

G8 RESEARCH GROUP

2009 L'Aquila Summit Report

Prepared and Edited by Pratima
Arapakota

Civil Society Studies Department

Research Team

Pratima Arapakota
Director, Civil Society Studies Department

Analysts

Kate Bruce-Lockhart
Shannon Reynolds
Kate Marshall
Krista Taylor
Pratima Arapakota

Foreword.....	4
Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations	5
Developmental Non-Governmental Organizations	15
Summit Participation	16
Celebrity Activists	21
Kate Marshall	21
Human Rights Groups.....	27
Faith-Based Organizations	32

Foreword

The goal of this report is to provide a snapshot of the relationship between civil society and the G8 as it played out during the 2009 G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy. Civil society groups are strategic about their activism during G8 Summits, as it is when the attention of the G8, especially the attention of the host nation, may be best captured. While pre-summit civil activity can be considered a call for action to G8 leaders, civil society activity during the summit is often in reaction to ongoing summit proceedings. Civil society groups also begin to direct their attentions towards their expectations for the following year's next G8 Summit. The issue of G8 accountability also comes into clear focus.

In this report, we aimed to detail the civil society activity that took place during the 2009 G8 Summit. To this end, we identified five civil society sub-groups that perceive G8 lobbying to be an important strategy to achieve their organization's objectives. The sub-groups represent several main branches of civil society: **Environmental Non-governmental Organisations (eNGOs)**; **Developmental Non-governmental Organisations**; **Celebrity Activists**; **Human Rights Non-governmental Organisations**; and **Faith-based Organisations (FBOs)**. This report is divided into five sections by civil society sub-group.

The report characterizes civil society's engagement with the G8 by outlining the various strategies used by sub-groups as part of their G8 activism. The first strategy, **Policy, Press Statements and Utilization of Media**, details how sub-groups used print, web, and video to address the G8. **Summit Protests** characterizes the protests and marches held by civil society sub-groups. **Public Awareness Events** outlines large and medium-sized campaigns utilized by civil society sub-groups to address G8 decision-makers and to urge the public to take action themselves to lobby the G8. **Collaborative Efforts** discusses the partnerships made between civil society sub-groups in an effort to present strong coalition movements to address G8 issues. Finally, **G8-Civil Society Initiatives** examines the extent of engagement between civil society and G8 governments and officials. All civil society sub-groups did not necessarily utilize all engagement strategies.

The reaction and response of each sub-group to 2009 G8 outcomes and their expectations for the 2010 G8 Summit are discussed in each sub-group section under the heading **Summit Outcomes**.

The report provides an overview of the civil society activity that took place around the time of the G8 Summit on 8–10 July 2009 in L’Aquila, Italy.

Environmental Organisations **Non-Governmental**

Kate Bruce-Lockhart

Introduction

Although the environment has always been a concern for the G8, it has become a more salient point of discussion at recent G8 summits. Climate change was first addressed by the G8 at the 2005 Summit in Gleneagles, where leaders acknowledged “that climate change is happening now, that human activity is contributing to it, and that it could affect every part of the globe.”¹ Growing public awareness and increasing political consensus around the issue have made action by the G8 more urgent than ever before. The L’Aquila Summit was an important litmus test for the willingness of G8 nations to tackle climate change, as the meeting preceded the much-anticipated international conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. The G8 acknowledged the critical importance of the 2009 Summit in G8 Declaration: Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, which reads “This is a crucial year for taking rapid and effective global action to combat climate change...We must seize this decisive opportunity to achieve a truly global consensus.”²

Environmental NGOs (eNGOs) have exerted major efforts in making environmental issues more central to G8 negotiations. Greenpeace International, the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and Friends of the Earth International have been leaders in championing the cause of climate change within the G8. These groups have been an integral part of collaborative efforts such as the Civil G8 Dialogue, alternative summits,

¹Jenilee M. Guebert, Sarah Cale and Laura Sunderland, Climate Change Conclusions at G8 Summits 1975–2009, G8 Research Group (Toronto), 25 November 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/conclusions/climatechange.pdf>

² Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G8 L’Aquila Summit 2009, 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. http://www.g8italia2009.it/static/G8_Allegato/G8_Declaration_08_07_09_final,0.pdf

and meetings of the G8 Environmental Ministers. Organizations such as Greenpeace and WWF have released policy recommendations, position papers and press releases urging action on climate change before G8 summits. The WWF has also created G8 “climate scorecards”, ranking the environmental performance of each G8 nation – an initiative that has garnered significant attention in the press.³ Greenpeace has been particularly successful in launching high profile protests in prominent public locations. These protests have drawn major media coverage, especially ones that have been carried out illegally, such as the breaching of a restricted area by a Greenpeace boat at the 2007 G8 Summit.⁴ In 2007, over 400 eNGOs came together under the umbrella of the Climate Action Network to prepare a report detailing civil society’s demands for action on the environment.⁵ Despite their considerable efforts, eNGOs have been largely disappointed by the lack of action taken at previous G8 summits. Major criticisms have centered on the lack of binding commitments to cut emissions in the mid- and long-term.⁶ While climate change has become a more major topic in G8 discussions, eNGOs continue to press for deeper and more immediate action.

Summit Participation

Policy Papers, Press Statements, and Utilization of Media

Greenpeace, Oxfam, and WWF all regularly updated their blogs during the summit, covering major decisions and protest activities. Greenpeace also issued three press releases during the summit, covering their protests and their responses to summit outcomes. Harnessing other modern media tools, Greenpeace posted videos on YouTube and provided updates about their protests via Twitter and Facebook.

Summit Protests

³G8 Climate Scorecards, WWF International, Date of Access: 16 December 2009. <http://www.worldwildlife.org/climate/policy/G8-climate-scorecards.html>

⁴Greenpeace penetrates G8 coastal exclusion zone to demand climate action now, Greenpeace International, 7 June 2007. Date of Access: 16 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/press/releases/g8-into-the-exclusion-zone>

⁵ Katharine Watts, International Energy and Climate Policy: NGO Expectations, Climate Action Network.

⁶Greenpeace brands G8 Summit a climate failure, and calls for real action at the UN, Greenpeace International, 8 June 2007. Date of Access: 16 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/press/releases/greenpeace-brands-g8-summit-a>

Amongst the eNGOs active during the 2009 L'Aquila Summit, Greenpeace International was the most effective in generating media attention. During the summit, Greenpeace staged a number of high profile protest events. On 8 July 2009, Greenpeace activists scaled Mount Rushmore, hanging a banner with a picture of President Barack Obama and the message "America Honors Leaders Not Politicians: Stop Global Warming" on the monument.⁷ While Greenpeace acknowledged the illegality of the protest, spokeswoman Carroll Muffet defended the action: "We're here at Mount Rushmore to inspire Americans to take action, and remind the world that heroism and leadership are part of our nation's history—and must be a part of our future."⁸ The event garnered major media attention, both within the United States and around the globe, covered by outlets such as The Guardian, The Washington Post, The New York Times, CNN, and ABC News.

Greenpeace also carried out protests in Italy. Over 100 activists from 18 countries occupied four major coal fired power stations across the country.⁹ A Greenpeace International press release cited coal as the "worst climate change pollutant of all fossil fuels."¹⁰ At a station in Marghera, Italy, two banners were hung, one reading "G8 - Take Climate Leadership" and "Energy Revolution = Clean Jobs."¹¹ Activists also occupied the conveyor belt of the power station.¹² British Greenpeace

⁷ David Farenthold, Greenpeace Activists Arrested After Draping a Banner on Mt. Rushmore, The Washington Post (Washington), 8 July 2009, Date of Access: 12 December 2009. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2009/07/08/AR2009070802246.html>

⁸ David Farenthold, Greenpeace Activists Arrested After Draping a Banner on Mt. Rushmore, The Washington Post (Washington), 8 July 2009, Date of Access: 12 December 2009. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2009/07/08/AR2009070802246.html>

⁹ John Hooper, Greenpeace activists hijack Italian power stations, The Guardian (London), 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 12 December, 2009. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/jul/08/greenpeace-g8-protest-coal-italy>

¹⁰ Greenpeace urges G8 to 'heal the world, Greenpeace International, 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 13 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/G8-heal-the-world080709>

¹¹ Greenpeace urges G8 to 'heal the world, Greenpeace International, 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 13 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/G8-heal-the-world080709>

