

9. Africa: Official Development Assistance [97]

Commitment:

“The OECD/DAC estimated the global increase of official development assistance (ODA) by 2010 at around US\$ 50 billion a year. We are firmly committed to working to fulfill our commitments on ODA made at Gleneagles, and reaffirmed at Heiligendamm, including increasing, compared to 2004, with other donors, ODA to Africa by US\$ 25 billion a year by 2010.”

G8 Leaders Declaration on Development and Africa

Assessment:

Interim Compliance Score

Country	Lack of Compliance -1	Work in Progress 0	Full Compliance +1
Canada	-1		
France	-1		
Germany			+1
Italy	-1		
Japan	-1		
Russia	-1		
United Kingdom	-1		
United States	-1		
European Union	-1		
Average Score	-0.89		

Background:

Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Africa was first brought to the forefront of the G8 agenda in 2005 at the Gleneagles Summit. Tony Blair, then the British prime minister, highlighted the need to devise a funding plan to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) would be reached.⁵⁰⁶ Although states were divided over the ODA levels required for achieving the MDGs, all G8 members committed to substantially increasing their 2004 ODA levels by 2010.⁵⁰⁷ Different G8 members committed to different targets, defined by GNI, 2004 aid levels, or absolute increase targets.⁵⁰⁸

⁵⁰⁶ Official Development Assistance, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 June 2006. Date of Access: 10 January 2008. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2005compliance_final/2005-06-g8-f-comp-oda.pdf.

⁵⁰⁷ Annex II, Gleneagles Official Documents, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2005. Date of Access: 22 January 2009. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

⁵⁰⁸ Annex II, Gleneagles Official Documents, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2005. Date of Access: 22 January 2009. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

At the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit, attention was drawn to the Gleneagles ODA commitment, where German Chancellor Angela Merkel led member states to pledge a USD25 billion yearly increase in ODA to Africa by 2010.⁵⁰⁹ The 2008 Summit in Hokkaido, Tokyo marked an evaluation midpoint for Gleneagles ODA commitment. At the Summit, member states renewed their commitments made at Gleneagles and Heiligendamm.⁵¹⁰

Leading up to the Summit, G8 members faced criticism from activists and civil society for falling behind on their commitments.⁵¹¹ Japan's Foreign Minister, Masahiko Komura, acknowledged the slow progress of G8 countries in meeting their ODA goals and stressed the need for continued commitment to ODA in order to realize the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.⁵¹² Despite the reiteration of their pledges at the 2008 Summit, critics and NGOs stressed that member states were still failing to offer details of the actions they would take to reverse the steady decline in aid since 2006.⁵¹³

Amidst the global financial crisis, concerns are rising that ODA will be neglected. On 6 November 2008, Brett House, a senior economist at the United Nations Development Programme expressed concern about states meeting their ODA commitments.⁵¹⁴ At a Financial Crisis emergency summit held in Washington on 11 November 2008, World Bank President Robert Zoellick also called on governments not to step down from their ODA commitments to Africa, in spite of the current financial turmoil.⁵¹⁵

Commitment Features:

The commitment calls for the G8 members to continue in their progress towards substantially increasing ODA by 2010. Member states need not have increased ODA by the full amount by the end of this compliance cycle. Commitments were made in local currency, so compliance must be measured in national currency terms, not in US dollars.

Scoring:

⁵⁰⁹ Africa: Commitments will be honored, G8 Summit 2007 Heiligendamm (Berlin) 8 June 2007. Date of Access: 24 January 2008. http://www.g-8.de/nn_92160/Content/EN/Artikel/_g8-summit/2007-06-08-meldung-bk-afrikaarbeitssitzung_en.html.

⁵¹⁰ Chairman's Summary, Hokkaido Toyko Summit (Hokkaido), 8 July 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-africa.html>.

⁵¹¹ G8: Japan Commits to Africa, AFRODAD (Harare, Zimbabwe) 7 July 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. http://www.afrodad.org/index.php?Itemid=38&id=304&option=com_content&task=view.

⁵¹² G8 Ministers Gather to Talk About Development Assistance, Xinhuanet (Beijing) 5 April 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-04/05/content_7925268.htm.

⁵¹³ G8 Reaffirms Aid Pledge to Africa, NGOs Unimpressed, Thaindian News (Bangkok) 8 July 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/uncategorized/g8-reaffirms-aid-pledge-to-africa-ngos-unimpressed_10069170.html.

