

Italy's 2009 G8: Plans for the Summit

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Preface

This report on “Italy’s 2009 G8: Plans for the Summit” is compiled by the G8 Research Group largely from public sources as an aid to researchers and other stakeholders interested in the 2009 G8 Summit. It will be updated periodically as plans for the 2009 Summit develop. This report adds material on the physical summit, Italy’s internal preparations and G8 ministerial meetings. For material from 2008 see earlier versions of this report.

Introduction: Italy’s 2009 G8

Italy will host the G8’s 2009 summit from July 8 to 10. Abruzzo will serve as the summit site instead of Sardinia’s La Maddalena. The announcement to change the venue site came on April 23, 2009, when Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi announced the change in the hope of boosting the earthquake-stricken area. The issues of world economy, climate change, energy and nuclear energy, Africa, food security, intellectual property, terrorism and the Heiligendamm process will be on the agenda. The G5 countries of China, India, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa are invited to attend part of the summit, as is Egypt and the additional participants of the Major Economies Forum of Australia, Indonesia and South Korea.

Agenda: The Policy Summit

The G8 summit will be a “G8 of rules,” prime minister Silvio Berlusconi said. “It will first of all be a G8 of rules,” he said, referring to the negotiation of a global legal standard to prevent a recurrence of the economic crisis. Berlusconi said the legal standard would be discussed at the G8 summit but would probably not be launched until the G20 in Pittsburg in September. He added that climate, the Doha Round world trade talks, the liberalization of commerce and food security were the other main topics on the agenda. Berlusconi said he had “stopped” a “quixotic” climate package that France’s France Sarkozy and Europe’s José Manuel Barroso wanted to bring in to effect from January 2009, and praised U.S. president Barack Obama for being “very wise” on the climate issue. “In Washington he told me we must proceed but with measure... without running ahead,” Berlusconi said.¹ (June 25, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

The G8 leaders are expected to focus on measures to put the global economy back on track after they meet in Italy. The global economy now appears to have avoided slipping into depression thanks to a series of aggressive stimulus measures taken by a number of countries. Ministers from members of the OECD are expected to show a solid growth outlook for the global economy for 2010 at their meeting in Paris. At the G8 attention will be paid to whether participants will confirm that the global economy has hit bottom.

¹ *ANSA – English Media Service* (June 25, 2009), “G8: A Summit of ‘Rules’, Berlusconi.”

The G8 are also likely to discuss a new global framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to succeed the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, in the run-up to the UN conference on climate change to be held in Copenhagen in December. The international community is aiming to reach an agreement on the new framework by the end of this year as the current framework is set to expire in 2012. But the participants are likely to face difficulties finding common ground on the issue with leaders from other major carbon dioxide emitters such as China and India at their meeting to be held on the sidelines of the summit. Developed countries are asking emerging countries to participate in the new framework as responsible members of the global community, while developing countries argue that rich countries should first take bold steps to stop global warming. The G8 leaders will also confirm the need to steadily carry out their pledges to increase their official development assistance and other support to African countries although the economic and financial crisis lingers. Furthermore, the leaders are expected to discuss how to deal with North Korea following its nuclear test in May and Iran, which is pursuing nuclear development. Also high on the agenda will be the situation in Afghanistan, which U.S. President Barack Obama regards as the frontline in the fight against terrorism.² (June 19, 2009, *Jiji Press English News Service*)

The G8 will discuss terrorism and nuclear non-proliferation at their summit, Italian foreign minister Franco Frattini said. “During the session limited to the G8 members, we will adopt line of action, notably a shared position against terrorism and its radicalisation, and we will accord particular place to non-proliferation of [nuclear] weapons.” The discussions may serve as a basis for a review of the 1968 Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). The G8 will also focus on the world financial crisis and global warming. “The G8 will cover three main points: new rules to avoid a new financial crisis, a new approach to the environment and bringing Africa in as a political interlocutor and not just an aid recipient.” Italy has asked participants to limit their delegations to 25 members, Frattini said. On the second and third days the meeting will expand to include emerging countries. “On the last day there will be up to 24 or 25 heads of state.”³ (June 16, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

Berlusconi has called for concrete results on financial regulation, climate change and trade at this year’s G8 summit. Berlusconi highlighted food security, reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and boosting the world economy as key priorities. “We want this G8 to reach concrete solutions.” He noted efforts by G8 economy ministers to develop a body of principles to prevent a major economic crisis similar to the current one from happening again, while adding that he believed a final agreement on those rules was unlikely at the July meeting. “We [Berlusconi and Obama] both agreed on the fact that the G8 will certainly not be able to produce this body of rules, but this is going to be just one of the steps leading to that drafting of rules ... There will be then the G20 summit in Pittsburgh, which will work on it, but the hope is to finally reach a body of rules which can be shared by everybody.” Berlusconi also said he hoped WTO director general Pascal Lamy’s presence at the meeting would jumpstart the Doha Round. “We hope that by

² *Jiji Press English News Service* (June 19, 2009), “G8 Summit to Focus on Post-Crisis Growth.”

³ *Agence France Presse* (June 18, 2009), “G8 to discuss terrorism, nuclear nonproliferation: Italian FM.”

inviting Lamy ... we can try and give another push to the Doha Round, hoping to achieve positive results.”⁴ (June 15, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Stafania Craxi, Italy’s secretary of state, asserted that the fight against climate change was one of Italy’s top priorities for the G8.⁵ (May 20, 2009, *Daily Star*)

Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi said in early May that tackling piracy and the world economic crisis would be on the G8’s agenda. However, he gave no specifics about plans to combat the pirates who have targeted cargo and cruise ships off the eastern coast of Africa.⁶ (May 9, 2009, *Associated Press Newswire*)

In late March Berlusconi dismissed critics of the G8, saying “We are not going to dissolve the G8 ... We want to make it more open for the exchange of ideas, which is vital for promoting common interests.” He stressed there was no conflict between the format of the G8 and G20. “We have made clear distinctions between the issues to be discussed in London and in La Maddalena ... The crisis broke out over private, not state, debts. The remedy should be found in financial regulations to avoid such crises in the future.” Berlusconi said the agenda for the G8 summit would include terrorism, regional conflicts, food security, energy, climate change, poverty and a new development concept which would now be based on targeted investment.⁷ (March 30, 2009, *RIA Novosti*)

Italy, in early February, had set five priorities for its 2009 G8. First came the financial and economic crisis and the search for new proposals for stability and growth. According to Frattini, these can be identified and adopted together with the G20 in a “spirit of collaboration and not competition.” Second came the battle against climate change, to ensure the success of the Copenhagen conference, which will define the global post-Kyoto guidelines. Frattini stressed the need for the major polluting countries — the United States, China and India — to follow the example of the European Union and adopt its climate-energy package. Third came the fight against terrorism and nuclear proliferation, which Frattini said were both “threats to democracy” and thus need to be dealt with through the efforts of all countries. Fourth came development in Africa and other less advanced economies. Fifth came regional and global security, which Frattini said were “two faces of the same coin,” with special attention paid to the Middle East and Afghanistan.⁸ (February 4, 2009, *ANSA English Media Service*)

The fight against terrorism, aid for Africa and developing countries and combating global warming are Italy’s priorities during its term as head of the G8 this year, Frattini said in early February. He added that Italy also wanted to focus attention on more “multilateral and flexible” global governance, as shown by Italy’s plans to include other important

⁴ *Reuters News* (June 15, 2009), “Berlusconi eyes concrete results for G8 summit.”

⁵ *Daily Star* (May 20, 2009), “Italy to assist Lebanon in developing clean strategy.”

⁶ *Associated Press Newswire* (May 9, 2009), “Berlusconi: G8 will discuss piracy.”

⁷ *RIA Novosti* (March 30, 2009), “Berlusconi says no plans to dissolve G8.”

