

<Urgent Release>

## Prime Minister Fukuda Declares a “Participatory Approach” – including Civil Society and NGOs – in Preparation for the Toya-ko Summit

~ Calling for Concrete Policies and Action for Global Issues ~

### 2008 G8 NGO Forum: Poverty and Development Unit

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#### OVERVIEW

1. We welcome the address by Prime Minister Fukuda at the World Economic Forum expressing his will to tackle global issues such as climate change, African development, and global poverty towards Toya-ko Summit.
2. We praise the call by the Prime Minister for a "participatory approach", which includes members of civil society and NGOs. With this acknowledgement, civil society calls for the need of a more concrete policy, and contests the following points (by topic):
  - A) Gender and Women: Concerning the absence of a follow-up to women and gender issues highlighted at the 2007 G8 summit in Heilgendamm. We call upon the Prime Minister to take the leadership on this issue.
  - B) Global Health: Although we welcome the Prime Minister for taking leadership on maternal and new born child health and health system strengthening, it is essential to continue the fight against infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. In order to achieve that, there are needs for actual financial commitment by the government of Japan and increase in financial contribution as well as further measures to be taken.
  - C) Education: We welcome the Prime Minister for bringing forth basic education as one of the agenda items. Yet, it is vital to understand basic education as a human right, and Japan must have a comprehensive measure to achieve education for all.
  - D) Africa: Imbalanced trade and economic policies is hindering Africa from true economic independence, thus Japan should take the leadership, as the president of this year's G8 summit, to part ways with such policies and to create measures to tie microeconomic aid to macroeconomic success.
  - E) Climate Change: Call for the introduction of a midterm target on CO2 emissions at an early stage. Furthermore, we call on concrete financial aid through multilateral frameworks to developing countries that will most likely be the greatest victims of the climate change. ODA will not be the source for this fund, but from an alternative source.
  - F) Global Economy: Speculation money has shaken the global finances, causing a sudden rise in such commodities as oil and threatening the cost of living. Thus, we call for higher restrictions of speculative money.

On the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, a special address was made by Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, expressing the Japanese position for the G8 Hokkaido Toya-ko summit.

Prime Minister Fukuda brought forth current global issues such as climate change, health, education, water, and Africa. Furthermore, unlike previous governments, he has called on a “participatory approach”; this will include participation from different sectors of society including NGO’s. We, the 2008 G8 NGO Forum Poverty and Development Unit welcomes and highly praise these points.

However, not only does the Prime Minister’s statement lack concreteness, but also lacks clarity in how Japan can work in cooperation or provide additional support to current multilateral agreements and initiatives by developed countries. It is essential for Japan to contribute to strengthen current global actions. With less than half a year left until the G8 Summit, the ability of the political strength and the ability to create policies will be tested.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister made no reference to gender and women, an issue that was highlighted at the 2007 Heiligendamm summit by an initiative from Chancellor Merkel. We cannot talk about climate change, global health and African Development, without the regard to gender. Prime Minister Fukuda has shown his deep understanding and developed strategies in population; thus, we look forward to him taking on the leadership.

We, the G8 NGO forum, will answer the call from the Prime Minister for the “participatory approach”, and within the limited remaining time, to help create policies and strategies for the global issues. An evaluation by Japanese civil society is highlighted below, according to the topic issue.

### Global Health: From Plan to Action - Scaling Up is Vital

Prime Minister Fukuda addressed global health as one of the main agendas at the Summit and stressed that so many lives of pregnant women and children in developing countries are lost, the number of medical and health personnel are seriously short, and promised to design an international action plan for strengthening health system in developing countries. Furthermore, he called for the participation of all stakeholders, including NGO's and civil society in implementing the action plan. We appreciate this action and will actively participate in designing and implementing the action plan that promotes measures against global health in integrated and effective way.

On the other hand, though, Prime Minister Fukuda praised the progress on the fight against infectious diseases since the Okinawa summit, we are far from ending the fight against infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. In the world, nearly six million people are still losing their lives because of these three major infectious diseases every year. Strengthening health system, improving maternal and child health, and taking measures against infectious diseases are all interrelated issues. Action taken to address those issues should be integrated and financial contribution as well as the commitments are to be expanded.

Prime Minister Fukuda promised to create an international action plan, but it is only meaningful, when the plan is carried out appropriately, with ample funding. It is crucial that the government of Japan increases the amount of its investment in global health and ensure quality of it to bring about positive results in global health issues by embodying the idea of “human security” that Japan has promoted, and utilise its technology and experience in improving maternal and child health and fighting tuberculosis. We strongly urge that Prime Minister will take a strong leadership for the increase of the overall ODA budget and announce an explicit commitment towards global health including the increase of Japanese financial contribution to international organisations like Global Fund and others, towards Toya-ko Summit.

