

G8 Research Group
2009 L'Aquila Summit
Civil Society Report
11 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

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Foreword

The goal of this report is to provide an analysis of the complex and ever-evolving relationship between civil society and the G8. More specifically, we aimed to report on the pre-summit civil society activity taking place leading up to the 2009 L'Aquila Summit. To this end, we identified five civil society sub-groups that represent the main branches of civil society: developmental non-governmental organisations, human rights organisations, environmental non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations, and celebrity activists.

The report evaluates civil society actors based on a set of five indicators that characterize the pre-summit interaction between civil society and the G8. The indicators are as follows: *Policy Papers, Press Statements, and Utilization of the Media; Pre-Summit Protests; Public Awareness Events; Collaborative Efforts;* and *G8-Civil Society Initiatives*. The report provides an overview of the pre-summit civil society activity that took place within the timeframe of 11 July 2008 (just after the conclusion of the 2008 Hokkaido-Toyako Summit), and 30 June 2009 (just preceding the 2009 L'Aquila).

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Developmental Non-Governmental Organisations

Introduction

Those in search of an articulate definition of the concept of ‘development’ will be hard pressed to find one. Indeed, a brief survey of development studies scholarship makes evident the ambiguity of the term. Despite its frequent use in the international media, government and civil society reports, and even everyday conversation, the concept remains contentious, and individual understandings of the term are still often coloured by one’s personal political and ideological beliefs. Even development studies scholars have assembled themselves into three differentiated, though roughly defined, camps – neo-liberal, radical, and alternative – which emphasise different approaches to and present different theories about how desirable change in society is best achieved.

At base, however, the concept of development is most often applied in a multi-disciplinary context of human development, emphasising a shift towards a higher quality of living characterised by access to health care and education, the availability of clean air and safe water supplies, and employment opportunities. Indeed, evidence from development initiatives over the past forty to fifty years demonstrates that development requires not only economic reform, but a combination of political, social, and economic considerations taken together. Years of neo-liberal structural adjustment thrust upon developing countries, first in the aftermath of decolonization, next in response to a series of global financial crises in the 1970s, and more recently in the form of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank’s Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) have confirmed that solving world poverty and fostering development necessitates that policymakers tackle a range of peripheral problems in addition to economic ones, including but not limited to global health issues, the need for quality education, the importance of debt relief and improved terms of trade for developing countries, and the necessity of job creation for the world’s impoverished nations. As such, the concept of development goes beyond the goal of increasing national wealth and includes various social, political, and environmental factors as well.

While development non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that have lobbied the G8 have enjoyed some remarkable successes in their efforts to spawn development pledges from G8 member states, their labour has most often produced little in the way of meaningful G8 member state action. Whereas the pattern of development NGO successes largely followed that of civil society at large prior to 2005, the Gleneagles Summit held that year provided a watershed for development NGO priorities. With millions of people around the world campaigning to ‘make poverty history’, and with the heavy involvement and participation of civil society writ large, development NGOs scored numerous concessions from G8 member states, with important promises being made regarding aid, trade, and debt relief. Since 2005, however, the readiness of G8

member states to comply with the promises made at Gleneagles has faltered, a fact made evident by the growing disparity between the agreed upon 2005 development pledges and the reality of G8 delivery.¹ Last year's summit in Hokkaido-Toyako, Japan, largely followed this trend. While the G8 member states reaffirmed their development commitments, they offered no details on who would do what to reverse the fact that aid levels have been declining since 2006. Similarly, while G8 member states repeated a promise made during the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit to spend \$60 billion on health initiatives, the timing of those initiatives has yet to be specified. As a result, Hokkaido-Toyako did not represent a fundamental change of direction and has failed to bring about a transformation in the execution of development priorities.

This report aims to provide an account of some of the methods used by development NGOs to influence G8 decision-making leading up to the 2009 L'Aquila Summit. The report focuses on major international development NGOs that are active in policy recommendation, international activism, and aid work, and attempts to provide a rough summary of some of their major initiatives undertaken within a timeframe of July 2008 to June 2009.

Pre-summit Activity

The 2008-2009 global financial crisis has hit the world economy hard, with record-setting unemployment in G8 member states and unprecedented intervention by G8 governments to stimulate economic growth and spur job creation. The impact of these economic shocks have been felt in the developing world as well, in the form of tumbling trade, declining remittances, and dwindling foreign investment in developing world economies.² Lacking the capacity to release billion dollar stimulus packages, however, developing states are in a particularly precarious position, giving new significance to the work of development NGOs in their campaigns to improve economic growth, reduce world poverty, and improve global health.

At the same time, development NGOs are not immune to the financial crisis. As early as October 2008, some of the largest development NGOs were laying off staff or revising their programs to account for decreasing income streams arising from the global financial crisis.³ Three of the world's largest development NGOs – Oxfam (United Kingdom), Save the Children (United Kingdom), and World Vision (United States) – have acknowledged that the growth of development

¹ See: Sarah Yun, "The G8 and Africa: G8 Compliance to Africa Commitments & Civil Society Involvement since the 2005 Gleneagles Summit", G8 Research Group (Toronto), June 2007. Date of Access: 3 January 2008. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/csed/g8africa_070603.pdf.

² Crisis Hurting Developing World G-20 Must Restore Confidence, World Bank (London), 2009/286/EXC, 31 March 2009. Date of Access: 17 April 2009. <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:22121492~pagePK:64257043~piPK:437376~theSitePK:4607,00.html>.

³ NGOs Pare Down in Face of Financial Crisis, Global Policy Forum (New York) 27 October 2008. Date of Access: 19 April 2009. <http://www.globalpolicy.org/ngos/fund/2008/1027down.htm>.

programs will slow in 2009 in light of decreasing income.⁴ Nevertheless, the run up to the 2009 L'Aquila Summit has seen some activity by development NGOs, though it must be noted that less activity has been seen relative to previous years.

Policy Papers, Press Statements, and Utilization of the Media

On 28 April 2009, the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) published a policy paper which outlines the issues that GCAP contends must be addressed during the L'Aquila Summit. In the document, GCAP argues that the “extraordinary financial crisis and rapid rise of the G20 as an alternative forum for global decision-making has put a date on the shelf-life of the G8 ... [t]he G8 cannot play against the clock in delaying much needed resources to the poorest”.⁵ GCAP contends that global “common goods”, including health and education, are basic human rights. As such, G8 commitments around these concerns must be met.⁶ The GCAP policy document highlights the fact that G8 member states are not on track to meet their aid targets by 2011, and that Italy is one of the worst offenders in this regard.⁷ GCAP calls on the G8 member states to reaffirm their aid commitments and take concrete steps to ensure their delivery by 2010.⁸ They also call on the G8 to improve debt cancellation programs and provide debt cancellation to a larger group of countries.⁹ Finally, they call attention to the on-going food crisis, arguing that G8 countries must promote a small-scale agro-ecological farming model which can guarantee the protection of biodiversity and food security.¹⁰

Development NGOs have also issued press statements to put pressure on G8 member states, in particular the Italian presidency. Some development NGOs have issued press releases which draw comparisons between the recent financial bailout packages extended to ailing Western banks and the current aid levels provided to developing countries by G8 member states. For example, Max

⁴ NGOs Pare Down in Face of Financial Crisis, Global Policy Forum (New York) 27 October 2008. Date of Access: 19 April 2009. <http://www.globalpolicy.org/ngos/fund/2008/1027down.htm>.

⁵ Common Lobbying Positions: 2009, Global Call to Action Against Poverty G8 Working Group 28 April 2009. Date of Access: 17 May 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/resolveuid/bb137023706c9a23933269711f1881cd>.

⁶ Common Lobbying Positions: 2009, Global Call to Action Against Poverty G8 Working Group 28 April 2009. Date of Access: 17 May 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/resolveuid/bb137023706c9a23933269711f1881cd>.

⁷ Common Lobbying Positions: 2009, Global Call to Action Against Poverty G8 Working Group 28 April 2009. Date of Access: 17 May 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/resolveuid/bb137023706c9a23933269711f1881cd>.

⁸ Common Lobbying Positions: 2009, Global Call to Action Against Poverty G8 Working Group 28 April 2009. Date of Access: 17 May 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/resolveuid/bb137023706c9a23933269711f1881cd>.

⁹ Common Lobbying Positions: 2009, Global Call to Action Against Poverty G8 Working Group 28 April 2009. Date of Access: 17 May 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/resolveuid/bb137023706c9a23933269711f1881cd>.

¹⁰ Common Lobbying Positions: 2009, Global Call to Action Against Poverty G8 Working Group 28 April 2009. Date of Access: 17 May 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/resolveuid/bb137023706c9a23933269711f1881cd>.

Lawson, Oxfam Head of Development Finance, argues that “aid levels remain tiny compared to the economies of rich countries, just 0.3%. That is the same as it was in 1993. They have found 70 times more, \$8.4 trillion, to save banks. Aid is an absolutely vital lifeline for the poorest people, especially in these brutal economic times. Far more is needed, and needed now”.¹¹ Lawson goes on to say that “[r]ich countries can come up with the money when they want to. AIG’s executive bonuses alone could have paid for enough teachers for 7 million children in Africa”.¹² The Make Poverty History campaign in Canada published similar sentiments on their website, arguing that “rich country governments have spent 4 trillion dollars already on bank bail outs and stimulus packages. At the same time some governments have cut their aid budgets, even though only a small fraction or only \$100 billion in additional aid is needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of reducing extreme poverty by half by 2015”.¹³

Another issue which has been emphasised by development NGOs is the global food crises. For example, Oxfam International reacted negatively to the outcome of the G8 Meeting on Agricultural on 20 April 2009. Oxfam International’s Senior Food Advisor, Chris Leather, argued that “G8 Ministers have made an extraordinary admission of collective failure. This would be a sack-able offence in any other arena ... [t]he G8 has failed the world’s one billion hungry people”.¹⁴ Oxfam welcomed the G8’s commitment to the need to boost food production in developing countries, but called on G8 member states to commit to a legally binding international convention that aims to eradicate hunger and which “would enable civil society to hold governments to account for their failure to prevent people dying from hunger in a world where we have the means to prevent it”.¹⁵

There has also been special pressure placed on Italy as the host of the 2009 summit. Oxfam notes that, while most rich nations still have “a mountain to climb to meet their 2005 promises to increase global aid by \$50 billion by 2010 ... Italy, the G8 chair in 2009, is the worst offender”.¹⁶ Pointing to a recent OECD

¹¹ Aid Still At 1993 Level Despite Increase, Oxfam International 30 March 2009. Date of Access: 19 April 2009. <http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressrelease/2009-03-30/aid-still-1993-level-despite-increase>.

¹² Aid Still At 1993 Level Despite Increase, Oxfam International 30 March 2009. Date of Access: 19 April 2009. <http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressrelease/2009-03-30/aid-still-1993-level-despite-increase>.

¹³ G8 Campaign, Make Poverty History. Date of Access: 20 April 2009. <http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca/en/g8>.

¹⁴ G8 Agriculture Ministers Admit Failure on Hunger, Oxfam International 20 April 2009. Date of Access: 16 May 2009. <http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressrelease/2009-04-20/g8-agriculture-ministers-admit-failure-on-hunger>.

¹⁵ G8 Agriculture Ministers Admit Failure on Hunger, Oxfam International 20 April 2009. Date of Access: 16 May 2009. <http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressrelease/2009-04-20/g8-agriculture-ministers-admit-failure-on-hunger>.

¹⁶ Aid Still At 1993 Level Despite Increase, Oxfam International 30 March 2009. Date of Access: 19 April 2009. <http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressrelease/2009-03-30/aid-still-1993-level-despite-increase>.

study¹⁷ which estimates that Italy will need to increase its aid spending by 145 per cent to meet its 2005 Gleneagles promises, Oxfam argues that Italy's "shortfalls must be acknowledged and a clear timetable set to increase aid to meet pledges".¹⁸

On 5 May 2009, NGO and civil society representatives taking part in a Civil G8 Dialogue issued a set of demands and questions for the upcoming summit. The statement, which was presented to G8 Sherpas taking part in the Civil G8 Dialogue, focuses on five areas: world economy, development finance and labour; common goods; food sovereignty and agriculture; global governance; and, climate change and the environment.¹⁹ In the statement, Civil G8 representatives stressed a number of development-related issues. For example, they called for the G8 to respond to the on-going food crisis "with decisive and effective policies that include the full participation of farmers' organisations and CSOs".²⁰ They demanded the G8 "reaffirm the pledge that no country seriously committed to the achievement of [the] Education for All agenda should be thwarted in this ambition for lack of resources".²¹ They also asked that the G8 set out how the \$60 billion that has been pledged to strengthen health care systems and fight major infectious diseases will be delivered.²² Similarly, they asked how the \$1.5 billion which has been allotted for maternal and child health care and voluntary family planning will be delivered.²³

Some development NGOs have also released reports and policy papers. For example, on 11 June 2009, the ONE Campaign released its 2009 DATA report. ONE's DATA reports track the progress of G8 member states in the deliver of their 2005 Gleneagles Summit commitments to reduce extreme poverty in Africa by doubling aid by 2010, improving aid quality, reducing developing country debt, and improving terms of trade and investment in Africa. The reports also monitor specific aid flows in health, education, agriculture, and water and

¹⁷ Aid Targets Slipping Out of Reach, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Development Assistance Committee 24 November 2008. Date of Access: 15 April 2009. <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/47/25/41724314.pdf>.

¹⁸ Aid Still At 1993 Level Despite Increase, Oxfam International 30 March 2009. Date of Access: 19 April 2009. <http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressrelease/2009-03-30/aid-still-1993-level-despite-increase>.

¹⁹ Civil G8 2009: CSO Representatives' Statement, Global Call to Action Against Poverty 5 May 2009. Date of Access: 16 May 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/civil-g8-statement-may-5th-2009.pdf>.

²⁰ Civil G8 2009: CSO Representatives' Statement, Global Call to Action Against Poverty 5 May 2009. Date of Access: 16 May 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/civil-g8-statement-may-5th-2009.pdf>.

²¹ Civil G8 2009: CSO Representatives' Statement, Global Call to Action Against Poverty 5 May 2009. Date of Access: 16 May 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/civil-g8-statement-may-5th-2009.pdf>.

²² Civil G8 2009: CSO Representatives' Statement, Global Call to Action Against Poverty 5 May 2009. Date of Access: 16 May 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/civil-g8-statement-may-5th-2009.pdf>.

