

## **2008 Japan G8 Summit NGO Forum Goals and Principles**

The G8 Summit is going to be held in Japan in 2008. In order to strengthen our collective voice, Japanese NGOs striving towards a sustainable society and working to address as diverse issues as the environment, peace, human rights, global poverty and development, have come together under the broad banner of “2008 Japan G8 Summit NGO Forum.”

As the issues we are working to address are of global scale, global efforts to resolve them are called for. The G8 countries today have tremendous influence on the global politics as well as globalized economy. It is essential for the G8 Summit to have meaningful debates and agree upon effective measures to resolve these issues of a global scale. Through efforts to promote social justice and civil society participation, and to resolve issues through cross-border cooperation, NGOs have accumulated and shared their own unique knowledge and experience, from a perspective different than that of government. We shall establish this Forum in order to fulfill our responsibility as members of civil society and by proposing practical solutions to global issues based on this knowledge and information.

### **1. Goals of the 2008 Japan G8 Summit NGO Forum**

Climate change, biodiversity and other environmental issues, severe poverty in developing countries, communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and other global issues are threatening the survival and sustainable development of global society. Such global issues have been among the main agenda items of the G8 summit since the 1980's, leading to various agreements on these issues.

It is noteworthy that climate change and poverty in Africa were among the main agenda items for the 2005 G8 Summit held in Gleneagles in the United Kingdom. A proposal was made to establish a framework for dialogue, including with developing countries, on future initiatives to address climate change. Since a report on this issue is due at the G8 Summit in Japan in 2008, it will be an important opportunity for negotiations on this issue. On poverty, though many promises have been made, none have been adequate enough; the prospects for truly resolving this issue remain unclear. At the Japan summit, it is hoped that existing barriers will properly be addressed to achieve agreement on effective policies to truly address the issues of global poverty.

The NGO Forum will appeal to the G8 leaders at the G8 Summit to be held in Japan in 2008, as well as the 2007 G8 Summit in Germany and other ministerial meetings, to commit to effective measures to address global environmental issues, promote development and eliminate poverty in developing countries, safeguard human rights and build peace.

### **2. The Role that the G8 Countries can Play**

The NGO Forum will appeal to the G8 leaders on the basis of the following understanding regarding the G8.

- The G8 nations, due to their international influence, bear a special responsibility to contribute to resolution of global poverty and inequality as well as worldwide environmental issues. The G8 nations also bear grave responsibility to address global human rights and peace issues.
- The G8 nations should be able to provide international leadership in initiating proactive action to halt climate change, eliminate international factors leading to conflict, safeguard human rights worldwide, alleviate poverty issues, and promote sustainable development in developing countries.

### **3. What We Seek from the G8**

- (1) We call upon the governments to open up the G8 summit to participation of civil society by, in particular, a) setting up opportunities for dialogue between the summit sherpas (government representatives delegated

responsibility by the heads of state) and civil society organizations of each country; b) providing opportunities for prior consultations between the summit chairperson and civil society; c) and providing a venue that is readily accessible to the media and civil society.

- (2) We call upon the governments to highlight issues of poverty and development, the environment, peace and human rights as key agenda items for the G8 summit. We call upon the governments to work with the utmost urgency towards achieving the “Millennium Development Goals,” which are internationally agreed goals for global poverty alleviation, with the understanding that such initiatives are essential to establishing a sustainable global economy and society.
- (3) We call upon the governments to monitor and evaluate the implementation of prior commitments on these issues, to reaffirm their commitments, and to engage in concrete discussions on how to fulfill them. We also call upon the governments to discuss and seek agreement upon further proactive and substantive measures to address these issues.
- (4) We call upon Japan, as host for the G8 summit, to demonstrate leadership in debate and policy making in the G8 process on the basis of a bold policy vision with a long term and global perspective, rather than short-term, nearsighted national interest.

#### **4. Activities of the 2008 Japan G8 Summit NGO Forum**

The NGO Forum will be active in the following areas towards achieving the above objectives:

- To highlight key issues in addressing the global challenges of poverty, development, environment and human rights, in collaboration with global civil society.
- To make appeals and proposals to the G8 governments in collaboration with civil society of the G8 nations and others. Furthermore, to make policy proposals to the Japanese government in light of its role as summit chair.
- To disseminate information to a wide audience on the policy and structural background to issues of poverty and development, environment, peace and human rights, prior to the summit. To conduct public advocacy including media outreach in order to raise public awareness on the responsibility of Japan as G8 chair to take proactive action to address these issues.
- To host civil society representatives from around the world in collaboration with civil society of host region during the summit.

#### **5. Principles of Operation of the 2008 Japan G8 Summit NGO Forum**

As a civil society network, the NGO Forum shall be managed on the basis of the following principles:

- Democratic management and decision making that guarantees openness and transparency
- Respect for the process of debate and decision making in the formulation of proposals and various activities.
- Pursuit of result-oriented activities that are reasonable and effective towards achieving the NGO Forum’s objectives
- Collaboration with international civil society working to address global issues, and civil society in developing countries in particular
- Accountability towards the people threatened by poverty, environmental destruction and other global issues
- Accountability towards participating organizations and individuals, and supporters
- Promotion of activities with respect for local, national and international laws and regulations on the basis of mutual agreement with participating organizations and civil society at large

The NGO Forum shall conduct its activities on the basis of clearly formulated and appropriate mechanisms for fulfillment of the above principles.

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