⁵¹⁴ Global Financial Crisis Could Cut Official Aid, UN Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs (Nairobi) 6 November 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81319>.

⁵¹⁵ G20 "must stand by aid pledges", UN Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs (Nairobi) 11 November 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81397>.

-1	Member does not increase absolute value of ODA from previous year(s) in local currency terms, OR increases only at the rate of inflation in the donor country, OR makes a public announcement indicating an intention to decrease ODA.
0	Member increases ODA slightly in local currency terms, at more than the rate of inflation, but less than 5 per cent more than the rate of inflation year-on-year.
+1	Member increases absolute value of ODA from previous year by a substantial quantity in local currency terms, i.e. by more than 5 per cent above the rate of inflation. Note that this increase cannot result from a decrease in the local currency value of the US dollar.

Lead Analyst: Nike Adebowale

Canada: -1

Canada has not yet complied with its commitment to increase Official Development Assistance to Africa.

In April 2008, the OECD's Development Assistance Committee noted that Canada's aid to Africa had fallen 9 per cent in 2007. Nonetheless, the Government of Canada insists that it is on track to meet its ODA commitments by 2010. In its February 2008 Budget Plan, the Government of Canada promised "funds to make Canada the first G8 country to meet its commitment to double aid to Africa."⁵¹⁶

Canada's commitment to ODA was re-iterated at the Doha Round in December by Minister Oda: "this fiscal year, Canada will live up to its commitment to double our aid to Africa. Each of our countries remains committed to our respective targets... Moreover, we will pay what we have pledged."⁵¹⁷ The government has not, however, specifically updated this commitment in the current compliance cycle, and this compliance cycle's ODA level is still uncertain.

On 4 August 2008, Tony Clement announced on behalf of the Minister of International Cooperation, Bev. J Oda, a pledge of CAD45 million towards HIV/AIDS projects in Africa.⁵¹⁸ On 4 September 2008, Minister Oda pledged further health aid for Africa on

⁵¹⁶ Overview, Budget 2008, Department of Finance (Ottawa) February 2008. Date of Access: 22 January 2009. <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2008/pamphlet-depliant/pamphlet-depliant1-eng.asp>.

⁵¹⁷ Statement by the Honourable Beverley J. Oda at the International Review Conference on Financing for Development, Canadian International Development Agency (Gatineau) 1 December 2008. Date of Access: 6 December 2008. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/CIDAWEB/acdicida.nsf/En/FRA-121153336-S53>.

⁵¹⁸ Canada is Helping in the Global Response to HIV/AIDS, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) 4 August 2008. Date of Access: 6 December 2008. http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/media/nr-rp/2008/2008_1+1eng.php.

behalf of the Canadian International Development Agency.⁵¹⁹ From this aid, CAD30 million is to be allocated to help immunize children in Sub-Saharan Africa, CAD15 million of which will go to Nigeria.⁵²⁰ In September, Minister Oda also announced “the Government’s plan to fully untie Canada’s development assistance by 2012-13.”⁵²¹

On 19 October 2008, Prime Minister Harper announced “CAD100 million in aid for developing countries to fight climate change...[to] help countries that are least advanced, especially in Africa, the Caribbean and the South Pacific.”⁵²²

On 30 September 2008, Secretariat for the Canada Fund for Africa fully wrapped up its final administrative operations.⁵²³ The CAD500 million fund which was officially shut down in March of 2008.⁵²⁴

Thus, Canada has been awarded a score of -1. Although Canada has ongoing aid initiatives to Africa, and although it has recently pledged to follow through on its ODA commitments in the region, it has not announced a specific increase in ODA since the Hokkaido-Toyako Summit.

Analyst: Charlene Barker

France: -1

France has failed to comply with its commitment to increase Official Development Assistance to Africa. Although France continues to reaffirm its commitment to increasing ODA levels to Africa, it has not increased ODA in this compliance cycle.

In November 2008, the French government released its 2009 budget and faced sharp criticism cuts to some African development funding. French NGOs denounced the budget, arguing it would result in the closure of over 50 development projects in Africa, and the reduction of overall bilateral funding to Africa.⁵²⁵ Bono, the co-founder of international NGO ONE, protested that the budget would result in funding cuts for

⁵¹⁹ Canada Helps Eradicate Polio in Sub-Saharan Africa and Afghanistan, Canadian International Development Agency (Gatineau) 4 September 2008. Date of Access: 6 December 2008. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/CIDAWEB/acdicida.nsf/En/NAT-948303-GNV>.