²³ Civil G8 2009: CSO Representatives' Statement, Global Call to Action Against Poverty 5 May 2009. Date of Access: 16 May 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/civil-g8-statement-may-5th-2009.pdf>.

sanitation. The 2009 report argues that while health programs have received the largest increases, the G8 as a whole are off track in all of these sectors. Moreover, it finds that the G8 has failed to honour their commitment to improve terms of trade in Africa, though it does acknowledge that the G8 has taken some steps toward supporting African efforts to harness more private investment, and that progress has been made on the G8 commitment to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of development assistance to African countries. The key findings of the report are that Canada, the United States, and Japan are meeting or beating their “relatively modest” commitments, and that Germany and the United Kingdom are on track to deliver significant increases to Africa by 2010 (with the United Kingdom on target to be the first G8 country to meet the UN goal of 0.7 per cent of national income in official development assistance). However, the report is critical of France, which it argues is not delivering on its commitments to Africa, and is highly critical of Italy, which it contends has been an “utter failure” in terms of delivering on its commitments. It explains that Italy and France are together responsible for 80 per cent of the aid shortfall, and that Italy in particular now has a “credibility crisis in its relationship with Africa”.²⁴

Pre-Summit Protests

On occasion of the G7 Finance Ministers’ and Governors’ meeting, hosted on 13-14 February 2009 in Rome, the Italian delegation of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP Italy²⁵) called on its activists and journalists to mobilize for what it dubbed the “Broken Heart” action in Barberini Square, Rome. The action, which included the participation of musicians dressed up as cherubs playing a romantic serenade to Italian Finance Minister Giulio Tremonti, called on Minister Tremonti to “not break our hearts and to keep Italian government commitments”.²⁶

Public Awareness Events

On 6 May 2009, the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) launched a multimedia campaign entitled “Press the 8”, which aims to put pressure on G8 member states to “both accelerate efforts to address poverty and avoid using the

²⁴ The DATA Report 2009: Monitoring the G8 Promise to Africa, ONE Campaign 19 May 2009. Date of Access: 17 June 2009. <http://one.org/international/datareport2009/pdfs/DR2009.pdf>. On 12 June 2009, Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini responded to the findings of ONE’s 2009 DATA report, saying: “Italy will do its part and confirms the commitments it made” and that Italy will “find the necessary resources to uphold [its] commitments towards Africa by the end of this year”. See: G8: Italy ‘Will Meet Africa Pledges’, ANSA (Rome) 12 June 2009. Date of Access: 17 June 2009. <http://www.lifeinitaly.com/node/6110>.

²⁵ GCAP Italy’s Steering Committee includes: ActionAid Italy, Italian Association of NGOs, United Nations Millennium Campaign, Legambiente, Oxfam International & UCODEP, Save the Children Italy, Volontari nel Mondo, and WWF Italy.

²⁶ February 2009 GCAP Italy Report, Global Call to Action Against Poverty (Rome) 19 February 2009. Date of Access: 15 April 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/regions/europe/ita/g7-meeting-rome-february-2009-gcap-italy-mobilisation>.

recession as an excuse to renege on aid commitments”.²⁷ The campaign includes an interactive online tool (see: www.whiteband.org/action/presstheg8) which lets users “put pressure” on G8 leaders by clicking on an artistic impression of G8 leaders’ heads. A counter records the number of “squeezes” applied to each leader. GCAP has announced a similar campaign will be rolled out during the Summit itself on 8-10 July.²⁸

The development NGO End Water Poverty – which campaigns for an end to the global crisis in water and sanitation – has also set up an online “postcard” campaign (see: http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/take_action/), whereby users can send an electronic “postcard” to Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to demand that he give water and sanitation the priority they warrant at the upcoming 2009 summit.

Collaborative Efforts

One of the key coordinators of civil society action during past summits has been the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), a broad coalition of trade unions, community groups, faith groups, women and youth organisations, NGOs and other campaigners working together across more than 100 national platforms calling for action from world leaders to end poverty and inequality. This year, the Italian delegation of GCAP (GCAP Italy) has taken a leadership role in the coordination of development NGOs in the run up to the L’Aquila Summit. For example, on 12 February 2009 the Steering Committee of GCAP Italy published an open letter to the G7 Finance Ministers which coincided with a Finance Ministers’ meeting being held in Rome.²⁹ The stated goal of the letter was to “distribute it through the GCAP platforms, offering an advocacy tool to everybody and in particular to the G7 GCAP platforms”.³⁰ In the letter, GCAP Italy voiced concern about the impact of the current world economic and financial crises, not just in G8 member states, but also in developing countries,

²⁷ GCAP Launches ‘Press the 8’ Campaign in Italy, Urging G8 Leaders to Honour Their Commitments, Global Call to Action Against Poverty 06 May 2009. Date of Access: 16 May 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/gcap-launches-2018press-the-82019-campaign-in-italy-urging-g8-leaders-to-honour-their-commitments>.

²⁸ GCAP Launches ‘Press the 8’ Campaign in Italy, Urging G8 Leaders to Honour Their Commitments, Global Call to Action Against Poverty 06 May 2009. Date of Access: 16 May 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/gcap-launches-2018press-the-82019-campaign-in-italy-urging-g8-leaders-to-honour-their-commitments>.

²⁹ Letter to G7 Finance Ministers From the Global Call to Action Against Poverty in Italy, The Steering Committee of the Italian Coalition Against Poverty (GCAP Italy) 12 February 2009. Date of Access: 17 April 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/letter-to-g7-finance-ministers-from-the-global-call-to-action-against-poverty-in-italy/?searchterm=la%20maddalena?searchterm=la%20maddalena>.

³⁰ GCAP Italy Demonstrates During G7 Meeting in Rome, Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP). Date of Access: 17 April 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/blog/archive/2009/02/14/gcap-italy-demonstrates-during-g7-meeting-in-rome>.

which they noted are also suffering from the consequences of the current crises. They urged the G7 Ministers to confirm commitments to development assistance, to increase their efforts to reach 0.7 per cent of ODA/GDP by 2015, and to reform the governance of international financial institutions, namely the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. In Italy, the letter was sent to Finance Minister Tremonti and presented to the media in a press conference held on 14 February 2009.³¹

GCAP Italy has also taken on a leadership role with regard to the continuation of a G8 civil society forum. In the run-up to the 2006 St Petersburg Summit, some forty Russian NGOs came together to launch the Civil G8 project, an initiative which brought a variety of NGOs from different countries together around one table, created an NGO Forum, and set up meetings with G8 Sherpas to discuss G8 issues and provide an opportunity for dialogue between NGOs and the G8 governments.³² Since that time, civil society has continued the Civil G8 project, with the formation of similar NGO forums generally led by the host nation's NGO community (for example, the 2007 German NGO Forum on Environment and Development and the 2008 Japanese G8 Summit NGO Forum). On 8 April 2009, GCAP Italy announced that it would coordinate civil society participation for the 2009 Civil G8.³³ On 3-5 May 2009, hundreds of NGOs and civil society groups met in Rome to draft a list of issues which will be raised with G8 leaders. On the last day of the dialogue, civil society representatives met with G8 Sherpas and presented them with a set of demands and questions focusing on five areas: world economy, development finance and labour; common goods; food sovereignty and agriculture; global governance; and, climate change and the environment.³⁴

On 19 May 2009, GCAP released their Common Lobbying Positions report which spelled out further the actions they felt were necessary for the G8 to take to "meet its previous commitments and make the appropriate response to the financial crisis and its impacts on the poorest".³⁵ The report lays out GCAP's positions on accountability, aid, debt, education, the food crisis, gender equality and women's rights, governance/anti-corruption, health, HIV/AIDS, jobs and decent work, and water and sanitation.

³¹ GCAP Italy Demonstrates During G7 Meeting in Rome, Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP). Date of Access: 17 April 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/blog/archive/2009/02/14/gcap-italy-demonstrates-during-g7-meeting-in-rome>.

³² Civil Society: An Important Partner For the G8, The Federal Government of Germany (Berlin). Date of Access: 23 April 2008. <http://www.g-8.de/Webs/G8/EN/CivilSociety/PartneroftheG8/partner.html>.

³³ GCAP Letter Edition 40, Global Call to Action Against Poverty Global Secretariat (9 April 2009). Date of Access: 17 April 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/about-gcap/reports/gcap-internal-letters/the-gcap-e-letter-april-8-2009-edition-40>.

³⁴ Civil G8 2009: CSO Representatives' Statement, Global Call to Action Against Poverty 5 May 2009. Date of Access: 16 May 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/civil-g8-statement-may-5th-2009.pdf>.

³⁵ Common Lobbying Positions, GCAP G8 Working Group 19 May 2009. Accessed: 17 June 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/gcap-g8-common-lobbying-positions-final.pdf>.

G8-Civil Society Initiatives

The official meeting of G8 Development Ministers took place on 11-12 June 2009, at which time they reaffirmed their commitments on ODA and international assistance made at the 2005 Gleneagles Summit.³⁶ The ministers also agreed to increase “social protection mechanisms and safety nets to address vulnerable population groups who are hardest hit by the [economic] crisis”.³⁷ Key priorities on the 2009 G8 Summit agenda include the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals and the issue of development in Africa on four fronts: alimentation, health, education, and access to clean water. It remains to be seen how development NGOs will be accommodated by the Italian Presidency during the summit, but some efforts have been made by Prime Minister Berlusconi to include development NGOs in a pre-summit dialogue.

For example, the Mayor of Rome, Gianni Alemanno, has said he will try to organize a meeting between representatives of civil society with leaders from G8 member states during the summit.³⁸ The proposed meeting would see talks between GCAP Italy, representatives from the Civil G8 forum, and leaders of the G8 member states.³⁹ Alemanno also acknowledged the importance of an event “that will ensure governments listen to the voice of civil society – in the shape of associations representing public opinion – before taking action”.⁴⁰ Similarly, on 5 May 2009, Giampiero Massolo, Premier Silvio Berlusconi’s personal representative at summit preparations, promised “inclusiveness” during Italy’s presidency of the G8.⁴¹ Addressing a meeting of NGOs and civil society during the Civil G8 Dialogue, Massolo also praised the “important contribution” that civil

³⁶ G8 Development Ministers’ Meeting, Chair’s Summary (Rome) 11-12 June 2009. Accessed: 17 June 2009.

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Sala Stampa/ArchivioNotizie/Approfondimenti/2009/06/20090612_G8DevelopmentMeeting.htm.

³⁷ G8 Development Ministers’ Meeting, Chair’s Summary (Rome) 11-12 June 2009. Accessed: 17 June 2009.

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Sala Stampa/ArchivioNotizie/Approfondimenti/2009/06/20090612_G8DevelopmentMeeting.htm.

³⁸ G8 Civil Society Reps Meet in Rome: Mayor Promises Meeting with G8 Leaders This Summer, ANSA (Rome) 4 May 2009. Date of Access: 16 May 2009.

http://temporeale.libero.it/libero/news/2009-05-04_104362346.html.

³⁹ G8 Civil Society Reps Meet in Rome: Mayor Promises Meeting with G8 Leaders This Summer, ANSA (Rome) 4 May 2009. Date of Access: 16 May 2009.

http://temporeale.libero.it/libero/news/2009-05-04_104362346.html.

⁴⁰ G8 Civil Society Reps Meet in Rome: Mayor Promises Meeting with G8 Leaders This Summer, ANSA (Rome) 4 May 2009. Date of Access: 16 May 2009.

http://temporeale.libero.it/libero/news/2009-05-04_104362346.html.

⁴¹ Poorer Nations Promised G8 Voice: Berlusconi Rep Promises ‘Inclusiveness’ at G8 Summit, ANSA (Rome) 5 May 2009. Date of Access: 16 May 2009.

http://temporeale.libero.it/libero/news/2009-05-05_105363467.html.

society makes each year, as well as its “fruitful collaboration” with summit organizers.⁴²

Analyst: Noel Anderson

Human Rights Groups

Introduction

Human rights groups have played an important role in the growing relationship between civil society actors and the G8. The distinction between human rights groups and development NGOs should be noted. The agenda of human rights groups within the context of G8 summitry tends to center on matters related to civil and political rights, whereas development NGOs such as Oxfam, ActionAid and the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) focus their advocacy on health and economic issues. Important human rights groups include Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Transparency International. Although the success of these groups in influencing G8 policy has been mixed in recent years, their campaigns have not gone unnoticed by the media and by leading policy-makers.

Since 1995, when civil society and NGOs were officially recognized at the Halifax G7 Summit, human rights groups have gained greater prominence at G8 Summits. At the Heiligendamm Summit of 2007, the most successful human rights group was Transparency International. Not only did the organisation gain a place on the official agenda, but its efforts were also visible in the final summit communiqué on the global economy and growth in Africa.⁴³ Although not referred to by name, the issues championed by Transparency International (such as anti-corruption and transparency in business and governance) were central to the report’s conclusions on growth in Africa and the global economy more generally.⁴⁴

Human rights groups were vocal on many issues at the 2008 Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, including the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Darfur. The organisation Human Rights First, together with a broad coalition of forty NGOs from Sudan and the G8 nations, insisted that G8 leaders address specific measures to resolve the crisis in Darfur in the final outcome statement of the Summit.⁴⁵ Although the

⁴² Poorer Nations Promised G8 Voice: Berlusconi Rep Promises ‘Inclusiveness’ at G8 Summit, ANSA (Rome) 5 May 2009. Date of Access: 16 May 2009. http://temporeale.libero.it/libero/news/2009-05-05_105363467.html.

⁴³ 2007 Heiligendamm G8 Summit Civil Society Report, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2007. Date of Access: 30 May 2009. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/csed>.

⁴⁴ 2007 Heiligendamm G8 Summit Civil Society Report, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2007. Date of Access: 30 May 2009. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/csed>.

⁴⁵ Rights Groups Based in All G8 Countries, Sudan Call on Nations’ Leaders to Advocate Against Darfur Violence at July Summit, Human Rights First (New York) 19 June 2008. Date of Access: 20 June 2008. <http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/media/darfur/2008/statement/312>.

G8 response to this call to action was not as robust as desired by the coalition, it was representative of a growing trend in the civil society-G8 nexus—namely, greater levels of organisation and coherence amongst human rights groups, which in turn positively impacts upon their ability to wield influence at G8 summits.

Interestingly, the momentum gained by human rights groups appears to have slowed in the period following the Hokkaido-Toyako Summit. Environmental and development organisations continue to play a major role within the umbrella of civil society in influencing the agenda of G8 leaders, yet human rights groups have thus far displayed limited effectiveness in engaging with G8 policy-makers. However, the economic downturn has impacted upon the operations of all civil society groups, and human rights groups may lack the funding to organize proper campaigns. It is also possible that human rights issues have become a lower priority in the 2008-2009 period because of the ongoing global recession, which dominates G8 policy discussions.

Important human rights issues which have been raised by civil society groups in the lead-up to the 2009 Summit include migration and asylum, piracy, cyber-crime, financial regulation as it pertains to workers' rights, reproductive health rights, and global citizenship rights. This report will attempt to situate the role of human rights groups within the broader framework of civil society engagement with the G8.

