

## Africa

### Minutes of the Workshop

#### Inputs

- Thomas Albert (Fed. Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany) - „The German G8-Africa Agenda”
- Dr. Raul Bagopha (Misereor, Germany): “Does Africa have an agenda for the G8 summit? Expectations and Demands of African Civil Society”
- Dr. Christine Sadia (freelancer, HIV/Aids expert, Kenya): “The Right to Life and Universal Access to Treatment, Care and Prevention for HIV/Aids as an Agenda Item for the G8 summit”
- Regis Mtutu (Treatment Action Campaign, South Africa): Expectations of the South towards G8: Problems and Challenges regarding HIV/Aids”
- Heiko Schwiderowski (Chamber of Industry and Commerce –DIHK, Germany): „Combating HIV/AIDS – Responsibility for Foreign Investors“
- Chair: Dr. Hildegard Hagemann (Justitia et Pax, Germany)

#### Discussion

The first session of the workshop dealt with the general relationship between the G8 and Africa whereas the second focused specifically on the problematic of HIV/Aids in Africa and the response to it by the G8.

The first part mainly centred the questions of unfulfilled promises made by the G8 towards Africa, especially in Kananaskis and Gleneagles. Civil society representatives demanded of the G8 to deliver. Whereas the government representative Mr. Albert promised that the German government will fulfil its promises with regard to debt relief, ODA and the fight against HIV/Aids, civil society representatives remained sceptical and asked for a detailed financial scheme how to reach these goals as well as for review mechanisms within the G8 like the APRM in Africa.

Reform partnerships as envisaged in the G8 Agenda had to be based on mutual respect and accountability. However, the agenda titled “growth and responsibility” only focused on the responsibility of the African states, whereas the accountability of the G8 countries was left behind. “Good Governance” should also be demanded from the G8. Therefore a common, broad understanding of the good governance, which includes social responsibility, had to be found. This mutual accountability was also aspired within the scope of eighth Millennium Development goal. Such a “global partnership for development” also included the willingness of the G8 to reconsider its agrarian subsidies, (small) arms trade from Northern to Southern countries as well as the exploitation of African natural resources by Northern companies.

Regarding “Corporate Social Responsibility” for foreign investors in Africa, Mr. Schwiderowski from the Chamber of Industry and Commerce argued that it was not conducive to remind companies of their social and ecological responsibilities if one wants them to invest in Africa. Since the image of the African continent was that negative and since it had to compete against other parts of the world like Asia or

Eastern Europe, conditionalities could not be imposed as prerequisites for investment. This view was heavily rejected by the participants who hold the view that only sustainable investments respecting social and ecological standards were acceptable. Otherwise, private foreign investment could lead to social dissatisfaction and insecurity as experienced in the Niger Delta.

In the second part of the workshop the panellists and participants discussed the problem of HIV/Aids in Africa. Civil society representatives demanded better coordinated and financially backed endeavours to fight and prevent HIV/Aids. The promise of universal access to prevention, care and treatment made in Gleneagles had to be taken seriously. Therefore it was necessary to allocate substantial additional funds and review the TRIP-agreements. Furthermore, since women were most affected by HIV/Aids, their role has to be strengthened, especially regarding sexual and reproductive rights of women. To neglect the fight against HIV/Aids was to deny the right to life.

In addition it was demanded that the G8 should pursue a holistic health approach. The focus should be on health systems and its contexts, including the social and cultural dimension of epidemics. This was not to say that the G8 have the right to determine national health systems, but it could coordinate and harmonise the many different northern health initiatives for Africa. The G8 should further use their influence to convince the Global Fund to install different, less bureaucratic mechanisms to facilitate the access to the funds for developing countries. Moreover the G8 was asked to develop monitoring mechanisms to be able to reconstruct how much of the money given really reaches the “ground”.

To sum up, the G8 was demanded to deliver its promises, to ensure effective implementation as well as to reconsider its own responsibilities with regard to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), arms trade and agrarian subsidies.