

G whizz

What are development advocates and anti-poverty campaigners to make of the recent G8 and G20 Summits?

That the world's most powerful governments are willing to coordinate their efforts to sort out the global financial system is positive. Macro-economic stability is a must for growth, job creation and the battle against poverty. The importance given by the G8 to maternal and child health, food security, Africa and green recovery are all welcome too.

But many remain unconvinced. One seasoned Summit-watch group, [the Sherpa](#) notes that the Gleneagles Commitments were not even mentioned. "The Muskoka G8 brought to an end the Gleneagles' era of global campaigning. The momentum of 2005 Make Poverty History campaign and the pressure global civil society put on governments to prioritise poverty and development has now petered out". Muskoka may anyway be one of the last G8 meetings.

The G8 communiqué is well wordsmithed, but conceals as much as it reveals. Reaffirmation of ODA commitments, for example, or on achieving a 50% reduction in global CO2 emissions by 2050, contrast with the evidence. Notwithstanding the pledge on maternal and child health, G8 aid targets will not be met; the political will to ensure concerted action against looming environmental catastrophe is not in place.

We live with increasing uncertainty, characterized by growing inequality and vulnerability to economic, climatic, epidemic and other threats. Politicians' prioritise domestic imperatives and their own electability. These expensive summits profile leaders as unwilling or ill-equipped to craft genuinely multilateral responses to looming threats, all of which have a disproportionately negative effect on poor people.

There is a growing mismatch between the need to incentivize fundamental redesign of the global economy and what a group like the G20, let alone the G8, can realistically achieve. The challenge is simultaneously to tackle unsustainable economic growth models, mounting indebtedness, environmental degradation, unemployment and inequality. It can, *it must*, be done.

We must hope that the G20, which has yet to address LDCs' priorities, is a staging post towards the emergence of a more legitimate, capable and inclusive forum that anticipates, rather than just coordinates responses to, global crises.

News Overview

On 27 June, after 27 years of military rule, [Guinea voted to elect its President](#) amongst 24 candidates, in a free, transparent and democratic process that should serve as a model for the whole region as well as trigger more investment in mineral resources and unlock more aid to combat poverty.

[Five East African nations stand firm on their quest for a greater share of Africa's river Nile](#), despite fierce criticism from Egypt and Sudan. There is growing concern that this battle could spark renewed conflict in the region already plagued with poverty, overpopulation and ethnic tension.

[Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza has been re-elected with 91.62% of the vote](#), following polls on Monday in which he was the only candidate. [While Guinea's elections are praised, Burundi faces accusations of holding an unconstitutional ballot.](#)

[The G20 Toronto summit convened in Canada on 26-27 June concluded with the adoption of a final declaration](#) that, among other issues, addresses development and environmental issues, including climate change and energy.

[The 13th session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment held in Mali came to a close with the adoption of the Bamako Declaration](#), - the continent's new road map for sustainable development and basis for strengthening the common negotiating position on climate change and biological diversity.

A new report by the London-based Overseas Development Institute and the United Nations Millennium Campaign released prior to the G8 and G20 summits states that [African countries are making the most overall progress in achieving the Development Goals.](#)



Cartoon by KAL

“If there's a fire we all know what to do. We get a hose, we get a pail of water, spit on it, throw Coca Cola on it or whatever to put it out. Right now the fire's over. We saved the house, mostly, but you've got to paint it, plaster it, whatever...”

OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría at the end of the G20 meeting in Toronto

G20 Update

BRAZIL

[The Brazilian Ministry of Health and the Gauteng Department of Health and Social Development in South Africa has join efforts to reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS](#)

CANADA

[Canada delays an \\$8 billion debt relief deal for Democratic Republic of Congo](#)

EU

[The EU through Desertec plans to import solar power from Northern Africa.](#) The scheme is set out to meet a target of deriving 20% of the consumed energy in Europe from renewable sources by 2020

[The EU Commission allocates €20m to support efforts to develop drought resilience and adapt to climate change in the greater horn of Africa](#)

[EU releases its 2010 European aid report: EU's development and external assistance policies in 2009](#)

FRANCE

According to the French Overseas Annual Report, [the AFD has been scaling up its support for the French Overseas Communities, reaching almost €2 billion in 2009](#)

As part of a 3 year program to empower African Women, [the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French National School of Administration \(ENA\) are training 18 Francophone African women entrepreneurs](#)

[AFD promotes the development of a fair trade and organic cotton industry in West and Central Africa](#)

G8

[The G8 has released its yearly Accountability Report, an assessment of 56 commitments to development made by the G8 countries](#)

GERMANY

[Germany to commit more than \\$100m for climate protection in developing countries](#)

KOREA

[Korean government pledges continued support for global poverty eradication projects in sub-Saharan Africa](#)

