

are encouraged by the new spirit of hope and progress in Africa. The challenges are acute, but confidence that they can be overcome is growing. We commit ourselves to a real and effective partnership in support of these countries' efforts to reform, to develop, and to reach the internationally agreed goals for economic and social development, as set out in the OECD's 21st Century Strategy. We shall therefore work with them to achieve at least primary education for children everywhere, and to reduce drastically child and maternal mortality and the proportion of the world's population living in extreme poverty.

7. To help achieve these goals, we intend to implement fully the vision we set out at Lyon and Denver. We therefore pledge ourselves to a shared international effort:

- to provide effective support for the efforts of these countries to build democracy and good governance, stronger civil society and greater transparency; and to take action against corruption, for example, by making every effort to ratify the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention by the end of 1998;
- to recognise the importance of substantial levels of development assistance; and to mobilise resources for development in support of reform programmes, fulfilling our responsibilities and in a spirit of burden-sharing, including negotiating a prompt and adequate replenishment of the soft loan arm of the World Bank (IDA 12), as well as providing adequate resources for the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility of the IMF and for the African Development Fund;
- to work to focus existing bilateral aid and investment agency assistance in support of sound reforms, including the development of basic social infrastructure and measures to improve trade and investment;
- to work within the OECD on a recommendation on untying aid to the least developed countries, with a view to proposing a text in 1999;
- to support the speedy and determined extension of debt relief to more countries, within the terms of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative agreed by the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and Paris Club. We welcome the progress achieved with six countries already declared eligible for HIPC debt relief and a further two countries likely to be declared shortly. We encourage all eligible countries to take the policy measures needed to embark on the process as soon as possible, so that all can be in the process by the year 2000. We will work with the international institutions and other creditors to ensure that, when they qualify, countries get the relief they need, including interim relief measures, whenever necessary, to secure a lasting exit from their debt problems. We expect the World Bank to join the future financial effort to help the African Development Bank finance its contribution to the HIPC initiative;
- to call on those countries who have not already done so to forgive aid-related bilateral debt or take comparable action for reforming least developed countries;
- to enhance mutual co-operation on infectious and parasitic diseases and support the World Health Organisation's efforts in those areas. We support the new initiative to 'Roll Back Malaria' to relieve the suffering experienced by hundreds of millions of people, and significantly reduce the death rate from malaria by 2010. We will also continue our efforts to reduce the global scourge of AIDS through vaccine development, preventive programmes and appropriate therapy, and by our continued support for UNAIDS. We welcome the French proposal for a 'Therapeutic Solidarity Initiative' and other proposals for the prevention and treatment of AIDS, and request our experts to examine speedily the feasibility of their implementation.