



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release: January 22, 2010

Poverty, Climate Change and Financial Reform Must be on G8-G20 Agenda Anti-Poverty and Environment Groups Hold Media Briefing

Ottawa, ONTARIO: Representatives of Canadian anti-poverty and environment groups will brief the media on **January 26 from 10:00 to 11:00 am** in the National Press Theatre on Canadian civil society priorities for the G8 and G20 Summits. Poverty, climate change and the economic crisis, issues threatening the lives of millions around the globe, must be tackled at the G8-G20 Summits.

On the eve of Davos, the G7 Finance Ministers meeting and, as Prime Minister Harper prepares his agenda for the Summits in June, Canada needs to show leadership in three critical areas:

- **Strengthen commitments to poverty-reduction, with special emphasis on investment in programs for women and children**
- **Help low-income countries respond to the effects of climate change as part of a fair, ambitious and binding global agreement**
- **Ensure global economic recovery for all and initiate meaningful financial reforms.**

“The tragedy unfolding in Haiti is a glimpse into the devastation awaiting many fragile states, unequipped to cope with current economic and environmental disasters,” says Gerry Barr of the Canadian Council on International Co-operation (CCIC). “There are practical workable solutions that can avert the depth of tragedy seen in Haiti, what is needed is the political will to make them happen.”

Members of the G8/G20 Civil Society Coalition, including CCIC’s Gerry Barr, Rosemary McCarney of PLAN Canada, Clare Demerse, Pembina Institute and Climate Action Network Canada, Dennis Howlett of Make Poverty History, and Fraser Reilly-King of the Halifax Initiative, will provide briefing on the three priority areas.

What: Media Briefing – Poverty, environment and financial reform priorities for G8/G20

Who: G8/G20 Civil Society Coalition

When/Where: 10:00am Tuesday January 26 National Press Theatre, 150 Wellington St.

The G8/G20 Civil Society Coalition includes more than 60 members from international development, environment, faith, labour, and student groups across Canada.

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