Pre-summit Activity

Policy Papers, Press Statements, and Utilization of the Media

The W8 has emerged this year as an important actor in the fields of development and human rights. The group, which is comprised of eight female leaders from developing countries, was organized by Oxfam to push for a greater emphasis on women's rights issues, especially as they pertain to maternal healthcare. The W8 is comprised of Miranda Akhvlediani (Future Without Poverty, Georgia), Kady Baby (National Coalition Education for All, Mali), Leonor Magtolis Briones (Social Watch, The Philippines), Rokeya Kabir (My Rights Campaign, Bangladesh), Jiraporn Limpananont (Free Trade Agreement Watch, Thailand), Dorothy Ngoma (National Organisation of Nurses and Midwives, Malawi), Elba Rivera Urbina (Campaign for Education, Nicaragua), and Sandhya Venkateswaran (Don't Break Your Promises, India).⁴⁶

In a letter to G8 development ministers, the W8 wrote: "The G8 must now offer countries who cannot afford their own bail-outs reassurance that mothers and children will not be abandoned. In this economic crisis it is more important than

⁴⁶ The G8 promise on healthcare for women, The Guardian UK (London) 10 June 2009. Date of Access: 10 June 2009. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jun/10/letter-g8-women-childbirth-deaths>.

ever that poor people are not turned away from a doctor, and that women have the care they need when they are giving birth to the next generation.”⁴⁷ Recent statistics show that half a million women die in childbirth every year.⁴⁸ Moreover, an estimated USD10.2 billion per year is required for adequate maternal and newborn health services in developing countries.⁴⁹ The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to improve maternal health has seen little progress since the MDGs were first laid out. In light of ongoing violations of the right to health and life, the W8 has been organized to “put a woman’s face” on the campaign, spearheaded by Oxfam, to call for greater aid in the health sector in developing countries.⁵⁰

In a further example of collaboration on the issue of maternal healthcare, leaders of the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the International Confederation of Midwives, the White Ribbon Alliance, and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada made presentations at a Canadian Parliamentary briefing meeting on 9 June 2009.⁵¹ Consensus was reached regarding the need for Canadian leadership within civil society and government to work in partnership with UN agencies and the G8 on women’s health issues.⁵²

Although it would be more accurate to categorize the group ONE as a development organisation rather than a human rights group, their work on poverty and health in Africa has important human rights implications. Every year, ONE publishes a debt/AIDS/trade/Africa (DATA) report which assesses the progress of the G8 as it relates to development goals in Africa. The 2009 report, released on 11 June 2009, monitors the G8’s 2005 Gleneagles commitment to double the amount of aid to Africa by the end of 2010.⁵³ It is projected that by the end of 2009, the G8 will only have supplied half of its original financial commitment, with Italy and France the furthest behind on their development commitments. In recognition of the DATA report’s findings and its implications

⁴⁷ One woman dying in childbirth every minute: G8 leaders asked to honor their promises for action, Oxfam (Boston) 9 June 2009. Date of Access: 9 June 2009. <http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressrelease/2009-06-09/one-woman-childbirth-dying-every-minute>.

⁴⁸ The G8 promise on healthcare for women, The Guardian UK (London) 10 June 2009. Date of Access: 10 June 2009. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jun/10/letter-g8-women-childbirth-deaths>.

⁴⁹ The G8 promise on healthcare for women, The Guardian UK (London) 10 June 2009. Date of Access: 10 June 2009. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jun/10/letter-g8-women-childbirth-deaths>.

⁵⁰ Rich Countries, Poor Countries, ABS-CBN News (Philippines) 1 June 2009. Date of Access: 1 June 2009. <http://abs-cbnnews.com/views-and-analysis/05/31/09/rich-countries-poor-countries-leonor-magtolis-briones>.

⁵¹ Canada’s International Leaders On Maternal Mortality Congratulate Canadian Government, Medical News Today (East Sussex) 9 June 2009. Date of Access: 9 June 2009. <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/153115.php>.

⁵² Canada’s International Leaders On Maternal Mortality Congratulate Canadian Government, Medical News Today (East Sussex) 9 June 2009. Date of Access: 9 June 2009. <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/153115.php>.

⁵³ G8’s promise to Africa is likely to be broken, warns campaign group, The Guardian UK (London) 11 June 2009. Date of Access: 11 June 2009. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jun/11/g8-aid-to-africa>.

for the G8, the human rights group Amnesty International has launched a new “Demand Dignity” campaign for the world’s poorest people, which aims to put human rights at the centre of all efforts to eradicate poverty.⁵⁴ The Africa Progress Panel, chaired by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, also stressed the need for the G8 to live up to its financial commitments to Africa in its annual report. In a press statement delivered on 10 June 2009, Annan wrote that “G8 and donor countries have an even greater responsibility to honour their international aid commitments and to ensure that global deals, whether on trade, climate change, intellectual property, illicit drugs, crime or migration, are supportive of Africa’s development needs.”⁵⁵

Another important human rights issue that has received significant civil society attention prior to the 2009 L’Aquila Summit is malnutrition and the need to eradicate hunger worldwide. On 10 June 2009, Oxfam International called on G8 leaders to commit to a legally binding agreement, which would “enable civil society to hold governments to account for their failure to prevent dying from hunger in a world where we have the means to prevent it.”⁵⁶ With millions of people forced into poverty and hunger as a result of rising food prices, civil society organisations and high-ranking UN officials are putting more effort into highlighting this human rights issue. On 6-7 June 2009, the World Grain Forum took place in St. Petersburg, Russia, with agriculture ministers and government officials present from over fifty countries. This forum was first proposed by Russia at the 2007 G8 summit, and human rights and development groups have welcomed this international effort, which occurred on the heels of the L’Aquila Summit. On 11 June 2009, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food proposed a set of measures and principles based on human rights to regulate large-scale transnational land acquisitions and leases, also known as “land grabbing.”⁵⁷ Responsible investment in agriculture, which has long been an issue championed by human rights groups, is expected to be on the agenda at the upcoming G8 Summit.

Pre-Summit Protests

On 31 May 2009, a G8 pre-summit meeting on migration, security and terrorism prompted a protest by activists in Rome. Responding to Berlusconi’s proposed policy of detaining and fining illegal migrants and those who shelter them,

⁵⁴ Make them keep their promises, Amnesty International UK Blogs (London) 11 June 2009. Date of Access: 11 June 2009. http://blogs.amnesty.org.uk/blogs_entry.asp?eid=3323.

⁵⁵ Africa: A Time for Leadership, AllAfrica.com (Cape Town) 10 June 2009. Date of Access: 10 June 2009. <http://allafrica.com/stories/200906100451.html>.

⁵⁶ Time to Attack Hunger’s Root Causes – UN, OneWorldUS (Washington) 10 June 2009. Date of Access: 10 June 2009. <http://us.oneworld.net/article/364288-global-action-needed-food-security>.

⁵⁷ UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food recommends principles and measures to discipline “land grabbing,” The United Nations Office at Geneva 11 June 2009. Date of Access: 11 June 2009. [http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/72FBFC261D673051C12575D2005CB8D8?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/72FBFC261D673051C12575D2005CB8D8?OpenDocument).

thousands of demonstrators waved banners criticizing Italian President Silvio Berlusconi and the G8 Summit.⁵⁸ The Italian government recently approved a law to immediately deport migrants who are intercepted on the Mediterranean Sea, a policy which critics argue fails to distinguish between asylum-seekers and illegal migrants and violates international human rights. The three thousand protestors in Rome chanted slogans such as “we are all illegal migrants”⁵⁹ and called for global citizenship rights from the G8.⁶⁰ Although it is unclear if civil society groups were formally represented at this protest, the issues raised by the protestors have nevertheless been addressed by many human rights groups in recent years.

Public Awareness Events

In the days preceding the 2009 G8 Summit, the human rights group Social Watch organized “The 10 Days of Action: Countdown to Commitments.”⁶¹ Numerous civil society organisations took part in this initiative, including the GCAP Feminist Task Force, the Global Crisis Group and the Global Social Economy Group. The goal of the 10 Days campaign was to generate publicity during the UN Conference on the Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development (held on 24-26 June 2009) about the importance of fair and sustainable solutions to the ongoing economic crisis. Specifically, the civil society groups involved want to ensure that all nations, not merely those in the G8 or G20, are involved in major global financial decision-making.⁶² Many workshops were held, including sessions on how to lobby the G8 and G20. The group’s efforts reflect the growing trend of civil society cooperation as a means to enhanced visibility and effectiveness on the world stage.

Collaborative Efforts and G8-Civil Society Initiatives

The W8 represents a new and innovative G8-civil society collaborative initiative. In a similar vein, the UNICEF-sponsored Junior 8 Summit (or J8, for short), building off the success of the initiative at previous summits, will provide an opportunity for collaboration between youth from the G8 member states and G8 leaders. The J8 allows youths aged 14-17 to gain an intimate understanding of

⁵⁸Marchers respond to ‘fascist’ policy, Morning Star UK 31 May 2009. Date of Access: 31 May 2009.

<http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/index.php/content/search?SearchText=marchers+respond+to+fascist+policy>.

⁵⁹ G8 vows legal cooperation to tackle Somali piracy, Reuters (Rome) 30 May 2009. Date of Access: May 31, 2009. <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE54T1QT20090530>.

⁶⁰Marchers respond to ‘fascist’ policy, Morning Star UK (London) 31 May 2009. Date of Access: 31 May 2009.

<http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/index.php/content/search?SearchText=marchers+respond+to+fascist+policy>.

⁶¹ Ten Days of Action: Countdown to Commitments, Social Watch (Montevideo) 16 June 2009. Date of Access: 27 June 2009. http://tendays.socialwatch.org/?page_id=2.

⁶² Crucial week for UN discussions on the financial crisis and development, European Network on Debt and Development (Brussels) 22 June 2009. Date of Access: 27 June 2009. <http://www.eurodad.org/whatsnew/articles.aspx?id=3692>.

global issues. The J8 representatives prepare a communiqué and present it to G8 leaders at the end of the summit.⁶³ The Canadian J8 delegation is focused on human rights issues, and one of its principal goals is to have Canada declare access to clean water a human right. The delegation has created a petition, collected signatures from around the world, and will present the petition to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper in an attempt to shed light on the importance of access to clean water as a fundamental human right.⁶⁴

The anti-poverty coalition Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) has been active with the G8 since its formation in 2005. GCAP has a G8 Working Group which lobbies vigorously on behalf of a variety of development and human rights issues. The G8 Working Group's Common Lobbying Positions document, prepared by GCAP in order to increase the effectiveness of civil society initiatives within the forum of G8 Summits, mentions human rights in two contexts. Firstly, the group links the issue of climate change to broader human rights concerns:

Efforts to support low-carbon development in poor countries must be matched by similar steps to 'de-carbonise' the global economy. The G8 should put renewable energy at the forefront of these efforts, and commit to 20 per cent of energy from renewable sources by 2020. However, implementation of this target should be based on impacts assessments of the actual climate benefits and pay particular attention on the possible adverse impacts on the most vulnerable people, such as bio-fuel production contributing to violation of human rights such as food security.⁶⁵

With respect to gender equality and women's rights, the document states that "women are disproportionately impacted by poverty, and other global problems such as HIV and AIDS, climate change and environmental degradation, war, conflict and related large-scale sexual violence and other human rights atrocities hampering their human right to development."⁶⁶ Moreover, in the GCAP official strategy document for 2009-2011, under the subheading *Public Accountability, Just Governance and the Fulfillment of Human Rights*, GCAP pledges to:

campaign at a national level, both in the North and the South, for governments to respect the international human rights instruments including economic, social, cultural, civil, environmental, sexual and reproductive rights; and support efforts to increase public awareness and renew commitments from governments to upholding the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), as well as the many UN and ILO agreements such as the [M]illennium [G]oals but also rights of

⁶³ London youth heading onto the world stage, The Londoner (London) 9 June 2009. Date of Access: 9 June 2009. <http://www.thelondoner.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1604756>.

⁶⁴ London youth heading onto the world stage, The Londoner (London) 9 June 2009. Date of Access: 9 June 2009. <http://www.thelondoner.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1604756>.

⁶⁵ The G8 Working Group Common Lobbying Positions, GCAP 19 May 2009. Date of Access: 20 June 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/gcap-g8-common-lobbying-positions-final.pdf>.

⁶⁶ The G8 Working Group Common Lobbying Positions, GCAP 19 May 2009. Date of Access: 20 June 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/gcap-g8-common-lobbying-positions-final.pdf>.

children, rights of women (CEDAW and UN resolutions 1325), ILO agreements, Geneva Conventions etc.⁶⁷

As it relates to the G8 and human rights, the GCAP strategy calls for the development of:

linkages with relevant institutions at the national, regional and international levels such as the AU, African Court of Justice; International Criminal Court, the UN and EU, The European Court in Strasbourg to ensure that the jurisprudence of international human rights law works in practice according to the existing UN, African and European human rights policies. GCAP will press for improved accountability mechanisms for the G8 on keeping promises made on increasing aid, funding global health programs and on climate change.⁶⁸

These statements and others released by GCAP reflect a high level of civil society organisation and coordination, and an eagerness to engage in constructive dialogue with the G8 in order to bring the organisation's goals to fruition.

The Terra Futura (Earth of the Future) conference, an annual international exhibition on sustainability, was held in Florence in May 2009. A coalition of fair trade organisations, unions and civil society groups called for the "establishment of a supranational authority for the regulation of financial markets, closure of tax havens, and measures including legislation to ensure sustainable consumption of natural resources."⁶⁹ From a civil rights perspective, the group also called for stricter rules for managers' wages and rewards, and for managers' compensation to be capped at fifteen times that of workers.⁷⁰ It was announced that a document summarizing the proposals of the conference will be presented at a civil society-government meeting at the G8 Summit in July in L'Aquila.⁷¹

Two days prior to the G8 Development Ministers Meeting on 11-12 June 2009, representatives from Action for Global Health and other international civil society organisations met with Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Franco Frattini during the Civil G8 forum.⁷² Topics discussed included AIDS, tuberculosis,

⁶⁷ GCAP Strategic Directions 2009-11, GCAP Date of Access: 22 June 2009.

<http://www.whiteband.org/about-gcap/reports>.

⁶⁸ GCAP Strategic Directions 2009-11, GCAP Date of Access: 22 June 2009.

<http://www.whiteband.org/about-gcap/reports>.

⁶⁹ ECONOMY: 'Crisis Must Lead to Greater Voice for Workers,' Global Geopolitics Net Sites (Florence) 1 June 2009. Date of Access: 1 June 2009.

<http://globalgeopolitics.net/wordpress/2009/06/01/economy-crisis-must-lead-to-greater-voice-for-workers/>.

⁷⁰ ECONOMY: 'Crisis Must Lead to Greater Voice for Workers,' Global Geopolitics Net Sites (Florence) 1 June 2009. Date of Access: 1 June 2009.

<http://globalgeopolitics.net/wordpress/2009/06/01/economy-crisis-must-lead-to-greater-voice-for-workers/>.

⁷¹ ECONOMY: Crisis Must Lead to Greater Voice for Workers, Global Geopolitics Net Sites (Florence) 1 June 2009. Date of Access: 1 June 2009.

<http://globalgeopolitics.net/wordpress/2009/06/01/economy-crisis-must-lead-to-greater-voice-for-workers/>.