⁸ *ANSA — English Media Service* (February 4, 2009), “G8: Italy to Propose Summit of Regional Organizations.”

countries in G8 sessions in a more “structured” way.⁹ (February 4, 2009, *ANSA — English Media Service*)

Berlusconi said in early January that Italy’s priorities for the 2009 G8 summit include the global economy, sustainable development, energy policy and climate change. “The other points on the agenda will be the fight against terrorism, nonproliferation and disarmament and the stabilization of conflict areas,” he said.¹⁰ (January 9, 2009, *Dow Jones International News*)

The issues at the Italy 2009 summit will remain the same ones as ever: development, the energy crisis, agricultural prices and the fight against poverty, with the mobilization of all the entities (private individuals, public bodies and NGOs).¹¹ (January 2, 2009, *BBC Monitoring European*)

Frattoni has said that terrorism, nuclear disarmament and the situations in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Africa would be on the political agenda, while economic issues to be given priority are reforms to the Bretton Woods system, the development of renewable energy sources, the impact of climate change on the economy and food safety.¹² (January 1, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

Global Economy

Italy’s plans for new regulations to prevent a recurrence of the global recession will be approved at the G8 summit, Italian G8 sherpa Giampiero Massolo said. Italian finance minister Giulio Tremonti’s proposals for a new “global legal standard” had “initially spurred skepticism but are now widely shared.” Tremonti is confident of persuading the G8 to adopt the new standard similar, to the gold standard, to discipline world financial markets. But there have been hints that the United States may want to wait until the next meeting of the G20 in Pittsburgh on September 24-25. The summit will also consider exit strategies from the global economic emergency.¹³ (June 17, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

John Lipsky, the IMF’s first deputy managing director, said rising oil prices reflect expectations that the recession may be easing and that demand is poised to recover. The increase reflects “a general improvement in sentiment on signs that the sharpest period of decline in the global economy is over.” Prices also rose on “expectations that the contraction in oil demand may bottom out soon.” Lipsky also said policy makers should find ways to reduce oil price volatility and its consequences on the global economy. The IMF said last month that the world economy would shrink 1.3% this year. It also said Saudi Arabia, the largest producer in OPEC, will see its GDP shrink 0.9% this year, while the United Arab Emirates will decline 0.6% and Kuwait 1.1%. By 2010, the IMF

⁹ *ANSA — English Media Service* (February 4, 2009), “Frattoni on G8 Priorities.”

¹⁰ *Dow Jones International News* (January 9, 2009), “Berlusconi Outlines Italy’s G8 Priorities To Japan’s Aso.”

¹¹ *BBC Monitoring European* (January 2, 2009), “Italy to bring “flexible format” to G8.”

¹² *Xinhua News Agency* (January 1, 2009), “Italy takes over G8 presidency.”

¹³ *ANSA — English Media Service* (June 17, 2009), “G8: Legal Standard ‘Will be Approved.’”

expects the Gulf states to resume expanding, while advanced economies as a whole will have no growth.¹⁴ (May 25, 2009, *Bloomberg News*)

The G8 will produce a rulebook on finance and economy, according to Berlusconi in early April. “We are aiming at putting together a code that regulates all the protagonists of finance and the economy, and that also is about the oversight of global banks,” he said.¹⁵ (April 2, 2009, *Dow Jones International News*)

Berlusconi said that while the G20 summit would make decisions toward an overhaul of the financial system, it would be the G8 that would set the main stage. “The G20 will begin to do something, but it’s at the G8 that the new code on world financial and economic behaviour will be drawn up,” he said. “At the G8 we will make our proposal for a global standard, which is international legislation for the financial and economic worlds.”¹⁶ (April 1, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Italy appears to have lowered its ambitions for its presidency of the G8 this year, no longer hoping to be remembered for a rebuilding of global finance. Economy minister Giulio Tremonti has recently stopped promising “a New Bretton Woods.” Instead, Italy’s contribution to tackle market turmoil and recession will be something called a “legal standard.” This would constitute a set of rules, guidelines and conventions that have mostly been drawn up by the OECD and to which most developed countries already adhere. Details of the legal standard remain undetermined. Tremonti said last week he had still not presented the idea to Italy’s G8 partners. “The Italian G8 presidency plans to put forward a proposal for the establishment of an international ethical legal standard with which all countries will be bound to comply,” the website says. “Such a method will make it possible to establish as convergent a network as possible of legal systems governing financial affairs, in order to safeguard savers and citizens.”¹⁷ (January 20, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Financial Crisis

The upcoming G8 summit is a good opportunity to search for ways out of the world financial crisis, Berlusconi said.¹⁸ (May 16, 2009, *Russia Today*)

As 2009 president of the G8, as of mid May the Italian government is sponsoring a move to constitute a set of rules in international business and finance — known as global standards — which includes cutting bankers’ salaries. “In the last few years, bankers acted like King Midas,” Tremonti said. He is working with the OECD to boost global governance rules and help prevent a repeat of the global financial crisis that was at the root of the current world economic downturn. “The crisis has revealed the level of

¹⁴ *Bloomberg News* (May 25, 2009), “IMF’s Lipsky Says Rising Oil Reflects Confidence About Growth.”

¹⁵ *Dow Jones International News* (April 2, 2009), “Italy Berlusconi: Finance, Econ Rules An Aim For G8 Mtg.”

¹⁶ *ANSA — English Media Service* (April 1, 2009), “G8 Stage for Financial Code, Not G20, Berlusconi Says.”

¹⁷ *Reuters News* (January 20, 2009), “Italy scales back G8 ambition to ‘legal standard.’”

¹⁸ *Russia Today* (May 16, 2009), “Moscow and Rome eye G8 expansion.”

interdependence among our nations, but it has also revealed deficiencies of our governance frameworks. It is time to change,” said OECD secretary general Angel Gurría. “We need more reliable, compact principles, agreed among the largest number of countries possible.” At a February G8 meeting of finance ministers in Rome, Tremonti pointed to topics covering bribery, corporate governance, money laundering and tax havens as part of the global standards initiative. The Italian-sponsored plan also aims to find a way to cap bank executives’ salaries, said an Italian government official. Italy may present a global standards report to the G8 and to developing countries such as China and India present at L’Aquila.¹⁹ (May 12, 2009, *Dow Jones International News*)

Revising market regulations and restoring order on financial markets are pivotal for the Italian presidency of the G8, Tremonti said in February. “There is a fundamental asymmetry between the structure of the market, which is global, and its institutional structure, which is not global.” He explained that the “market has opened up while rules and regulations have progressively fossilised. The market is global while the laws governing it are local and continue to become less uniform.” The G7 and G8 “are limited in respect to the world’s wealth. But the G20, too, is not representative because it leaves out important economies in the Arab, African and Asian worlds.”²⁰ (February 26, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

The 2009 G8 summit will focus on the “financial tsunami” that hit the global economy. Tremonti has talked on several occasions about the need to “redesign the Bretton Woods” agreement. The global financial structure established after World War II seemed “out of date facing the current global challenges. The issues will be discussed in this year’s summit. The G8’s global is to strengthen financial institutions, restore confidence in the financial system and provide a sound economic footing for citizens and businesses.”²¹ (January 3, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

Italy is planning to host a 14-state summit in March 2009 on the “human dimension” of the world financial crisis.²² (January 2, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

Currencies

Russia intends to raise ideas at the upcoming G8 summit for making its currency, the ruble, a viable global reserve money, President Dmitry Medvedev said. He wants to discuss making multiple currencies attractive enough for states to hold as reserve currencies and use as means of payment in international trade, alongside the currently dominant U.S. dollar. “We have spoken about the possibility of using the ruble for this purpose ... We are not dropping this idea.” Like Russia, China has also increasingly criticized the dollar-dominated global currency system and has been pushing for wider

¹⁹ *Dow Jones International News* (May 12, 2009), “Italy Fin Min: New Rules Needed To Contain Bank Excesses.”