⁵²⁰ Canada Helps Eradicate Polio in Sub-Saharan Africa and Afghanistan, Canadian International Development Agency (Gatineau) 4 September 2008. Date of Access: 6 December 2008. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/CIDAWEB/acdicida.nsf/En/NAT-948303-GNV>.

⁵²¹ Canada Fully Unties its Development Aid, Canadian International Development Agency (Gatineau) 5 September 2008. Date of Access: 6 December 2008. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/CIDAWEB/acdicida.nsf/En/NAT-9583229-GQC>.

⁵²² \$100M For Poor nations Fighting Climate Change: PM, CTV News (Toronto) 19 October 2008. Date of Access: 7 December 2008. http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20081019/francophone_summit_081019/20081019?hub=TopStories.

⁵²³ Canada Fund for Africa, Canadian International Development Agency (Gatineau) 27 May 2008. Date of Access: 7 December 2008. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/canadafundforafrica>.

⁵²⁴ Canada Fund for Africa, Canadian International Development Agency (Gatineau) 27 May 2008. Date of Access: 7 December 2008. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/canadafundforafrica>.

⁵²⁵ NGOs denounce proposed aid cuts in France. 30 October 2008. Date of Access: 6 December 2008. http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/media/home/france/news/ngos_denounce_proposed_aid_cuts_in_france.

education programs in the Congo, water sanitation programs in Mali, and agricultural programs in Senegal.⁵²⁶

In response to these criticisms, M. Alain Joyandet, the minister of state responsible for cooperation and francophony, maintains that in “the finance bill for 2009, budget appropriations allocated to official development assistance will rise by around 5 per cent between now and 2011” and that the “the creation of two EUR250 million guarantee and investment funds” announced by President Sarkozy before the financial crisis, would still come to fruition.⁵²⁷

On 6 November 2008, Minister Joyandet announced that, despite the current economic crisis, France will continue to maintain its ODA commitments to Africa.⁵²⁸ This commitment was echoed by President Sarkozy who stated that “the money for the bank rescue plan is not coming directly out of the State budget. Consequently, hardly any of it will supplant resources allocated to official development assistance.”⁵²⁹

The French NGO, Coordination Sud, maintains that France’s ODA to Africa fell in 2008 following a 16 per cent decline in 2007. It also maintains that the current 2009 aid projections are slightly higher only because of a 235 per cent increase in debt relief and a 98 per cent increase in loans, rather than an increase in state funding.⁵³⁰

Thus, France has been awarded a score of -1. While there is considerable debate over whether France’s recent plans constitute a cut in ODA, there is no evidence to suggest that ODA has increased significantly in this compliance cycle.

Analyst: Jasmine Hamade

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to increase Official Development Assistance to Africa.

At the 2008 G8 Summit in Tokyo, Japan, Germany reaffirmed its commitment to increasing aid to Africa and announced an increase of EUR750 million per year between

⁵²⁶ French aid for development / Proposed aid budget deeply damaging for Africa and for France, African Press Organization (Lausanne) 7 November 2008. Date of Access: 6 December 2008.

<http://appablog.wordpress.com/2008/11/07/french-aid-for-development-proposed-aid-budget-deeply-damaging-for-africa-and-for-france/>.

⁵²⁷ Article by M. Alain Joyandet in “Le Monde”, Frankrike I Sverige (Berne) 6 November 2008. Accessed 10 December 2008. <http://www.ambafrance-se.org/spip.php?article1858> .

⁵²⁸ Article by M. Alain Joyandet in “Le Monde”, Frankrike I Sverige (Berne) 6 November 2008. Accessed 10 December 2008 <http://www.ambafrance-se.org/spip.php?article1858> .

⁵²⁹ Article by M. Alain Joyandet in “Le Monde”, Frankrike I Sverige (Berne) 6 November 2008. Accessed 10 December 2008 <http://www.ambafrance-se.org/spip.php?article1858> .

⁵³⁰ NGOs denounce proposed aid cuts in France, Action For Global Health 30 October 2008. Date of Access: 10 December 2008.

http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/media/home/france/news/ngos_denounce_proposed_aid_cuts_in_france .