⁷² G8: Representatives of civil society meet Italian Foreign Minister Frattini, Action for Global Health (Brussels) 10 June 2009. Date of Access: 27 June 2009.

malaria, maternal health and other human rights issues such as the importance of universal access to healthcare.⁷³

A collaborative human rights and health project between Britain, Italy, Canada, Russia, Norway and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was launched in Lecce, Italy to coincide with the G8 Finance Ministers meeting on the weekend of 13-14 June 2009. The Advance Market Commitment (AMC) will “encourage pharmaceutical firms to develop vaccines against some of the common diseases which plague poorer nations,” and the USD1.5 billion dollar project will be overseen by the World Bank, UNICEF, the World Health Organisation and the international vaccine GAVI alliance.⁷⁴ According to the parameters set out in the AMC initiative, the world’s wealthiest nations will guarantee the purchase of vaccines at a price that will cover research and development costs if global pharmaceutical companies develop new vaccines for the world’s poorest countries.⁷⁵ The purpose of this project is to ensure quick and affordable access to vaccines for millions of children and adults in the world’s poorest nations.

Analyst: Erica Rosenfield

Environmental Non-governmental Organisations

Introduction

Since the 2007 inclusion of climate change and energy efficiency in the summit agenda set by the German Presidency in Heiligendamm,⁷⁶ the environment has been rising in prominence as an agenda item. At the 2008 Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, the Japanese Presidency focused on a wide range of environmental issues. Prominent issues included tackling climate change through emissions reduction and the preservation of carbon sinks, investigating the impact of biofuel production on food security, developing second-generation biofuel technology, protecting biodiversity, maximizing nuclear safety and energy efficiency, and endorsing the Kobe 3R Action Plan to optimize resource cycles.⁷⁷

http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/g8_representatives_of_civil_society_meet_italian_foreign_minister_frattini.

⁷³ G8: Representatives of civil society meet Italian Foreign Minister Frattini, Action for Global Health (Brussels) 10 June 2009. Date of Access: 27 June 2009.

http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/g8_representatives_of_civil_society_meet_italian_foreign_minister_frattini.

⁷⁴ Britain pledges \$485 mln to global vaccine project, Reuters (Lecce) 13 June 2009 Date of access: 13 June 2009. <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSTRE55C1MO20090613>.

⁷⁵ Canada injects \$200M into global vaccine initiative, The Gazette (Montreal) 15 June 2009. Date of Access: 15 June 2009.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/business/fp/Canada+injects+200M+into+global+vaccine+initiative/1697966/story.html>.

⁷⁶ G8 Must Lead the Fight Against Climate Change, World Wildlife Fund (Heiligendamm), 7 June 2007. Date of Access: 26 February 2008.

http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/climate_change/solutions/policy_solutions/challenges/index.cfm.

⁷⁷ 2008 Hokkaido-Toyako Toyako G8 Summit Issue Area Assessment Report, G8 Information

Environmental non-governmental organisations (eNGO) have actively engaged the G8. The most prominent of these have been the large international eNGOs, including Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, and World Wildlife Fund. Strategies utilized by eNGOs towards the G8 have included public awareness briefings,⁷⁸ policy recommendations,⁷⁹ and collaborative efforts, such as the Civil G8 Dialogue. More dramatic acts have also been undertaken, such as the infiltration of a restricted area in front of the Heiligendamm resort by a Greenpeace boat during the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit.⁸⁰

During the 2008 Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, G8 leaders generated a lengthy statement on climate change and environment.⁸¹ However, it failed to meet the expectations of the eNGO community, members of which have been openly critical. High on the list of criticisms were: the failure of the G8 to commit to binding mid-term targets for cutting emissions and an insufficient long-term commitment in the same area;⁸² the seemingly unilateral attempt of the United States to produce a non-binding parallel emissions-cutting program as a diversion from Kyoto;⁸³ and, the continuing support for World Bank Climate Funds, which have been criticized for pouring money into coal and forcing less-developed countries to carry the burden of climate change.⁸⁴ The overall feeling among eNGOs after Hokkaido-Toyako was that “the G8 has failed the world yet again” and no progress was made from the previous year.⁸⁵

Center (Toronto) 9 July 2008. Date of Access: 15 February, 2009.

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2008Hokkaido-Toyako/2008-issues-080709.pdf>.

⁷⁸ Bush’s Major Emitter Meeting at Toyako: A dead end for climate change, Greenpeace. (Amsterdam) July, 2008. Date of Access: January 17, 2009.

<http://usclimatenetwork.org/international/2008-g8-and-mem/background-information/GP-G8-MEM.pdf>.

⁷⁹ G8 and the Food Crisis – the real solutions, Greenpeace (Amsterdam) July 2008. Date of Access: January 17, 2009.

<http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/g8-and-food-crisis.pdf>.

⁸⁰ Greenpeace Boats Penetrate G-8 Security Zone, Spiegel Online International, 6 July 2007. Date of Access: February 20, 2009.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,487324,00.html>.

⁸¹ G8 Statement on climate change and environment, The Guardian. (London) 8 July 2008. Date of Access: 2 January 2009.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/jul/08/climatechange.carbonemissions>.

⁸² G8 climate measures fall ‘dangerously short’, WWF, 8 July 2008. Date of Access: 2 January 2009. www.panda.org/news_facts/newsroom/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=139361.

⁸³ Greenpeace statement on MEM text, U.S. Climate Action Network. (Toyako) 9 July 2008. Date of Access: 3 January 2009. <http://usclimatenetwork.org/international/2008-g8-and-mem/press-releases/greenpeace-statement-on-mem-text>.

⁸⁴ Civil Society Groups Oppose World Bank’s Proposed Climate Funds, Global Research Media Advisory. 11 April 2008. Date of Access: 2 January 2009.

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=8649>.

⁸⁵ G8 Climate Statement: if this is a step forward – we will never get there, Greenpeace – Making Waves. 8 July 2008. Date of Access: 2 January 2009.

http://weblog.greenpeace.org/makingwaves/archives/2008/07/g8_climate_statement_this_is_a.html.

In the months following the 2008 Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, eNGOs continued to advance demands for more serious commitments to be made by G8 leaders in cutting emissions, pursuing energy efficiency, and developing new solutions to growing energy requirements and the food crisis. New linkages are being formed by organisations like Oxfam between climate change and violation of human rights.⁸⁶ This strategy is likely to be adopted by other environmental civil society groups as they seek to persuade the G8 leaders to take seriously their initiatives on environmental issues.

The most important and widely anticipated event for eNGOs leading up to the 2009 L'Aquila Summit was the December 2009 conference in Copenhagen, which is expected to yield a successor to the Kyoto Protocol, due to expire in 2012.⁸⁷ The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) is an obvious target for lobbying and awareness-raising on the part of civil society, especially given the fact that the Copenhagen talks are charged with producing a comprehensive, binding action plan to curb greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Most environmentally concerned civil society groups are approaching the 2009 G8 Summit in L'Aquila as a unique chance to push the leaders of the most developed countries closer to a tangible commitment or an expression of goodwill prior to the crucial conference in December.

Pre-summit Activity

Policy Papers, Press Statements, and Utilization of the Media

Greenpeace, WWF, and Friends of the Earth issued press statements expressing their reactions to the Environment and Climate Change communiqué released on 8 July 2008, and the Declaration of Leaders Meeting of Major Economies on Energy Security and Climate Change on 9 July 2008. Karen Orenstein of Friends of the Earth stated that “G8 leaders spewed futile rhetoric that will do nothing to stop the toll that global warming is taking on people and the planet.”⁸⁸ Greenpeace International stated: “The G8 have failed the world again.”⁸⁹ The WWF statement called the progress “pathetic” and argued that real action is

⁸⁶ Climate change policies must be linked to human rights, Irish Times. 9 September 2008. Date of Access 2 January, 2008. <http://g8live.org/2008/09/09/climate-change-policies-must-be-linked-to-human-rights>.

⁸⁷ Bridging the Gap to Copenhagen, Copenhagen Climate Council (Copenhagen) 4 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.copenhagenclimatecouncil.com/get-informed/news/bridging-the-gap-to-copenhagen.html>.

⁸⁸ G8 2008 Futile rhetoric on climate, Friends of the Earth International (Hokkaido-Toyako) July 8, 2008. Date of Access: February 28, 2009. <http://www.foei.org/en/media/archive/2008/g8-2008-futile-rethoric-on-climate>

⁸⁹ G8 Climate Statement: if this is a step forward – we will never get there, Greenpeace – Making Waves. 8 July 2008. Date of Access: 2 January 2009. http://weblog.greenpeace.org/makingwaves/archives/2008/07/g8_climate_statement_this_is_a.html

needed.⁹⁰

The World Wildlife Fund released its annual Climate Change Scorecard, ranking each of the G8 countries on 12 objective performance criteria, including Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and progress made towards meeting Kyoto Protocol targets. WWF subsequently called on the G8 “to commit to a binding long-term target for emission reductions of at least 80 per cent by 2050, and as close to 40 per cent by 2020 as possible.”⁹¹

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) issued a news release praising the G8 Environment Ministers’ meeting in Sicily, which saw the release of the Syracuse Charter on Biodiversity. The Charter placed strong emphasis on reducing emissions from deforestation and illegal logging and promised to “consider investments in green infrastructure.”⁹² The IUCN Director General Julia Marton-Lefevre expressed that the organisation was “delighted that the G8 has taken such a strong stance on biodiversity conservation and climate change, despite the current financial crisis.”⁹³

Much of the pressure coming from the civil society sector focused on the urgent need for funding to aid developing countries in their efforts to curb global warming. Thus, statements and reports by representatives of environmental organisations emphasized the importance of this issue for the broader fight against global warming. Antonio Hill, a senior policy advisor for Oxfam, stated that “adaptation funding...has been promised by G8 leaders but...has largely failed to materialize. They [the G8 leaders] must deliver the immediate financing which is needed to help the most vulnerable developing countries adapt to a changing climate.”⁹⁴ In an Oxfam Ireland press release on 12 June 2009, Hill also stated that “in the fight against climate change, we need the generals on the battlefield,”⁹⁵ referring to the need for high-level political will and commitment. He further expressed a hope that the 2009 G8 Summit will be used by leaders to

⁹⁰ Climate campaigners slam "pathetic" G8 statement, Reuters (Toyako) 8 July, 2008. Date of Access: February 26, 2009.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUST54523.CH.2400>.

⁹¹ WWF Ranks G8 Nations, United Press International, 7 July 2008. (Washington) Date of Access: February 18, 2009.

http://www.upi.com/Energy_Resources/2008/07/07/WWF_ranks_G8_nations/UPI-65081215468107/

⁹² A Boost for Biodiversity from the G8, G8 Live, 27 April, 2009. Date of Access 14 May, 2009.

<http://g8live.org/2009/04/27/a-boost-for-biodiversity-from-the-g8/>

⁹³ A Boost for Biodiversity from the G8, G8 Live, 27 April, 2009. Date of Access 14 May, 2009.

<http://g8live.org/2009/04/27/a-boost-for-biodiversity-from-the-g8/>.

⁹⁴ Glacial Pace in Climate Talks Scored, Business Mirror (Makati City) 9 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://businessmirror.com.ph/home/top-news/11527-glacial-pace-in-climate-talks-scored.html>.

⁹⁵ Industrialized Countries Sabotaging Talks Through Intertia, Oxfam Ireland Press Release 12 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009.

<http://www.oxfamireland.org/news/releases/2009/06-12.shtml>.

pledge to work together for a meaningful and binding convention to be adopted in Copenhagen in December.⁹⁶

Meanwhile, in interviews, communiqués, statements, and reports, NGO representatives stressed that, according to the consensus among experts, between USD142 and 160 billion⁹⁷ per year would be needed to help developing countries cope with the effects of climate change and assist them in reducing their emissions (e.g. through introducing more energy efficient technologies in both industry and consumption).^{98,99} The importance of targeted and sustained, long-term financial support of this kind was also underscored by Kim Carstensen, leader of the World Wildlife Fund's Climate Initiative. Speaking ahead of the G8 Finance Ministers meeting on 19-20 June 2009 in Lecce, Italy, Carstensen stated that "It [the meeting] is the perfect opportunity for finance ministers to show that they have realized the gravity of climate change and the true potential cost of global inaction."¹⁰⁰ Also alluding to funding, Oxfam's EU policy adviser Tim Gore indirectly criticized G8 countries by saying that the European Union—whose largest economies are also G8 states—needs to firmly commit to contributing funding toward lesser developed countries in support of their efforts (present and future) on the climate front.¹⁰¹

In addition to the issue of footing the bill for bringing developing countries on board in the global efforts against climate change in a truly meaningful way, environmental NGOs lobbied and criticized G8 powers for their perceived reluctance to agree on and implement a firm agenda for reversing the effects of global warming. Much of the media efforts and publicity of civil society came as a reaction to the climate talks which took place in Bonn, Germany from 1-12 June 2009 in preparation for Copenhagen's COP15 this December.¹⁰² During and following the talks, civil society representatives expressed concern about the G8

⁹⁶ Industrialized Countries Sabotaging Talks Through Inertia, Oxfam Ireland Press Release 12 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009.

<http://www.oxfamireland.org/news/releases/2009/06-12.shtml>.

⁹⁷ Climate Change Cash Key to Unlocking Progress on Global Deal, Reuters 9 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.alertnet.org/db/blogs/20316/2009/05/9-105214-1.htm>.

⁹⁸ Climate Change Cash Key to Unlocking Progress on Global Deal, Reuters 9 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.alertnet.org/db/blogs/20316/2009/05/9-105214-1.htm>.

⁹⁹ Don't Break Promises, Help the Poorest Fight Climate Change – WWF Tells G8 Finance Chiefs, WWF 11 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. http://www.panda.org/?166722/Dont-break-promises-help-the-poorest-fight-climate-change--WWF-tells-G8-finance-chiefs&_sc=1.

¹⁰⁰ Don't Break Promises, Help the Poorest Fight Climate Change – WWF Tells G8 Finance Chiefs, WWF 11 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. http://www.panda.org/?166722/Dont-break-promises-help-the-poorest-fight-climate-change--WWF-tells-G8-finance-chiefs&_sc=1.

¹⁰¹ Climate Change Cash Key to Unlocking Progress on Global Deal, Reuters 9 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.alertnet.org/db/blogs/20316/2009/05/9-105214-1.htm>.

¹⁰² United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Official Website. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>.

countries' "inertia" and "glacial pace" in the debate over the details on a document to succeed the Kyoto Protocol.¹⁰³

In a 15 June 2009 communiqué, Greenpeace estimated that the challenge to agreeing on a viable protocol at Copenhagen's COP15 in December will be "even greater after the UN meeting in Bonn."¹⁰⁴ Led by the belief that guidance from the top echelons of power is indispensable for true progress toward producing a satisfactory convention to succeed the Kyoto Protocol, Greenpeace joined the voices demanding that climate issues be tackled on the highest level of policy and decision-making and expressed a hope that the G8 Summit in L'Aquila will break the present deadlock by supplying the requisite political will.¹⁰⁵ As Karsten Smid, a Greenpeace representative in charge of climate change issues, stated in an interview, "the negotiations in Bonn were a fiasco," continuing to add that it is "...the G8 which is failing to successfully lead the international negotiations to stop climate change."¹⁰⁶ Antonio Hill of Oxfam also singled out G8 leaders for not doing enough to advance the negotiations.¹⁰⁷ More specifically, Hill expressed regret that Bonn did not produce significant results, thereby putting the fate of the Copenhagen treaty in jeopardy. In his judgment, the leaders of developed countries "may be kidding themselves [that] they are working towards a deal but they are not kidding anyone else."¹⁰⁸ In Oxfam's view, an acceptable climate deal would involve more concrete commitments in terms of emissions cuts and financial contribution on the part of G8 nations.¹⁰⁹

Civil society groups also singled out individual G8 member states and leveled more specific criticisms toward each. The Canadian government was faulted for allowing Canada's greenhouse gas emissions to begin rising again after a brief slump in the period 2004-2006.¹¹⁰ Greenpeace also took aim at the EU and, more specifically, its members who are also a part of the G8. Joined by the WWF, Greenpeace urged European G8 members to use the summit to push for a

¹⁰³ Industrialized Countries Sabotaging Talks Through Inertia, Oxfam Ireland Press Release 12 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009.