²⁰ *ANSA – English Media Service* (February 25, 2009), “G8: Tremonti Says Regulation Pivotal for Italian Presidency.”

²¹ *Xinhua News Agency* (January 3, 2009), “News Analysis: Italian G8 2009 presidency faces tough challenges.”

²² *Agence France Presse* (January 2, 2009), “Italy to host energy summit for enlarged G8: FM.”

use of the yuan. Russia also suggested spreading the influence of the ruble ahead of the G20 summit in April in London, but the ideas have been more or less ignored. “These are all issues for the future,” Medvedev said, “but in my opinion they are issues for the near future.”²³ (May 16, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

Derivatives

In January Berlusconi said that there was worldwide concern about the expansion of financial derivatives and he would propose a solution to the G8. “I am already working with the G8 nations, the concern is worldwide, there is concern about the derivatives market. I have my own idea on the matter, which I will put forward, the size of this market isn’t known to anybody.”²⁴ (January 22, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Toxic Assets

In January, Tremonti said he was in favour of a “moratorium” to separate banks’ toxic assets from their healthy ones.²⁵ (January 22, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Trade

The G11, which includes Croatia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Honduras, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, Paraguay, Sri Lanka and Jordan, signed an agreement in mid May that will likely help member states sign free trade accords with the G8 countries. At their third summit the G11 focused on fostering co-operation and dialogue with the G8.²⁶ (May 16, 2009, *Jordan Times*)

The G8 leaders will aim for make a breakthrough in the Doha round when they meet in Italy. “We agreed to work with our G20 partners on making headway on Doha at the G8 summit” in Italy, where “the G8 leaders will meet the leaders of the main emerging countries,” said EU commission president José Manuel Barroso in April. “Obama has shown his willingness to make a commitment and he has said so clearly.”²⁷ (April 16, 2009, *Europolitics Agriculture*)

Italy will use its G8 presidency to try to revive the long-stalled Doha round of world trade talks. A “positive conclusion” to the negotiations, which have been stalled for years, could “make a contribution” to the recovery of the global economy, Frattini said in March. In particular, a new trade accord would help reduce the impact of the global economic crisis on developing countries. The Doha round began in 2001 but has repeatedly stalled on key issues such as agricultural subsidies, tariffs, services and

²³ *Agence France Presse* (May 16, 2009), “Russia to push rouble at G8 summit: Medvedev.”

²⁴ *Reuters News* (January 22, 2009), “Berlusconi says to make derivatives proposal to G8.”

²⁵ *Reuters News* (January 22, 2009), “Berlusconi says to make derivatives proposal to G8.”

²⁶ *Jordan Times* (May 16, 2009), “G-11 countries hope for free trade agreements with G8 states”

²⁷ *Europolitics Agriculture* (April 16, 2009), “EU/WTO: Doha: In Wake of G20, EU Hopes for Breakthrough this Summer.”

workers' rights. The most recent efforts to revive discussions, led by the U.S., China and India, have made little impact.²⁸ (March 30, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Intellectual Property

The G8 committed to take stock of the progress made to strengthen intellectual property rights protection by the time of the 2009 summit. (Commitment pledged in 2007 at the German Heiligendamm summit)

Climate Change

The U.S. has been resisting European calls for industrialized countries to target an upper limit for global warming of 2 degrees Celsius, according to a draft summit text. Two degrees is seen by the EU and many developing countries as the threshold beyond which climate change will reach danger levels, with rising seas and more heatwaves, floods and droughts. The Italian draft for the G8, dated May 11, reaffirms a goal of agreeing to a UN climate pact and says a “substantial share” of stimulus packages should go to a greener economy. But it shows disagreement over targets in a section that would widen to the G8 a EU target of limiting “the average increase in temperature to 2 Celsius above pre-industrial levels.” The disputed section says: “We reiterate the goal of achieving at least a 50 percent reduction of global emissions by 2050, recognising that this implies that global emissions need to peak by 2020.” The 2020 peak would also be new for the G8. The U.S. delegation wrote in a comment on the section that “any negotiation of numbers or figures should be undertaken in the context of the [UN] negotiations” on a new climate treaty. UN talks in Bonn from June 1-12 failed to make progress on such goals. The U.S. comments also said the section should be reviewed after a meeting of major economies including China and India, taking place in Mexico on June 22-23. “The major emerging economies will play a significant role in reaching any global goal and should, at a minimum, be included in such a discussion,” the U.S. notes said. Developing countries have resisted setting a peak year for their emissions. U.S. president Obama has promised to take far tougher action to slow global warming than his predecessor George W. Bush, aiming to cut U.S. emissions back to 1990 levels by 2020 and by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Japan, Russia and Canada have also opposed a 2 Celsius goal. In some of the May draft on climate and energy, the U.S. urges tougher measures to include, for instance, curbing emissions of soot and gases in refrigerants that also contribute to global warming. The text shows agreement on use of carbon markets and other mechanisms such as emissions taxes, fees, incentives, and reductions in fossil fuel subsidies. The text says that the fight against global warming will require “mobilisation of significant financial resources, both public and private.” It does not estimate how much.²⁹ (June 23, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Japanese prime minister Taro Aso plans to announce June's Japan's emissions target for greenhouse gases for 2020, but opinion among attendees at a key panel meeting on global

²⁸ *ANSA – English Media Service* (March 30, 2009), “G8: Italy to Push for Revival of Doha Round.”

²⁹ *Reuters News* (June 23, 2009), “U.S. resists EU climate target for G8 summit.”

warming remained sharply divided over the extent of the cut. The government will settle on a target after meeting with ministers and other officials. The government will choose a midterm target from six options — ranging from a 4% increase to a 25% reduction from 1990 levels — to succeed the 6% reduction goal from 1990 levels under the Kyoto protocol, which expires in 2012. “I’ll announce Japan’s position by mid-June, and I hope this will lead on to July’s Group of Eight summit meeting and the UN Climate Change Conference at the end of the year.”³⁰ (May 26, 2009, *Yomiuri Shimbun*)

U.S. president Barack Obama is apparently scheduled to chair a meeting on energy and climate change at the G8.³¹ (May 17, 2009, *Angolan Press*)

Britain’s Prince Charles said in April that he was impressed by Berlusconi’s offer to look at climate change. Italy could help pave the way for a “historic accord” at a climate change conference in Copenhagen in December. “I am anxiously awaiting news of progress in this direction,” said the prince, who discussed his Rain Forests Project at the G20 on April 2.³² (April 27, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Italy will host an international conference on climate change on the sidelines of the G8. Obama has called for a Major Economies Forum meeting to take place in Washington on April 27-28 to prepare for the meeting in Italy. Topics on the meeting’s agenda will include prospects for low carbon technology, the safeguarding of biodiversity and negotiations ahead of December’s UN climate change conference in Copenhagen.³³ (April 1, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Italy will take a strong stance in combating climate change. The group will welcome decisions made in Bali as the foundation for reaching a global agreement on the UNFCCC by 2009. The goal is to establish an effective and ambitious global post-2012 climate regime and all major economies need to commit to meaningful mitigation actions. It will be “a very ambitious project” for the G8 summit, government sources said in early January.³⁴ (January 3, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

On climate change, the Italian G8 chair will have the task of paving the way for the conference in Copenhagen for a new accord on the post-Kyoto scenario in 2012.³⁵ (January 2, 2009, *BBC Monitoring European*)

The G8 reaffirmed their commitment to take strong leadership in combating climate change and welcomed decisions taken in Bali as the foundation for reaching a global agreement in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process by 2009. They stated that they were committed to its successful conclusion. (Commitment pledged in 2008 at the Japanese Hokkaido Toyako summit)

³⁰ *Yomiuri Shimbun* (May 26, 2009), “Opinion still divided over emission cuts.”