2008 and 2011.⁵³¹ However, Jens Martens, director of the Global Policy Forum Europe, estimated that Germany would have to increase its aid budget by EUR1.6 billion every year in order to meet the commitment made at Gleneagles in 2005.⁵³² Martens claimed that even with the predicted increase in Germany's 2009 budget, it will not be able to meet its commitment.⁵³³

The 2009 national budget, approved by Parliament on 28 November 2008, proposed an increase in ODA to Africa of USD1.27 billion and will mark the third year running in which Germany has substantially increased aid.⁵³⁴

In November of 2008, Heidemaria Wieczorek-Zeul, the German minister for economic cooperation and development called on G8 states at the Doha Conference on Financing for Development to deliver on their pledges made at the Gleneagles Summit.⁵³⁵ She emphasized that achieving the Millennium Development Goals would only be possible if G8 states maintained their commitments.⁵³⁶

In December 2008, Germany announced that it would double its aid to Niger. The budget for Niger was raised from EUR33 million to EUR69 million annually. In addition to this increase, Germany has also committed an additional EUR69 million for irrigation projects in that country.⁵³⁷

Thus, Germany has been awarded a +1 for this commitment. Germany's commitment to ODA is evidenced by its increase in aid in 2008 as well as in its spending projections for 2009.

Analyst: Jasmine Hamade

Italy: -1

Italy has failed to comply with its commitment to increase Official Development Assistance to Africa. Italy recently announced a substantial decrease in development funding.

⁵³¹ Intergovernmental negotiations between Ghana and Germany, GhanaDot.com (Silver Spring, MD) 13 September 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. <http://www.ghanadot.com/news.gnadot.0912071.html>

⁵³² Credit Crunch Casts Pall Over Development Conference, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 6 December 2008. Accessed 12 December 2008 <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,3849927,00.html>.

⁵³³ Credit Crunch Casts Pall Over Development Conference, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 6 December 2008. Accessed 12 December 2008 <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,3849927,00.html>.

⁵³⁴ Aid Increase in Germany, ONE (Washington, DC) 2 July 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. <http://www.one.org/blog/2008/07/02/aid-increase-in-germany/>.

⁵³⁵ World Leaders Pledge to reinvigorate 'global partnership of equals' to end poverty hunger and underdevelopment in Africa, Relief Web (New York) 22 Sept 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/KKAA-7JR8RR?OpenDocument&query=germany_per cent20ODA.

⁵³⁶ World Leaders Pledge to reinvigorate 'global partnership of equals' to end poverty hunger and underdevelopment in Africa, Relief Web (New York) 22 Sept 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/KKAA-7JR8RR?OpenDocument&query=germany_per cent20ODA.

⁵³⁷ Germany Doubles Aid Budget to Niger, NowPublic (Vancouver) 10 December 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. <http://www.nowpublic.com/world/germany-doubles-aid-budget-niger>.

In 2002 Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi declared that it was “time to act, to do what we want to do: to eliminate hunger from the face of the earth.”⁵³⁸ According to the annual DATA Report issued by the ONE Organization for 2008, however, Italy’s estimated increase in ODA over 2007-2008 was only USD195 million. DATA estimates that the required increase needed between 2007 and 2008 for Italy to be on track with its 2010 goals should have been USD1.232 billion.⁵³⁹

On 13 November 2008, the Italian Chamber of Deputies approved the financial bill for 2009, which included a substantial cut in ODA.⁵⁴⁰ ODA administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was cut by 56 per cent in the new budget bill causing the overall Italian contribution to fall drastically, even discounting debt relief.⁵⁴¹ ODA to Africa under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will fall to EUR411 million, the lowest it has been since 2001.

Italy’s Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Vincenzo Scotti made a proposal to Parliament earlier in October to avoid the drastic cuts to African ODA that would otherwise be made in 2009. The proposal included an amendment to the budget bill to increase alcohol and tobacco taxes by EUR0.015 and use the “early debt reimbursement by Argentina” to come up with an additional EUR200 million for next year’s ODA.⁵⁴² The Lower House of Parliament nonetheless rejected the amendments when the budget was passed.

Although the 2008 figures are still uncertain, OECD/DAC estimates that Italy would have to increase its ODA contribution by at least 178 per cent to reach the G8 goal for 2010.⁵⁴³ After the new budget bill, however, Italy’s ODA for 2009 is expected to fall to less than 0.14 per cent of GNI, far from the 0.51 per cent target for 2010.⁵⁴⁴

Thus, Italy has been awarded a score of -1. Italy has made clear its intention to decrease ODA to Africa by a substantial amount.