¹² Greenpeace urges G8 to 'heal the world, Greenpeace International, 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 13 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/G8-heal-the-world080709>

activist Ben Stewart conducted an interview from the top of the station. Stewart argued that "There is no more time to waste"¹³ and "The G8 leaders must stop putting the interests of big coal and other climate-polluting industries ahead of the planet and take strong, decisive leadership on climate change."¹⁴ Similar actions occurred at plants in Vado Ligure, Brindisi and Porto Tolle.¹⁵ "By blocking the coal conveyor belts, we can prevent coal from going into the plant, and we can stop the plant from polluting the planet," explained Greenpeace activist Julien Vincent. "We're taking direct action to save the world's climate – now we need to see the G8 doing the same."¹⁶ Photos and videos of these protests were posted on Greenpeace's website, along with other interviews from activists on site. The power plant protests received less attention than the Mount Rushmore demonstration on an international scale, but significant negative attention within Italy. The Italian Energy Workers Union condemned the protests, with some employees even going so far as to stage counter demonstrations.¹⁷ On 10 July 2009, the last day of the L'Aquila Summit, Greenpeace launched their final protest. Activists painted the message "G8:FAILED" on the side of the South African vessel carrying coal to the Civitavecchia power station in Italy.¹⁸

¹³ Greenpeace urges G8 to 'heal the world, Greenpeace International, 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 13 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/G8-heal-the-world080709>

¹⁴ Greenpeace urges G8 to 'heal the world, Greenpeace International, 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 13 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/G8-heal-the-world080709>

¹⁵ Greenpeace urges G8 to 'heal the world, Greenpeace International, 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 13 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/G8-heal-the-world080709>

¹⁶ Greenpeace urges G8 to 'heal the world, Greenpeace International, 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 13 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/G8-heal-the-world080709>

¹⁷ Environmentalist Protest G8 Summit, CBS News, 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/07/08/politics/main5145167.shtml>

¹⁸ Greenpeace paints South African coal ship, Greenpeace Africa, 10 July 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/africa/press/press-releases/greenpeace-paints-south-africa>

On 8 July 2009, Oxfam International held a protest in Rome to draw attention to the problem of climate change.¹⁹ Wearing masks of the G8 leaders and dressed as chefs, the activists depicted the leaders as cooking the earth in a giant cauldron.²⁰ Mock ingredients labeled “CO2” were added as the activists read from a book entitled “Climate Change Recipes.”²¹ Coverage of the protests surfaced in a number of news outlets, including The Huffington Post, Reuters, and CBS News.

Legambiente, an Italian eNGO, staged a protest in Pescara, Italy.²² Activists sailed in a schooner displaying a banner that read “Stop the Fever.”²³ A press statement about the need for the protest explained: “The schooner appeals to the powerful of the Earth so that all decisions are taken without forgetting or underestimating the devastating effects that climate change may have on our planet.”²⁴

G8–Civil Society Initiatives

Little was done at the L’Aquila Summit to accommodate eNGOs in an official capacity. Environmental organizations were incorporated into the G8 Environment Ministers’ Meeting in Siracusa, Italy in April 2009, but they were not officially acknowledged during the summit. However, the Siracusa Charter, a product of the April meeting, may have impacted

¹⁹ Ariel David, G8 Protesters Strip Down, Scale Smokestacks, Occupy Power Plants, The Huffington Post, July 8 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/07/08/g8-protesters-get-naked-s_n_228061.html

²⁰ Ariel David, G8 Protesters Strip Down, Scale Smokestacks, Occupy Power Plants, The Huffington Post, July 8 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/07/08/g8-protesters-get-naked-s_n_228061.html

²¹ G8 Summit Roundup: Climate Progress Hastens, Environmental Leader, 9 July 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/07/08/g8-protesters-get-naked-s_n_228061.html

²² 17 Major Economies Pledge to Set Greenhouse Gas Limits by December, Environmental News Service, 9 July 2009, Date of Access: 12 December 2009. <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jul2009/2009-07-09-01.asp>

²³ 17 Major Economies Pledge to Set Greenhouse Gas Limits by December, Environmental News Service, 9 July 2009, Date of Access: 12 December 2009. <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jul2009/2009-07-09-01.asp>

²⁴ 17 Major Economies Pledge to Set Greenhouse Gas Limits by December, Environmental News Service, 9 July 2009, Date of Access: 12 December 2009. <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jul2009/2009-07-09-01.asp>

climate change negotiations at the L'Aquila Summit.²⁵ WWF International, Oxfam, ICUN, Birdlife International and Legambiente were some of the eNGO's consulted at the Siracusa meetings. These organizations were largely positive about the Siracusa Charter.²⁶ The Italian Prime Minister's office helped organize the conference "Roma Civil G8" in May of 2009, but no initiatives were taken to incorporate civil society during the summit in July.²⁷ Climate change was a major focus area of the alternative G8 Summit, held from 3-5 July 2009 in Sardinia, Italy.²⁸ A second alternative summit was held in Rome, bringing together members of the Italian government and international NGOs.²⁹ During the official L'Aquila Summit, the Italian government showed "willingness to accommodate civil society" by providing NGOs with workspace in the International Media Center.³⁰

Summit Outcomes

While the final G8 declaration, "Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future" addressed many of the concerns outlined by eNGOs, such as investing in carbon capture technologies, financing adaptation programs, reducing carbon emissions, deforestation, and biodiversity, no eNGOs were specifically referenced. The Siracusa Charter, which arose out of the G8 Environment Ministers' meeting that was attended by several eNGOs,

²⁵ G8 - Have they done enough?, International Union for the Conservation of the Environment, 10 July 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. <http://www.iucn.org/knowledge/news/?3541/G8--Have-they-done-enough>

²⁶ Chair's Summary Siracusa Environment Ministerial Meeting, G8 Environment Ministry, 24 April 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. http://www.g8ambiente.it/public/images/20090424/doceng/09_04_24_Chair%20Summary.pdf

²⁷ Peter Hajnal, Civil Society at the 2009 G8 Summit in L'Aquila, G8 Information Center, University of Toronto, 10 November 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2009laquila/2009-hajnal.html>

²⁸ Peter Hajnal, Civil Society at the 2009 G8 Summit in L'Aquila, G8 Information Center, University of Toronto, 10 November 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2009laquila/2009-hajnal.html>

²⁹ Peter Hajnal, Civil Society at the 2009 G8 Summit in L'Aquila, G8 Information Center, University of Toronto, 10 November 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2009laquila/2009-hajnal.html>

³⁰ Peter Hajnal, Civil Society at the 2009 G8 Summit in L'Aquila, G8 Information Center, University of Toronto, 10 November 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2009laquila/2009-hajnal.html>

was mentioned in the section on biodiversity.³¹ This section promoted the further encouragement of “the engagement of civil society, the business community and other relevant stakeholders for biodiversity conservation activities.”³² Civil society was also referenced in the section “Forests and land degradation.”³³

The reaction of eNGOs to the outcomes of the 2009 G8 Summit were largely negative, continuing a trend of disappointment that has occurred over the past few years. While eNGOs applauded the G8’s commitment to limit temperature increases to two degrees, this was seen as a minimal step in the major effort needed to combat climate change.³⁴ Climate experts such as Kim Carstensen, the Global Climate Initiative leader for the WWF, said that this commitment was not sufficient to create change: “If they don’t outline a path to reach an announced goal, the two degree statement will just join a long list of broken promises. An ambitious mid-term target for 2020 of developed countries is needed to ensure immediate action.”³⁵ WWF was specifically critical of the persistent failure of wealthier countries to take responsibility for taking action on climate change.³⁶ Carstensen was dismayed by the attitude of the G8 nations. “It’s all about money. Rich countries are telling poor nations: oh poor you. But they avoid committing to pay their fair share” said Carstensen. “This is not enough and it is not fair... In order to achieve a compromise the blame game has to be abandoned and replaced by responsible and

³¹ Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G8 L’Aquila Summit 2009, 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. http://www.g8italia2009.it/static/G8_Allegato/G8_Declaration_08_07_09_final,0.pdf

³² Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G8 L’Aquila Summit 2009, 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. http://www.g8italia2009.it/static/G8_Allegato/G8_Declaration_08_07_09_final,0.pdf

³³ Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G8 L’Aquila Summit 2009, 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. http://www.g8italia2009.it/static/G8_Allegato/G8_Declaration_08_07_09_final,0.pdf

³⁴ G8 and MEF climate talks: It’s progress but still not fair! WWF Global, 10 July 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. http://www.panda.org/wwf_news/news/?169961/G8-and-MEF-climate-talks-Its-progress-but-still-not-fair

³⁵ Patrick Wintour and Larry Elliot, G8 agrees to climate targets despite differences with developing Nations, The Guardian (London), 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jul/08/g8-climate-carbon-emission-targets>

³⁶ G8 and MEF climate talks: It’s progress but still not fair! WWF Global, 10 July 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. http://www.panda.org/wwf_news/news/?169961/G8-and-MEF-climate-talks-Its-progress-but-still-not-fair

credible commitments of industrialized countries."³⁷ Although frustrated, the WWF was optimistic that an agreement could be reached at the UN Conference on climate change in Copenhagen in December.³⁸

