In June, G8 leaders meeting in the UK must take bold steps to improve the conditions of the world’s most vulnerable populations. This paper was drafted by the G8/G20 Advocacy Alliance, of over 40 NGOs, think tanks, and trade unions. The Alliance offers recommendations in four core areas expected to be on the agenda: accountability; anti-corruption and transparency; food security, nutrition and agriculture; and sexual violence in war. Leaders should also address two other issues at the summit: fragile states; and newborn, child and maternal health. The United States should play a leading role in encouraging the G8 to take the following steps:

**Accountability**
1. Direct the Accountability Working Group (AWG) to collect input from international organizations, recipient governments and civil society.
2. Mandate the AWG to initiate transparent practices by publicly identifying all G8 working groups.
3. Make public the AWG annual report 30 days before the G8 summit.

**Anti-corruption and Transparency**
1. Implement and enforce international Anti-Corruption Conventions, including the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention.
2. Implement effective anti-money laundering actions and continue to support asset recovery initiatives.
3. Expand global transparency standards in natural resource and land management.

**Food Security, Nutrition and Agriculture**
1. Support national plans to scale up nutrition; declare targets to reduce stunting over a three-year period.
2. Ensure pledges are met and robust financing secured for multilateral mechanisms.
3. Improve New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition accountability mechanisms and publicize partner letters of intent and detailed plans for how they will achieve their intended impacts.

**Fragile States**
1. To achieve the Millennium Development Goals, ensure conflict and violence within fragile states are addressed.
2. Support mechanisms and institutions that enhance local and international dispute resolution efforts as well as national and local capacities for mediation.
3. Build on past food security efforts by focusing attention on child malnutrition in fragile states.
Newborn, Child, and Maternal Health
1. Make good on their “A Promise Renewed” pledge by increasing funding and pursuing policies that help developing countries improve newborn, maternal and child health, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable populations.
2. Pursue policies that help developing countries address crosscutting barriers to health and services, and build coordinated health systems.

Sexual Violence in War
1. Pledge to promote gender equality and address the root causes of sexual violence in their state-building and conflict-resolution efforts.
2. Commit to providing robust and integrated survivor response services in each country and region in which they operate.
3. Encourage each member state to develop, review and implement a National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace, and Security, which the G8 should include in its annual accountability report.

BACKGROUND

Accountability
Governments have long recognized accountability and transparency as essential elements for aid effectiveness, as evidenced by the Paris Declaration and the Busan principles. Unfortunately, a notable lack of transparency threatens to undermine the credibility of the G8’s Accountability Working Group and its commitment compliance review process.

Transparent practices provide assurance that the G8 will continue to act as an honest broker as development cooperation evolves to include new partnerships charged with implementing G8 development priorities and commitments. The need for transparency grows as the G8 continues to turn to non-traditional development actors and relies more frequently on public-private partnerships. Information-sharing and an offer of expanded access to all governments, donors, and practitioners are necessary to encourage other national and international actors to mobilize resources to address critical humanitarian and development needs.

Continued U.S. leadership is essential to ensure that transparency – a fundamental principle underpinning the Open Government Initiative – is adopted as standard operating procedure by the G8 Accountability Working Group. The United States should play a leading role in urging the G8 to take the following steps:

1. **Direct the Accountability Working Group (AWG) to collect input from international organizations, recipient governments and civil society** to inform the preparation of the Accountability Report. The organizations should include the UN, its specialized agencies, the OECD Development Assistance Committee and the African Union. The AWG’s terms of reference for all future reports should include a requirement to make public a plan to collect input from the sources mentioned above.

2. **Mandate the AWG to initiate transparent practices by publicly identifying all G8 working groups**, releasing their terms of reference, and the names and affiliation of all experts advising the AWG and its working groups as soon as they are selected. Meeting schedules for such groups and a detailed agenda should be publicly available at least 20 days before each meeting.

3. **Make public the AWG annual report 30 days before the G8 summit** and release a schedule of future reports, with provisional topics, through 2015. Institute the same advance release and report schedule publication rules for future years.
Anti-corruption and Transparency

The G20 Seoul Anti-Corruption Action Plan represents a remarkable international consensus to combat corruption, and countries must fully implement the plan. The G8 members should support and bolster the G20’s efforts through the following steps:

1. Implement and enforce international Anti-Corruption Conventions, including the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention (OECD Convention). G8 countries committed to ratifying UNCAC in 2006; however Germany and Japan have not. We urge them to ratify the convention by the end of 2013 and participate in the peer review process. We are pleased Russia acceded to the OECD Convention in 2012. While all G8 countries are now party to the OECD Convention, a few are not effectively enforcing their foreign bribery laws. Consistent and vigorous enforcement is necessary to reduce bribery in international business and development. We urge Canada, France, and Japan to increase their enforcement efforts. The G8 should also promote anti-bribery and anti-corruption initiatives in other international fora.