³¹ *Angolan Press* (May 17, 2009), “Obama to visit Russia and Ghana.”

³² *ANSA — English Media Service* (April 27, 2009), “G8 Chance to Lead on Climate Change, Prince Charles.”

³³ *ANSA — English Media Service* (April 1, 2009), “Berlusconi accepts Obama’s G8 Climate Proposal.”

³⁴ *Xinhua News Agency* (January 3, 2009), “News Analysis: Italian G8 2009 presidency faces tough challenges.”

³⁵ *BBC Monitoring European* (January 2, 2009), “Italy to bring “flexible format” to G8.”

The G8 countries indicated that they need to ensure an effective and ambitious global post-2012 climate regime and that all major economies need to commit to meaningful mitigation actions to be bound in the international agreement to be negotiated by the end of 2009. (Commitment pledged in 2008 at the Japanese Hokkaido Toyako summit)

The MEM nations committed to continue to work constructively together to promote the success of the Copenhagen climate change conference in 2009. (Commitment pledged in 2008 at the Japanese Hokkaido Toyako summit)

Energy

The EU plans to check to what extent Russia's energy proposal comply with the European Energy Charter and with the talks on Russia's accession to the WTO, and it ready to discuss these issues at the G8 and G20 formats. "Once we have been able to thoroughly study the proposals, the EU will be please to discuss the set of ideas in the context of the G8, G20 and EU-Russia energy dialogue," said Marc Franco, head of the European Commission delegation to Moscow.³⁶ (May 20, 2009, *Interfax: Russia & CIS General Newswire*)

Italy plans to honour the energy commitments made in Japan where the G8 pledged to compile national reports with the help of the IEA and to update them for the summit.³⁷ (January 3, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

Italy is planning an energy summit for an "enlarged G8" early this year, Frattini said. Such as summit is "absolutely new," he said, saying it was motivated by a "strong need for dialogue between producers and consumers which is the basis for global price stability." Italy will host the energy summit in the coming months. Italian economic development minister Claudio Scajola will lead the meeting, Frattini said, adding that "Italy's entire diplomatic and political corps is preparing this event."³⁸ (January 2, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

The G8 pledged to compile national reports with the help of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and to update them for the 2009 summit. (Commitment pledged in 2008 at the Japanese Hokkaido Toyako summit)

Africa

Italy will press the G8 to meet aid goals to cut world poverty, said Italy's G8 sherpa Massolo. He acknowledged that Italy is among those lagging in the effort to meet the Millennium Development Goals agreed in 2000 to reduce poverty. Italy's development

³⁶ *Interfax: Russia & CIS General Newswire* (May 20, 2009), "EU 'looking into Russia's energy proposals with interest'-Franco."

³⁷ *Xinhua News Agency* (January 3, 2009), "News Analysis: Italian G8 2009 presidency faces tough challenges."

³⁸ *Agence France Presse* (January 2, 2009), "Italy to host energy summit for enlarged G8: FM."

spending should have been 0.33% of GDP in 2006 but was only 0.2%, while it fell to 0.19% in 2007 and only edged up to 0.22% in 2008. This was far from the target of 0.51% set for 2010. Massolo reiterated that Africa would be one of the summit's priorities.³⁹ (June 17, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi said he will press the G8 to make a commitment to compensate African countries for the colonial period at the summit. “Let us recognize that Africans were treated as animals. We should ask forgiveness and think about how resources could be returned to their legitimate owners,” he said. “Even though the resources have been used, that does not excuse you. You have to think of how they can be compensated ... [to think] we stole the African riches and we have to pay them back. This way immigration will end and we will overcome the greatest challenge of our time ... I will take part, God willing, in the G8 and I will say that all countries who colonized other countries have to compensate them and ask forgiveness.” Gaddafi will attend the summit as chairman of the African Union. He will attend the part of the summit due to include African leaders.⁴⁰ (June 11, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Africa will be at the centre of Italy's G8 this year, Frattini said in March. He said the global economic crisis must not draw attention from the needs of developing countries. Italy will propose “innovative” ways of solving Africa's problems. “State aid alone is not enough,” he told a conference of scientists from the G8 and G5 and Egypt. “We must involve all the actors in civil society and NGOs, use public and private investment and implement new funding mechanisms.” Frattini stressed at the outset of Italy's G8 term that Italy wants Africa to be central to the group's discussions this year. He made a four-country tour of Africa in January, saying Africa should be “at the centre of the agenda” of the summit. “As G8 president Italy is not presenting formulas but is calling for assessment from the African leadership,” he said. The G8's approach requires African countries to work together on “energy, the environment, security, food security and infrastructure.” In March, Italy hosted a conference on boosting African infrastructure. Participants vowed to help Africa through the global economic downturn and aid its recovery when the worst is over. Italy will propose “financial mechanisms that mitigate risk and foster greater funding from private groups” at the 2009 summit. “Major infrastructure projects require a large mobilisation of capital,” a government official said, stressing that “it can't all be entrusted to state aid ... Private capital is needed and in order to increase these flows we must use instruments that reduce the risk for this kind of investment.”⁴¹ (March 26, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Development

Italy has vowed to help Africa through the global economic downturn and aid its recovery when the worst is over. Foreign affairs undersecretary Vincenzo Scotti reiterated in March that Africa will be one of the priorities of the Italian G8 presidency. He said Italy will propose “financial mechanisms that mitigate risk and foster greater

³⁹ *ANSA – English Media Service* (June 17, 2009), “G8: ‘Italy Will Push Aid Goals.’”

⁴⁰ *Reuters News* (June 11, 2009), “Gaddafi says will ask G8 for Africa resolution.”

⁴¹ *ANSA – English Media Service* (March 26, 2009), “G8 will help Africa through Recession, Frattini.”

funding” from the private sector. “Major infrastructure projects require a large mobilisation of capital,” he said, stressing that “it can’t all be entrusted to state aid.” He added that “private capital is needed and in order to increase these flows we must use instruments that reduce the risk for this kind of investment.” Mandala Gantsho, deputy head of the African Development Bank (AfDB), thanked Italy for making Africa one of the priorities.⁴² (March 10, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Advocates of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) will present a detailed report on the effects of the global financial crisis on Africa to the G8 later this year. According to Egyptian deputy international and economic affairs minister Mohamed Alorabi in January, the founding committee of NEPAD, which includes South Africa and Egypt, is concerned that G8 countries are beginning to look internally to focus all their resources and efforts on reducing the negative effects of the financial crisis at home. Alorabi said South Africa and Egypt wanted to present a united front to the G8 to persuade it not to abandon its earlier commitments and plans to invest in the continent. “They know and agree that this will help our continent to stay on course of trading its way out of poverty ... and that it will be in their interest to sustain if not expand the economic growth that Africa has experienced over the last few year.” Alorabi met South Africa’s deputy finance minister Nhlanhla Nene, deputy foreign minister Fatima Hajaig and senior officials during his two-day visit to South Africa in January. He said the G8 countries might introduce measures to ensure stability in their own markets. However, both South Africa and Egypt would endeavour to revive the enthusiasm with which the G8 had met the NEPAD proponents under the leadership of former president Thabo Mbeki. “We need to remind them about the sound NEPAD principles, which are key to this continent’s ability to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in particular. Not enough has been done or implemented from the undertakings of the past G8 summits, hence the need to sustain the momentum of keeping Africa on their agenda.”⁴³ (January 19, 2009, *Business Day*)

Education

The G8 have committed to train, including through appropriate multilateral institutions, 100,000 teachers by 2009, with a particular focus on high-quality literacy skills. (Commitment pledged in 2004 at the American Sea Island summit)

The G8 pledged to monitor the Fast Track Initiative (FTI), including meeting shortfalls, through a report to be delivered at the 2009 Summit. (Commitment pledged in 2008 at the Japanese Hokkaido Toyako summit)

⁴² *ANSA – English Media Service* (March 10, 2009), “Italy Vows to Help Africa in Crisis.”