Greenpeace International was very critical of the outcomes of the L'Aquila Summit. They issued three press releases outlining their reaction. The first, entitled "Climate chaos draws closer as G8 leaders fail to act" was a statement by Greenpeace Political Advisor Tobias Muenchmeyer.³⁹ He acknowledged the historical significance of G8 commitments, recognizing that "This is the first time the G8 has agreed global temperature rise should not exceed 2° Celsius above pre-industrial level. It is a new step for US, Canada, Russia and Japan, though 124 countries already support this or stricter warming limits."⁴⁰ However, Muenchmeyer, like Carstensen, saw this as a feeble step: "By failing to commit to the crucial mid-term targets and the USD106 billion which needs to be provided annually to help developing countries tackle climate change and fund forest protection, they have failed to agree on the most important building blocks to gain an historical agreement at the Copenhagen UN Climate Summit, which is just 150 days away."⁴¹

Greenpeace's second press release outlined their response to the Major Economies Forum (MEF). They too criticized the lack of responsibility on the part of G8 countries, specifically criticizing United States President Barack Obama. "It is hard to believe that any of the G8 Heads of State had the audacity to look the leaders from the developing world at the MEF in the eyes and talk about joint action to protect the climate, most especially President Obama who chaired the meeting," commented Paul

³⁷ G8 and MEF climate talks: It's progress but still not fair! WWF Global, 10 July 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. http://www.panda.org/wwf_news/news/?169961/G8-and-MEF-climate-talks-Its-progress-but-still-not-fair

³⁸ G8 and MEF climate talks: It's progress but still not fair! WWF Global, 10 July 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. http://www.panda.org/wwf_news/news/?169961/G8-and-MEF-climate-talks-Its-progress-but-still-not-fair

³⁹ Tobias Muenchmeyer, Climate chaos draws closer as G8 leaders fail to act: Greenpeace International, 9 July 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/press/releases/climate-chaos-draws-closer-as-2>

⁴⁰ Tobias Muenchmeyer, Climate chaos draws closer as G8 leaders fail to act: Greenpeace International, 9 July 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/press/releases/climate-chaos-draws-closer-as-2>

⁴¹ Tobias Muenchmeyer, Climate chaos draws closer as G8 leaders fail to act: Greenpeace International, 9 July 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/press/releases/climate-chaos-draws-closer-as-2>

Radford, Greenpeace USA's Executive Director.⁴² Greenpeace laid explicit blame on the G8 for failing to shoulder their fair burden in financing and undertaking climate change solutions: "Without a commitment from the G8 to invest US\$106 billion (€74 billion) of the US\$140 billion needed annually to enable developing countries to tackle climate change and fund forest protection, the chasm between the developed and developing world will grow. It is up to the G8 leaders to take the first step. They are the most responsible for climate change. They are responsible for over 47% of CO2 emissions; the developing countries within MEF about 25%. It is the G8 that has shown the least willingness to commit to action."⁴³

Greenpeace's final press release, issued the day after the L'Aquila Summit ended, was also disparaging. Greenpeace International Programme Director Guruswamy Ananthapadmanabhan called the summit a "historic opportunity", but said the G8 leaders had "squandered it."⁴⁴ He condemned the G8 leaders for their "disgusting abdication of leadership and responsibility" and for deferring the task of confronting climate change to future generations.⁴⁵

Oxfam International had similar criticisms of the L'Aquila Summit outcomes on the environment and climate change. They called the summit "a circus", and complained that while the minor actions were taken to fight climate change, the earth "is still being cooked."⁴⁶ Jeremy Hobbs, the Executive Director of Oxfam International, characterized the 2010 Muskoka Summit as the final chance for the G8 to change their tarnished reputation: "Canada 2010 is the end of the road for the G8 - all

⁴² Greenpeace response to MEF outcome, Greenpeace International, 9 July 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/press/releases/greenpeace-response-to-mef-out>

⁴³ Greenpeace response to MEF outcome, Greenpeace International, 9 July 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/press/releases/greenpeace-response-to-mef-out>

⁴⁴ G8 puts off climate change action to 2050, Greenpeace International, 10 July 2009,. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/press/releases/g8-puts-off-climate-change-act-2>

⁴⁵ G8 puts off climate change action to 2050, Greenpeace International, 10 July 2009,. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/press/releases/g8-puts-off-climate-change-act-2>

⁴⁶ Oxfam's verdict on the G8 Summit: Cooking the books and cooking the planet, Oxfam International, 10 July 2009. Date of Access: 16 December 2009. <http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressrelease/2009-07-10/oxfam-verdict-g8-summit-cooking-books-and-cooking-planet>

the promises they have made are due. They have 12 short months to avoid being remembered as the ones who let the poor and the planet die.”⁴⁷

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released a podcast interview following the L’Aquila Summit. Ninni Ikkala, IUCN’s Climate Change Coordinator, was pleased with the G8 commitment to reduce emissions by eighty per cent by the year 2050, but said that more ambitious long-term targets were needed, as well as mid-term targets.⁴⁸ She applauded the “Declaration of Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future”, a forty page document recognizing the linkages between biodiversity and climate change.⁴⁹ Ikkala called on the G8 to articulate more human adaptation projects to minimize the impact of climate change on the human population, as well as ways to finance such projects. She felt that some of the “positive messages” coming from the L’Aquila Summit could have an impact on the commitment of G8 nations to keeping promises to act in Copenhagen in December.

Climate change will yet again be a major topic of discussion at the 2010 Muskoka G8 Summit. Leaders will have to address the failings of international negotiations at the Copenhagen climate conference in December 2009. Organizations such as Greenpeace and WWF will likely put heavy pressure on the G8 to come up with more binding commitments, possibly even legal commitments, as most eNGOs were unsatisfied with the conference’s results. Greenpeace called the Copenhagen Accord a “major concession to climate polluting industries.”⁵⁰ Kim Cartensen of the WWF dubbed it “a half baked text of unclear substance” and felt that “Civil society was excluded from these

⁴⁷ Oxfam’s verdict on the G8 Summit: Cooking the books and cooking the planet, Oxfam International, 10 July 2009. Date of Access: 16 December 2009. <http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressrelease/2009-07-10/oxfam-verdict-g8-summit-cooking-books-and-cooking-planet>

⁴⁸ G8 – Have they done enough? International Union for the Conservation of the Environment, 10 July 2009. Date of Access: 16 December 2009. <http://www.iucn.org/knowledge/news/?3541/G8--Have-they-done-enough>

⁴⁹ G8 – Have they done enough? International Union for the Conservation of the Environment, 10 July 2009. Date of Access: 16 December 2009. <http://www.iucn.org/knowledge/news/?3541/G8--Have-they-done-enough>

⁵⁰ Copenhagen Climate Summit comes to chaotic end: Historic opportunity to avert climate chaos squandered in Copenhagen, Greenpeace International, 19 December 2009. Date of Access: 7 January 2010. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/press/releases/copenhagen-climate-summit-come>

final negotiations to an extraordinary degree.”⁵¹ The G8 Leaders will also have to deal with previous summit commitments on the environment scheduled to be achieved by 2010.⁵² Canada will be a likely target for civil society groups’ criticisms, given its last place performance on the WWF’s 2009 climate scorecards, the tar sands in Alberta, and its failure to commit to considerable emission cuts at the Copenhagen Conference. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Environmental Minister Jim Prentice have been heavily criticized by eNGOs such as WWF and Greenpeace, and the 2010 Muskoka Summit could be a defining moment for the Canadian government’s international reputation on tackling climate change.

Developmental Non-Governmental Organizations

Shannon Reynolds

Introduction

Developmental NGOs support economic, political and social environments in developing countries, with a focus on long-term sustainability. To date, the most success that development NGOs have seen in advancing these goals during G8 summits was at the 2005 Gleneagles Summit, where the group pledged USD50 billion dollars in the areas of aid, trade, and debt relief. The commitments of the Gleneagles Summit were brought forth in L’Aquila in 2009, and will also have implications for the summit in June 2010, when the pledge will expire. Development organizations will try to hold G8 nations accountable to their previously made development pledges.

An important issue facing the G8 leaders in 2009 was the impact of the global economic crisis, which greatly impacted developing countries and the development agencies that aid and support them. NGOs pushed the importance of meeting aid commitments because the financial crisis has made developing countries especially vulnerable.

⁵¹ Copenhagen Accord: half-baked text and unclear substance, Global, 19 December 2009. Date of Access: 7 January 2009. http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/climate_carbon_energy/climate_deal/2009_climate_copenhagen/frontlines/?184902/Copenhagen-Accord-half-baked-text-and-unclear-substance

⁵² John Kirton, G8 Research Group (Toronto), 2 July 2009. Date of Access: 16 December 2009. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2010muskoka/2010prospects090702.html>

This report will provide an account of the actions taken during the 2009 G8 L'Aquila Summit by developmental NGOs, and their reactions to the summit outcomes. Italian development NGOs were very active during the L'Aquila Summit, and were able to use their local knowledge and reputation to pressure the Italian government. The Italian chapter of Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) was especially prominent amongst developmental NGOs, and used its national presence to pressure Italian Prime Minister Berlusconi to meet Italy's aid commitments.

