

# IN A NUTSHELL

The outcomes of the G8 Summit in Edinburgh, July 2005

A **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** summary for teachers

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this simplified version of the outcomes of the G8 Summit.

It is intended to help teachers get to some of the detail behind the G8 Communiqué, without having to find the time to read the entire document. It is hoped that the format, which quotes verbatim edited 'highlights' from the G8 Communiqué and then gives MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY's analysis of what the G8 achieved and failed to achieve, will help teachers explain the G8's outcome to pupils. Teachers may choose to use this as material on which to base critical discussion of the outcomes, and critical discussion of **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**'s analysis of them.

In schools where **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** activities took place, or where pupils are wearing white wristbands, it should be made clear to pupils that their actions have contributed to good results for Africa (described here). And that the pressure they helped to put on world leaders has no doubt saved lives. But it is essential that much more is demanded of rich countries' leaders if we are to truly make poverty history. The achievements of the G8 in Edinburgh are the first step of a longer journey, and we all need to keep up the pressure for justice for the poor around the world.

Format of this summary

To help teachers, we have taken phrases directly from the G8 Communiqué that sum up the key gains for Africa from the Summit. These are headed 'G8 Communiqué'. The section of the Communiqué from which they are taken appears in brackets. Below this appears a short analysis of this outcome from the **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** coalition, headed '**MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**'.

The full Communiqué can be found [here](#).

## CONTEXT

G8 Communiqué

This is a moment of opportunity for Africa. (1) There are now just ten years in which to take the action needed for all developing countries to meet the Goals agreed at the Millennium Summit in 2000. We should continue the G8 focus on Africa, which is the only continent not on track to meet any of the Goals of the Millennium Declaration by 2015. (2)

### **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**

In 2000, all the countries of the United Nations pledged to achieve 8 Goals that would help halve the number of people living in poverty by 2015. These are known as the Millennium Development Goals, or MDGs for short. These are concrete targets that include:

- Halving the number of people living on less than a dollar a day (46.4% of people living in Sub-Saharan Africa. Source: UN 2001).
- Halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria (around 7% of people in Sub-

Saharan Africa are HIV positive, and in that area there were more than 2 million deaths related to the disease in 2004. World wide, the numbers infected with HIV continue to increase. Source UN 2004).

- Reducing by three quarters the number of deaths of women in childbirth (in many parts of Africa, more than 550 women die per every 100,000 live births. That's more than 1 in 20. Source UN 2000).
- Ensuring every child has a good, free basic education (38% of children from the poorest families do not go to school. A child whose mother did not receive an education is twice as likely to be out of school compared to a child whose mother went to school. Source UN 2001).

While these Goals only go some way to stopping preventable deaths because of poverty, lack of health-care and education, they are useful targets in the sense that they have been agreed by all nations – they are tangible and we can hold world leaders to account. It is essential that we hold nations to their promise to achieve the MDGs as soon as possible, and to go beyond them. Get more information from the [United Nations' Millennium Development Goals website](#).

Teachers wishing to get more information and activities for teaching about the MDGs may wish to try Oxfam's poster set: Change the World in 8 Steps: a set of posters and activities for 7-14 year olds investigating the UN Millennium Development Goals. Click [here](#) for more information, including child-friendly versions of each goal. More resources for teaching about the MDGs can be found on the [Development Education Association's Global Dimension website](#).

## TRADE

### G8 Communiqué

Private enterprise is a prime engine of growth and development. (19) We agree: to increase our help to developing countries to build the physical, human and institutional capacity to trade. (22,a)

Infrastructure and supply-side weaknesses often prevent the poorest countries from exploiting their trading opportunities. To boost growth, attract investment and contribute to building Africa's capacity to trade we will: Support investment, enterprise development and innovation (23,b); Support a comprehensive set of actions to improve agricultural productivity (23,c); Welcome the growing market for fair-trade goods and their positive effects in supporting livelihoods and increasing public awareness of the positive role of trade in development. (23,e)

### MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY

The language in the communiqué is supportive about countries setting their own trade policies and being able to export their products in the rich world. This is extremely important.

However, export subsidies force many millions of people to live in extreme poverty. The G8 needs to end these subsidies to truly make trade fair. Although the G8 committed themselves to getting rid of them last year they have done nothing here. In Edinburgh, they didn't set an end date for scrapping their damaging agricultural export subsidies. They have now put the issue forward to a World Trade Organisation meeting in December, in Hong Kong, which only means it has become part of a negotiating package – a potential bargaining tool - and is far from certain to be achieved.

# AID

## G8 Communiqué

Successful development requires sustained and consistent progress across the range of areas we have identified: strengthened peace and security, better governance, improved healthcare and education, enhanced growth, access to markets, and capacity to trade. Implementation will require access to additional resources for Africa and other developing countries. (24)

The commitments of the G8 and other donors will lead to an increase in official development assistance to Africa of £25 billion a year by 2010, more than doubling aid to Africa compared to 2004. (27)

As we confront the development challenges in Africa, we recognise there is a global development challenge facing the world as a whole. On the basis of donor commitments and other relevant factors, the OECD estimates that official development assistance from the G8 and other donors to all developing countries will now increase by around \$50 billion a year by 2010, compared to 2004. (28)

## **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**

Good progress was made on increasing aid, but 2010 is a long time away. The G8's increase could save the lives of 5 million children by 2010. But the G8 didn't go as far as they should have done. The lives of 50 million children will still be lost in the next 5 years. The delay will also keep 300 million people trapped in poverty – living on less than a dollar a day.

# DEBT

## G8 Communiqué

The G8 has agreed a proposal to cancel 100% of outstanding debts of eligible Heavily Indebted Poor Countries... (29)

## **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**

Good, but debt relief needs to go much wider than this.

There are some desperately poor countries not included such as Sri Lanka, Kenya and Vietnam. We need to keep the pressure up to widen debt relief, and also to reduce the conditions that the World Bank and IMF put on debt relief.

# THE FUTURE

## **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**

Make Poverty History has become an unprecedented movement of passion, energy and solidarity. Never before have so many people in the world come together, fully united in demanding action to end poverty, with a roar for justice that they felt was impossible to ignore.

The G8 have chosen not to do all that campaigners insist is needed to free people trapped in the prison of poverty. Important steps have been taken – steps that will bring hope to millions. But more action is urgently needed if the G8 are to play their role in bringing about real change for the world's poorest people and consigning extreme poverty to the history books.

To secure a deserved place in history, the G8 must go a lot further and secure real change by working

with other world leaders at the UN summit on the Millennium Development Goals and talks around the World Trade Organisation. The people of the world are already on the road to justice. They expect their leaders to be with them.

#### White Band Day II and the Millennium Development Goals

The focus of campaigning to make poverty history now shifts to a UN summit on the MDGs, taking place in September 2005. Just before this summit – where progress towards achieving the Goals will be discussed and potentially new action will be taken to ensure they are reached – there will be a second White Band Day on 10th September. People around the world will once again come together to demand justice for poor people, and show their support for making poverty history.

Many schools took part in activities for the first White Band Day on July 1st. We hope that schools will continue to support Make Poverty History in this crucial year.