### Education: Creating a comprehensive action plan for "Education for All"

We welcome the statement by Prime Minister Fukuda to make education as another key agenda in the Toya-ko G8 summit. However, as civil society, there are three concerns:

First, the Prime Minister stated, "For all people and all nations, education is the basis for promoting self-reliance and development". Albeit, before we can speak of education as a basis for development, there is a need to strongly emphasize education as a basic and fundamental human right. The current data shows that 72 million children unable to attend school, and 800 million adults are illiterates, which is the violation of human right. Vocational training and higher education cannot be attained without basic education through primary education and adult literacy.

Secondly, Prime Minister Fukuda mentioned that "In order to achieve the Dakar Education For All goals, which aim at the expansion of high-quality basic education, it is necessary to strengthen international collaboration". However, no concrete measures and strategies are proposed in his speech to contribute to EFA goals. In the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit communiqué, G8 countries agreed to fill the financial gap of 500 million US dollars, which is faced by the EFA fast track initiative countries. The Japanese government needs to make a commitment on how much it will share of this financial gap.

Finally, there is a similar situation in education as Prime Minister Fukuda described of the severity of human resource shortage in the health sector. UNESCO warned that there is a shortage of 18 million teachers if we are to achieve the Dakar targets. Ahead of the summit, the Japanese government must announce an increase in their financial support to recurrent costs in basic education including the salary of

teachers and textbook costs.

Africa: For leadership in creation of a system towards a truly independent Africa

We welcome the principle of Prime Minister Fukuda's declaration that Japan will play a leading and essential role in the development of Africa in the 4th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) and the Toya-ko G8 summit.

On the development of Africa, Prime Minister Fukuda emphasized on the principle of "self-help", and on the importance of international cooperation to support the economic growth and private investment in Africa. However, in reality, Africa's true economic independence has been hindered and prevented by excessive economic liberalization and unfair trade that are advantageous for developed countries, all which are forced upon by policies of the international community, led by G8 countries. Japan must take the leadership for the international community to part ways which such tendencies; and to aid in the construction of a system that will lead to a truly independent Africa.

African nations are moving towards true independence through their own initiatives, such as the formation of the African Union and the strengthening of inter-regional mechanisms. Furthermore, an extremely active civil society exists in Africa. Japan should promote the participatory approach, including the civil society, on the matter of development of Africa.

As examples of the Japanese contribution of African development through "One Village, One Product Movement", Prime Minister Fukuda brought forth the local manufacturing in Tanzania of long lasting insecticide treated insecticide nets named "Oriset", which plays an extremely important role in the fight against Malaria, and the production of Shea butter in Ghana. These are truly important contributions of Japan. However, integrated strategies to scaling up these micro level aids are essential to the economic and social growth in Africa. Furthermore, it is important to create environment in which people in Africa can live a full and prosperous life through ending poverty and hunger, and securing access to health and education. Japan needs to take the lead and show its concrete commitment to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa for the TICAD and the Toya-ko G8 summit.

Climate Change and Poverty: CO2 emissions reduction and supporting developing countries - early and concrete support

#### 1. CO2 emissions reduction

We welcome the intention of the Prime Minister Fukuda in his declaration to achieving emissions reduction targets. However, declarations such as "The target could be set based on a bottom-up approach by compiling on sectorial basis energy efficiency as a scientific and transparent measurement and tallying up the reduction volume that would be achieved based on the technology to be in use in subsequent years" and "base year should also be reviewed " raises our concern because it hinders setting early goals. In order to achieve the long term goal of "halving the green house gas emissions by 2050" which was declared at the Heiligendamm Summit, mid-target goals such as a target reduction of 30% by 2020 is essential at the earliest time.

#### 2. Aid to developing countries

In recent years, developed countries are showing intentions of supporting climate change measures in developing countries. We welcome the Japanese government on having this intention as well. But Japan has yet to shed light on the details of this funding mechanism thus we have outlined what is necessary for Japan to fully show their leadership.

- A) Neither the current ODA budget nor the increase in the ODA budget to reach the 0.7% of GNI target should be the source for this fund, and instead secure an additional source for funding. Any additional increase in the ODA budget is essential for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, and should not be used for the climate change measures created by developed countries.
- B) Requires security that international aid will be distributed on the basis of need, used efficiently and effectively, and

maintain transparency and accountability. This will require a funding flow through multinational frameworks such as the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Adaptation Fund managed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

- C) On measures to combat climate change, policies of developing country governments must reflect and draw the voices of local communities, for they best know their needs and strategies. Conditionalities that will hinder the process of carrying out these policies will not be placed.
- D) To hold a consultation which will be all inclusive (including civil society organizations and representatives from poor communities which are most affected by the climate change), and adequate time must spent on this consultation.

World economy: Responsibility of starting restriction of speculation money

In the backdrop of the sub-prime mortgage loan problem and with the shake in the financial market, the "risk of the global economy taking a downward tum is increasing." As a result of this speculation money, there is a sudden increase in the price of commodities worldwide, including rapidly rising price of food and energy. Those already living in poverty in developing countries are sinking deeper a lower level of poverty. Before we "engage in discussions on the state of the global economy and financial markets", we must take the responsibility as one of the developed countries to restrict the trade of speculation money, which has caused this world economic destabilization.

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