Summit Participation

Policy Papers, Press Statements, and Utilization of Media

In order to garner the attention of the Italian public, GCAP Italy conducted a number of campaigns. One approach was to release advertisements on subways and billboards around Italy. GCAP also released statements in the popular press, and collaborated with Oxfam International for a full-page advertisement in the Financial Times on 9 July 2009.⁵³ Another campaign involved handing out 150,000 white bands to students, community groups and through one of Italy's major magazines.⁵⁴ Finally, GCAP made use of online tools to bring attention to their cause and encourage the public to pressure G8 leaders. GCAP's "Press the 8" campaign was an online tool that asked visitors to choose a G8 leader and virtually "press" their images to take action in targeting poverty. The Italian press recorded the campaign as it travelled throughout Italy.⁵⁵

⁵³ GCAP Activity Report: G8 La'Aquila Italy, Global Call to Action Against Poverty. Date of Access: 2 January 2010. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/g8-activity-report>

⁵⁴ GCAP Activity Report: G8 La'Aquila Italy, Global Call to Action Against Poverty. Date of Access: 2 January 2010. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/g8-activity-report>

⁵⁵ GCAP Activity Report: G8 La'Aquila Italy, Global Call to Action Against Poverty. Date of Access: January 2, 2010. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/g8-activity-report>

The ONE campaign and Bob Geldof were guest editors on 5 July 2009 for the popular Italian newspaper La Stampa.⁵⁶ The published edition included articles from Bono, President Barack Obama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Sophia Loren. Perhaps one of the more important pieces to come out of this edition was an interview with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, in which he apologized for the Italian government's actions in reducing aid to Africa.⁵⁷ The Maternal Mortality Campaign also released advertisements in G8 countries which focused on the personal relationships between the leaders and their mothers.⁵⁸

Many of the development NGOs present at the International Media Center reported responses to G8 communiqués online on blogs. The Italian chapter of GCAP released six global press releases throughout the duration of the Summit, and also organized a press conference on the final day. Their widespread campaigning resulted in the achievement of 40 national and international news agencies discussing or referencing GCAP's demands or positions through print, online, or broadcast outlets.⁵⁹

Although there were few major rallies or protests by development NGOs, there were still some media stunts that took place in Italy around the G8 Summit. GCAP's "Press the 8" campaign succeeded in garnering media and public awareness, and Oxfam, along with their Italian partner Ucodep, paraded scenes throughout Rome with large G8 "Big Heads."

⁵⁶G8–2009 Round–Up, The Sherpa Times. Date of Access: 6 January 2010. <http://www.sherpatimes.com/summits/g82009/round-up>

⁵⁷ G8–2009 Round–Up, The Sherpa Times. Date of Access: 6 January 2010. <http://www.sherpatimes.com/summits/g82009/round-up>

⁵⁸ G8–2009 Round–Up, The Sherpa Times. Date of Access: 6 January 2010. <http://www.sherpatimes.com/summits/g82009/round-up>

⁵⁹ GCAP Activity Report: G8 La'Aquila Italy, Global Call to Action Against Poverty. Date of Access: 2 January 2010. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/g8-activity-report>

These scenes included the “Big Heads” having a toga party, sitting down to a pasta dinner, and putting on a pre-natal class.^{60,61}

Summit Protests

There were notably few public rallies by developmental NGOs at the 2009 Summit.⁶² It is possible that developmental NGOs replaced public protests with aggressive media campaigns to address the G8.

G8-Civil Society Initiatives

GCAP was able to assist over 200 civil society organizations obtain accreditation at the International Media Center.⁶³ This meant more organizations were able to follow the events of the Summit in real-time, and spread immediate news and awareness over blogs and through other online forums. Overall, development NGOs were well accommodated at the International Media Center.⁶⁴

Kel Currah, of The Sherpa Times argues that development NGO were successful in directly engaging with the Italian government in the weeks leading up to the Summit. The Italian government held meetings with the NGOs to discuss summit outcomes and expectations. GCAP Italy met with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, during which they presented him with over 1.5 million petitions they had gathered on topics relating to international development, such as health, water, and education.⁶⁵

⁶⁰ G8: Bread and Circuses, Oxfam International Blogs, Jeremy Hobbs, July 10, 2009. Date of Access: 4 January 2010. <http://blogs.oxfam.org/en/blog/09-07-10-g8-bread-and-circuses>

⁶¹ G8-2009 Round-Up, The Sherpa Times. Date of Access: 6 January 2010. <http://www.sherpatimes.com/summits/g82009/round-up>

⁶² GCAP Activity Report: G8 La’Aquila Italy, Global Call to Action Against Poverty. Date of Access: 2 January 2010. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/g8-activity-report>

⁶³ GCAP Activity Report: G8 La’Aquila Italy, Global Call to Action Against Poverty. Date of Access: 2 January 2010. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/g8-2009/g8-activity-report>

⁶⁴ G8: Bread and Circuses, Oxfam International Blogs, Jeremy Hobbs, July 10, 2009. Date of Access: January 4, 2010. <http://blogs.oxfam.org/en/blog/09-07-10-g8-bread-and-circuses>

⁶⁵ G8-2009 Round-Up, The Sherpa Times. Date of Access: 6 January 2010. <http://www.sherpatimes.com/summits/g82009/round-up>

Summit Outcomes

Apart from the commitment of USD20 billion over three years towards agriculture and food,⁶⁶ 2009 G8 Summit outcomes were a disappointment to development NGOs. Save the Children (UK) was dissatisfied with the G8 communiqué on development and Africa and its lack of commitment for maternal, newborn and child health, calling it half-hearted and suggesting that some G8 members are simply “going through the motions” when it comes to addressing development.⁶⁷ Oxfam International felt that the Summit did not adequately address Africa’s development needs, and that the L’Aquila Summit agenda was incomplete.⁶⁸ World Vision Canada felt that the G8 failed by not addressing prior commitments made to child and maternal mortality, and argued that more money is needed to address the more than 500,000 child and maternal deaths occurring each year.⁶⁹ Finally, End Water Poverty called the G8 a farce that contained “nothing of worth to a community lacking access to clean water or sanitation.”⁷⁰

There was, however, some cautious praise for the G8 from those who were looking for action on the global food crisis.^{71,72} Some development NGOs were pleased with President Barack Obama’s support for the provision of food aid.

⁶⁶ G8–2009 NGO Comment, The Sherpa Times. Date of Access: January 6, 2010. <http://www.sherpatimes.com/summits/g82009/ngo-comment>

⁶⁷ Our response to G8 communiqué on development and Africa, Adrian Lovett, Save the Children UK. July 9, 2009. Date of Access: 6 January 2010. http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/41_8627.htm

⁶⁸ Oxfam’s verdict on the G8 Summit: Cooking the books and cooking the planet, Oxfam International, July 10, 2009. Date Accessed: 4 January 2010. <http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressrelease/2009-07-10/oxfam-verdict-g8-summit-cooking-books-and-cooking-planet>

⁶⁹ Italian G8 scores a C grade on poverty report card – Can Canada beat this next year? World Vision Canada, July 15, 2009. Date Accessed: 8 January 2010. <http://www.worldvision.ca/About-Us/Newsroom/press-releases/Pages/ItalianG8scoresaCgradeonpovertyreport.aspx>

⁷⁰ In one end, out the other, End Water Poverty, July 10, 2009. Date Accessed: January 10, 2010. http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/news_events/168.asp

⁷¹ Civil Society at the 2009 G8 Summit in L’Aquila, G8 Information Centre, Peter Hajnal, University of Toronto, November 10, 2009. Date Accessed: January 10, 2010. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2009laquila/2009-hajnal.html#_ftn15

⁷² G8–2009 NGO Comment, The Sherpa Times. Date of Access: January 6, 2010. <http://www.sherpatimes.com/summits/g82009/ngo-comment>

USD3.5 billion of committed funds were from the United States.⁷³ Obama was also discussed in NGO forums for his “can-do” attitude throughout the Summit.