⁴³ *Business Day* (January 19, 2009), “Nepad champions to put Africa’s case to the G8.”

Water

The world water forum in Istanbul, planned for March 16-22, 2009, will provide input into this year's G8.⁴⁴ (January 21, 2009, *ANSA English Media Service*)

The G8 acknowledged the need to accelerate the achievement of the internationally agreed goals on water and sanitation. They pledged to reinvigorate their efforts to implement the Evian Water Action Plan and to review it on the basis of a progress report prepared by our water experts by the 2009 Summit. (Commitment pledged in 2008 at the Japanese Hokkaido Toyako summit)

Food and Agriculture

The G8 are expected to agree on the need to formulate rules on farm-related external investment in developing countries. The leaders are expected to stress the need to establish such rules in a joint declaration to be adopted at the summit, while leaving specifics to be worked out by the World Bank and the FAO. Under the envisaged rules, foreign countries that invest in agricultural sectors of developing countries will likely be required to respect local custom, ensure fair distribution of profits and secure transparency in investment contracts, according to the officials. Following recent rises in food prices, China, South Korea and Persian Gulf nations have aggressively acquired farmland in Africa in order to ensure stable food supplies, triggering repercussions from local communities. As Japan also plans to secure farmland in such countries as Brazil and Ukraine, the establishment of clear farm investment rules will help prepare the ground for its land procurement. The FAO earlier this year released a report urging nations investing in African countries to beef up law compliance, redouble efforts to create local jobs and step up support to improve local infrastructure.⁴⁵ (June 24, 2009, *Jiji Press English News Service*)

The G8 will call for a study on an international food stockholding system as a means to limit price volatility and ensure food security, according to a draft statement on global food security. In a session involving the G5 and African countries, the leaders will urge regulators to closely monitor speculative movements in commodity markets to fend off price volatility, a negative factor to sustainable economic growth and development, says the draft. Referring to the "Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security," the leaders of the G8, the G5 and Africa will ask the UN FAO and other food-related bodies to "enhance their activities" and "strengthen their coordination" as a way to increase global governance of food security, which the draft says is key to defeating hunger and malnutrition, especially in Africa and Asia. "Effectiveness of a system of stockholding in dealing with humanitarian emergencies or as a means to limit price volatility needs to be explored, especially on the feasibility and administrative modalities," alluding to a strategic grains reserve concept advocated at last year's summit. "We task the relevant international institutions (to be identified) to provide us with evidence allowing us to exert responsible strategic action on this specific issue." The countries will also "reject

⁴⁴ *ANSA English Media Service* (January 21, 2009), "FAO WORKING ON GLOBAL WATERPLAN."

⁴⁵ *Jiji Press English News Service* (June 24, 2009), "G8 Leaders to Pursue Farm Investment Rules."

protectionism” and call for advancing farm trade liberalization to strengthen food security. “We support the benefit of open markets, acknowledging the crucial importance of rejecting protectionism, and avoiding trade distortions and monitoring commodity markets with special attention to factors potentially affecting price volatility, including speculation,” it says. “To this end, we recognize the importance of an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced conclusion of the Doha Round” of trade liberalization negotiations under the WTO. To strengthen global governance of food security and ensure its foundation on authoritative and widely recognized scientific grounds, the leaders of the G8 and the G5 plus Africa will request that the role of the UN High Level Task Force for food safety and the Committee on World Food Security, an intergovernmental panel of the Rome-based FAO, be increased. The reform processes of the FAO and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research must also be sustained “with a sense of urgency,” the draft says. The leaders will call for the development of second-generation biofuels made from nonfood materials. The use of corn and other staple crops for biofuels has been a key factor behind the rise in crop prices. “Policies should encourage that biofuels are produced and used in an environmentally sustainable manner with a strong emphasis on the development and commercialization of second-generation biofuels,” the draft says. The leaders will call for an increase in world food production and investment in agriculture, as well as ensuring access to adequate food to the most vulnerable populations. “Food security, agriculture and nutrition must remain high on the political agenda ... Policies should promote the integration of farmers, especially smallholders, into national, regional and international markets by reducing barriers to trade, improving access to market information and business training, improving governance and increasing investment in rural development, transportation, processing and storage facilities.”⁴⁶ (June 9, 2009, *Kyodo News*)

Japan is planning to spearhead a drive at the G8 summit to prevent “farmland grabbing” in developing countries and encourage responsible investing in agriculture. The move shows growing fears among leading countries that rich countries such as Saudi Arabia or South Korea, which are not self-sufficient in food production, are investing in overseas land, particularly in Africa, to boost their food security. The trend to invest in overseas farmland is contentious, with some saying it represents a “neo-colonial” race to secure water and fertile soil with little benefit to local populations, while others say the investments can boost economic growth and provide jobs in poor countries where farmland and water are abundant. Although the UN’s FAO, the World Bank and the AU are drawing up guidelines, agriculture officials say a G8-backed plan would have more force. The fact the issue would be discussed at the G8 summit showed concern about current investments. Japan will propose the initiative at the summit, where food security will be a top issue.⁴⁷ (May 25, 2009, *Financial Times*)

Global food production needs to double by 2050 to avert the risk of scarcity and high prices hurting international stability, says a policy document in early April for a G8 meeting on agriculture. “Without immediate interventions in agriculture and agri-marketing systems, the 2007 crisis will become structural in only a few decades,” it says.

⁴⁶ *Kyodo News* (June 9, 2009), “G8 to call for study on food reserve system: draft.”

⁴⁷ *Financial Times* (May 25, 2009), “Tokyo aims to halt ‘farmland grabbing.’”

The document was drafted by the G8's Italian presidency ahead of a meeting in Treviso on April 18-20. It says a further food crisis will have "serious consequences not merely on business relations but equally on social and international relations, which in turn will impact directly on the security and stability of world politics." The meeting was prompted by last year's price surges, which triggered riots and social unrest across a number of countries. "The issue of price volatility remains a crucial element for world food security," the report said. "There is a need for a fast increase in agricultural production in developing countries."⁴⁸ (April 6, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Italy said in January, that the subject of food security and in particular hunger in Africa, would be the central focus of the G8 in 2009. Italy's Directorate of Development Cooperation is to donate €10 million through the FAO to finance agricultural and rural development programs and improve food security in 2009. The new donation, raising Italy's voluntary, extra-budgetary contributions to a total of some €60 million, has confirmed the country as one of FAO's leading donors.⁴⁹ (January 19, 2009, *All Africa*)

The Italian government said in January that it will put high on the international political agenda issues such as food safety, with a special focus on Africa, the fight against poverty and sustainable agricultural development.⁵⁰ (January 3, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

The G8 has committed to work with governments and other donors to realize the goal of attaining food security for five million chronically food insecure people by 2009. (Commitment pledged in 2004 at the American Sea Island summit)

The G8 promised to review the progress on the food crisis issue at the 2009 summit. (Commitment pledged in 2008 at the Japanese Hokkaido Toyako Summit)

Health

A \$1.5 billion plan sponsored by Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada, Russia and Norway to encourage drug companies to come up with vaccines that can help prevent pneumonia and meningitis begins June 12, the Italy's finance ministry said. Italy is the largest donor with \$635 million. The plan, known as advance market commitments (AMCs) for vaccines, was proposed at the end of 2005. The operational phase will launch before the G8 finance ministers meet on June 12 and 13. Finding a way to bring medical cures to poor countries has near-universal support, but governments have been reluctant to foot the bill to provide vaccines to poor nations. The U.S., Japan, Germany and France have not yet signed up to the plan.⁵¹ (May 25, 2009, *Dow Jones International News*)

⁴⁸ *Reuters News* (April 6, 2009), "G8 report says food crisis may threaten stability."