Analysts: Sabina Voicu and Polina Arkhipova

Japan: -1

Japan has failed to comply with its commitment to increase Official Development Assistance to Africa. In fact, Japan’s ODA is projected to fall in 2009. In December

⁵³⁸ Italy: Country Profile, DATA Report, ONE (Washington, DC) 18 June 2008. Date of Access: 7 December 2008. http://www.one.org/report/en/pdfs/Country_Italy.pdf.

⁵³⁹ Italy: Country Profile, DATA Report, ONE (Washington, DC) 18 June 2008. Date of Access: 7 December 2008. http://www.one.org/report/en/pdfs/Country_Italy.pdf.

⁵⁴⁰ Financial Bill 2009: Lower House approves Budget Cuts, Action Aid (Rome) 14 November 2008. Date of Access: 7 December 2008. <http://actionaiditaly.blogspot.com/2008/11/financial-bill-2009-lower-house.html>.

⁵⁴¹ Financial Bill 2009, Action Aid (Rome) 14 October 2008. Date of Access: 8 December 2008. <http://actionaiditaly.blogspot.com/2008/10/financial-bill-2009-oda-levels-between.html>.

⁵⁴² Financial Bill 2009, Action Aid (Rome) 14 October 2008. Date of Access: 8 December 2008. <http://actionaiditaly.blogspot.com/2008/10/financial-bill-2009-oda-levels-between.html>.

⁵⁴³ DIPCO, Ministero degli Affari Esteri (Rome) 4 December 2008. Date of Access: 7 December 2008. http://www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it/pdgs/italiano/pubblicazioni/dipco/pdf/dipco_2008_43.pdf.

⁵⁴⁴ Financial Bill 2009, Action Aid (Rome) 14 October 2008. Date of Access: 8 December 2008. <http://actionaiditaly.blogspot.com/2008/10/financial-bill-2009-oda-levels-between.html>.

2008, the Japanese media reported that the Foreign Ministry is planning to cut Official Development Assistance by 1.4 per cent in the 2009 fiscal year.⁵⁴⁵

On 11 September 2008, Japan contributed KES440 million to Kenya through the new Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmers Program to improve agricultural productivity and food security.⁵⁴⁶ This contribution was in response to the Kenyan request made at the recent Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).⁵⁴⁷ The Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nobuhide Minorikawa, also announced that Japan pledged a loan aid of KES16 billion as part of their ODA program to Africa.⁵⁴⁸

On 18 November 2008, Japan partnered with the United Nations' Trust Fund for Human Security program on a project entitled the Inter-agency Programme for Improving the Situation of Children at Risk in Senegal.⁵⁴⁹ The total project contribution extension is approximately USD2.5 million, and is aimed at improving the lives of disadvantaged children in certain regions of the Republic of Senegal.⁵⁵⁰

Japan also participated in the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) held at the UN Headquarters in New York on 25 September 2008, where aid for development was on the agenda.⁵⁵¹

Thus, Japan has been awarded a score of -1. There is no evidence that Japan has substantially increased ODA in this compliance cycle.

Analyst: Miyoun Oh

Russia: 0

⁵⁴⁵ ODA budget faces pruning in fiscal 2009, The Japan Times, 23 December 2008. Date of Access: 22 January 2009. <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20081223a5.html>.

⁵⁴⁶ Japan grants Kenya Kshs 440 million, ReliefWeb (New York) 12 Sep 2008. Date of Access: 10 December 2008. <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/MUMA-7JG6VA?OpenDocument&query=ODA 2008>.

⁵⁴⁷ Japan grants Kenya Kshs 440 million, ReliefWeb (New York) 12 Sep 2008. Date of Access: 10 December 2008. <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/MUMA-7JG6VA?OpenDocument&query=ODA 2008>.

⁵⁴⁸ Japan grants Kenya Kshs 440 million, ReliefWeb (New York) 12 Sep 2008. Date of Access: 10 December 2008. <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/MUMA-7JG6VA?OpenDocument&query=ODA 2008>.

⁵⁴⁹ Assistance by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security to the project "Inter-agency Programme for Improving the Situation of Children at Risk in Senegal, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 November 2008. Date of Access: 10 December 2008. http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2008/11/1184866_1070.html.