Jeremy Hobbs, Executive Director of Oxfam International, felt that leaders were “responding to public pressure on poverty and climate change”, and noted that public demonstrations by Oxfam and its Italian allies were key in pushing for shifts in commitments on these issues.⁷⁴ The 2009 Summit also brought some official G8 acknowledgement of civil society. Global campaigns in support of education were encouraged in the main document of the Summit, entitled G8 Declaration: Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future.⁷⁵

Development NGOs were very critical of the commitment by G8 leaders to renew the pledge made during the 2005 G8 Summit in Gleneagles to provide USD50 billion in aid by 2010, with USD25 billion of these funds intended for Africa. NGOs were concerned about the fact that there was no explicit action plan in place that outlined how these funds would be provided. Oxfam International noted that the G8 had only a year to meet that pledge, and was still short USD23 billion.⁷⁶

With the Gleneagles pledge renewed in 2009, the 2010 G8 Summit in Huntsville promises to be significant, with the timeline on the Gleneagles pledge set to expire. The 2010 G8 Summit will be an important stage for the nations to display their accountability towards development and aid issues. Canadian development NGOs in particular are gearing up to bring awareness to the population and pressure to the government to embrace

⁷³ Obama’s food security pledge at G8 a laudable step; now must meet goals, aid agency says, World Vision, July 10, 2009. Date Accessed: January 8, 2010. <http://www.worldvision.org/content.nsf/about/20090710-G8-italy-03>

⁷⁴ G8: Bread and Circuses, Oxfam International Blogs, Jeremy Hobbs, July 10, 2009. Date of Access: January 4, 2010. <http://blogs.oxfam.org/en/blog/09-07-10-g8-bread-and-circuses>

⁷⁵ Civil Society at the 2009 G8 Summit in L’Aquila, G8 Information Centre, Peter Hajnal, University of Toronto, November 10, 2009. Date Accessed: January 10, 2010. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2009laquila/2009-hajnal.html#_ftn15

⁷⁶ G8: Bread and Circuses, Oxfam International Blogs, Jeremy Hobbs, July 10, 2009. Date of Access: January 4, 2010. <http://blogs.oxfam.org/en/blog/09-07-10-g8-bread-and-circuses>

the leadership role along with the hosting role.⁷⁷ Make Poverty History Canada stated that the 2009 L'Aquila G8 Declaration was “disastrously out of touch with the reality of life today for the world’s poorest.”⁷⁸ However, they see the 2010 Summit as an opportunity for Canada to show leadership when it comes to alleviating poverty.⁷⁹ Oxfam International has called on Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to take leadership on aid targets by 2010.⁸⁰

Celebrity Activists

Kate Marshall

Introduction

Over the past decade, celebrities have become increasingly active in raising awareness on a wide range of global issues. Due to the large space celebrities occupy in the media, they are accessible public leaders who are able to foster a connection between the general public and global issues. Although celebrity involvement in international and political affairs is often subject to much criticism due to their lack of expertise in international affairs, it is undeniable that celebrities have become prominent actors in the international political sphere.⁸¹

Few celebrity activists were present at the L'Aquila G8 Summit in July 2009. However, leading up to and following the summit, celebrities strongly voiced encouragement and concern towards G8 leaders. Most vocal was Bob Geldof and his advocacy organization ONE, which he co-

⁷⁷ 2010 – Canada’s Time to Shine!, World Vision Canada. Date Accessed: January 6, 2010. <http://www.worldvision.ca/ContentArchives/content-stories/Pages/2010-canadas-time-to-shine.aspx>

⁷⁸ G8 Declaration a Disaster for the World’s Poor, Make Poverty History Canada, July 9, 2009. Date Accessed: January 10, 2010. <http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca/en/blog/g8-declaration-disaster-world039s-poor>

⁷⁹ Get to the Point, Make Poverty History Canada. Date Accessed: January 10, 2010. <http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca/en/get-point>

⁸⁰ 2010 is a date with fate for G8, Oxfam International Blogs, Robert Fox, July 11, 2009. Date Accessed: January 4, 2010. <http://blogs.oxfam.org/en/blog/09-07-11-2010-g8-canada>

⁸¹ Cooper, Andrew F. Celebrity Diplomacy and the G8: Bono and Bob as Legitimate International Actors. The Centre for International Governance Innovation, Working Paper No. 29 September 2007 http://www.cigionline.org/sites/default/files/Paper_29-web.pdf

founded with musician Bono. The majority of ONE's advocacy work surrounding the summit pertained to the G8 countries and their commitments to the promises they made in 2005 at the Gleneagles Summit concerning aid for Africa. Bob Geldof serves as the primary speaker of the ONE organization, but he and his organization are known to consolidate their efforts with other celebrities and notable political figures. As G8 leaders in L'Aquila despaired over the global economic crisis and used the international recession to mask their shortfalls on aid and debt relief, celebrities, who are unconstrained by political or nationalistic ties, worked to remind leaders of their promises to Africa.

Summit Participation

Policy Papers, Press Statements and Utilization of Media

On 30 June 2009, Nobel Peace Prize winner Mohammed Yunus, former Prime Minister of Ireland Mary Robinson, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu released an open letter to G8 leaders proposing a Global Fund for Education. The letter stressed the importance of education as a vehicle for development and urged G8 leaders to create a stronger, revived global fund for education so that economic crises will no longer impede progress on basic education.⁸² The letter made specific reference to President Barack Obama's pledge to commit USD2 billion to a Global Fund for Education and urged other leaders to follow suit. Each of the signatories received Presidential Medals of Freedom from the President Obama on 12 August 2009.⁸³

Italy's La Stampa newspaper released a special Africa edition edited by Bob Geldof on 5 July 2009.⁸⁴ The newspaper received a lot of attention throughout Italy and was made available in English online. There were thirty guest contributors including several well-known international celebrities: Naomi Campbell, Colin Firth, Kofi Annan, Bono, Sofia Loren, Giorgio Armani, Andrea Bocelli, Desmond Tutu, Barack Obama and Carla

⁸² Open Letter to G8 leaders on a Global Fund for Education from Mary Robinson, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Mohammad Yunus. Global Aids Alliance 30 June 2009. http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/page/-/PDFs/G8_LETTER_ON_GLOBAL_FUND_FOR_EDUCATION_FINAL.pdf

⁸³ President Obama silent on the creation of a Global Fund for Education: Global Aids Alliance. 22 September 2009. Date of access: January 7 2010. <http://www.news-medical.net/news/20090922/President-Obama-silent-on-the-creation-of-a-Global-Fund-for-Education-Global-AIDS-Alliance.aspx>

⁸⁴ Bob Geldof to edit La Stampa. ONE blog, 1 July 2009. <http://www.one.org/international/blog/bob-geldof-to-edit-la-stampa/>

Bruni were contributors. The special edition headline, “Africa the opportunity”, sought to address Italian political leaders and to frame Africa as a continent of promise and great prospects.⁸⁵

Bono’s article in this edition of La Stampa is entitled “A love letter to Italy”, and appealed to the country’s culture of passion and love. Bono highlighted the hypocrisy inherent in Italy’s failure to meet aid commitments to Africa when its cultural roots are embedded in religion, altruism, and traditions. Bono criticized Italy for not being able to stay true to its own humanistic sentiments: “Love thy neighbour is not advice—it’s a command. There seems to be a contradiction. The biggest heart in Europe, Italy, with its head on the wrong way for now...suffering amnesia. But I can’t think about that for now.”⁸⁶ The article sought to persuade Italy’s leaders to remember the commitments made at the Gleneagles Summit and to act according to their strong Judeo-Christian beliefs when considering their moral obligation to aid commitments.

Naomi Campbell’s article was concerned with the soaring death rates among women giving birth throughout the developing world and called on leaders to stop ignoring the United Nations Millennium Development Goal about maternal health.⁸⁷ Actor Colin Firth also contributed an article. Firth expressed his discomfort with celebrity activism in general, but wrote that he felt compelled to speak out as a result of the G8’s failure to adequately address worldwide poverty.⁸⁸

During the G8 Summit, George Clooney, Bill Murray and Carla Bruni were present in L’Aquila to support the 60 000 inhabitants who were displaced after a violent earthquake hit the city. Prime Minister Berlusconi decided to relocate the summit from La Maddalena to L’Aquila in order to rejuvenate the city’s economy and raise awareness of the devastation. George Clooney has been known to have an active voice in G8 issues, but

⁸⁵ Bob Geldof to edit La Stampa. ONE blog, 1 July 2009. <http://www.one.org/international/blog/bob-geldof-to-edit-la-stampa/>

⁸⁶ Bono. A love letter to Italy. La Stampa 5 July 2009. Date accessed: 7 January 2010 <http://www.lastampa.it/redazione/cmsSezioni/africa/200907articoli/45215girata.asp>

⁸⁷ Campbell, Naomi. Millions of Women are Dying Needlessly. La Stampa 5 July 2009. <http://www.lastampa.it/redazione/cmsSezioni/africa/200907articoli/45219girata.asp>

⁸⁸ Firth, Colin. Why do you have to hear it from an actor? La Stampa 5 July 2009. <http://www.lastampa.it/redazione/cmsSezioni/africa/200907articoli/45214girata.asp>

seemed mainly concerned with the well-being of the earthquake survivors.⁸⁹

Summit Protests

Celebrities did not participate in any summit protests. Protests tend to be a hotly contested political space and celebrities, even those who have an active political voice, tend to avoid these gatherings.