<http://www.oxfamireland.org/news/releases/2009/06-12.shtml>.

¹⁰⁴ Climate Challenge Even Greater After UN Meeting in Bonn, Greenpeace 15 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/bonntwo150609>.

¹⁰⁵ Climate Challenge Even Greater After UN Meeting in Bonn, Greenpeace 15 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/bonntwo150609>.

¹⁰⁶ Climate Challenge Even Greater After UN Meeting in Bonn, Greenpeace 15 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/bonntwo150609>.

¹⁰⁷ Industrialized Countries Sabotaging Talks Through Inertia, Oxfam Ireland Press Release 12 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009.

<http://www.oxfamireland.org/news/releases/2009/06-12.shtml>.

¹⁰⁸ Industrialized Countries Sabotaging Talks Through Inertia, Oxfam Ireland Press Release 12 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009.

<http://www.oxfamireland.org/news/releases/2009/06-12.shtml>.

¹⁰⁹ Industrialized Countries Sabotaging Talks Through Inertia, Oxfam Ireland Press Release 12 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009.

<http://www.oxfamireland.org/news/releases/2009/06-12.shtml>.

¹¹⁰ Scientist Calls Us Green 'laggards', Vancouver Sun (Vancouver) 21 April 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/Business/Scientist+calls+green+laggards/1517602/story.html>.

detailed climate strategy including a blueprint and timeline for payments on the crucial and urgently needed funding for developing countries.¹¹¹

NGOs such as Greenpeace,¹¹² as well as European diplomats present at the Bonn sessions, also faulted the United States. These criticisms made a point of comparing the United States with the European Union and the latter's stated intentions to independently cut its emissions by up to 30 per cent by 2020, while the United States government is willing to reduce theirs by "6 per cent at best" in the words of a European representative present at the Bonn talks.¹¹³ In contrast to this assessment, the Danish organisation Copenhagen Climate Council estimated in a report that it is precisely because of the United States' change of course toward active participation in the climate debate that a successful treaty will be produced at the end of the series of G8 and UN meetings devoted to environmental issues prior to the Copenhagen conference in December 2009.¹¹⁴

The United States' position going into July's Summit in L'Aquila was hinted at by President Obama's climate envoy to the Major Economies Forum (MEF) meeting in Mexico which lasted until 24 June 2009. Todd Stern stated that the US is not going to follow the calls made by environmental NGOs and developing countries for the US to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by up to 40 per cent as it finds them unnecessary and not feasible given current circumstances.¹¹⁵ Furthermore, a pre-summit working paper draft dated 11 May 2009 and obtained by Reuters revealed that US delegates opposed discussing or committing to concrete numbers and dates at the G8 Summit in July, but favoured holding such negotiations within the UN framework.¹¹⁶ According to Greenpeace's US Climate Campaign head, Damon Moglen, this amounted to weakening the G8's climate conclusions.¹¹⁷ It is worth noting that environmental groups estimated that the Bonn talks in early June 2009, which were strictly within the UNFCCC format,

¹¹¹ Environmental Groups Slam EU for Delay on Climate Action, Top News 19 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.topnews.in/environmental-groups-slam-eu-delay-climate-action-2180117>.

¹¹² Climate Change: Another Go at Cracking Those Hard Nuts, Inter Press Service (Rome) 11 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47183>.

¹¹³ Climate Change: Another Go at Cracking Those Hard Nuts, Inter Press Service (Rome) 11 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47183>.

¹¹⁴ Bridging the Gap to Copenhagen, Copenhagen Climate Council (Copenhagen) 4 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.copenhagenclimatecouncil.com/get-informed/news/bridging-the-gap-to-copenhagen.html>.

¹¹⁵ "Todd Stern Rejects Calls for 40% Cuts in US Emissions, Guardian (UK) 24 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/jun/24/us-carbon-emissions-stern>.

¹¹⁶ EXCLUSIVE – US resists EU Climate Change Target for G8 Summit, Reuters (Oslo) 23 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSLN103366>.

¹¹⁷ EXCLUSIVE – US resists EU Climate Change Target for G8 Summit, Reuters (Oslo) 23 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSLN103366>.

failed to deliver any tangible progress largely due to US and other major economies' reluctance to commit to concrete figures and timelines.¹¹⁸

Alongside the criticism and concern regarding the G8 and its role in the broader climate change discourse, civil society actors issued a number of notable reports, policy suggestions, and opinion papers aimed at spurring G8 leaders to move decisively with respect to the environment at July's Summit in Italy. Parallel to the Major Economies Forum, and in a bid to influence the G8's climate agenda, Greenpeace distributed a checklist of measures which they contend G8 countries need to take.¹¹⁹ The Italian environmental association, Legambiente, produced a report noting the severity of global warming with an emphasis on its effects on population migrations and refugee crises.¹²⁰

Overall, environmental NGOs and other civil society actors were active in commenting and taking a stance on environment-related events in the months preceding the 2009 L'Aquila Summit. Representatives from organisations such as Greenpeace, WWF, and others made statements, gave interviews, and published opinion pieces dealing with international as well as domestic developments concerning G8 countries. Through restating the scientific case for action on global warming, juxtaposing individual countries to others within the G8, criticizing the lack of progress during international meetings, or simply urging the bloc as a whole to make commitments during the L'Aquila Summit, NGOs strove to influence the policy agenda and outcomes of the upcoming G8 Summit.

As of 30 June 2009, this intense lobbying has not yet produced a major announcement from a G8 nation or the Italian G8 Presidency, which would indicate that the G8 is not likely to address climate change issues in a way which would meet the demands of civil society. Instead, government representatives from the eight countries have been largely silent, while some (e.g. the US) have explicitly downplayed the chances of the Summit producing any specific, concrete developments on climate change.

Pre-Summit Protests

In addition to the abundance of statements, press releases, and reports issued by civil society actors, protests were also employed as a method of conveying a message to G8 leaders prior to the Summit in L'Aquila. Over 3,000 people

¹¹⁸ Climate Change Talks Move at Slow Pace as Nations Hold on to Bargaining Chips, Financial Times (London) 13 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a3179d50-57b1-11de-8c47-00144feabdco.html>.

¹¹⁹ Greenpeace called on United States to Take the Lead on Climate Action, 7th Space Interactive (Cuernavaca, Mexico) 23 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009.

<http://7thspace.com/headlines/312640/greenpeace-called-on-the-united-states-to-take-the-lead-on-climate-action.html>.

¹²⁰ 'Climate Change Will Soon Make Millions Homeless', Interview with Maurizio Gubbiotti of Legambiente, Inter Press Service (Florence) 31 May 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47046>.

protested¹²¹ at a meeting of G8 environment ministers in Syracuse, Italy from 22-24 April 2009.¹²² Prompted by the same meeting, on 18 April 2009 the WWF installed dozens of panda bear figures on Rome's Piazza del Popolo in a bid to raise awareness for the plight of panda bears and environmental issues in general. The statues were then transported to Sicily where the ministers convened on April 22.¹²³ On 13 June 2009, *Stop Climate Chaos* – an Irish coalition partnered with Oxfam – organized an event entitled “The Climate Countdown” which was intended to draw attention to the six months remaining until the COP15 Copenhagen conference in December.¹²⁴

The effectiveness of such protests in terms of their success at eliciting a response from the G8 is difficult to gauge. Mass gatherings like the one in Syracuse, Italy tend to attract individuals with varying concerns and hardly present a coherent set of grievances. A further drawback of such vehicles for ideas is the fact that they are unsuitable for conveying tangible, workable policy drafts or other concrete measures which the protestors would like to see adopted. As a result, the only notable outcome of the Syracuse protest was its success at bringing a variety of groups against the G8 environmental meeting together and organizing them into a single, mobilized body.¹²⁵ Thus far, no significant developments can be reported as a result of anti-G8 or pro-environment protests.

Public Awareness Events and Collaborative Efforts

The Sardinia Region hosted a three-day international meeting in concert with the University of Sassari on biodiversity, desertification, water, food, and human rights from 18-20 September 2008. The meeting hosted a wide range of academics, individuals from intergovernmental organisations, and non-governmental organisations in an effort to engage “institutions, scientists, persons of law, associations and private citizens who have the future of the Planet at heart.”¹²⁶ The meeting was intended as preparation for the creation of a document to be presented at the 2009 L'Aquila Summit in hopes of providing guidance to the G8 leaders.¹²⁷

¹²¹ Quake G8 2009: We Are Your Crisis! Demonstration on 4 July 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.wombles.org.uk/article2009065505.php>,

¹²² Siracusa Environmental Ministerial Meeting, G8 Summit Official Website. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. http://www.g8italia2009.it/G8/Home/VersoIlVerticeG8/IncontriMinisteriali/G8-G8_Layout_locale-1199882116809_MinisterialeAmbiente.htm.

¹²³ Pandamonium in Piazza del Popolo, 20 April 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://eternallycool.net/2009/04/pandamonium-in-piazza-del-popolo/>

¹²⁴ Industrialized Countries Sabotaging Talks Through Intertia, Oxfam Ireland Press Release 12 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.oxfamireland.org/news/releases/2009/06-12.shtml>.

¹²⁵ Block G8 2009!, CeMAB.be 13 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.cemab.be/news/2009/06/7363.php>.

¹²⁶ Biodiversity, Desertification, Water, Food and Human Rights, Towards G8 People's International Meetings. September 18-20, 2008. (Sardinia) Date of Access: February 10, 2009. <http://www.towardsg8-2009.org/events/biodiversity/>.

¹²⁷ Biodiversity, Desertification, Water, Food and Human Rights, Towards G8 People's International Meetings. September 18-20, 2008. (Sardinia) Date of Access: February 10, 2009. <http://www.towardsg8-2009.org/events/biodiversity/>.

Cooperation among various civil society actors was also evident in a draft strategy proposal issued parallel to the Bonn conference and backed by WWF, Greenpeace, and Germanwatch, among other environmental NGOs.¹²⁸ Commenting on the proposed framework, Kim Carstensen, head of the WWF's climate initiative, stated that "[t]his is the first time in history that a coalition of civil society groups has taken such a step. Together, we have produced the most coherent legal document to date showing balanced and credible climate solutions based on equality and science."¹²⁹

In addition, an 11 June 2009 joint statement by the scientific academies of G8 nations urged leaders to act decisively. A sign of international civil solidarity and cooperation, the communiqué delineated specific areas such as capturing and sequestration of carbon dioxide and investment in renewable sources of energy as crucial to making real progress, pleading with G8 leaders to significantly increase research efforts aimed at understanding global warming and help develop technologies which help counter its effects.¹³⁰

Representatives from the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE) also voiced a message to "stand and deliver on climate change."¹³¹ GLOBE's status as a civil society actor is somewhat ambiguous since it is an organisation comprised chiefly of legislators – that is, sitting members of legislative assemblies in over 100 countries, although it also counts scientists and businessmen among its members^{132,133} – but its activity is entirely outside the format of the G8 itself and therefore more open to a wider variety of viewpoints and policy ideas.¹³⁴ Thus, although not an eNGO per se, GLOBE is a civil society stakeholder of considerable prominence.¹³⁵ In this organisational context, Mike Clegg, who is Foreign Secretary of the US National Academy of Sciences, pointed out that the G8 is an important forum for the climate community to make their

¹²⁸ Climate Change Cash Key to Unlocking Progress on Global Deal, Reuters 9 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.alertnet.org/db/blogs/20316/2009/05/9-105214-1.htm>.

¹²⁹ Glacial Pace in Climate Talks Scored, Business Mirror (Makati City) 9 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://businessmirror.com.ph/home/top-news/11527-glacial-pace-in-climate-talks-scored.html>.

¹³⁰ World Science Academies Push for G8 Climate Action, Reuters (Washington) 11 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.reuters.com/article/scienceNews/idUSTRE55A5BM20090611>.

¹³¹ "Stand and Deliver" says GLOBE to G-8 on Climate, Mission to Humanity 12 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.missiontohumanity.com/2009/06/stand-and-deliver-says-globe-to-g-8-on.html>.

¹³² "Stand and Deliver" says GLOBE to G-8 on Climate, Mission to Humanity 12 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.missiontohumanity.com/2009/06/stand-and-deliver-says-globe-to-g-8-on.html>.

¹³³ GLOBE International Decision Making/Organisational Structure, GLOBE Official Website. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.globeinternational.org/content.php?id=7:54:0:0:0>.

¹³⁴ About GLOBE International, GLOBE Official Website. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.globeinternational.org/content.php?id=1:0:0:0:0>

¹³⁵ "Stand and Deliver" says GLOBE to G-8 on Climate, Mission to Humanity 12 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.missiontohumanity.com/2009/06/stand-and-deliver-says-globe-to-g-8-on.html>.

voices heard, thus giving a nod to the importance of the forum being open to civil society stakeholders and collaborating with them.¹³⁶

GLOBE facilitated cooperation within civil society at the GLOBE meeting in June. The meeting, which was held in Rome, featured prominent climate-focused civil society actors such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world's oldest and largest global environment network, the Club of Rome (a global think tank, renowned for its seminal 1972 report "The Limits To Growth"), and the Brookings Institute.¹³⁷

Also notable were the efforts of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), an international alliance of NGOs with a focus on tackling poverty. In keeping with their strategy outlined for the period 2009-2011,¹³⁸ GCAP launched a media campaign in the weeks leading up to the L'Aquila Summit which aims to put pressure on G8 leaders to act in concert and resolve on climate issues.¹³⁹ Looking to harness the public's support, GCAP's campaign featured a website design with an online petition form in support of their goals as well as print materials which were circulated around Rome.¹⁴⁰

Similarly, the environmental organisation Friends of the Earth hosts an online petition seeking public support for a call to action from countries meeting at the COP15 conference in Copenhagen.¹⁴¹ Although their campaign focuses on the more distant event, it has considerable relevance for the more immediate G8 Summit, since a swell of public support would inevitably contribute to the credibility and urgency of the NGO demands directed at world leaders, and thus presumably advance their cause. A further public outreach effort was a similar online form published by Greenpeace.¹⁴²

G8-Civil Society Initiatives

Speaking at the Civil G8 Dialogue, a two-day international conference in Rome, Mayor Gianni Alemanno promised to organize a meeting between the G8 leaders

¹³⁶ "Stand and Deliver" says GLOBE to G-8 on Climate, Mission to Humanity 12 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.missiontohumanity.com/2009/06/stand-and-deliver-says-globe-to-g-8-on.html>.