⁵⁵⁰ Assistance by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security to the project "Inter-agency Programme for Improving the Situation of Children at Risk in Senegal, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 November 2008. Date of Access: 10 December 2008. http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2008/11/1184866_1070.html.

⁵⁵¹ Commitments for Action Made By, or Under the Initiative of, Japan in the G8 Hokkaido-Toyako Summit and TICADIV, United Nations (New York) Date of Access: 5 December 2008. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2008highlevel/pdf/commitments/Japan.pdf>.

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to increase Official Development Assistance to Africa.

On 26 December 2008, the Russian President signed a settlement on debt owed by the National Democratic Republic of Laos to the Russian Federation.⁵⁵² Laos' debt, of approximately USD1.29 billion, has been forgiven.⁵⁵³

In December 2008, ambassador of the Russian Federation in Qatar Andrey Andreev noted the importance of meeting existing ODA commitments. "Despite the world economic and financial crisis which has influenced also Russia, we confirm the commitment on rendering assistance to developing countries and in the near future intend to increase volumes of the Russian help to USD 400-500 million a year." This increase, however, is not a new commitment.

In 2007, Russia passed a law that committed it to raising ODA levels to USD400-500 million per year in the short term, with a longer-term goal of scaling up to reach 0.7 per cent of GNI. Although the law does not specify the timeframe for this increase, Deputy Finance Minister Sergey Storchak said that the short-term target should be reached in the next 4-5 years.⁵⁵⁴ The new funds should be disbursed starting in 2009, hence so far we cannot assess the increase in the Russian ODA.

On 5 December 2008 Russian Ministry for Foreign Affairs confirmed that Russia would steadily carry out its commitment to provide developing countries with aid.⁵⁵⁵

Thus, Russia has been awarded a score of -1. Russia has not yet increased its ODA to Africa.

Analyst: Igor Churkin

United Kingdom: -1

The United Kingdom has not yet complied with its commitment to increase Official Development Assistance to Africa. Over the last several years the UK has performed well on ODA, but it has yet to announce any increases in this compliance cycle.

Secretary of State for International Development Douglas Alexander has declared that the UK is still "on track to meet all the pledges it made at the historic Gleneagles summit in

⁵⁵² Dmitry Medvedev signed the Federal law on the ratification of the Agreement regarding the settlement of the debt owed by the National Democratic Republic of Laos to the Russian Federation. President of Russia. Official Web Portal. December 26, 2008. Date of Access: December 30, 2008. <http://www.kremlin.ru/eng/text/news/2008/12/211090.shtml>.

⁵⁵³ Agreement between the Government of the RF and the Lao People's Democratic Republic on debt settlement. www.lawmix.ru. December 09, 2003. Date of Access: December 30, 2008. <http://lawmix.ru/abro.php?id=1850>.

⁵⁵⁴ 2008 Data Report, ONE. Date of access: 6 December 2008. <http://www.one.org/report/en/countriesRussia.html>.

⁵⁵⁵ Russia will steadily carry out of the commitment on volumes of assistance to developing countries, Prime Tass, 5 December 2008. Date of access: 6 December 2008. <http://www.prime-tass.ru/news/show.asp?id=844965&ct=news>.

2005."⁵⁵⁶ Although net ODA has declined since 2007, DFID says that this has been because of lower debt relief spending in Nigeria and Iraq.⁵⁵⁷ Figures confirm that in 2008, Gross Public Expenditure on Development increased by 7 per cent over the previous year.⁵⁵⁸

In accordance with Prime Minister Gordon Brown's July 2007 Call to Action on the Millennium Development Goals, the UK has been spending more than half of its new ODA in Africa.⁵⁵⁹ The Department for International Development (DFID) Programme increased its spending from GBP5028 million to GBP5200 million in the financial year 2007-2008, with 46 per cent of it spent in Africa.⁵⁶⁰

Thus, the United Kingdom has been awarded a score of -1. While past performance suggests that the UK may comply with this commitment before the next summit, it has yet to increase ODA in this compliance cycle.

Analyst: Sabina Voicu

United States: -1

The United States has not yet complied with its commitment to increase Official Development Assistance to Africa. The United States has not increased ODA in the current compliance cycle.