2. Implement effective anti-money laundering actions and continue to support asset recovery initiatives. An estimated $20 to $40 billion is illegally removed from developing countries each year. These stolen assets are often hidden in developed country financial centers. G8 countries should collect beneficial ownership information upon incorporation and make it available to law enforcement agencies. They need to increase enforcement of “Know Your Customer” policies to prevent financial institutions from becoming safe havens for the proceeds of corruption.

    We commend the G8 for releasing an ambitious and comprehensive Asset Recovery Action Plan in 2012. We are also encouraged by the G8’s recent Arab Forum on Asset Recovery and its efforts to start a collaborative process on this issue. Seven G8 countries have published Asset Recovery Guides and we urge Russia to do likewise. Unfortunately, asset recovery efforts have had only minimal success. The G8 should implement its Asset Recovery Action Plan and develop mechanisms to promote the transparent use of returned funds.

3. Expand global transparency standards in natural resource and land management. An abundance of natural resources should contribute to growth and development, but all too often it incentivizes corruption and conflict. Transparency both by companies and governments helps achieve this objective.

    U.S. law requires listed extractive companies to publish payments to governments (Dodd-Frank Act 2010, sec. 1504). Equivalent EU legislation has been proposed and member states should support it. All G8 countries should adopt similar provisions and set a global standard on natural resource transparency. This needs to include open, competitive and transparent bidding processes, as well as budget and revenue transparency.

    We encourage the G8 to promote implementation of the globally-agreed Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests toward ensuring that large-scale land acquisitions do not negatively impact local communities and the environment.

Food Security, Nutrition and Agriculture

The 2013 G8 summit provides opportunities to build on momentum and progress in food and nutrition security, strengthening commitments and actions. If the 2013 summit endorses the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, G8 leaders should aim to realize the goal of zero hunger and work with the World Committee on Food Security to:
1. **Support national plans to scale up nutrition and declare stunting impact targets over a three-year period**, as part of the global goal to prevent 25 million children under age two from stunting by 2016. Such a focus will provide a framework for accountability and jumpstart progress toward the World Health Organization’s 2025 goal to reduce global stunting by 40 percent. Often the multisectoral nature of food and nutrition security is forgotten. The G8 should play a vital role in demonstrating and documenting the powerful impacts of stunting reduction and gender equity, water, sanitation, hygiene, environmental management and resilience, and nutrition-sensitive, sustainable small-scale agriculture.

2. **Ensure pledges are met and robust financing secured for multilateral mechanisms**, including GAFSP,
   SUN, the High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, CGIAR, the CAADP Multi Donor Trust Fund, the Sanitation and Water for All Partnership, and the UNFCCC climate funds. Fulfilment of these pledges will improve food and nutrition security, sustainable agricultural productivity, rural economic development, and mitigation of and resilience to climate impacts on the agricultural sector. Multilateral engagement is one of the Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security.

3. **Improve New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition accountability mechanisms and publicize partner letters of intent and detailed plans for how they will achieve their intended impacts.** Include gender equity, maternal and child nutrition, small-scale agriculture and integrated water resource management, sanitation, environmental sustainability and resilience as priority outcomes. Government and private sector partners must be transparent about funding, aid effectiveness progress, and ways they will consult and involve civil society.

**Fragile States**

The G8 nations' policies on fragile states need a more focused approach on the issues of governance, conflict, violence reduction and poverty. In its *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security and Development*, the World Bank noted that some 1.5 billion people live in countries affected by repeated cycles of political and criminal violence, and that no low-income fragile or conflict-affected country has yet to achieve a single Millennium Development Goal (MDG).

At the December 2011 High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea, a group of self-identified fragile and/or conflict affected countries, development actors and international organizations, developed the "New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States." Endorsed by over 40 countries, including six of the G8, and recognized by the OECD, World Bank and several regional development banks, the New Deal emphasizes partnerships, local ownership and collaboration with civil society – at all levels – for more effective aid and reduced fragility.

