



REALIZING RIGHTS
THE ETHICAL GLOBALIZATION INITIATIVE

**TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA:
A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

The Honorable Mary Robinson, President of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative and the Honorable Princeton Lyman, Ralph Bunche Senior Fellow for African Studies, Council on Foreign Relations, having convened a roundtable of distinguished trade and Africa specialists, representing a wide range of political perspectives, at which a frank exchange of views took place, are of one mind that this is a critical moment for the developed world to get behind efforts to address the tragic poverty conditions in Africa.

While development and poverty alleviation is the primary responsibility of each country towards its own people, in an inter-connected world, there must be greater acknowledgment of shared responsibilities for realizing the fundamental rights of all. The conveners believe, in particular, that reform of key agricultural trade policies of developed countries is central to any strategy to alleviate poverty in Africa's poorest countries. The World Trade Organization Doha Development Round is particularly important in that it offers the opportunity for Africa to be brought more fully into the global trading system through a single set of multilateral agreements, in place of the complex set of partnership and preferential trade agreements that often compound Africa's difficulties in developing efficient trading policies and investments.

The conveners call on the G-8 to take appropriate steps at the July Gleneagles Summit to ensure that the Doha Round of world trade talks - to be continued at the WTO Ministerial in Hong Kong in December - make African development its urgent and absolute priority. To that end, the conveners urge the G-8 to commit to a series of reforms which a wide range of organizations, experts and high level initiatives, including the Commission for Africa, convened by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, have backed, as being supportive of development efforts in Africa.

Specifically, the G-8 countries should:

1. Commit to immediate steps to eliminate export subsidies on cotton and sugar and to an early end to export subsidies and all other trade-distorting support to agriculture.
2. Commit to the adoption of policies which sharply reduce non-market incentives for domestic production of sugar and which lead to an increase in imports from the poorest countries at remunerative prices.
3. Support the West Africa cotton initiative at the WTO and press for a solution to the cotton-dumping issue before the Hong Kong Ministerial.
4. Immediately extend quota and duty-free access to all exports from low income sub-Saharan African countries, simplify and relax rules-of-origin requirements and make these steps consistent among the major trading partners.
5. Agree to progressively reduce, and eliminate by 2015, all non-tariff barriers to the export of African products.
6. Enable African countries to reduce their own trade barriers, both within Africa and internationally, at a pace based upon the development circumstances in each country and in line with their own poverty reduction strategies. Related to this, African countries should be supported to take steps that will encourage private investment both domestic and international, in ways that bolster poverty reduction efforts.
7. Agree to provide, while reducing the subsidy and other barriers to African exports, assistance to African countries to enhance their competitiveness and efficiency, including trade adjustment aid for displaced sectors, improved infrastructure, agricultural research and trade facilitation.

The following signatories endorse “Trade and Development in Africa: A Statement of Principles” in their personal capacity:

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