⁴⁹ *All Africa* (January 19, 2009), "Italy Donates €10 million for Farm Development."

⁵⁰ *Xinhua News Agency* (January 3, 2009), "News Analysis: Italian G8 2009 presidency faces tough challenges."

⁵¹ *Dow Jones International News* (May 25, 2009), "5 Nations To Begin Drive Against Pneumonia, Meningitis In June."

A tax on currency transactions, a levy on mobile phone calls and a global lottery will be looked at by a high-level international task force this week in an attempt to raise \$45 billion to improve health systems in the world's poorest countries. Amid fears that the global recession will lead to cuts in western aid budgets, a task force set up by British prime minister Gordon Brown will meet in Paris to discuss so-called "innovative financing mechanisms." Brown is under pressure from a coalition of UK and international campaign groups to back a 0.005% micro-tax on the \$1 quadrillion (\$1,000 trillion) annual trade in foreign currencies. UK government sources said the task force would boil down a hundred options for raising money and come up with about 10 ideas to submit to the G8 summit in July and the UN General Assembly in September. Brown is sceptical about a currency tax, on the grounds that it would cause distortions in the financial markets unless it were introduced universally.⁵² (May 24, 2009, *The Observer*)

Peace Support

The G8 tasked experts to discuss their efforts for peace support for Africa, in cooperation with the UN and regional organizations, and to submit a progress report prior to the Summit in 2009. (Commitment pledged in 2008 at the Japanese Hokkaido Toyako summit)

Nuclear Proliferation

Japanese prime minister Aso and German chancellor Merkel agreed that they would take up North Korean issues at the G8.⁵³ (June 22, 2009, *Jiji Press English News Service*)

G8 countries have agreed in principle to incorporate a phrase calling for efforts toward the early enactment of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in a joint statement at the G8 summit. At the strong urging of the administration of former U.S. President George W. Bush, reference to the CTBT had been excluded from leaders' statements for the past eight G8 summits, and replaced by such expressions as "a multilateral treaty for disarmament." The CTBT was last mentioned in the joint statement at the 2000 Summit, which was held in the last days of the Clinton administration. Under the administration of Obama, the U.S. government has made a policy shift to address the treaty once again in the G8 joint statement. Obama has also proposed to include his desire to "pursue a peaceful and safe world free of nuclear weapons," into the statement.⁵⁴ (June 18, 2009, *Mainichi Daily News*)

Italy has said North Korea's claimed second nuclear test will be high on the agenda of the G8 summit.⁵⁵ (May 25, 2009, *Kyodo News*)

⁵² *Observer* (May 24, 2009), "Proposed tax on forex trades to raise \$50 bn aid."

⁵³ *Jiji Press English News Service* (June 22, 2009), "Japan, Germany to Cooperate in Making N. Korea Abide by U.N. Resolution."

⁵⁴ *Mainichi Daily News* (June 18, 2009), "G8 to call for early enactment of Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty."

⁵⁵ *Kyodo News* (May 25, 2009), "N. Korea's nuke test to be on agenda of G8 summit: Italian minister."

Nuclear energy will be at the centre of the G8's talks in 2009. The G8 countries agree that transfer of enrichment equipment, facilities and technology to any additional state will be subject to conditions that at least guarantee no replication of the facilities will be made.⁵⁶ (January 3, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

The G8 countries agreed that transfers of enrichment equipment, facilities and technology to any additional state in the next year [2009] will be subject to conditions that, at a minimum, do not permit or enable replication of the facilities; and where technically feasible reprocessing transfers to any additional state will be subject to those same conditions. (Commitment pledged in 2008 at the Japanese Hokkaido Toyako summit)

Middle East

A “Marshall Plan” for the Palestinian economy will be one of the priorities of Italy's G8 summit in 2009. “There can be no real peace between two peoples divided by such different living standards,” said Berlusconi in early March as he urged leaders from 70 countries to help raise Palestinian living standards. He reiterated that major hotel groups and top multinational corporations had been contacted with a view to building infrastructure in Gaza and the West Bank, including airports to boost tourism to the Holy Land. Berlusconi also proposed a connection between the Dead Sea, whose water level is dropping, and the Black Sea, to expand arable land and provide energy. He offered the Sicilian town of Erice as a venue for peace talks that would reaffirm a two-state solution. Berlusconi met with Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas and had a working breakfast with leaders including U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton, French president Nicolas Sarkozy, UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon and host Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.⁵⁷ (March 2, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Italy will propose an economic aid plan for the West Bank, including funding for an airport, when it hosts the G8. “We will present a plan of support for the West Bank economy that will include the construction of an international airport capable of attracting a great number of Catholic tourists interested in visiting holy Christian sites from Bethlehem,” said Berlusconi in February. The West Bank initiative will also include “a plan for the construction of hotel infrastructure by the main firms in the sector and a plan for major international groups to set up businesses” in the Palestinian territory.⁵⁸ (February 23, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

Silvio Berlusconi and Gordon Brown reviewed the situation in the Middle East when they met in Rome in February. “We will continue to work for reconciliation within the Palestinian community and for a resumption of the peace process,” Berlusconi said. “The West must do its part through a Marshall Plan for Palestine.” He confirmed that the

⁵⁶ *Xinhua News Agency* (January 3, 2009), “News Analysis: Italian G8 2009 presidency faces tough challenges.”

⁵⁷ *ANSA – English Media Service* (March 2, 2009), “Palestine ‘Marshall Plan’ G8 Priority.”

⁵⁸ *Agence France Presse* (February 23, 2009), “Rome to propose West Bank aid plan at G8: Berlusconi.”

Middle East is high on the G8 agenda.⁵⁹ (February 19, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

In its role as the 2009 chair of the G8, Italy will co-sponsor the March 2 conference in Cairo on the reconstruction of Gaza and aid to the West Bank, Franco Frattini said in February. It will be Italy's task at the conference, he explained, to co-ordinate aid from the G8 countries.⁶⁰ (February 4, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Berlusconi said in January that Italy is prepared to send troops into the Gaza Strip, devastated by Israel's three-week offensive to help tackle arms smuggling in the enclave. "We have shown our readiness, though there has not yet been a request ... However, I believe that [requests] will follow shortly." Berlusconi also said that Italy is continuing to provide aid to the enclave of 1.5 million where some 50,000 people were left homeless by the Israeli offensive. Ban Ki-moon, Amr Moussa, the Arab League secretary general, and European Union leaders met at Sharm el-Sheikh in an attempt to rally support for a fragile ceasefire in the Gaza Strip announced just hours before the summit. After the summit, Hosni Mubarak said that "today could be the start of the end of the Gaza crisis," adding that a "breakthrough" had been reached. The plans for Egypt to hold a conference were announced at a joint press conference in Cairo with Mubarak and Franco Frattini, who had just returned from a visit to Israel. Frattini stated that participants at the Egyptian-hosted conference were expected to include the UN, EU and World Bank representatives. Norway, which is handling donations for the Palestinians, and Italy, currently chairing the G8, were also expected to attend. Frattini also said that "Italy plans to bring other G8 countries" to the conference.⁶¹ (January 22, 2009, *RIA Novosti*)

Italy has made the Middle East issue a top priority of its G8 presidency. On January 2, Silvio Berlusconi had a phone conversation with Israel's prime minister Ehud Olmert regarding the situation in Gaza. Berlusconi will discuss the issues in coming days with other G8 leaders.⁶² (January 3, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

Afghanistan

Italy wants to involve China, India, Russia and central Asian countries in finding ways of stabilizing Afghanistan during its G8 presidency this year, foreign ministry undersecretary Stefania Craxi said in February. "Afghanistan is one of the key issues of the Italian presidency and we've been saying for a long time that it's necessary to find a regional approach to stabilizing the country," said Craxi. Craxi recalled that Italy is already working toward a regional conference aimed at stabilizing Afghanistan and Pakistan expected to take place in Trieste. G8 countries, the emerging economies of the G5 and Egypt have also been invited to attend the conference in June, Franco Frattini

⁵⁹ *ANSA – English Media Service* (February 19, 2009), "Berlusconi and Brown Focus on G8 and G20 Crisis Coordination."

