and their partners in Africa. The actions could cover cooperation in health care, social care and education and could extend to common projects between local or regional firms in various fields. These partnerships will be launched pending a survey of interested African and G8 towns and areas.

Internal Affairs

We, the Minister of Internal Affairs of the G8 Youth Summit 2006 put forth the following cooperative efforts:

At present, the problem of drugs is one of the most crucial issues in the world. More than ever, we need to be committed and united in fighting this international threat. To achieve this, the G8 countries recognize that both supply and demand must be addressed. In the field of drugs production and trafficking, a renewed approach is required to face an increasingly complex situation.

The consequences of narcotraffic are far reaching.

Drug trafficking fuels a vicious cycle of crime, terrorism and political instability.

The drug industry harms global economical growth, especially the long term development of producer countries. States legitimacy and effectiveness are undermined by this perverse economic system.

The rising number of drug users endangers global health security, with the spread of HIV being of particular concern.

We are determined to implement an effective solution, combining a long term vision with sensitivity to regional and social situations. It is through the UNODC structures that we can best cooperate and manage the following proposals.

We are convinced that alternative development in producer countries should be at the core of the global strategy against drugs. To make it effective, we propose:

Progressive reduction of military eradication of illicit crops, with views to implement alternative programs.

Those projects, dedicated to provide sustainable activities to local populations must have long term objectives and be supported by monitoring mechanisms.

To support the conversion of certain crops targeted for destruction into legitimate industries

In Afghanistan for instance, opium poppy production could be given a special status to be converted

into pharmaceutical drugs, and to be sold at low prices to developing countries. Potential revenue gaps must be compensated in association with development funds.

To help build or consolidate existing institutions able to ensure the rule of law is respected.

Globalization has produced fast-changing traffics and markets. An enhanced decision-making process inside the UNODC must help to accurately reflect the current situation. To achieve this, the following reforms have to be introduced:

Using the UN forum, create permanent round tables to meet regularly. These groups will focus on regional problems and multi-sectorial approaches, with participation of civil society organizations;

Establish an international database with information regarding demand trends and a chemical drugs precursors tracking system;

Be more proactive in introducing programs, both for new types of drugs, and for regions with newly emerging drug problems, such as northern Africa.

Criminal organizations are using more advanced techniques than even before. Deeper cooperation is critical to the combating of drug trafficking and border security. The G8 recognizes the need to institutionalize the methods for exchanging information and technology between nations. More specifically, we recommended to:

Develop more affordable and user-friendly border surveillance technology;

Reinforce collaboration in financial investigation to counter money laundering;

Enhance information and idea exchange among law enforcement personnel and other specialists, in particular regarding new issues such as internet usage;

Share best practices and mistakes to be avoided;

Promote international legal tools: extradition and arrest warrants.

The importance of collaboration in the prevention tasks must be stressed. We see cooperation as not limited to officials, but also aimed at an awareness of all populations, from all backgrounds. In that respect, education is crucial to the success of all drug prevention programs. In particular:

Anti-drug academic programs are necessary at all school levels;

Social advertising must adapt to drug markets evolution. The target of this advertising should not only be young people or people from developed countries, but also producers and transit countries.

Social care

We, the Ministers of Social Care from Russia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, and United States, who met at the G8 Youth Summit 2006 put forth the following cooperative efforts. Considering the importance of education for peace and prosperity, we have reached an agreement to focus on three main topics: Primary Education, Intercultural Exchange and a Global outlook on education.

Primary Education

In order to promote universal primary education must be received by all. We reaffirm our commitment to “Education for all” and will focus on primary education because it is the building block upon which educational system can be developed and improved.

Standards

By developing standards for primary education, we evaluate and concretely measure the progress made in educational systems on the local, regional, national and international level. Standards provide an instrument to collaborate and coordinate our efforts in education policies; they can serve as a monitoring system for stakeholders and encourage investment in education.

We will therefore take the following action:

1. We install a permanent working group involving the national statistical agencies to propose a set of standards for our next meeting in 2007 in Heiligendamm.
2. In the process of drafting the standards, we agree to share data on education collected by the national statistical agencies through fully accessible open archives. To ensure the quality of the standard, we need to combine both quantitative data and sociological research.
3. It is essential that the following fields are included in the development of standards:
 1. Basic skills such as language arts literacy
 2. Mathematics
 3. Health
 4. Environment
 5. Democracy and human rights
 6. Media and technology education
 7. Citizenship education
4. Since education standards reflect cultural and moral norms, we respect the national competencies to implement these international educational standards. Therefore standards should be constructive, flexible and applicable.