Public Awareness Events and Workshops

The band U2, including frontman Bono, played two concerts in Milan on 7–8 July 2009 as part of their 360° tour. A promotional video made by ONE featuring Archbishop Desmond Tutu was played at these performances to urge audience members to join the fight against global poverty.⁹⁰

Collaborative Efforts

ONE tends to be very open to collaborative efforts with celebrities and world leaders. During the L'Aquila Summit, ONE co-founders Bob Geldof and Bono worked with Bill Gates and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The most notable collaborative effort was the Bob Geldof–edited edition of the La Stampa newspaper, in which over 30 celebrities contributed to an Africa edition of the Italian newspaper.

G8–Civil Society Initiatives

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi agreed to an interview with Bob Geldof that was printed in the La Stampa newspaper.⁹¹ During the interview, Geldof chastised the leader for reneging on his 2005 Gleneagles aid commitments. Geldof questioned how Berlusconi could lead the 2009 G8 Summit when he is not able to hold himself accountable for the aid commitments he has made on behalf of Italy. After enduring criticism from Geldof, Berlusconi concluded the interview with an apology to Africa: “We are sorry we also reduced aid to Africa...Our Economy Minister

⁸⁹ Kendall, Bridget. Italy's minimalist G8 summit. BBC News 11 July 2009. Date accessed: 5 January 2010. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8145847.stm>

⁹⁰ **Keep Africa aid promises and act now to stem hunger, G8 told, or risk global irrelevance. ONE blog.** <http://www.one.org/c/us/pressrelease/2865/>.

⁹¹ Bob Geldof grills Berlusconi on aid ahead of G8. Reuters. 5 July 2009. Date accessed January 5 2010. <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE5640YJ20090705>

Giulio Tremonti has made a commitment to readjust in line with our undertakings within three years."⁹²

Geldof's interview with Berlusconi was published in the Geldof-edited edition of *La Stampa*, which was published just days before the Summit. The interview represented a public and unprecedented interaction between the G8 President and a celebrity actor. The meeting between Geldof and Berlusconi demonstrates the increasingly powerful space that celebrities are able to occupy in the international political arena.

Summit Outcomes

Bob Geldof's advocacy group ONE issued a press statement following the release of the G8 communiqué on food security on 8 July 2009. The organization's reaction was positive and the ONE press release stated that G8 communiqué outlined significant steps towards progress on the effectiveness of agricultural aid.⁹³ Cofounder of ONE, Bono, noted that "Of all the enemies of civilisation, hunger is the dumbest, the most mocking of all we hold true. We are delighted President Obama has returned to this, the most fundamental of rights, with a stimulus package for the agricultural sector that is smart and innovative. In the last minute of extra time, it looks like a surprise goal was scored for the world's farmers and the world's hungry. If there is real new money here backing these serious ideas then it is a great start to be built on in Pittsburgh."⁹⁴ ONE's most significant concern, as expressed in their press release, was that G8 nations need to clarify their aid contribution levels, and put in place an effective global mechanism to channel funds by the September 2009 G20 Summit in Pittsburgh.

Following the 2009 G8 Summit, ONE released a policy brief outlining the Summit's major achievements.⁹⁵ ONE was happy to see the G8 take strides towards greater transparency and accountability surrounding aid commitments, but remained concerned that aid flows are not being

⁹² Bob Geldof grills Berlusconi on aid ahead of G8. Reuters. 5 July 2009. Date accessed January 5 2010. <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE5640YJ20090705>

⁹³ ONE's analysis of the G8 L'Aquila Summit Statements. 7 August 2009. <http://www.one.org/c/international/policybrief/2993/>

⁹⁴ ONE's analysis of the G8 L'Aquila Summit Statements. 7 August 2009. <http://www.one.org/c/international/policybrief/2993/>

⁹⁵ ONE's analysis of the G8 L'Aquila Summit Statements. 7 August 2009. <http://www.one.org/c/international/policybrief/2993/>

properly measured. ONE would like to see private sector trade, investment, and remittances be explicitly excluded from official development assistance measurements because it allows countries to misrepresent their actual governmental efforts. Targeting Italy specifically, ONE mentioned that the Italian government must fulfill its past ODA promises and remains concerned that Italy will continue to cut previously made commitments.⁹⁶

ONE was pleased with the results of the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI) and welcomed the initiative's commitment to agricultural development assistance as opposed to only food aid. ONE requested that the funds dedicated to this initiative be coordinated by the September 2009 G20 Summit in Pittsburgh. ONE was happy to see the G8's acknowledgement of the need for greater progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and was optimistic about substantial efforts being made to strengthen health care systems throughout Africa. ONE initially requested that the G8 close the funding gap in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, but the G8 did not outline any steps towards this. ONE also requested that the G8 mobilize funding for the December 2009 United Nations Climate Change conference in Copenhagen, but the G8 failed to reach any agreements on climate change issues.⁹⁷

ONE was disappointed that G8 nations were unable to make any ambitious commitments towards aid for trade and worried that promises surrounding the concluding of the WTO Doha Development Round by 2010 would not be upheld. ONE was also disappointed to see that the G8 did not outline any specific commitments regarding private sector growth initiatives in the developing world as a method of poverty reduction. Another disappointment for ONE was the G8's inability to continue its commitment to the Education for All program, which has suffered since the financial crisis. ONE had called on the G8 to commit to the creation of a Global Fund for Education, but the G8 did not deliver on this request.⁹⁸ Celebrity academic Jeffrey Sachs published an article in the Guardian on 26 July 2009 commenting on the G8's food aid commitments. While congratulating the G8 for its USD20 billion aid pledge, Sachs was most

⁹⁶ ONE's analysis of the G8 L'Aquila Summit Statements. 7 August 2009. <http://www.one.org/c/international/policybrief/2993/>

⁹⁷ ONE's analysis of the G8 L'Aquila Summit Statements. 7 August 2009. <http://www.one.org/c/international/policybrief/2993/>

⁹⁸ ONE's analysis of the G8 L'Aquila Summit Statements. 7 August 2009. <http://www.one.org/c/international/policybrief/2993/>

concerned with the mechanisms through which this aid would be distributed. Sachs urged world leaders to bypass aid bureaucracies in order to yield the maximum benefit of their aid contributions. He urged leaders to consider how the aid would be distributed and utilized most effectively, suggesting that this large amount of aid would be best channeled through a large organization like the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) or the World Bank. Governments in hunger stricken countries would then submit budget proposals to the organization, and aid would be administered more directly.⁹⁹

Human Rights Groups

Krista Taylor

Introduction

The distinction between human right groups and development NGOs must be addressed. While development NGOs focus on issues such as the economy, health, and education, human right groups tend to focus on matters relating to civil and political rights.¹⁰⁰ Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Transparency International are examples of dominant and influential human rights advocacy groups.

The predominance of human rights groups in G8-related civil society activity has changed in the last several years. Human rights groups were very active through 2007 and 2008. At the 2007 Heiligendamn Summit, Transparency International gained a place on the official G8 agenda, and issues that the group championed were mentioned in the final communiqué on global economy and Africa.¹⁰¹ Human right groups were also vocal at the Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, where the group Human Rights First, together with a broad coalition of forty NGOs, lobbied

⁹⁹ Sachs, Jeffrey. A big chance for smallholders. The Guardian. 26 July 2009. Date accessed: January 5 2010. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/jul/26/g8-agriculture-smallholding-aid>

¹⁰⁰ 2009 L'Aquila Summit Report, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) July 2009. Date of Access: 30 November 2009. <http://www.g8live.org/civilsociety>

¹⁰¹ 2009 L'Aquila Summit Report, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) July 2009. Date of Access: 30 November 2009. <http://www.g8live.org/civilsociety>

successfully on the issue of Darfur, which was included in the final outcome statement of the Summit.¹⁰²

After the 2008 G8 Summit, the momentum of human rights groups seems to have declined. Funding cuts caused by the global economic crisis may explain the decrease in human rights civil society activity aimed at the G8. Additionally, civil society groups may have acknowledged that human rights concerns are increasingly being excluded from the G8 agenda. Organizations that are concerned with human rights issues and were in attendance at the L'Aquila Summit focused largely on the lack of action by G8 governments in achieving human rights commitments made at previous summits, with special focus on the Millennium Development Goals. This was a theme that was highlighted frequently by civil society press releases, statements, and articles written in response to Summit communiqués.

Summit Participation

Policy Papers, Press Statements and Utilization of Media

Civil society activity during the G8 Summit in L'Aquila by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, which are the major international human rights organizations, was limited. Perhaps as a result of a lack of funding, concentration of resources elsewhere, or a lack of involvement in G8 issues, the major human rights groups had minimal or no official response to the G8 L'Aquila Summit.