⁶⁰ *ANSA – English Media Service* (February 4, 2009), "G8: Italy to Co-Sponsor Cairo Conference on Gaza."

⁶¹ *RIA Novosti* (January 22, 2009), "Italian leader Berlusconi pledges aid for Gaza Strip."

⁶² *Xinhua News Agency* (January 3, 2009), "News Analysis: Italian G8 2009 presidency faces tough challenges."

said. Italy is also keen to involve Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey in a bid to draw up the first road map to defuse the Islamist terrorist threat “which has its roots and bases in Afghanistan and Pakistan.” “This conference represents the model of governance we have in mind,” said Frattini, who has stressed Italy’s main goal for its G8 term will be to foster moves towards a new global governance for economic and security issues.⁶³ (February 4, 2009, *ANSA — English Media Service*)

Terrorism

The G8 stressed the urgent need for full implementation of existing standards, including Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Special Recommendations VIII and IX, and asked their experts to take steps to share information, evaluate threats, assess new trends and promote implementation and review these efforts by 2009. (Commitment pledged in 2008 at the Japanese Hokkaido Toyako summit)

Heiligendamm Process

The G8 countries committed to issue a final report on the Heiligendamm process at the 2009 summit. (Commitment pledged in 2007 at the German Heiligendamm summit and reiterated in 2008 at the Japanese Hokkaido Toyako summit)

Outreach and Expansion

Japan is wary about Italy’s push to expand the G8 to include emerging economies, due to concern that their inclusion in the elite club may erode the presence of Asia’s biggest economy. Italy is now considering a first-ever joint statement with leaders of the G5. The idea of G8 expansion is not new. Last year, French president Sarkozy proposed increasing membership to embrace emerging economies.⁶⁴ (June 24, 2009, *Jiji Press English Service News*)

The G8 want to adopt their first-ever joint statement with the G5 at their upcoming summit. The statement, if materialized, will show willingness of the leaders of the 13 countries to share responsibility for the recovery of the global economy. But the G5 are cautious about adopting any such statement. Although calls for expanding the summit framework have been gaining momentum particularly in Europe, achieving agreement on the joint statement appears to be difficult because the emerging economies are rejecting the idea of joining summit meetings as regular members. The enlarged meeting will be held on the second day of the summit.. Issues to be discussed are likely to include the global economy and African development. The G8 countries’ push for the first joint statement at the enlarged summit closely links to their moves to oblige the five emerging

⁶³ *ANSA — English Media Service* (February 4, 2009), “Afghanistan Key Issue for Italy’s G8 Presidency.”

⁶⁴ *Jiji Press English News Service* (June 24, 2009), “Japan Wary of Italy’s Bid for G8 Expansion.”

economies to cut greenhouse gas emissions under a post-Kyoto Protocol framework.⁶⁵ (June 9, 2009, *Jiji Press English News Service*)

Italy will push to make the G14 a “permanent instrument of globalization governance” at this year’s G8, Italian sherpa Massolo said. “This will be one of the greatest results of the summit,” The G8 is a format that “nobody wants to abandon” but that risks not being “sufficiently representative to deal with structural problems”⁶⁶ (June 8, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

“The Group will become the Group of Fourteen because Mexico, China, India, Brazil and other countries will join in on the second day. And then Indonesia, South Korea, Australia, the Netherlands and Turkey will also take part. That will be the next day so we will be able to touch upon a variety of issues,” Silvio Berlusconi said.⁶⁷ (May 16, 2009, *Russia Today*)

Poor and developing countries will have a strong voice at this summer’s G8, promised Giampiero Massolo, Berlusconi’s personal representative. Massolo was participating in the Civil G8 Dialogue, a two-day meeting of non-governmental organizations in Rome on May 5. He pointed out that it was impossible to address the issues on the G8 agenda without the presence of developing countries.⁶⁸ (May 5, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

In late March Berlusconi dismissed critics of the G8, saying there were no plans to dissolve the international forum. “We are not going to dissolve the G8. We want to make it more open for the exchange of ideas, which is vital for promoting common interests.” Berlusconi stressed there was no conflict between the format of the G8 and G20. “We have made clear distinctions between the issues to be discussed in London and in La Maddalena.” He added: “The crisis broke out over private, not state, debts. The remedy should be found in financial regulations to avoid such crises in the future.” Berlusconi said the agenda for the G8 summit would include terrorism, regional conflicts, food security, energy, climate change, poverty and a new development concept which would now be based on targeted investment.⁶⁹ (March 30, 2009, *RIA Novosti*)

Italy thinks Russia should become a full-fledged member of the G8, including the financial G8, Franco Frattini said in late February. “As a country holding the rotating presidency of the G8 group of the world’s industrialized nations, we press for the financial G7 to become a full-fledged G8 at last,” he said. “The goal has not been achieved yet, but we hope for an early solution.” Frattini said it remained to be seen whether that could be accomplished this year. However, “it is important that we have started to pave the way.”⁷⁰ (February 28, 2009, *ITAR-TASS World Service*)

⁶⁵ *Jiji Press English News Service* (June 9, 2009), “Enlarged G8 Summit Considering 1st Joint Statement.”

⁶⁶ *ANSA – English Media Service* (June 8, 2009), “G8: Italy to Push for G14.”

⁶⁷ *Russia Today* (May 16, 2009), “Moscow and Rome eye G8 expansion.”

⁶⁸ *ANSA – English Media Service* (May 5, 2009), “Poorer Nations Promised G8 Voice.”

⁶⁹ *RIA Novosti* (March 30, 2009), “Berlusconi says no plans to dissolve G8.”

⁷⁰ *ITAR-TASS World Service* (February 28, 2009), “Italy hopes Russia will become full-fledged member of G8 — FM.”

Berlusconi said in late February he would use the G8 to work toward a “more stable and structured” association of the G5 as well as Egypt that “represents the Arab, Muslim and African worlds.” He also noted that it is important to talk about specific issues with groups of countries, such as African ones. Berlusconi said it “would not be easy to organise a G8 summit with these aims, but I’m sure we’ll succeed.”⁷¹ (February 23, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

The G8 has to involve emerging market economies more in fighting the global crisis, Berlusconi said in mid-February. “To be successful in tackling the global economic crisis, we must involve the main emerging economies.” He added that “the G20 process started in Washington does already fully involve them, and the Italian presidency wants to reinforce the dialogue already started with Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa, through a stable and structured partnership.” Italy also plans on including Egypt in the G8 summit. Berlusconi said he was committed to including African leaders and others.⁷² (February 19, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Russia will become a full member of the G8, including the financial G8, in 2009, deputy prime minister and finance minister Alexei Kudrin said in mid-February. Italy favours Russia becoming a full member. Kudrin said that Russia was ready to expand its cooperation with international financial organizations in efforts to fight the crisis.⁷³ (February 16, 2009, *Prime-TASS News*)

Franco Frattini said in early February that during its term at the G8 helm Italy will seek to institutionalize a more structured relationship between the G8 and key countries outside the group including China, India, South Africa, Egypt, Brazil and Mexico.⁷⁴ (February 4, 2009, *ANSA- English Media Service*)

Italy will consider expanding July’s G8 leaders’ meeting into a G20, if a follow-up is needed to the April G20 London Summit. “If after the G20 summit in London there is a need to talk about financial matters in the same format, we don’t exclude making space for it at La Maddalena,” Italy’s G8 sherpa Giampiero Massolo said in late January. “We are not asking for this but we are prepared to dedicate part of the summit to such a meeting ... It depends how London goes and how the crisis develops between April and July.” The remit of the G8 is to tackle global challenges from the economy to the environment. “There is no competition between the formats,” said Massolo. “The G8 has the advantage of being a like-minded group but it is today less representative. The G20 summit is a promising format for resolving the global financial crisis.” Berlusconi wants to speed up the G8’s very slow expansion. Italy argues that while a decade ago the G7 (before Russia joined) represented 80% of world economic output, it now represents only half and must expand to include the likes of China, India and Brazil to remain relevant. But Massolo said there is “no consensus yet” to transform the G8 into a G13 or G14, with

⁷¹ *ANSA – English Media Service* (February 23, 2009), “‘Stronger and More Concrete,’ Berlusconi.”

