

not only the human security of Africa's peoples, but weakening their states to the point where political instability will encourage conflict, and the problems compounded.

This compounding can already be seen: in Burundi, the country's donor partners, mostly governments from the G-8, recently pledged money to "fight HIV/AIDS, reduce the debt service burden and support priority development programmes."

And Burundi is a country still struggling with civil conflict, one waged in a volatile region. Swaziland is not at war, and does not expect to be, but it does have a 22% infection rate for HIV among adults. HIV/AIDS cases now take up more than half the beds in some health centres, stretching capacity to the limit. According to the recent Swaziland Human Development Report, produced by a forum of national civil society groups with support from the UNDP, the country now faces a "high level of inequality, poverty, and deprivation."

The G-8 Summit must build on recent stronger engagement with HIV/AIDS in Africa, and must both put up resources and apply strong pressure to ensure that African governments work with civil society to fashion and implement appropriate and humane policies to respond to the HIV/AIDS pandemic before it destroys what they profess to be determined to achieve, extrication from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalizing world.

This point was made during a meeting of international trade union representatives with the Italian host of the G-8 Summit in Genoa (Prime Minister Berlusconi) by our African colleagues. Yet, the African leaders were silent on HIV/AIDS when they met among each other in October 2001; they cannot afford to be, and cannot be allowed to be, when they make representations to the G-8 leaders in June 2002.

These inter-related issues, Good Governance, Peace and Security, and HIV/AIDS are not add-ons or post-scripts for African Recovery; they are essential to it. Without success in changing the face and dynamic of Africa with regard to each and all of these, it is futile to believe that any kind of new relationships on economic and investment matters can work or even will be supported outside government to government agreements, which are not enough in any event.

But are African governments showing a commitment to this reality, to acting with and for their peoples to make progress on the three fronts listed above? The best answer can be given only by Africa's peoples themselves, through their civil society organizations such as trade unions, their traditional structures, their emerging academic institutions. We join with other Canadian organizations in recognizing that our counterparts must be heard, and must be enabled to speak.

Here is a responsibility both for the African governments and those of the G-8. We are determined that it is one which will not be avoided.

Not a Photo-Opportunity, more a Work in Progress