Many of the smaller human rights groups released responses to the G8 Summit on online blogs. InterAction, a coalition of United States-based NGOs (including human rights groups) released a short statement on 8 July 2009 in response to the G8 Preliminary Accountability Report. InterAction President and CEO Samuel Worthington noted that "For the first time the G8 has outlined its individual financial commitments and disbursements in four areas: food security, water, health and education"¹⁰³

¹⁰² 2009 L'Aquila Summit Report, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) July 2009. Date of Access: 30 November 2009. <http://www.g8live.org/civilsociety>

¹⁰³ Statement by Samuel A. Worthington, Interaction President & CEO (L'Aquila, Italy) 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. <http://www.interaction.org/article/interaction-response-g8-summit-declaration>

The statement by InterAction also remarked positively about the fact that the G8 established a senior level working group on accountability framework, with a report that is to be delivered at the 2010 Muskoka Summit. While InterAction focuses mostly on developmental concerns, the subject of accountability has been linked to human rights. A DFID strategy paper entitled Realising Human Rights for Poor People argues that rights will become realized only when citizens are engaged in the decision-making processes which affect their lives. Underscoring this approach, states must be held accountable to the “obligations to protect and promote the realization” of rights. Thus, lobbying for G8 accountability by can be considered part of the civil society struggle for human rights.

The Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) is a global coalition of NGOs which counts ending human rights violations amongst its goals.¹⁰⁴ GCAP released several documents concerning the 2009 G8 Summit. The first document was released on 6 July 2009 and highlights the inequality inherent in spending trillions of dollars to bail out corporations during the recession when high poverty rates continue to persist in many regions of the world. GCAP global co-chair, Sylvia Borren, called the bailouts “... moral negligence.”¹⁰⁵ The article also notes that the G8 is not on track to meet Millennium Development Goal aid targets by 2011. GCAP calls the fact that G8 leaders spent a large sum of money of bail out plans while ignoring their MDG targets an act that demonstrates the increasing “illegitimacy of the G8.”¹⁰⁶

In contrast to GCAP’s reaction to the 2009 Summit, an article posted on IPS News Net on 10 July 2009 cautiously congratulated the G8 on their commitment to giving USD20 billion to fight the food crisis and reduce hunger.¹⁰⁷ This commitment was not a “joint pledge,” the article noted,

¹⁰⁴ About GCAP. GCAP. 2010. Date of Access: 15 February 2010. <http://www.whiteband.org/about-gcap/what-is-gcap>.

¹⁰⁵ GCAP Demands G8 Leaders Invest in People to Solve Worldwide Recession, Global Call to Action Against Poverty (Italy) 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/gcap-demands-g8-leaders-invest-in-people-to-solve-worldwide-recession>

¹⁰⁶ GCAP Demands G8 Leaders Invest in People to Solve Worldwide Recession, Global Call to Action Against Poverty (Italy) 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. <http://www.whiteband.org/Action/take-action/gcap-mobilisation-2009/gcap-demands-g8-leaders-invest-in-people-to-solve-worldwide-recession>

¹⁰⁷ G8: Some Aid Can Be Hard to Stomach, IPS News Net (Italy) 10 July 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47614>

but a “...welcome step towards an ideal.”¹⁰⁸ However, the article also points out that even if the G8 were to make good on this commitment and the USD20 billion were to go to the right people, the money spent would still not be enough to meet the MDGs.

Human Rights Watch also posted two articles on the organization’s website which called on the G8 to address human rights concerns in Iran and China. The first article demanded the G8 leadership to condemn the violent attacks on peaceful protests in Iran after the Iranian election, and to end the “arbitrary arrests, and the harsh interrogations .”¹⁰⁹ The second article demanded that the G8 work “to break with past practice and acknowledge Uighurs’ grievances” about human rights abuses in China.¹¹⁰ The article on China was prompted by Chinese President Hu Jintao leaving the G8 L’Aquila Summit to return to Beijing to cope with the protests regarding human rights abuses in the Xinjian Uighur Autonomous Region.

Summit Protests

One of the largest and most publicized protests that took place at the G8 L’Aquila Summit was the G8 “big heads” display by Oxfam International. The campaign involved protestors dressed like G8 leaders enacting situations to demonstrate the shortcomings of the G8. In one protest, which emphasized the G8’s failures in being accountable to MDG targets, the G8 “big heads” were seen eating large portions of spaghetti with the caption “G8 feasting while 1 out of 6 people are hungry.”¹¹¹ In an interview on 8 July 2009, Emma Seery, Oxfam spokesperson, highlighted

¹⁰⁸ G8: Some Aid Can Be Hard to Stomach, IPS News Net (Italy) 10 July 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47614>

¹⁰⁹ G8: Press Iran on Rights, Free Expression, Human Rights Watch (New York) 6 July 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/07/06/g8-press-iran-rights-free-expression>

¹¹⁰ China: President Should Ease Tension by Acknowledging Grievances, Human Rights Watch (New York) 6 July 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/07/08/china-president-should-ease-tension-acknowledging-grievances>

¹¹¹ Address by Farida Bena, Oxfam International Italian Spokesperson, Oxfam Canada, (Italy) July 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. <http://www.oxfam.ca/what-we-do/campaigns/g8-summit-2009-italy>

that the lack of follow up on G8 commitments is a “crisis of credibility” and questioned the G8’s legitimacy.¹¹²

Summit Outcomes

On 13 July 2009, GCAP released a statement entitled “What Did They Deliver?” a scorecard that graded the outcomes of the 2009 L’Aquila Summit.¹¹³ Overall, the statement expressed disappointment that G8 countries were able to fund expensive bank and corporate bailouts, but were unable to make commitments at the 2009 Summit to fulfill funding commitments to meet MDGs. The human rights concerns are tied with these sentiments because, as highlighted by GCAP, there is no governing body to hold the G8 accountable to the public for previous summit commitments.

Transparency International (TI) has also reported on the human rights consequences of the 2009 Summit outcomes. A blog entry by TI on 2 July 2009 urged the G8 to be accountable to their commitments at the 2010 summit. TI is focused on issues of accountability and anti-corruption, and each year produces a report assessing each G8 country’s progress on these issues.¹¹⁴ The blog and the report both concentrate on the global economic recession, and echo the fact that there has been a violation of “...basic principles of propriety, integrity and transparency, that “have contributed to undermine international economic and financial stability.”¹¹⁵ The report goes on to say that global confidence and economic recovery depend on a restoration of ethical behavior. TI then called on G8 leadership to strengthen enforcement and accountability to these principles. A second blog entry, posted on 8 July 2009, echoes

¹¹² Oxfam Response to G8 on Climate Change, Aid and Trade, Oxfam News and Publications (Ottawa) 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 15 December 2009. <http://www.oxfam.ca/news-and-publications/pressroom/oxfamresponse-to-g8-on-climate-change-aid-and-trade>

¹¹³ G8 2009: What Did They Deliver? 13 July 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. <http://tendays.socialwatch.org/?p=534#more-534>

¹¹⁴ G8 Progress Report: 2009, Transparency International (Germany) 2009. Date of Access: 8 January 2010. Page 4. www.transparency.org

¹¹⁵ Urging G8 to be Accountable to their Commitments at the Upcoming Summit in L’Aquila, Italy (online) 2 July 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. <http://blog.transparency.org/2009/07/02/transparency-international-urging-accountable-to-their-commitments-at-the-upcoming-summit-in-laquila-italy>

sentiments for a “strong, fair and clean economy”¹¹⁶ and calls for the G8 put into practice the “effective monitoring of the implementation of these principles and standards on a regular basis.”¹¹⁷

An article posted on the website of The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health outlines a letter of applause for G8 leaders in regards to their commitment to maternal, newborn and child health. The article notes that for the first time, G8 leaders have included maternal, newborn and child health in the outcome documents from the G8 Summit, specifically, the Toyako Framework for Action on Global Health. The document calls for the “...removal of barriers to access for all women and children and encourage(s) the work of the World Health Organization, World Bank, UNICEF and UNFPA are doing to renew international efforts on maternal and child health.”¹¹⁸ The letter also encourages the leaders to translate their commitments into concrete action.

The International AIDS Society (IAS) released a media release demanding that Prime Minister set the agenda for the June 2010 Muskoka Summit – specifically asking that donors fulfill their financial commitments towards health and human rights.¹¹⁹

Faith-Based Organizations

Pratima Arapakota

Introduction

¹¹⁶ Urging G8 to be Accountable to their Commitments at the Upcoming Summit in L'Aquila, Italy (online) 2 July 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. <http://blog.transparency.org/2009/07/02/transparency-international-urging-accountable-to-their-commitments-at-the-upcoming-summit-in-laquila-italy>

¹¹⁷ G8: Time to Back Up Public Commitments (online) 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 6 January 2010. <http://blog.transparency.org/2009/07/08/g8-time-to-back-up-public-commitments/>

¹¹⁸ G8 Italy 2009 – Partnership sends open letter to Leaders, The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, & Child Health (L'Aquila/Geneva) 17 July 2009. Date of Access: 14 December 2009. http://www.who.int/pmnch/events/2009/g8summit_2009/en/index.html

¹¹⁹ IAS media release: International AIDS Society Demands Canadian Prime Minister Harper and Other G8 Leaders Meet Their Commitments on AIDS Funding (Vancouver) 20 November 2009. Date of Access: 29 December 2009. <http://list.rhsupplies-g8.org/pipermail/listserv.rhsupplies-g8.org/2009-November>

There is no universally accepted definition of faith-based organisations (FBOs). In an article reviewing the role of faith-based organizations within civil society, Elizabeth Ferris outlines that FBOs are usually characterized by having one or more of the following: “affiliation with a religious body; a mission statement with explicit reference to religious values; financial support from religious sources; and/or a governance structure where selection of board members or staff is based on religious beliefs or affiliation and/or decision-making processes based on religious values.”¹²⁰

The majority of the activism by FBOs occurs during the annual Interfaith Summits which usually precede G8 Summits. Since the inception of the Interfaith Summits in 2005, they serve to “raise the voices of the faith leaders of the world in unity and in call for justice for the vulnerable peoples of the world.”¹²¹ The speeches, meetings, and workshops and press briefings from Interfaith Summits serve as a call to action for G8 leaders.