¹³⁷ Climate Change: Another Go at Cracking Those Hard Nuts, Inter Press Service (Rome) 11 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47183>.

¹³⁸ GCAP: Strategy 2009-11, Global Call to Action against Poverty, GCAP Website, 21. Date Accessed: 29 June 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/about-gcap/reports>.

¹³⁹ "Press the 8," GCAP Website. Date Accessed: 29 June 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/action/presstheg8/>.

¹⁴⁰ "Press the 8," GCAP Website. Date Accessed: 29 June 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/action/presstheg8/>.

¹⁴¹ Friends of the Earth Online Petition for the December 2009 Copenhagen Conference. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.foe.co.uk/climatetalks/petition.html>.

¹⁴² Climate Challenge Even Greater After UN Meeting in Bonn, Greenpeace 15 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/bonntwo150609>.

and members of civil society at this year's G8 Summit.¹⁴³ Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's representative, Giampiero Massolo, also spoke of "inclusiveness" in the summit this year, addressing the Civil G8 Dialogue in Rome.¹⁴⁴ The Civil G8 Dialogue, which included representatives of international civil society, was concluded on 5 May 2009 with a final document passed on to the G8 Sherpas. The document listed the issues that the Civil G8 wishes to raise at the Summit in L'Aquila in July, including several issues pertaining to the environment, such as climate change and food and agricultural sovereignty.¹⁴⁵ Amidst the various NGO activities leading up to the L'Aquila Summit, there was a relatively low degree of collaboration between the G8 and the civil society sector. However, in an interview, Maurizio Gubbiotti of Legambiente expressed eagerness to share the findings outlined in the organisation's latest report at a joint G8-civil society meeting which took place in mid-June 2009.¹⁴⁶

There is little to take note of in terms of formal G8-civil society exchange. A meeting was held in Rome on 11 June 2009 on issues of sustainable development and the environment, among others.¹⁴⁷ It is worth pointing out that while Prime Minister Berlusconi decided to expand the circle of stakeholders beyond representatives of the most industrialized countries to include inter-governmental envoys and delegates from developing and emerging economies at this pre-summit event,¹⁴⁸ civil society representatives were not invited.¹⁴⁹ However, NGO representatives (WWF, Birdlife International, etc.) were consulted in preparations for the meeting of G8 Environmental Ministers held in Syracuse on 22-24 April 2009.¹⁵⁰

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¹⁴³ Civil G8 Calls for New Global Governance, G8 Summit 2009 News, 5 May, 2009. Date of Access: 14 May, 2009. http://www.g8italia2009.it/G8/Home/News/G8-G8_Layout_locale-1199882116809_1199895752228.htm.

¹⁴⁴ Civil G8 Calls for New Global Governance, G8 Summit 2009 News, 5 May, 2009. Date of Access: 14 May, 2009. http://www.g8italia2009.it/G8/Home/News/G8-G8_Layout_locale-1199882116809_1199895752228.htm

¹⁴⁵ Civil G8 Calls for New Global Governance, G8 Summit 2009 News, 5 May, 2009. Date of Access: 14 May, 2009. http://www.g8italia2009.it/G8/Home/News/G8-G8_Layout_locale-1199882116809_1199895752228.htm.

¹⁴⁶ "Climate Change Will Soon Make Millions Homeless," Interview with Maurizio Gubbiotti of Legambiente, Inter Press Service (Florence) 31 May 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47046>.

¹⁴⁷ G8, Emerging Countries Meet on Sustainable Development, AFP (Rome) 11 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iiY3Ud63idgkb6iGko1zYHg7ZfGQ>.

¹⁴⁸ Industrialized Countries Sabotaging Talks Through Inertia, Oxfam Ireland Press Release 12 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.oxfamireland.org/news/releases/2009/06-12.shtml>.

¹⁴⁹ G8, Emerging Countries Meet on Sustainable Development, AFP (Rome) 11 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iiY3Ud63idgkb6iGko1zYHg7ZfGQ>.

¹⁵⁰ Siracusa Environmental Ministerial Meeting, Chair's Summary, (Siracusa) 22-24 April 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. http://www.g8italia2009.it/static/G8_Allegato/Chair_Summary_eng.pdf.

Faith-based Organisations

Introduction

A faith-based organisation (FBO) has been defined by the Red Cross as a nonprofit organisation, program, or project, that is sponsored or hosted by a religious congregation or religiously motivated incorporators and board members, that clearly states in its name, incorporation, or mission statement that it is a religiously motivated institution.¹⁵¹ Although international FBOs have diverse interests and goals, most place their focus on international peacebuilding and third-world development.¹⁵² According to the UNDP, FBOs have high potential to become a leading driver of development.¹⁵³ FBOs have been increasingly active in their efforts to shape the global agenda over the past two decades, and there has been increasing activity in attempts to lobby the G8 to push for a variety of humanitarian interests.

The sheer number of international faith based organisations makes it hard to generalize about their activity, interests, budget, and size. However, despite differences in religious views, many FBOs are fighting for the same humanitarian goals.¹⁵⁴ International FBOs participate as partners in global networks for humanitarian assistance and development aid, as peacemakers and peacebuilders in all regions of the world.¹⁵⁵ Organisations such as World Vision, Christian Aid, and the Jubilee Debt Campaign are among the better known international FBOs. FBOs activity has included high-level mediation, lobbying the G8, training, and grassroots level peacebuilding.¹⁵⁶ Many FBOs act locally both to influence their

¹⁵¹ Developing Definitions for the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, Centre for Faith and Service: National Crime Prevention Council (Washington, D.C.) 2006. Date of Access: 30 May 2009.

http://www.nationalservicerresources.org/files/legacy/filemanager/download/196/F_Definitions.pdf.

¹⁵² United States Institute of Peace: Special Report; Faith Based NGOs and International Peacebuilding, David Smock (Washington, D.C.) 22 October 2001. Date of Access: 30 June 2009. <http://www.usip.org/resources/faith-based-ngos-and-international-peacebuilding>.

¹⁵³ One Year After the G8 Gleneagles Summit: Implementation, African Development, and the African Monitor. 14 July 2006. Date of Access: 1 June 2009. <http://undp-usa.blogspot.com/2006/07/one-year-after-g8-gleneagles-summit.html>.

¹⁵⁴ Faith-based and Secular Humanitarian Organisations, Elizabeth Ferris (Geneva), International Review of the Red Cross (Volume 87 Number 858) June 2005. Date of Access: 30 May 2009. [http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteengonfs/htmlall/review-858-p311/\\$File/irrc_858_Ferris.pdf](http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteengonfs/htmlall/review-858-p311/$File/irrc_858_Ferris.pdf).

¹⁵⁵ Partners, Partisans, Proselytizers: Games Played by International Faith-Based Organisations, Michael McGinnis (Chicago) 20 April 2006. Date of Access: 30 May 2009. http://www.allacademic.com/meta/p_mla_apa_research_citation/1/3/9/0/7/p139075_index.html.

¹⁵⁶ United States Institute of Peace: Special Report; Faith Based NGOs and International Peacebuilding, David Smock (Washington, D.C.) 22 October 2001. Date of Access: 30 June 2009. <http://www.usip.org/resources/faith-based-ngos-and-international-peacebuilding>.

local governments to press for change or are the actors that deliver humanitarian assistance in developing countries.¹⁵⁷

A turning point in the interaction of faith-based organisations with the G8 came with the consolidation of the Jubilee 2000 campaign. Jubilee 2000 is a religious-inspired international coalition movement calling for the alleviation of debt for developing nations based on a biblical idea of debt forgiveness.¹⁵⁸ Although originally their aim was to reduce the debt owed by the world's poorest countries by 90 billion by the year 2000, their work continues internationally with an array of Jubilee organisations around the world, including Jubilee South and Jubilee Debt Campaign, who ultimately strive to achieve many of the same goals of third-world debt reduction.¹⁵⁹ They have initiated several demonstrations aimed at influencing the G8 and have been successful in their attempts to generate public awareness and support for causes being considered by the G8.

The British Jubilee 2000 campaign was born out of a grassroots debt crisis movement in the UK.¹⁶⁰ By 1998, the movement had gained support from agencies such as Christian Aid and the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development.¹⁶¹

Prior to the 1998 Birmingham Summit, Jubilee 2000 was actively campaigning by mobilizing petitions, staffing awareness booths, writing articles, and even chaining themselves to railings.¹⁶² On 16 May 1998, the first day of the G7 Summit, thousands of volunteers came together for the cause of third-world debt relief. In Birmingham, 70,000 peaceful demonstrators created a 9 kilometre "human chain" surrounded by 3,000 journalists. The demonstration marked the first significant religiously based lobby to the G7 organisation.¹⁶³ It was a powerful symbol to the G7 of the support for the coalition of FBOs which sought to end poverty and inequality.

The Jubilee 2000 organisation and its member religious organisations played an instrumental role in the 2005 Make Poverty History campaign as part of the

¹⁵⁷ United States Institute of Peace: Special Report; Can Faith-Based NGOs Advance Interfaith Reconciliation? The Case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Branka Peuraca (Washington D.C.) March 2003. Date of Access: 1 June 2009. <http://www.usip.org/files/resources/sr103.pdf>.

¹⁵⁸ About Jubilee Debt Campaign, Jubilee Debt Campaign (London). Date of Access: 1 June 2009. <http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/?lid=123>.

¹⁵⁹ About Jubilee Debt Campaign, Jubilee Debt Campaign (London). Date of Access: 1 June 2009. <http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/?lid=123>.

¹⁶⁰ About Jubilee Debt Campaign, Jubilee Debt Campaign (London). Date of Access: 1 June 2009. <http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/?lid=123>.

¹⁶¹ About Jubilee Debt Campaign, Jubilee Debt Campaign (London). Date of Access: 1 June 2009. <http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/?lid=123>.

¹⁶² Jubilee Debt Campaign: 16 May 1988, Ann Pettifor (London) Date of Access: 26 May 2009. <http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/16%20May%201998+280.twl>.

¹⁶³ Jubilee Debt Campaign: 16 May 1988, Ann Pettifor (London) Date of Access: 26 May 2009. <http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/16%20May%201998+280.twl>.

larger Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP).¹⁶⁴ At the 2005 G8 Summit, the Make Poverty History Campaign pushed G8 nations to accelerate global efforts to reduce poverty. Over 225,000 peaceful protestors marched in Edinburgh, and the protest is considered the largest ever anti-poverty movement.¹⁶⁵

Since the 2008 G8 Summit, FBOs have accounted for a minority of pre-summit civil society activity. Much of the activity leading up to the 2009 L'Aquila Summit was in collaboration with other humanitarian groups. Few events, whether on a global or national level, were purely faith-based initiatives. Although the membership of faith based organisations is impressively numerous,¹⁶⁶ the majority of FBOs acted locally and tended to focus on public awareness initiatives. The result of these initiatives was a multitude of low-level activity that did not often receive global press coverage.

Pre-summit Activity

Policy Papers, Press Statements and Utilization of the Media

FBOs have used policy papers, press statements and the media to influence the G8 in their decisions before the 2009 L'Aquila Summit. Although FBOs are active in trying to lobby their governments and other international actors in all G8 nations, only a minority of their efforts are directed exclusively towards influencing G8 policy and summit outcomes. Rather, FBOs generally seek to advance their interests at every opportunity, but few initiatives exist purely to lobby the G8. As a result, only a small portion of policy papers, press statements and utilization of the media are directed exclusively towards the G8 summit. Nevertheless, FBOs are active in persuading their governments and other international actors to address global poverty and inequality and to honour their commitments at the L'Aquila summit.

Many FBOs choose to publish policy papers or press statements that reflect the causes they wish to see acted upon by the G8 leadership. Many FBOs work towards the same goals as other civil society actors and movements.¹⁶⁷ Most see their causes gaining momentum through the use of the media spreading their messages. In the past year leading up to the 2009 G8 Summit, it appears that

¹⁶⁴ GCAP: Global Call to Action Against Poverty (Spain) Date of Access: 30 May 2009.

<http://www.whiteband.org/>.

¹⁶⁵ G-8 Gleneagles Summit and Development, The World Bank (Washington D.C.) 1 July 2005.

Date of Access: 1 June 2009.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20567463~pagePK:64257043~piPK:437376~theSitePK:4607,00.html>.

¹⁶⁶ United States Institute of Peacebuilding: Special Report; Faith Based NGOs and International Peacebuilding, David Smock (Washington, D.C.) 22 October 2001. Date of Access: 30 June 2009.

<http://www.usip.org/resources/faith-based-ngos-and-international-peacebuilding>.

¹⁶⁷ GCAP: Global Call to Action Against Poverty (Spain) Date of Access: 30 May 2009.

<http://www.whiteband.org/>.

most FBOs focused on local awareness and urging their supporters to take action in lobbying their government officials.

A FBO that has been active with policy papers, press statements, and utilization of the media is the Christian FBO Bread for the World. Bread for the World is a Christian citizen movement and faith-based organisation originating from the United States with a focus on ending global hunger by inspiring action from the level of the citizen through to the lobbying of governments and international organisations.¹⁶⁸ Since the 2008 G8 summit, Bread for the World has called upon G8 leaders to do more to end global hunger.¹⁶⁹ In early April 2009, Bread for the World pressed the G20 to include food security and economic recovery for poor countries on their agenda.¹⁷⁰ They did so both with their own public awareness campaign initiatives and calls through the media towards G20 action, as well as urging individual supporters to generate local media attention and lobby their local representatives.¹⁷¹

Bread for the World welcomed an assurance from President Barack Obama who pledged an additional USD448 million for immediate food assistance and more than USD1 billion to address global food security.¹⁷² Despite this success with the G20, Bread for the World continued to publicly lobby the G8 prior to the meeting of G8 Agricultural Ministers 18-20 April 2009 to ensure that more resources are made available to small farmers in order to “avert a permanent food crisis.”¹⁷³ Bread for the World saw the goals of their lobbying achieved, as a press release issued on the final day of the meeting demonstrated that the delegations all sought to place agriculture and food security at the core of their political agendas.¹⁷⁴ The Agricultural Ministers came to a consensus on a final declaration

¹⁶⁸ Bread for the World: About Us, Bread for the World Institute (Washington D.C.) 2009. Date of Access: July 1 2009. <http://www.bread.org/about-us/>.

¹⁶⁹ Bread for the World, Bread for the World Institute (Washington D.C.) 2009. Date of Access: July 1 2009. <http://www.bread.org/>.

¹⁷⁰ Press Release: Bread for the World Urges G-20 Leaders to Include Food Security, Economic Recovery for Poor Countries, Bill Malone and Shawnda Hines, Bread for the World Institute (Washington D.C.) 1 April 2009. Date of Access: 15 June 2009. <http://www.bread.org/press-room/releases/bread-for-the-world-urges-g-20-leaders-to-include-food-security-economic-recovery-for-poor-countries.html>.