Strategy for compulsory education for developing countries

Having agreed to support compulsory primary education at our summit in Gleneagles last year, we will take the following steps to ensure its implementation:

1. We think that states should take all possible steps to ensure that all children attend school.

Therefore schools should be a vital part of the community; we emphasize the importance of using schools as a community resource for implementing vaccination programs, water facilities, local government processes or nutrition programs (free school meals).

2. We strongly recommend supporting children to attend school and financially support parents who renounce child labour. Therefore we guarantee to partially finance support programs implemented by the developing countries.
3. We encourage and support the creation of a legal body linked to the United Nations to guarantee the respect of compulsory education endowed with multilateral normative instruments.
4. We commit ourselves that every time a country increases its number of children attending primary education by twenty-five percent, we proportionally increase the development aid dedicated to primary education.

Management of Development Aid aimed at Primary Education

At the World education forum in Dakar of 2000 we agreed that “no country seriously committed to Education for All would be thwarted in their achievements by lack of resources”. We affirm our ongoing commitment to help countries implement their education strategies is and will be based on mutual accountability. Therefore we fully endorse the Fast Track Initiative (FTI) and recommend the following guidelines on efficient development aid in education:

1. On the side of developing countries, involve local education ministers and education agencies in the application to the FTI-program, and we also encourage community enterprise and simulate micro-finance initiatives in order to support local school resources. Through an independent arbitrator at the state level the private interference into the education policy of developing countries should be discouraged.
2. On the side of the donors, ensure that the flow is fair, predictable, transparent, and transferred in pre-defined amounts over a short number of budget cycles. Also we stress the importance of monetary aid and human capital aid, and differentiate between traditional short term emergency aid and longer term aid. This would ensure that states lacking the resources to make a full application can benefit from Catalytic Funds.

Supporting Gender Equality in Education and Health Education

Being aware that gender inequalities and a lack of health education are strong obstacles towards successful primary education and long-term sustainable development, we will gather examples of efficient models of Gender and Health Education in primary schooling. Specifically we would like to highlight successful strategies to:

1. Educate on issues regarding the abandonment of children and providing information on adoption as an alternative.
2. Ensure gender equality in education.
3. Empower woman through life-long learning.
4. Support the aims of initiatives such as the African Union Protocol on rights of woman.

5. Aid the development of “Early-days-education” including pre- and post-natal care.
6. Combine correct information on reproductive of text books and public information leaflets on health.

Intercultural Exchange

Awareness of globalization and its differences in human livelihoods can only be learned if people interact on the personal level. Intercultural exchange is a vital pillar in creating an identity of transnational solidarity. Aims and goals of intercultural exchange are better cultural understanding and deepen economic relations. Current exchange programs need to be extended at all levels.

1. At the school level we establish one optional exchange integrated in the curricula during primary education and a mandatory exchange during secondary education. The exchanges are centered on language-learning. We strongly recommend that each exchange shall be at least three weeks for younger children and at least one term for older children. In the long-term, we extend the school exchange program to developing countries with the inclusion of reentry clauses.
2. At the teachers level we create mandatory seminar programs devoted to exchange of pedagogical experience and teaching skills. We are aware that a good teacher exchange program needs to incorporate the provision of opportunities to work abroad.
3. At the enterprise level, we recommend short exchanges for employees on private and volunteer basis.
4. In non-formal education, we are determined to financially assist the realization of youth exchange programs like competitions or simulations in law, arts, medics, politics and the promotion of summer camps.

A global outlook on education

Focusing on primary education and intercultural exchange, we have a firm commitment in continuing in further detail support for education both in the developed and the developing world. We are aware that many other issues regarding education need to be focused upon in the next G8 Summits. To that the end, we are resolutely obstinate that:

1. In order to focus on successful education strategies in existing education systems, we need to research the humanities aspect of developing countries. Therefore each G8 country will be responsible for conducting research along the lines of existing bilateral partnerships. Thus we hope to create dialogues at local and national level involving those who do not attend education institutions.
2. In order to ensure that funding is being spent on education, the governments of these countries will establish annual reports on their progression in their education strategies.
3. In order to connect the education strategies with the goals of international institutions such as the IMF, the UN Security Council, and the WTO, we will prioritize education in these organizations. Also we focus on communicating to NGOs and other groups that are already working on global education development.