UK

[DFID calls on the private sector to engage further and change its relationship with the world's poorest people](#)

[The UK Minister for International Development, Stephen O'Brien urges young people to join the global challenge to get 72million children from developing countries into school](#)

USA

[The US Government supports health efforts in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali and Rwanda through the Global Health Initiative \(GHI\)](#)

Multilateral Organizations

AfDB

[AfDB approves a loan up to \\$400m as a contribution to boost South Africa's rail infrastructure](#)

AU

[Countries across Africa discuss the planting of 7000 km of a multi-species green belt to stop desertification along the Sahel and reverse the effect of climate change](#)

[New joint AUC-ECA-AfDB report on regional integration calls for strong action to lower costs of doing business and facilitate intra-Africa trade](#)

EAC

[EAC Common Market allowing free movement of goods across the region comes into force](#)

ECOWAS

[Mid-year summit to adopt a common policy that will foster sustainable industrial development of the region](#)

EIB

[EIB reiterates its commitment to support infrastructure, renewable energy and private sector growth in East Africa](#)

ILO

[ILO urges member states to put jobs and social security at the centre in their efforts at economic recovery](#)

IMF

[IMF and World Bank announce \\$4.6 billion debt relief for Liberia](#)

[Post-Toronto, IMF sets out ideas to build on crisis response and enable it to be even more effective for its member countries](#)

OECD

[OECD Secretary-General encourages leaders of the G20 nations to recognize the present contribution and future potential of emerging and developing economies](#)

UN

[2010 MDG report warns that progress achieved on MDGs is uneven](#)

[UNDP to examine breakthrough strategy for Africa](#)

[UNDP report provides an 8-point MDG action plan to advance sustainable development and reduce global poverty](#)

[South-South cooperation offers new opportunities for transforming African economies, says UNCTAD report on economic development in Africa](#)

WB

[WB approves a loan of \\$100m for healthcare in Kenya](#)

WTO

[Rapid conclusion of the Doha round can help countries achieve MDGs says WTO Director-General](#)

In the blogs...

[Kathine Chronicles Blog: Empowering the mothers of Africa, 24 June 2010](#)
Charity CEO, Grace Mukasa highlights the importance of empowering women in Africa, arguing that "time poverty" – a woman's disproportionate work load as compared to men – is one of the key barriers to achieving this goal.

[FT Column: Hail to the new world \(cup\) order 29 June](#)
Gideon Rachman says "International football does not track political or economic trends, instead it provides a sort of parallel universe with its own world order," where countries are given the chance to attract admiration and respect and to redefine their national brands.

2005 GLENEAGLES DECLARATION



2010 MUSKOKA DECLARATION



These word clouds highlight words most used in the 2005 and 2010 G8 Communiqués. The prominence of 'Africa' has been replaced by 'security'.

Source: APP design with word clouds generated by wordle

APP policy brief launched in Basel this week:

['Finance for climate-resilient development in Africa – An agenda for action following the Copenhagen conference'](#)

Opinions

[The New Vision \(Uganda\): Time for Africa to have a parallel summit to the G8, 29 June 2010](#)

Author argues that by organizing alternative summits to the G8/G20 summit that will focus on specific areas of the continent's economy as well as articulate priorities to spur development could force African leaders to look for solutions to Africa's problems within their ranks and could also force developed nations to listen to what Africa wants.

[The Globe and Mail \(Canada\): Better G20 representation sought for Africa, 24 June 2010](#)

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan argues that the G20 will need greater representation from Africa if it wants to chart a better common course for the global economy. It's not just an issue of fairness but also of common interest.

[Inter Press Service \(Global\): Inviting Africans to G8 is just window-dressing, 23 June 2010](#)

Analysts express skepticism over the invitation of the seven African countries to attend the G8 summit in Ontario and argue that it would be better for Africa to be represented in the G20 summit as the G8 is seen to be losing its significance on the global stage.

[CBC News \(Canada\): Time to expand the role of the G20, 23 June 2010](#)

In an interview with CBC, former Prime Minister Paul Martin says it is time for an expanded role for the G20; arguing that G20 discussions should include climate change and global poverty, amongst others.

Calendar

- 2-4 July 1st Brazil-ECOWAS Summit: Island of Sal, Cape Verde
- 4-13 July [Africa Leadership Retreat](#): South Africa
- 7 July 1GOAL Education Summit: Cape Town, South Africa
- 13-14 July [Cinquantesime des independances: Summit with Francophone African Heads of State](#): Paris, France
- 14-17 July UNDP Annual Regional Management Team Meeting: Accra, Ghana
- 16-17 July [IPU 6th Annual Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament](#): Bern, Switzerland
- 18-23 July XVIII International AIDS Conference: Vienna, Austria
- 19-27 July African Union Summit: Kampala, Uganda

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