The violence and conflicts that plague fragile states are not just the result of civil and interstate wars, but are also increasingly attributable to the actions of non-state actors. The organized violence that disrupts governance and compromises development includes localized violence involving militias, warring ethnic groups, gang violence, local resource-related violence, drug trafficking violence, and violence associated with global ideological struggles. To that end, G8 leaders need:

1. **To achieve the MDGs, show leadership to ensure conflict and violence within fragile states are addressed.** People living in the world’s most fragile states and territories embody major failings of the MDGs. Progress on reducing violence at the local level will contribute to the success of other development efforts; this needs to be emphasized in a post-MDG framework. Efforts should focus on: (1) building institutions that can help resolve conflict through political dialogue rather than violence; (2) linking civil society with government in negotiating those institutions; and
(3) ensuring that conflict-sensitive development principles are used in conflict affected and fragile regions.

2. **Support mechanisms and institutions that enhance local and international dispute resolution efforts as well as national and local capacities for mediation efforts.** Countries facing ongoing cycles of violence need to negotiate new, internal pacts and build coalitions of consensus to deal with festering issues that erupt into violence. For these negotiations to succeed, local parties need access to trained internal mediators to facilitate dialogue and resolve conflict. Access to international mediation is also critical for localized conflicts that cross borders.

3. **Build on past food security efforts by focusing attention on child malnutrition in fragile states.** Children living in fragile states are twice as likely to be undernourished and three times as likely to be out of school. Twenty-one of the 25 countries identified as fragile by the World Bank in 2012 have a prevalence of stunting that is higher than 29 percent. Tangible progress can be made by focusing on reducing child stunting in fragile state contexts.

**Newborn, Child and Maternal Health**

With substantial public and private sector assistance from G8 countries, under-five child deaths have fallen 42 percent over two decades, to 6.9 million in 2011. Likewise, the number of maternal deaths due to pregnancy-related complications has dropped by 34 percent since 1990, to 358,000 maternal deaths in 2008.

We welcome the G8’s past recognition of unacceptably slow progress toward achieving MDGs 4 and 5, and past initiatives by the G8 to help developing countries reach those goals.

These statistics, however, remind us that progress continues to elude too many children and mothers. The fact remains that 19,000 children still die every day from largely preventable causes. For children under 5, six issues – pneumonia, preterm birth complications, diarrhoea, intrapartum-related complications, malaria and neonatal infections (including sepsis, meningitis and tetanus) – account for two-thirds of all deaths. Around 40 percent of all under-five deaths occur in the first 28 days of life. For mothers, three treatable conditions cause half of all maternal deaths: severe bleeding, infections and obstructed labor.

Undernutrition is a major factor in more than one-third of under-five deaths. Nutrition interventions are critical and cost-effective factors in child and maternal health, particularly focused on the 1,000-day window from pregnancy to age two. Because undernutrition and diarrheal diseases are linked in a complex, vicious cycle, access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation and proper hygiene must be part of a comprehensive child survival response.

At the Child Survival Call to Action Summit in June 2012, global health experts showed that it is possible to substantially end preventable child deaths in a generation. More than 160 governments, including all G8 members, joined the government pledge to support the global movement to end preventable child deaths.

The summit made clear that to achieve this goal, donors must focus on helping developing countries create and implement integrated, effective solutions that will have greatest impact on accelerating progress in child and maternal health, while continuing to support research and innovation into technologies and approaches relevant to low-resource environments.
Ensuring that children and mothers thrive goes beyond health services. Protection from abuse and neglect, equitable access to education for girls and boys, adequate nutrition, and clean water are all integral components to child and maternal health. To this end, G8 leaders must:

1. **Make good on the “A Promise Renewed” pledge by increasing funding and pursuing policies that help developing countries build coordinated services and systems** that lead to positive child and maternal health outcomes for even the poorest and most vulnerable communities. We recognize and commend G8 governments for signing this pledge to support the global movement to end preventable child deaths, which by necessity includes ending preventable maternal deaths.

2. **Pursue policies that help developing countries address crosscutting barriers to health and services, and build coordinated health systems** that lead to positive child and maternal health outcomes for every community, especially the poorest and most vulnerable.

### Sexual Violence in War

Sexual violence, a particularly egregious form of gender-based violence, is often deployed as a weapon of war. It has been recognized in international law as a war crime, an instrument of torture, a form of genocide and a crime against humanity. To effectively tackle sexual and gender-based violence in war, long-term investments are needed in a broad range of prevention efforts as well as integrated response during and following conflict. Conflict situations often exacerbate existing social and economic factors that contribute to sexual violence. Thus, it is critical that efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence during war are comprehensive and multisectoral.