Faith-based activity occurring at the time of the G8 Summit is slightly more muted than during pre-G8 Interfaith Summits. Activism is dominated by faith-motivated NGOs rather than major interfaith leaders.

FBOs at the 2009 L’Aquila Summit were mostly concerned with the provision of development and humanitarian assistance. The most prominent FBOs were large Christian organizations, including Caritas Internationalis, CDSE, World Vision, and Tearfund. Several of the organizations, including Caritas Internationalis, CDSE, and Tearfund, represent a network of FBOs with similar humanitarian agendas. While the activism of FBOs may be motivated by faith-based values, their statements and press releases during the 2009 G8 Summit were non-religious in nature, and focused primarily on addressing the shortcomings of the G8 in meeting development targets.

¹²⁰ 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/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/review-858-p311/\\$File/irrc_858_Ferris.pdf](http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/review-858-p311/$File/irrc_858_Ferris.pdf).

¹²¹ History of Interfaith Leaders’ Summits, 2010 Interfaith Partnership (Winnipeg) 5 January 2010. Date of Access: 19 June 2010. <http://www.faithchallengeg8.com/pdfs/History.pdf>.

Although FBOs were most active in the period directly preceding the 2009 Summit, FBOs addressed G8 leaders during the Summit through policy papers, press statements/briefings, and some public awareness events. FBOs encouraged G8 leaders to take more assertive steps to meet development targets and also outlined their hopes and expectations for the 2010 Summit in Canada.

Summit Participation

Policy Papers, Press Statements, and Utilization of Media

The presidents of the Catholic Bishops' Conference from G8 countries wrote a joint letter to G8 leaders urging them to focus on assisting developing countries in their discussions at the G8 Summit.¹²² Significantly, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown responded to the letter, and noted that fulfilling commitments to developing countries was a "moral imperative."¹²³

Caritas Internationalis, a network of Catholic development agencies, released press statements that noted that the G8 needs to reaffirm their commitments to development aid targets, arguing that "the global economic crisis threatens gains made in reducing poverty over the last ten years."¹²⁴ Caritas was especially critical of Italy, accusing the country of "reducing its development budget by 56 per cent in 2009 and giving just 0.09 per cent of GDP in foreign aid."¹²⁵ Caritas also partnered with CIDSE (Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité), another international alliance of Catholic development agencies, to produce a briefing in regards to the 2009 G8 Summit. In a joint statement, Caritas and CIDSE called upon G8 countries to meet a variety of specific targets in regards to addressing the financial crisis, aid and accountability, innovative resources for financial development, international cooperation in the fight against tax evasion and capital

¹²² Catholic Bishops Urge G8 to Fulfill Commitments to World's Poor. Ekklesia (London). 24 June 2009. Date of Access: 1 January 2010. <http://www.ekkleisia.co.uk/node/9734>.

¹²³ Catholic Bishops Urge G8 to Fulfill Commitments to World's Poor. Ekklesia (London). 24 June 2009. Date of Access: 1 January 2010. <http://www.ekkleisia.co.uk/node/9734>.

¹²⁴ G8 in Italy must prove its relevance. Caritas Internationalis. 6 July 2009. Date of Access: 1 January 2010. http://www.caritas.org/newsroom/press_releases/PressRelease06_07_09.html.

¹²⁵ G8 agenda: The big issues at the 2009 G8 Summit. Caritas Internationalis. 3 July 2009. Date of Access: 1 January 2010. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/g8/5727639/G8-agenda-The-big-issues-at-the-2009-G8-summit.html>.

flight, climate justice, food security, the role of the private sector, civil society, and the “whole of country” approach.¹²⁶

Public Awareness Events

World Vision was the most prominent international faith-based NGO during the G8 Summit. World Vision USA ran a promotional campaign called the “Italian Job.” Short YouTube videos postulated whether G8 leaders would fulfill poverty and development goals, or “pull a get-away from their promises a la ‘The Italian Job’.”¹²⁷ The video encouraged viewers to visit the website www.g8action.org, which urged G8 leaders to hold up their promises about action on child health.

Collaborative Efforts

Caritas Internationalis and CIDSE act as umbrella organizations for groups of member Catholic development agencies. Both of these faith-based organizations represent their member agencies in their statements, press releases, and reports made with regards to the 2009 G8 Summit.

Summit Outcomes

On 10 July 2009, Tearfund, a Christian relief and development agencies which works with a worldwide network of churches, released a lengthy statement on the G8. In a press release, Tearfund expressed disappointment that the “G8 squandered the opportunity to put their money where their mouth are and deliver climate finance for poor countries to help in their response to climate change.”¹²⁸

Representatives from CIDSE’s member organizations had harsh words for the financial commitments made by the G8 during the 2009 Summit. CIDSE reported that Bob van Dillen, Policy Officer at Cordaid, said “The G8 set aside \$20 billion for the coming 3 years, while they have spend \$13

¹²⁶ CIDSE and Caritas Internationalis briefing for the G8 Summit. CIDSE. 2009. Date of Access: 1 January 2010. http://www.cidse.org/Area_of_work/Global_governance/?id=1275.

¹²⁷ G8: The Italian Job? World Vision USA. 1 July 2009. Date of Access: 1 January 2010. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AW4LKKL4suc>.

¹²⁸ G8 leaders fail to deliver but provide a snapshot of hope for the future. Tearfund. 10 July 2009. Date of Access: 1 January 2010. <http://www.tearfund.org/News/Press+releases/G8+leaders+fail+to+deliver.htm>.

billion just the past 18 months. The simply means \$20 billion won't be enough to feed the world's one billion hungry."¹²⁹ Joanne Green, Head of Policy at CAFOD, noted that "Tonight one billion people will go to bed hungry because the established economic model isn't working. And climate change will only increase the vulnerability of the poorest people as land and soil is degraded." CIDSE's member agencies expressed concern that although the G8 expressed good intentions to alleviate food security issues in a communiqué on Global Food Security¹³⁰, their objectives "do not mirror their own national policies on food and trade."

On 10 July 2009, the last day of the G8 Summit, World Vision President Dave Toyce made a statement during a press briefing with major Canadian NGOs at the International Media Center in Italy. The purpose of the press briefing was to discuss prospects and expectations for the 2010 G8 Summit in Canada. Toyce noted that investment in child and maternal health is the most cost effective development strategy, and encouraged the Canadian government to provide funding to create a better future for children and families.¹³¹

Following the 2009 Summit, World Vision released a scorecard on the G8's performance in meeting commitments related to the child welfare. World Vision awarded the G8 an overall grade of "C", and determined that an additional CDN\$15 billion is required for the G8 to successfully meet commitments to help children and mothers living in poverty.¹³² The purpose of the report card was to force the G8 to reflect on its failures, as well as to provide Canada, as the holder of the next G8 Presidency, with a benchmark to aim towards in 2010.

Overall, FBOs expressed concern during the 2009 G8 Summit that G8 leaders failed to make commitments that adequately addressed the needs of those in developing nations, especially in regard to the problems of climate change, food security, and child welfare issues.

¹²⁹ G8: \$20 billion won't feed one billion hungry, Catholic development agencies say. CIDSE. 10 July 2009. Date of Access: 1 January 2010. <http://www.cidse.org/PressMedia/?id=1299>.

¹³⁰ G8 Efforts towards Global Food Security. 9 July 2009. Date of Access: 1 January 2010. http://www.g8italia2009.it/static/G8_Allegato/G8_Report_Global_Food_Security,2.pdf.

¹³¹ Press Briefing with Major Canadian NGOs. 10 July 2009. Date of Access: 1 January 2010. <http://g8live.org/node/153>.

¹³² Italian G8 scores a C grade on poverty report card – can Canada beat this next year? 15 July 2009. Date of Access: 1 January 2010. <http://www.worldvision.ca/About-Us/Newsroom/press-releases/Pages/ItalianG8scoresaCgradeonpovertyreport.aspx>.

