

14 February 2008

Dear G8 Africa Personal Representatives,

I am writing to you on behalf of Transparency International, the leading civil society organisation in the fight against corruption with chapters in nearly one hundred countries.

As representatives of the G8, you have a special responsibility to help accelerate efforts to reduce the extreme poverty which still mars many societies on the African continent. Our work has shown that corruption and poor governance are root causes of the poverty plaguing Africa and that corruption is the key development challenge in the continent. We applaud the progress made to date on the African Peer Review Mechanism and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) as well as the importance being given to the environmental challenges, but caution that without strong governance, there cannot be sustained and equitable development nor improvement in the environment.

We, therefore, call on the governments of the G8 to ensure that the global fight against poverty, in Africa and beyond, remains part of the core agenda of the 2008 summit in Japan, and to fully implement their commitments to combat corruption, with a report to the 2008 G8 Summit on progress to date and explicitly how they will strengthen efforts going forward.

In particular, the G8 need to commit to:

- Carry out “effective prosecution of domestic and foreign bribery cases,” a “rigorous and permanent” peer review of compliance with the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, and “engagement with non-party emerging economies” to meet international standards;
- Ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), develop an effective peer review mechanism and provide technical assistance, particularly for the recovery of stolen assets;
- Deny safe haven to corrupt individuals and their assets;
- Ensure that all financial centers, banks and investment vehicles implement the highest international transparency standards and prevent the misuse of financial systems for illicit assets;
- Respond swiftly to requests for mutual legal assistance in prosecuting foreign bribery and money laundering and in repatriating assets to the countries of origin;
- Encourage private sector – in the G8, the OECD, emerging economies and developing world – to comply with domestic and foreign bribery and transparency standards, including those articulated in the UN Global Compact, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and OECD Corporate Governance Principles, and for listed companies to report on compliance efforts;

- Support ratification and effective implementation of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and Related Offences;
- Promote implementation of the World Bank Governance & Anti-Corruption Strategy, including its support for convention implementation;
- Assure, through a suitable control conducted by the G8 Diplomatic Representations in the recipient African countries, the absence of corrupt practices in the delivery of bilateral and multilateral development aid (ODA and soft loans); and,
- Respond swiftly to requests of support by developing countries seeking to improve their legal framework, institutions and systems of governance.

The G8 must act on these priority areas not only as part of its leadership role in the world but as a service to the worlds poor and a safeguard against poverty, instability and conflict in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Huguette Labelle".

Huguette Labelle
Chair