Prosecution and accountability efforts must be combined with immediate service provisions for survivors, as well as initiatives to address the root causes of violence and promote women and girls’ empowerment. Access to justice should include a broad variety of strengthening systems and ensure survivors can safely access legal recourse and receive justice. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 provides a holistic framework for looking at sexual and gender-based violence in addition to other social, economic and political factors that characterize women’s experience of war. To these ends, all G8 nations must:

1. **Pledge to promote gender equality and address the root causes of sexual violence in their state-building and conflict-resolution efforts.** G8 leaders should initiate a full review of existing conflict assessment methodologies and tools to determine effective and relevant gender-sensitive indicators, including an analysis of risks of sexual violence, and whether existing sexual violence prevention strategies effectively foster the necessary changes in mindset and behavior.

2. **Commit to providing robust and integrated response services in each country and region in which they operate.** These services should respond to immediate needs of survivors while also tackling systemic issues. For instance, survivors need immediate and unfettered access to: health and psychosocial services; stigma prevention and response; and protection and support to both victims and witnesses seeking accountability and restitution for sexual violence. Sexual violence response plans must be integrated into broad strategies to respond to all forms of gender-based violence. Anti-impunity and accountability efforts must be developed so that survivors can safely pursue justice.

3. **Develop, review and implement a National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security, which should be included in its annual accountability report.** G8 leaders must institute a zero tolerance policy for sexual violence within the G8 and in each member state’s military and peacekeeping operations. They need to develop 100 percent accountability measures for sexual and gender-based violence. The G8 must invest in training to ensure civilian and military personnel are knowledgeable about the causes and consequences of this violence and are well-
equipped to respond effectively. This needs to include security-sector reform, both at home and abroad.

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While the statement is not designed to be a consensus position of the contributors, it has been endorsed by InterAction’s leadership. Each set of recommendations was developed by a Policy Team of the G8/G20 Advocacy Alliance, listed below. Background papers on each issue will be available on the InterAction web site: www.InterAction.org.
Global Gender Program, Elliott School of International Affairs
InterAction
International Rescue Committee
ICRW: International Center for Research on Women
Peace X Peace
Save the Children
Women’s Refugee Commission
Women Thrive Worldwide

End Notes


3 The challenge of Zero Hunger launched by the UN Secretary-General in June 2012 means: 1. 100% access to adequate food all year round; 2. Zero stunted children less than 2 years old; 3. All food systems are sustainable; 4. 100% increase in sustainable, nutrition-sensitive smallholder productivity and income, making sure that all investments in agriculture and value chains are responsible and accountable; 5. Zero loss or waste of food.

4 Discussed at the August 2012 London Olympic Hunger and Nutrition Meeting; 25 million is an intermediary goal to the World Health Assembly’s target passed in May 2012 to reduce by 40 percent the number of children under age five who are stunted by 2025.

5 The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) is a multilateral mechanism to assist in the implementation of pledges made by the G8.

6 Scale Up Nutrition (SUN) is a multi-stakeholder movement comprised of governments, UN agencies, civil society, development partners and businesses that supports national priorities and galvanizes investments to improve nutrition at scale. Support for SUN activities at country level is through aligned support for costed, multisectoral national nutrition plans. The SUN Multi-Partner Trust Fund was established in March 2012 to provide catalytic grants to governments, UN agencies, civil society groups, other SUN partners and support organizations, when other funding is not available. For more information, please see http://scalingupnutrition.org/global-support/cso-network/the-multi-partner-trust-fund

7 The CGIAR (originally the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) is a global partnership that unites organizations engaged in research for sustainable development with the funders of this work. The funders include developing and industrialized country governments, foundations, and international and regional organizations.

8 Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is an Africa-led initiative coordinated by the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) to address land and water management, market access, food supply and hunger, and agricultural research.

9 Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) is a multilateral, multi-stakeholder partnership to provide financial and technical support to countries farthest off-track in meeting their goals to provide access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation to their citizens. Safe drinking water and sanitation are underlying factors in achieving goals to enhance food and nutrition security.

10 The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change


12 MDG 4 seeks to “reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate” and MDG 5 seeks to “reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio” and “achieve universal access to reproductive health” (see http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/)


15 See the pledge at http://apr.nationbuilder.com/gov_pledge