

Dear G8 Finance Ministers,

Together you represent the world's economic powerhouses. We write to ask that when you meet in Potsdam Germany this May, you also strive to represent the millions of people whose lives are blighted by extreme poverty. Poverty can be overcome, in part through more and better aid, and we urge you to make good your longstanding commitments to provide 0.7% of national income in effective aid, and to commit to binding timetables to reach aid targets. We also urge you to implement innovative finance mechanisms as a key source of much needed finance for development.

Aid is not a panacea. The aid that is given must be predictable, untied and coordinated. Harmful conditions can undermine the return on investment and aid will not deliver maximum benefit without reform of world trade rules, more debt cancellation and improved governance in the recipient countries.

But economic history shows us what aid can achieve. Marshall Plan aid from the US kick-started the rebuilding of a Europe shattered by war and delivered real benefits to the US in terms of new markets for its goods. Aid to East Asia helped catalyse the economic miracles that have lifted millions of people out of poverty. Today many African governments are using aid to underwrite growth and provide essential schools, health services and water supplies for their people. The poorest countries in the world need you to honour these aid pledges if they are to meet the Millennium Development Goals and end poverty.

Through their unprecedented support for the international movement against poverty, taxpayers have already given you permission to spend their money saving lives. Please seize that chance tomorrow/today.

Keep your promises to end poverty!



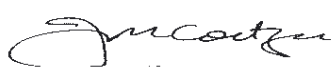
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Nigerian Novelist



Noam Chomsky
MIT Professor (Retired)



Hans Eichel
Former German Finance Minister



John M. Coetzee
Nobel laureate in literature, 2003



Mary Robinson
President, Realizing Rights: The Ethical
Globalization Initiative



Desmond Tutu
Archbishop Emeritus, Nobel Peace Prize 1984

George A. Akerlof, Nobel Laureate in Economics, 2001, USA. Dr. Kwame Anthony Appiah, Centre for Human Values, Princeton University, Ghana. Prof. Sir Tony Atkinson, Nuffield College, Oxford, UK. Seyla Benhabib, Professor, Yale University, USA. Michael Bradfield, Professor of Economics, Dalhousie University, Canada. Nilufer Cagatay, Professor of Economics, University of Utah, USA. Ha-Joon Chang, Reader, Political Economy of Development, Cambridge, UK. Christian Chavagneux, Vice Editor, Alternatives Economiques, France. Daniel Cohen, Professor of Economics, Paris School of Economics, France. Prof. Andrea Cornia, Development Economics, University of Florence, Italy. Swapan Dasgupta, Professor of Economics, Dalhousie University, Canada. Ronald Dworkin, Faculty of Law, University College of London, UK. Gary Dymnski, Professor of Economics, University of California, Riverside, USA. Heiner Flassbeck, Director Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD. Rainer Forst, Professor, University Frankfurt, Germany. Dr. Alicia Girón, Latin American Studies, Mexico. Stefan Gosepath, Professor, University Giessen, Germany. Clive Granger, 2003 Nobel Prize Laureate in Economics, UK. Nigel Harris, Professor Emeritus, University College of Law, UK. Prof. David Held, Political Science, London School of Economics, UK. Dr. Noreena Hertz, Distinguished Fellow, University of Cambridge, UK. Rudolf Hickel, Professor Bremen University, Germany. Roderick Hill, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, University of New Brunswick, Canada. Wilfried Hirsch, Professor, University Aachen, Germany. Stanley Hoffmann, Professor, Harvard University, USA. Axel Honneth, Professor, University of Frankfurt, Germany. Thilo Hoppe, MP, Bündnis 90 / Die Grünen, Germany. Christoph Horn, Professor, University Bonn, Germany. Patrick Hunout, The Social Capital Foundation, France. Dr. John Janmaat, Professor of Economics, Acadia University, Canada. Stephen M. Law, President, Atlantic Canada Economics Association, Canada. David Miller, Professor, Oxford University, UK. Prof. Sir James Mirrlees, Trinity College, Cambridge, UK. Dr. Rob Moir, Associate Professor Economics, University of New Brunswick Saint John, Canada. Julian Nida-Ruemelin, Professor, Munich University, Germany. Claus Offe, Professor, Hertie School of Governance, Germany. Dr. Francis Ohanyido, Poet and Public Health Physician, Nigeria. Fabrizio Onida, Professor of International Economics, Bocconi University, Italy. Lars Osberg, Chair Department of Economics, Dalhousie University, Canada. Prof. Vishnu Padayachee, Senior Professor, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Dr. Hashem Pesaran, Professor of Economics, Cambridge University, UK. Thomas Pogge, Professor, Columbia University, USA. Prof. Kumbert Raffler, Department of Economics, University of Vienna, Austria. Dr. Norman Reynolds, South Africa. Ruben Ricupero, Former UNCTAD General Secretary, Brazil. Michael Sandel, Professor, Harvard University, USA. Peter Schaber, Professor, University of Zurich, Switzerland. Ingeborg Schäuble, Head of Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, Germany. Stephanie Seguino, Department of Economics, University of Vermont, USA. Ludwig Siep, Professor, University of Münster, Germany. Peter Singer, Professor, Princeton University, USA. Prof. Funmi Soetan, Department of Economics, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria. Andreas Suchanek, Leibniz Graduate School of Management, Germany. Roberto J. Tibana, Economist, Mozambique. Tiruwork Tizazu, Head, Women's Affairs Department, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ethiopia. Michael Walzer, Professor, Princeton University, USA. Betty Williams, Nobel Peace Laureate, President and Founder, World Centres of Compassion for Children International, UK. Michael Zürn, Dean, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, Germany.

...and thousands of people worldwide.