¹⁷¹ Press Release: Bread for the World Urges G-20 Leaders to Include Food Security, Economic Recovery for Poor Countries, Bill Malone and Shawnda Hines, Bread for the World Institute (Washington D.C.) 1 April 2009. Date of Access: 15 June 2009. <http://www.bread.org/press-room/releases/bread-for-the-world-urges-g-20-leaders-to-include-food-security-economic-recovery-for-poor-countries.html>.

¹⁷² Press Release: Bread for the World Welcomes President’s G-20 Pledge To Redouble Efforts on World Hunger, Bill Malone and Shawnda Hines, Bread for the World Institute (Washington D.C.) 2 April 2009. Date of Access: 15 June 2009. <http://www.bread.org/press-room/releases/bread-for-the-world-welcomes-president-s-g-20-pledge-to-redouble-efforts-on-world-hunger.html>.

¹⁷³ Press Release: G8 Warns Hunger Crisis May Become Permanent, Shawnda Hines (Washington D.C.) 14 April 2009. Date of Access: 15 June 2009. <http://www.bread.org/press-room/releases/g8-warns-hunger-crisis-may-become-permanent.html>.

¹⁷⁴ FINAL DECLARATION: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY AT THE CORE OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDA, Ministero Delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari E Forestali (Cison di Valmarino) 20 April 2009. Date of Access: 10 June 2009.

in which they committed to strengthen and encourage sustainable agriculture and food production, use all available means to alleviate the negative consequences of the current financial crisis on poverty and hunger, increase the investments in agriculture and research, and avoid unfair competition and agricultural trade distortions, including export restrictive measures, as agreed by the G20.¹⁷⁵

World Vision is a Christian faith-based organisation dedicated to the cause of working with children, families, and communities worldwide and helping them to “reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.”¹⁷⁶ In March 2009, World Vision published a paper outlining recommendations made specifically to the G8 on how to maintain and build development momentum in their efforts to fight global poverty.¹⁷⁷ In *Why the G8 Matters to Children*, World Vision asked the G8 to maintain the commitments they made at the 2005 Gleneagles Summit and to continue their role in fighting global poverty and AIDS and to “do their fair share to meet the Millennium Development Goals.”¹⁷⁸ They have stressed that leadership in development assistance by the G8 is especially important in the current economic climate.¹⁷⁹ World Vision encourages individuals to get involved through their G8 Action on Child Health campaign by lobbying the leaders of the G8 governments through letters urging them to find creative solutions to combat global poverty.¹⁸⁰ World Vision’s policy papers, press statements and utilization of the media help to draw more focus from the G8 to these humanitarian issues.

Pre-summit protests

Pre-summit protests have occurred leading up to the 2009 L’Aquila summit, gaining the attention of G8 member nations. Although protests of a humanitarian

<http://www.g8agricultureministersmeeting.mipaaf.com/en/index.php?pL1=stampa&pL2=comunicati>.

¹⁷⁵ FINAL DECLARATION: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY AT THE CORE OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDA, Ministero Delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari E Forestali (Cison di Valmarino) 20 April 2009. Date of Access: 10 June 2009.

<http://www.g8agricultureministersmeeting.mipaaf.com/en/index.php?pL1=stampa&pL2=comunicati>.

¹⁷⁶ World Vision: About Us, World Vision (California) 2009. Date of Access: 10 June 2009.

http://www.worldvision.org/content.nsf/about/aboutus-home?OpenDocument&lpos=top_drp>AboutUs.

¹⁷⁷ Why the G8 Matters to Children: World Vision’s Policy Calls to the 2009 G8 Summit, World Vision (California) 27 June 2009. Date of Access: 30 June 2009.

[http://www.worldvision.org/resources.nsf/main/G8-2009-paper/\\$file/G8-2009.pdf?open&lid=G8_policy_paper&lpos=rgt_img_G8_cover%22](http://www.worldvision.org/resources.nsf/main/G8-2009-paper/$file/G8-2009.pdf?open&lid=G8_policy_paper&lpos=rgt_img_G8_cover%22).

¹⁷⁸ Combating extreme poverty and disease, World Vision (California) 27 June 2009. Date of Access: 30 June 2009. <http://www.worldvision.org/content.nsf/learn/globalissues-poverty>.

¹⁷⁹ Why the G8 Matters to Children: World Vision’s Policy Calls to the 2009 G8 Summit, World Vision (California) 27 June 2009. Date of Access: 30 June 2009.

[http://www.worldvision.org/resources.nsf/main/G8-2009-paper/\\$file/G8-2009.pdf?open&lid=G8_policy_paper&lpos=rgt_img_G8_cover%22](http://www.worldvision.org/resources.nsf/main/G8-2009-paper/$file/G8-2009.pdf?open&lid=G8_policy_paper&lpos=rgt_img_G8_cover%22).

¹⁸⁰ G8 Action on Child Health, World Vision (California) 2009. Date of Access: 30 June 2009.

<http://www.g8action.org/ca-en/take-action>

nature occur frequently throughout the world and in G8 member countries, few meet the criteria of being both of a faith-based nature and being directed towards influencing the G8. Although, leading up to the L'Aquila Summit, the pre-summit protests have not been as substantial as in the past, they still demonstrate that an impressive coalition of faith based humanitarian organisations are willing to take a stand together for the common goal of real humanitarian change.

On 28 March 2009 more than 35,000 people marched through the streets of London, UK as a part of the global Put People First campaign to challenge the G20 to address the failures of the current global economic systems and address global poverty and inequality.¹⁸¹ This powerful demonstration was comprised of a large number of faith based and humanitarian organisations under the banner of the Jubilee Debt Coalition.¹⁸² The Jubilee Debt Coalition is a coalition of national organisations and local groups originating in the UK but expanding to 40 other countries mostly including faith groups, churches and humanitarian organisations, who are calling for the cancellation of debt for the world's poorest countries based on a biblical idea of the year Jubilee.¹⁸³ They marched to demonstrate the frustration many feel at the damage caused by unregulated and unaccountable free markets and to urge the governments of developed nations to cancel Third World debt.¹⁸⁴ Similar demonstrations were held in Germany, France and Spain and later in Japan and Italy to try to gain attention from the G8 on the issue of Third World Debt.¹⁸⁵

Public Awareness Events

Although public awareness events and workshops occurred leading up to the 2009 L'Aquila Summit, most were done on a local level to gain more public support. Most FBOs sought to gain momentum through public awareness to have an impact on the G8.

Micah Challenge is a global coalition of Christians that aims to hold governments accountable for their promises to halve extreme poverty by 2015. Comprised of a partnership between the Micah Network and the World Evangelical Alliance, the

¹⁸¹ Put People First - 35,000 March on the G20, Jubilee Debt Campaign (London) 30 March 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009.

<http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/Put%20People%20First%20%2035%2C000%20march%20on%20the%20G20+4754.twl>.

¹⁸² What the London Summit was for, The London Summit 2009 (London) 8 April 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.londonsummit.gov.uk/en/summit-aims/>.

¹⁸³ About Jubilee Debt Campaign, Jubilee Debt Campaign (London). Date of Access: 1 June 2009. <http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/?lid=123>.

¹⁸⁴ Put People First - 35,000 March on the G20, Jubilee Debt Campaign (London) 30 March 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009.

<http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/Put%20People%20First%20%2035%2C000%20march%20on%20the%20G20+4754.twl>.

¹⁸⁵ Put People First - 35,000 March on the G20, Jubilee Debt Campaign (London) 30 March 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009.

<http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/Put%20People%20First%20%2035%2C000%20march%20on%20the%20G20+4754.twl>.

Micah Challenge attempts to mobilize Christians worldwide against poverty and to challenge leaders to act with justice.¹⁸⁶ With campaigns in thirty-three countries, six of which are G8 nations, participants of the Micah Challenge seek to lobby their governments and participate with the larger civil society movement against poverty.¹⁸⁷ Members took a stand at a march in London, UK on 28 March 2009 ahead of the G20 summit to urge the world's leaders to honour their commitment to the poor.¹⁸⁸

Collaborative Efforts

There was an impressive level of collaboration on the parts of FBOs ahead of the 2009 L'Aquila summit. The nature and the small size of most FBOs limit their ability to act instrumentally to make a significant push for change. Many smaller FBOs join together for shared humanitarian goals and are able to create a stronger and more forceful front from which to lobby the G8. Most action on the part of FBOs occurred as a part of a coalition.

On 16-17 June 2009, religious leaders from around the world met in L'Aquila, Italy for the G8 Summit of Religious Leaders. With over 130 leaders present, they created a public appeal to the G8 to continue to tackle some of the world's most prominent issues.¹⁸⁹ They appealed for action against poverty, the current economic crisis, nuclear threats, and for social justice.¹⁹⁰

G8-Civil Society Initiatives

No civil society initiatives have occurred on the part of the G8 with respect to FBOs.

Analyst: Darcie Dixon

Celebrity Activists

Introduction

¹⁸⁶ Overview, Micah Challenge International (London) 2006. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.micahchallenge.org/english/knowit/Overview/>.

¹⁸⁷ Welcome to Micah Challenge, Micah Challenge International (London) 2006. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.micahchallenge.org/>.

¹⁸⁸ Church leaders tell G20 to put people first, Maria Mackay, 28 March 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/church.leaders.tell.g20.to.put.people.first/22925.htm>.

¹⁸⁹ World religious leaders hold their own G8 summit, Philip Pullella. 18 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://blogs.reuters.com/faithworld/2009/06/18/world-religious-leaders-hold-their-own-g8-summit/>.

¹⁹⁰ World religious leaders hold their own G8 summit, Philip Pullella. 18 June 2009. Date of Access: 29 June 2009. <http://blogs.reuters.com/faithworld/2009/06/18/world-religious-leaders-hold-their-own-g8-summit/>.

Celebrity activists have taken on an increased role in advocating for global issues such as the eradication of Third World debt, poverty, hunger, HIV/AIDS, and global warming. In doing so, they have embedded themselves, either as self-representing entities or as organisationally affiliated spokespeople, as new entrepreneurial powers within the larger civil society movement of non-governmental organisations and international organisations.

There are various categories of celebrity activists. Within the entertainment industry, the group includes actors such as Angelina Jolie and Richard Gere as well as musicians such as Bono and Bob Geldof. Celebrity activists also include economists such as Jeffery Sachs, businessmen such as Bill Gates and George Soros, and politicians such as Bill Clinton and Al Gore.

Celebrities have the power to frame issues in a manner that attracts visibility and resources. Celebrity status also helps to open up new channels of communication with political decision-making bodies like the G8. As a result, linking celebrity with the promotion of a cause has undeniable advantages. First, celebrities are able to raise awareness of global issues, acting as a conduit between the masses and the political elite with whom the public may feel alienated. Second, celebrities have considerable access to media outlets that international organisations and NGOs may not otherwise have. Third, celebrity status allows for access to politicians and decision-makers. When actress Natalie Portman went to lobby Congress as “ambassador” of the microfinance organisation FINCA, she was immediately offered meetings with lawmakers. Portman noted afterward this fact “seemed totally nuts” to her, saying, “It’s the way it works, I guess. I’m not particularly proud that I can get a meeting with a representative more easily than the head of a non-profit can.”¹⁹¹ Fourth, as the title of James Traub’s New York Times article, *The Money Issue: The Celebrity Solution* attests, celebrities have large support bases and are able to pool financial resources from socially conscious corporate sponsors, wealthy donors, and by providing the face for fundraising campaigns.¹⁹² This is especially important given the large degree of donor fatigue seen in the last decade, now compounded by the global economic crisis.¹⁹³

Despite these notable draws, celebrity activists do encounter criticism. The most prominent criticism is that celebrities dilute the message of civil society actors through their non-diplomatic language, inability to communicate complex concepts, lack of formal training, and lack of academic or practical training,

¹⁹¹ James Traub, *The Money Issue: The Celebrity Solution*, The New York Times Online (New York), 9 March 2008. Date of Access: 6 January 2009.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/09/magazine/09CELEBRITY-t.html>.

¹⁹² James Traub, *The Money Issue: The Celebrity Solution*, The New York Times Online (New York), 9 March 2008. Date of Access: 6 January 2009.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/09/magazine/09CELEBRITY-t.html>.

¹⁹³ Donor Fatigue at G8 Summit, The Independent Online (UK), 7 June 2007. Date of Access: 8 January 2009.

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?sf=24&set_id=1&click_id=3&art_id=nw20070607140016658C345758.

which may impede upon their credibility and potentially do more damage than good.¹⁹⁴ Eric Clapton famously criticized the credibility of Bono and Bob Geldof by saying they were “only musicians.”¹⁹⁵ Bianca Jagger, who has criticized Bono and Geldof on their Make Poverty History campaign, suggested that the tendency of celebrities to lobby politicians such as former President George W. Bush may lead to cooptation: “I know that we need to persuade politicians, but do we really need to sleep with the enemy? Although one cannot deny that [Bono and Geldof] have succeeded in bringing attention to Africa, one feels betrayed by their moral ambiguity and sound-bite propaganda, which has watered down the real issues.”¹⁹⁶ In addition to the sometimes ambiguous motivations of celebrities in supporting issues, their voices may also detract listeners from hearing alternative voices.¹⁹⁷

Andrew Cooper provides a useful distinction between celebrity activists and what he terms “celebrity diplomats” in his book *Celebrity Diplomacy*, which will serve as a guiding definition for the actors included in this report. To gain the label of celebrity diplomat, individuals must possess ample communication skills, a sense of mission, and some global reach. In addition, they must also enter into the official diplomatic world and operate through the matrix of complex relationships with state officials.¹⁹⁸ Thus, a celebrity diplomat describes the type of celebrity who becomes involved with lobbying the G8. These individuals have displayed their dedication, long-term commitment and sophisticated degree of knowledge. Such celebrities have included in the past, but are not limited to the following individuals: Bono, Bob Geldof, Bill and Melinda Gates, Annie Lennox, Youssou N’Dour, Jeffery Sachs, and Al Gore.

With minor exception, celebrity involvement with the G8 began at Gleneagles in 2005 and has been dominated by the Anglosphere. Comparatively, European celebrities have been far less engaged.¹⁹⁹ Yet it is not clear whether the celebrity presence and attempts to sway decision-makers have influenced the outcome of policy. Given the closed nature of the G8, we may never know. But celebrities attract significant media attention and possess considerable savvy over other civil society groups in their ability to network socially and gain access to high-level politicians and meetings. One observer remarked that this was because “guys with egos respond to guys with egos.”²⁰⁰ Bono has shared long-term relations with a number influential heads of state, including George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, as well as Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. At the 2007 Heiligendamm

¹⁹⁴ Activists don’t always want celebrity help for their causes, Deutsch Welle Online (Germany), 4 June 2007. Date of Access: 8 January 2009. <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,2575802,00.html>.

¹⁹⁵ Eric Clapton, quoted in Geldof, Bono ‘Only Musicians’, Deutsch Presse-Agentur, 24 August 2008. Date of Access: 5 January 2009.

¹⁹⁶ Bianca Jagger, Real People Power, or Pernicious Platitudes? New Statesman, 11 July 2003. Date of Access: 6 January 2009. <http://www.newstatesman.com/200507110005>.