The OECD estimates that to reach its Gleneagles target, the United States must increase its aid by approximately 17 per cent each year in 2008, 2009, and 2010.⁵⁶¹ The OECD further states that the United States' total ODA to Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) should equal USD6.54 billion by the end of 2008 if it is to fulfill its Gleneagles commitment to double aid to Sub-Saharan Africa between 2004 and 2010.⁵⁶²

⁵⁵⁶ Press Release: UK keeps aid promises to the world's poor, Department for International Development(London) 2 October 2008. Date of Access: 6 December 2008.

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pressreleases/sid-2008.asp>.

⁵⁵⁷ Press Release: UK keeps aid promises to the world's poor, Department for International Development (London) 2 October 2008. Date of Access: 6 December 2008.

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pressreleases/sid-2008.asp>.

⁵⁵⁸ Press Release: UK keeps aid promises to the world's poor, Department for International Development (London) 2 October 2008. Date of Access: 6 December 2008.

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pressreleases/sid-2008.asp>.

⁵⁵⁹ Press Release: UK keeps aid promises to the world's poor, Department for International Development, (London) 2 October 2008. Date of Access: 6 December 2008.

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pressreleases/sid-2008.asp>.

⁵⁶⁰ Where does UK investiture on International Expenditure go, Department for International Development (London) 2 October 2008. Date of Access: 6 December 2008.

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/sid2008/section4.asp>.

⁵⁶¹ Maintaining aid commitments in a global crisis, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD-DAC) (Paris) 26 November 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008.

http://www.oecd.org/document/6/0,3343,en_2649_201185_41742918_1_1_1_1,00.html

⁵⁶² Aid Targets Slipping Out Of Reach? OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD-DAC) (Paris)10 November 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008.

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/47/25/41724314.pdf>

The United States has expressed its intention to meet this goal. On 18 November 2008 at the 11th Meeting of the Africa Partnership Forum, OECD countries signed onto a plan which outlined innovative ways to deliver their promises on ODA, despite the current financial crisis.⁵⁶³

In response to the recession currently affecting the world economy, OECD Development Assistance Committee countries, including the United States, joined in an “Aid Pledge” which stated that “Governments belonging to the Development Assistance Committee reaffirm their aid commitments and agree to maintain aid flows in line with these commitments.”⁵⁶⁴ In September 2008, then President George W. Bush assured the international community that “America is committed – and America must stay committed – to international development for reasons that remain true regardless of the ebb and flow of the markets.”⁵⁶⁵

Thus, the United States has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Miyoun Oh

European Union: -1

The European Union has not yet complied with its commitment to increase Official Development Assistance to Africa. There is no evidence that the EU’s ODA to Africa has significantly increased in this compliance cycle.

The EU’s ODA/GNI ratio is currently estimated at 0.4 per cent – up slightly from 0.38 percent of its GNI in 2007, but well below the EU’s 0.7 per cent 2015 objective.⁵⁶⁶

In spite of the global economic slowdown, the European Union has announced it will continue to adhere to its ODA commitments to Africa. In response to the UN Conference on Financing Development held on 29 November 2008, the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Louis Michel announced that the “financial crisis should not serve as an excuse to shy away from our promise to give more aid to poor countries.”⁵⁶⁷

⁵⁶³ Africa, G8 and OECD identify actions needed to keep Africa on growth track despite global downturn, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD-DAC) (Paris) 20 November 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008.

http://www.oecd.org/document/59/0,3343,en_37489563_37637521_41705275_1_1_1_1,00.html

⁵⁶⁴ OECD countries affirm commitments to aid, open trade and investment markets, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD-DAC) (Paris) 26 November 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008 http://www.oecd.org/document/56/0,3343,en_2649_33721_41742072_1_1_1_1,00.html

⁵⁶⁵ http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/LSGZ-7L5D2K?OpenDocument&query=united_per cent20states_per cent20ODA

⁵⁶⁶ European Commission Calls on donors to stick to increased aid promises at UN financing conference in Doha, RAPID (Brussels) 28 November 2008. Date of Access: 7 December 2008. <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1834&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

⁵⁶⁷ Aid Conference: Commission Welcomes Outcome On Financing Development. 12 February 2008. Date of Access: 7 December 2008. http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/IP-draft-Doha-Aid-conference02122008_en.pdf.

Thus, the European Union has been awarded a score of -1. EU ODA contributions to Africa have not significantly increased in this compliance cycle.

Analyst: Charlene Barker