

Executive Summary

2010 will be a decisive year for Canada, and for the world. The deadline for meeting the world's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is only five years away. Our decisions in 2010 will determine the success of the world's efforts to reduce poverty and avoid dangerous global warming for the next generation and beyond. As host of the next G8 Summit, Canada can make the difference between relegating these aspirations to a distant hope, and the real possibility of achieving these goals in our lifetime.

The Summit in Huntsville offers Canada the opportunity to reassert our reputation as a leader in humanitarian action. This document was prepared by a broad and diverse group of Canadian civil society organizations who came together to develop a common blueprint for Canadian action in 2010. Despite the vast array of focus and expertise we found remarkable consensus on specific recommendations to move forward on an agenda for global development.

For many of the challenges discussed in this paper, the causes are now well-understood and the solutions well-known. Rather than large elusive goals that remain too difficult to tackle, this paper focuses on specific, measureable and realistic steps that Canada, along with other G8 countries, can take to catalyze progress on many of the globe's most pressing concerns.

This paper emphasizes what we can do. Focusing on three interlinked priorities - combating poverty, transforming the global economic and financial system, and making real progress on climate change - it highlights clear recommendations on what Canada can do to:

1. Prevent the deaths of millions of women and children
2. Confirm the G8's legacy on HIV and AIDS and translate commitments into action
3. Build greater coherence on global food security
4. Make important progress on Education for All.
5. Assert water and sanitation as the foundation to good health
6. Ensure economic recovery includes decent work for all
7. Solidify and reinforce progress in Africa
8. Democratize international financial institutions
9. Forge a transition to a sustainable economy
10. Implement a strong Copenhagen agreement on climate change

This document is an initial contribution to what we desire to be a year of working together—political leaders and civil society, as an important step towards strengthening the participation of civil society in decision-making within government, workplaces, communities, and international forum. We hope you will join us in this global effort towards a new model of globalization that is socially responsible, economically sustainable and environmentally just.

The 2010 G8 Canadian Civil Society Coordinating Committee¹

¹ *The Committee's founding members include: Action Canada for Population and Development, Africa Canada Forum, Amnesty International, AQOCI, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Canadian Council for International Co-operation, Canadian Crossroads International, Canadian Global Campaign for Education (CGCE), Canadian Labour Congress, Canadian Society for International Health, Climate Action Network Canada, G8 2010 Interfaith Partnership, Global Treatment Access Group, Halifax Initiative Coalition, Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development, KAIROS – Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, Make Poverty History Canada, Oxfam Canada, Oxfam Québec, The Pembina Institute, Plan Canada, RESULTS Canada, Save the Children Canada, UNICEF Canada, World Vision Canada.*