

"social exclusion of the vast majority of its peoples". It calls, as is now well known, for a "new global partnership" and deals with such key topics as Diversification of production and exports, Market Access, Mobilizing Resources, and Improving Infrastructure.

None of these can be appropriately elaborated or serve as the basis for changing relationships unless they are built on the fullest participation by civil society in all planning processes.

Nor can attempts at improving the situations they refer to succeed if some other major issues are allowed to continue as at present. What are these?

When the leaders met in October 2001, they did not shy away from a discussion of the need for action on Good Governance, and the hope was expressed that the G-8 countries, as development partners, would complement their African efforts.

This is of critical importance. African peoples have been badly served in past decades, suffering from a lack of democracy and a surfeit of corruption. We are convinced that ***the G-8 leaders must tell their African counterparts that they are right to focus on Good Governance but must go beyond words to significant deeds in working with their peoples to embrace and sustain principles and practices of Good Governance.***

The NEPAD leaders also affirmed that they saw Peace and Security as necessary preconditions for sustainable development, and they set up a sub-committee to focus on conflict management, presentation, and resolution in Africa. Conflict disfigures Africa, scene of the longest-running civil war in the world (Sudan, since 1956), of a regional conflict which at its darkest time involved armies from ten African countries (the Democratic Republic of Congo - DRC), and scene of clashes over cattle, non-renewable resources, ethnicity, and unscrupulous leaders. Africa is home to the UN's largest-ever peacekeeping mission (Sierra Leone) and is where intervention never arrived when needed (Rwanda). Throughout all these conflicts and troubles, civil society organizations, including trade unions, have striven to find the way to just and sustainable peace. A number of G-8 countries have embarked on peace building projects in Africa, and included are efforts aimed at strengthening regional conflict resolution mechanisms. These will not work unless peace is seen as too important to be left to political leaders or their officials alone. ***Civil society must be enabled, challenged, and equipped, to play strong roles in the search for peace, and the G-8 has a responsibility to impress this on the African leaders and to provide resources to make it a reality.***

But as awful as conflict is, there is wisdom in the comments made by US and British political leaders to the effect that HIV/AIDS is killing more Africans than war; every day about 5,500 Africans die of AIDS. The International Crisis Group has asserted that in sub-Saharan Africa, one in four adults will eventually die of AIDS.

We agree with its conclusion that ***HIV/AIDS must be viewed as a security crisis***, eroding