¹⁹⁷ Andrew Cooper, *Celebrity Diplomacy*, Paradigm Publishers, (Boulder, CO), 2008. 7.

¹⁹⁸ Andrew Cooper, *Celebrity Diplomacy*, Paradigm Publishers, (Boulder, CO), 2008. 7.

¹⁹⁹ Andrew Cooper, *Celebrity Diplomacy*, Paradigm Publishers, (Boulder, CO), 2008. 96.

²⁰⁰ Bono’s Victory, Rolling Stone Magazine, 28 December 2000.

Summit, Bono, Geldof and Youssou N'Dour were permitted a meeting with George W. Bush, who commented: "Hanging out with good company, aren't I?"²⁰¹ Bono has even penetrated Sherpa meetings, where the G8 Summit agendas are set.²⁰²

Bono continues to be the darling in the eyes of decision-makers, while Geldof seems to have been dealt the cold shoulder by both politicians and other civil society groups following the 2005 Gleneagles Summit and the parallel Live 8 concert. It has been argued that Geldof particularly alienated himself by largely excluding African performers from the Live 8 concert, resulting in accusations of "musical apartheid."²⁰³ In addition, civil society groups were angered by Geldof's choice to declare "mission accomplished" following Gleneagles, awarding a mark of 10 out of 10 for doubling aid and 8 of 10 for debt relief, despite the widespread cynicism felt by most.²⁰⁴

Celebrity activists have a mixed record in terms of their ability to influence policy at the G8. The presence of celebrities is felt through their lobbying activities and is evidenced by their engagement in bilateral meetings with G8 leaders. However, celebrity activists have not been mentioned in the concluding documents released at the close of G8 Summits, indicating limitations on their influence.

In the aftermath of G8 Summits, the role of celebrities has historically shifted to engaging in public criticism of G8 decisions and failure to fulfill its commitments. Following the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit, Geldof denounced the G8's outcomes as "a total farce."²⁰⁵

There was a notable lack of both celebrity activism and presence at the 2008 G8 Hokkaido-Toyako Summit. A possible explanation for this absence may be attributed to its location in Japan.

Pre-summit Activity

Policy Papers and Press Statements

The reality of the global financial crisis may be responsible for the minimal pre-summit celebrity activism for the 2009 G8 Summit. Bob Geldof is among the few celebrities to have released statements related to the summit, stressing that the financial crisis cannot be used as an excuse for inaction for Africa: "Don't talk to me about this financial crisis. Whatever financial crisis we meet, it is life or death

²⁰¹ 'Bono for President' says Bush as Stars Come Out for G8, Irish Independent (UK) 7 June 2007. Date of Access: 7 January 2009. <http://www.independent.ie/national-news/bono-for-president-says-bush-as-stars-come-out-for-g8-692666.html>.

²⁰² Andrew Cooper, *Celebrity Diplomacy*, Paradigm Publishers, (Boulder, CO), 2008. 45

²⁰³ Andrew Cooper, *Celebrity Diplomacy*, Paradigm Publishers, (Boulder, CO), 2008. 66.

²⁰⁴ Andrew Cooper, *Celebrity Diplomacy*, Paradigm Publishers, (Boulder, CO), 2008. 67.

²⁰⁵ Geldof and Bono blast G8 for betraying Africa, Telegraph (London) 10 June 2007. Date of Access: 13 February 2009. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1554051/Geldof-and-Bono-blast-G8-for-betraying-Africa.html>.

for the people of Africa... this money does not go into some black hole, it goes into an empty stomach.”²⁰⁶ At a conference in London organized by the Department for International Development, he added that “compared to aid flows to ourselves—our banks—these are tiny amounts of aid to give to an entire continent. Just as with climate change, it is the poorest who did the least to cause the crisis but they who will suffer the most.”²⁰⁷ Kofi Annan has also weighed in on the consequences of the global financial crisis, explaining that the decrease in trade and foreign investment, coupled with the drying up of credit and slumping global revenues, will result in an increase in hunger, a drop in school attendance, and a disproportionately negative impact for women and children on the African continent.²⁰⁸

Geldof challenged Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi in February 2009 to prove his leadership to halve extreme poverty worldwide by 2015.²⁰⁹ In later statements, Geldof’s tone became more frank and pessimistic. Lauding Italy for backtracking on their 2005 Gleneagles Summit aid promises, Geldof said that “Berlusconi doesn’t give a shit.”²¹⁰ Geldof asserts that Italy should be rebuked for “its shameful and cynical dishonesty for signing in Gleneagles a commitment to the poor of our world and doing nothing to meet it.”²¹¹ In an article for the Financial Times, the rocker suggested that if Italy “does not come up with a viable plan, their G8 presidency should be withdrawn. What is the point of having a country leading a meeting that has no intention of living up to its word?”²¹²

Celebrity economist Jeffrey Sachs has speculated that if the aid promises made at Gleneagles are not be kept, the G8 itself should call it quits. Sachs asked, “What is the point of all of this if these goals are not achieved? This is the most consequential item on the summit agenda.”²¹³ He added that the shortfall needed

²⁰⁶ Annan, Geldof urge Italy to keep Africa on the map, Associated Press, 20 February 2009. Date of Access: 26 February 2009. <http://www.aol.com.au/movies/story/Annan-Geldof-urge-Italy-to-keep-Africa-on-the-map/1709141/index.html>.

²⁰⁷ Rat bite Geldof’s aid reminder, The Guardian, 10 March 2009. Date of access: 21 May 2009. <http://vedomosti.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>.

²⁰⁸ Annan, Geldof urge Italy to keep Africa on the map, Associated Press, 20 February 2009. Date of Access: 26 February 2009. <http://www.aol.com.au/movies/story/Annan-Geldof-urge-Italy-to-keep-Africa-on-the-map/1709141/index.html>.

²⁰⁹ Annan, Geldof urge Italy to keep Africa on the map, Associated Press, 20 February 2009. Date of Access: 26 February 2009. <http://www.aol.com.au/movies/story/Annan-Geldof-urge-Italy-to-keep-Africa-on-the-map/1709141/index.html>.

²¹⁰ Aid must go on despite bank rescues, say Geldof and Stern, The Guardian, 9 March 2009. Date of access: 21 May 2009. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/mar/09/geldof-stern-call-for-aid-increase>.

²¹¹ Bob Geldof calls for Italy to lose G8 presidency, The Telegraph, 2 April 2009. Date of access: 24 May 2009. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/italy/5095680/Bob-Geldof-calls-for-Italy-to-lose-G8-presidency.html>.

²¹² Bob Geldof calls for Italy to lose G8 presidency, The Telegraph 2 April 2009. Date of access: 24 May 2009. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/italy/5095680/Bob-Geldof-calls-for-Italy-to-lose-G8-presidency.html>.

²¹³ Live up to Africa vow: Sachs, The Montreal Gazette, 19 April 2009. Date of Access: 23 May 2009. <http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Live+Africa+Sachs/1500432/story.html>.

to meet the 2010 commitment for Africa is currently about \$25 billion, which is half of the \$50 billion pledged at Gleneagles.²¹⁴

Celebrities also released commentary on the results of international dialogues. For instance, following the 2009 G20 summit in London, Bill and Melinda Gates posted a press release on their foundation's website expressing their pleasure that the "UK government will deliver on promises to the poorest" and that "positive news from the US and Germany [regarding aid pledges] shows that G8 countries are able to meet ODA standards."²¹⁵ Similarly, Bono's DATA and ONE campaigns released post-G20 meeting statements congratulating the G20 for having come up with impressive figures, stressing however that "it's what they do next that counts."²¹⁶

Governments occasionally responded to the criticism railed against them by celebrity activists. For instance, when Canada's International Cooperation Minister Bev Oda announced a new set of foreign aid spending priorities—but no new money—she opened her speech by saying "what I will talk about is not something that aims to please Irish rock stars."²¹⁷

On 10 June 2009, eight female activists, calling themselves the "W8," petitioned the G8 Development Ministers to support and fund health care systems for women and children in underdeveloped states. Several female celebrities promptly endorsed the petition, including former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, and Nobel Peace Prize winners Jody Williams and Máiread Maguire. Robinson stated that she was "very encouraged by this group of highly-respected women leaders from around the world who are asking G8 leaders to be more accountable to the promises they have made on financing for health. I join them in calling on the world leaders meeting in Italy to commit the resources to reduce preventable deaths."²¹⁸

On 11 June 2009, celebrity activists Bob Geldof, Bill Gates, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu spoke as part of a panel for the launch of the ONE organisation's 2009 DATA Report in London.²¹⁹ The report, which analyzed the G8's

²¹⁴ Live up to Africa vow: Sachs, The Montreal Gazette, 19 April 2009. Date of Access: 23 May 2009. <http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Live+Africa+Sachs/1500432/story.html>.

²¹⁵ Foundation commends UK government for maintaining its commitment to the world's poor, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 22 April 2009. Date of Access: 24 May 2009. <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/press-releases/Pages/united-kingdom-helping-worlds-poorest-090422.aspx>.

²¹⁶ World's poor not forgotten in G20's rescue plan, 23 April 2009. Date of Access: 25 May 2009. <http://www.one.org/c/us/pressrelease/918/>.

²¹⁷ Canada's aid program to be more accountable, no larger. Minister, Canwest News Service, 20 May 2009, Date of Access: 25 May 2009. <http://www.canada.com/business/fp/Canada+sets+foreign+priorities/1612747/story.html>.

²¹⁸ Mary Robinson and Nobel Peace Prize winners back W8 women's call for action to end maternal mortality, Oxfam (London) 10 June 2009. Date of Access: 23 June 2009. http://www.oxfam.org.uk/applications/blogs/pressoffice/?p=5427?campaigns_success.

²¹⁹ Italy unworthy to host G8 summit on Africa: Geldof, CBC (Toronto) 11 June 2009. Date of

compliance with aid goals established from the 2005 Gleneagles Summit onward, warned that “the G8 are at risk of defaulting on their commitments to Africa,” and that this failure is due largely to lacklustre performances from the governments of France and Italy.²²⁰ During the course of the panel, Geldof called for Italy’s removal as G8 president, asking rhetorically how one can “possibly trust any government that promises something and does nothing and expect them to lead the world.”²²¹ Geldof expanded on his views in an article published by the Huffington Post on 15 June 2009, which stated that activists should “watch to see if the Italian Prime Minister understands his global responsibility.”²²²

ONE and some of its celebrity supporters have also made use of new and emerging media by uploading the DATA Report panel discussion and other videos providing information on their causes to YouTube. On the day of the report’s release, Kofi Annan endorsed the DATA report via a YouTube video. In the video, Annan stated that he hoped the “report will prove a vital tool in pressing G8 governments to keep their promises in the months to come.”²²³ While the ONE has made use of other social media such as Facebook and Twitter, individual celebrity supporters of ONE have yet to do so.

While ONE’s DATA report was being released in London on 11 June 2009, Kofi Annan was in Cape Town for the World Economic Forum, where another report was being released. The Africa Progress Report, composed by a panel including Annan and ONE advocate, Bob Geldof, as well as former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair and child rights activist Graça Machel, was created to assess G8 development commitments made in 2007. Annan stated at the release that “we need a new development model that provides security, stability, and addresses people’s needs.”²²⁴ Speaking in reference to what she perceives as the G8’s democratic deficit, Graça Machel stated that “the G8 has no right to discuss whatever it is without our [Africa’s] voice because it affects us.”²²⁵ The same day, an article coauthored by Kofi Annan was published arguing that “G8 and donor countries have an even greater responsibility to honour their international aid

Access: 23 June 2009. <http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2009/06/11/italy-africa-aid011.html>.

²²⁰ DATA Report, ONE (Washington, D.C.) 11 June 2009. Date of Access: 23 June 2009.

<http://one.org/international/datareport2009/pdfs/DR2009.pdf><http://one.org/international/datareport2009/pdfs/DR2009.pdf>.

²²¹ Italy, France fall behind on Africa aid, say Gates and Geldof, CNN (Atlanta) 12 June 2009. Date of Access: 23 June 2009.

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/europe/06/12/geldof.gates.g8.aid/>.

²²² Let us see if Italy keeps faith with the world’s poor, Huffington Post (New York) 15 June 2009.

Date of Access: 23 June 2009. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bob-geldof/let-us-see-if-italy-keeps_b_215910.html.

²²³ Kofi Annan on the ONE DATA Report and the APP Report, YouTube (San Bruno) 11 June 2009. Date of Access: 23 June 2009. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vm701SSTz68>.

²²⁴ African leaders ‘must shape up’, BBC (London) 11 June 2009. Date of Access: 23 June 2009. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8093959.stm>.

²²⁵ SA must be a voice for Africa: Machel, The Times (Johannesburg) 11 June 2009. Date of Access: 23 June 2009. <http://www.thetimes.co.za/News/Article.aspx?id=1015865>.

commitments and to ensure that global deals, whether on trade, climate change, intellectual property, illicit drugs, crime or migration, are supportive of Africa's development needs."²²⁶

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs responded to the DATA report by issuing a press release on 21 June 2009. The release quoted Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Franco Frattini, who reaffirmed that "new needs do not justify falling short of pledges already made. We will find the resources by the end of the year."²²⁷ The G8 Development Ministers issued a collective statement on 23 June 2009 reiterating that their aid commitments will be kept.²²⁸

Pre-summit Protests

While several pre-summit protests have occurred, no celebrities have participated in or endorsed the events.

Public Awareness Events

Aside from the release of ONE's DATA report and the release of the Africa Progress report, no celebrity presence has been noted at activist workshops or events relevant to the G8.

Collaborative Efforts

The ONE Campaign's DATA report has received support from an extremely diverse pool of celebrity activists, including Irish musicians Bono and Bob Geldof, former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Bill Gates, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Outside of the ONE DATA report, however, no new collaborative efforts have been forged between celebrities and other activist forces relevant to the G8.

G8-Civil Society Initiatives

While a representative of the ONE organisation was present at the G8 Development Ministers meeting, no celebrities were present, nor have any been

²²⁶ Africa is rich; it just requires better policies and leadership, Daily Nation (Nairobi) 11 June 2009. Date of Access: 23 June 2009. <http://www.nation.co.ke/oped/Opinion/-/440808/609630/-/4ksiug/->.

²²⁷ Interview with Minister Frattini: We will fulfill our pledges, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome) 21 June 2009. Date of Access: 23 June 2009. http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Sala Stampa/ArchivioNotizie/Interviste/2009/06/20090621_In_tervistaFamigliaCristiana.htm.

²²⁸ G8 Vows to Honor Africa Aid Commitments, NASDAQ (New York) 23 June 2009. Date of Access: 23 June 2009. <http://www.nasdaq.com/asp/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=20090612116dowjonesdjonline000656&title=g8-vows-to-honor-africa-aid-commitments>.

invited to summit meetings in L'Aquila.²²⁹

Analysts: Sara Tilley and Harlan Tufford

²²⁹ ONE at the G8 Development Ministers' meeting, ONE (Washington, D.C.) 18 June 2009. Date of Access: 23 June 2009. <http://www.one.org/international/blog/one-at-the-g8-development-ministers-meeting/>.