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THE PRIME MINISTER

I know better than anyone that the Gleneagles deal to tackle global poverty would not have happened without the impassioned campaign in the UK and across the world.

The Make Poverty History campaign really did make a difference.

But as you have always recognised, it's action not words that matter.

So I am delighted that this year over half a million people in the World Can't Wait campaign have raised the voice again to get over the message that those trapped in desperate poverty need the G8 to deliver what was promised.

There has been real progress since Gleneagles – billions of dollars of debt cancellation has freed up resources for investing in schools and health care, new aid has helped get millions into school and over 1 million onto anti retrovirals in Africa. And work with the AU has led to the training of nearly 15,000 African peacekeepers. We must now build on this progress.

I am also proud of the UK's leadership over the last ten years. UK Aid has gone up from around £2.5 billion to over £6.5 billion and we are the first government to untie our aid and make a clear commitment to achieving our 0.7% target by 2013. The UK has also championed HIPC debt relief worth over \$70 billion, investment in education and fighting killer diseases and despite the difficulties we continue to press for a development outcome to the trade talks and further reform of the CAP.

But where I strongly agree with you is that – despite Britain's lead - this progress still falls short of what was promised.

It is why you are right to continue insisting that global leaders fully deliver on their commitments on aid, trade justice and climate change.

Without this pressure, it will take longer to end the injustices that blight the lives of millions across the globe.

They are relying on you to continue to press governments to deliver on global poverty and climate change.

I am committed to play my part in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Blair". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

June 2007