

Your Excellency Shinzo Abe, the Prime Minister
Your Excellency Nobutaka Machimura, the Minister of Foreign Affairs
Your Excellency Ichiro Kamoshita, the Minister for the Environment
Your Excellency Kunio Hatoyama, the Minister of Justice

Calling for the G8 summit to be open to civil society

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2008 Japan G8 Summit NGO Forum

As the G8 Summit and a series of ministerial meetings are going to take place in July of 2008 in Toyako, Hokkaido Japan, we, the 2008 Japan G8 Summit NGO Forum, have now started working on providing views from the civil society on various issues such as Poverty, Development, the Environment, and Peace and Human Rights to the upcoming G8 Summit. Each of these are global issues that transcend all borders, and it's important that discussions about them include the global civil society. In order to constructively carry out the G8 Summit, dialogue between government and civil society, as well as freedom of information and transparent decision-making procedures, are required. Moreover, they are required from the very initial stages of preparation for the Summit. Therefore, we urge the Japanese government to seriously consider the following recommendations when hosting the Summit in Japan:

1) Open G8 processes to civil society.

- Consider allowing NGOs to attend the Summit and ministerial meetings, and to express their opinions. Hold regular meetings with NGOs and Sherpas and their respective departments, and reflect the outcomes of those discussions in the Summit accords.
- Disclose all related documents and materials, including drafts, of the G8 Summit and ministerial meetings to NGOs and the media as quickly as possible.
- Extend all opportunities opened to Japanese civil society to overseas NGOs and the civil society at large, including those in developing countries.
- Allow NGOs to participate in government hosted meetings related to the Summit (such as Sherpa meetings), and give them the opportunity to express opinions.
- Allow NGOs access to press rooms during the Summit.

2) Give due attention to human rights and the environment during G8 meetings.

- Ensure that excessive security measures around the venues, cities and airports do not result in human rights violations in the name of counter-terrorism. In particular, inappropriate crackdowns on foreigners and the homeless should not take place at the time of the G8 Summit or while preparing for it.
- Ensure that various non-violent performances, demonstrations, parades and other events held during the time of G8 meetings are allowed to be conducted openly and freely.
- Issue visas promptly to those overseas NGOs participating in G8 related events, and do not refuse their entrance to Japan.
- Recognize that holding a meeting itself produces considerable CO2 through flights and venue operation, and significantly impacts the surrounding natural environment. Recently, environmentally-friendly ways of conducting meetings are being pursued at international conferences through measures such as CO2 offsetting, refraining from producing garbage as much as possible, and avoiding destruction of the environment. G8 meetings should also be conducted in an environmentally friendly manner.

3) The Toyako Summit and related ministerial meetings should be open to local civil society

members, including indigenous peoples such as the Ainu.

- Ensure that substantial explanations and prior consultation with the local civil society are held before carrying out the Summit and ministerial meetings.
- Ensure substantial explanations and prior consultation are held especially with indigenous peoples of Hokkaido, including the Ainu people, before holding the Summit next to Toyako Lake.