⁷² *Reuters News* (February 19, 2009), “G8 must work closer with emerging states-Italy, UK.”

⁷³ *Prime-TASS News* (February 16, 2009), “Kudrin says Russia to become full member of G8 in 2009.”

⁷⁴ *ANSA – English Media Service* (February 4, 2009), “G8: Italy to Propose Summit of Regional Organizations.”

some countries cautious, others such as Italy “more flexible” and the new U.S. administration’s position still a “factor of uncertainty.” In the meantime Italy hopes to “make dialogue between the G8 and the G5 [China, India, Brazil, South Africa and Mexico] more structural, permanent and on an equal footing” and include Egypt to give a higher profile to Africa, Muslims and the Arab world.⁷⁵ (January 28, 2009, *Reuters News*)

The new feature of the G8 will be the “flexible format.” According to Massolo, the secretary general of the foreign ministry and G8 sherpa, in early January, “the issue of the format has taken on the standing of a true issue of our chairmanship; it is not a case of reiterating mechanisms which have already been tried out in the past, such as outreach, but liaising in a permanent and structured way with the emerging economies, combining representatives and efficiency. From now on there will no longer be a single format for managing all the global challenges.” The Italians will try and create a better balance; for example, between the G8 and the G20. “There is no competition between the two formats. In fact, there is a spirit of great coordination, although we believe that the structured relationship between the G8 and emerging countries is to be defended, because, unlike other formats, it allows real discussion among leaders.” The traditional G8 will be held on day one, discussion on day two, particularly on development, growth and energy will be expanded to include the G5 as well as Egypt. On the last day, talks will involve Indonesia, Australia and South Korea who are members of the Major Economies Meeting (MEM). In short, the G8 will gather as an initial circle, a G14 as the second one, and a G17 as a third one.⁷⁶ (January 2, 2009, *BBC Monitoring European*)

Italy plans to step up involvement of the G5 and other important non-G8 countries during its presidency of the G8, Silvio Berlusconi said in early January. The G8 will meet on the first day and the G5 as well as Egypt will be brought in on the second day. Italy has pressed hard for an Egyptian role because of Egypt’s status in the Middle East and Africa where it is “widely heard,” Berlusconi said. Italy’s presidency will be an occasion for “a new global governance” and to create a more structural relationship between the G8 and emerging powers, Franco Frattini said.⁷⁷ (January 1, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

Participation

Nigerian president Umaru Musa Yar'Adua has been formally invited to attend this year’s G8. The letter conveying the invitation said Yar'Adua was being invited because Berlusconi was personally committed to renewing ties between the G8 and Africa, especially with Nigeria.⁷⁸ (June 21, 2009, *The Guardian*)

The WTO’s Pascal Lamy has been invited to participate in the summit. The hope is that having Lamy attend will boost the chances of completing the stalled Doha Round negotiations.⁷⁹ (June 15, 2009, *Reuters News*)

⁷⁵ *Reuters News* (January 28, 2009), “Italy may expand G8 summit to G20 crisis talks.”

⁷⁶ *BBC Monitoring European* (January 2, 2009), “Italy to bring “flexible format” to G8.”

⁷⁷ *Xinhua News Agency* (January 1, 2009), “Italy takes over G8 presidency.”

⁷⁸ *The Guardian* (June 21, 2009), “G8 invites Nigeria’s Yar’Adua to attend the summit in Italy.”

⁷⁹ *Reuters News* (June 15, 2009), “Berlusconi eyes concrete results for G8 summit.”

China's Hu Jintao is expected to attend the G8 summit in July.⁸⁰ (May 18, 2009, *Xinhua News*)

Italy is planning to invite Spain and the Netherlands to the upcoming G8 summit. A letter will be sent to the Spanish government within a month officially extending the invitation, aides to Berlusconi said in mid-May. Berlusconi announced the invitation for Spain to attend the summit during the joint statement he made with visiting Dutch prime minister Jan Peter Balkenende. The Spanish government considers Berlusconi's invitation to the G8 summit "historic" since it will be the first time that Spain will attend the gathering in an official capacity. The invitation will allow Spain, which has attended the last two G20 meetings in Washington and London, to be present at the G8 as well. Spanish economy minister Elena Salgado, has already asked the U.S. to participate in the G20 meeting in September and said Spain would request formal admission to the group.⁸¹ (May 14, 2009, *EFE News Service*)

Berlusconi says he will invite Spain and the Netherlands to L'Aquila during the G8 summit, so they can participate in some way in gatherings in the earthquake-stricken town. Both officials in the Italian and the Spanish government said that the degree of Spanish and Dutch participation during the meetings has yet to be worked out. Berlusconi has said he wants to use the occasion to reach out to many countries, particularly from Africa, after the eight nations wrap up their official gathering.⁸² (May 14, 2009, *Associated Press Newswires*)

Nigeria's invitation to the G8 summit has been approved by the Italian government. Even though Nigeria is not a member of the G8 or G20, its position in Africa and the potential growth of the country influenced the decision to invite it to the summit.⁸³ (April 29, 2009, *All Africa*)

The G20 as well as Algeria, Senegal, Nigeria and Egypt have all been invited to participate in the 2009 G8 summit.⁸⁴ (March 9, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Franco Frattini said in early March the Italian government had invited Indonesia to take part in the upcoming G8 summit, as a clear sign of Rome's recognition for the influential role Jakarta was playing in addressing global security and climate change issues.⁸⁵ (March 5, 2009, *The Jakarta Post*)

Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi accepted an invitation from Italy to travel to Sardinia to attend the G8 summit in July. Berlusconi invited Gaddafi to the summit during a ceremony in the Libyan town of Sirte celebrating the ratification of a \$5 billion compensation deal. Gaddafi described himself as "pleased" to accept the invitation and

⁸⁰ *Xinhua News* (May 18, 2009), "China's top legislator arrives in Italy for visit."

⁸¹ *EFE News Service* (May 14, 2009), "Italy to invite Spain to G8 summit."

⁸² *Associated Press Newswires* (May 14, 2009), "Italy invites many nations to G8 site."

⁸³ *All Africa* (April 29, 2009), "G8 — Why Country Was Invited, By Italian Envoy."

⁸⁴ *Reuters News* (March 9, 2009), "Italy says to host G20 leaders at July G8 summit."

⁸⁵ *Jakarta Post* (March 5, 2009), "Italy and Indonesia push for lasting peace in the Middle East."

said the agreement between the two countries would mean Italian companies would be given priority in Libya. The Libyan leader is expected to discuss Africa's problems on the third day of the summit.⁸⁶ (March 2, 2009, *Associated Press Newswires*)

Gaddafi will attend the G8 summit, said Berlusconi in mid-February. Gaddafi, as chair of the African Union, will attend the part of the summit due to include African leaders. A group of African leaders, not yet named, will participate in the summit on the third day.⁸⁷ (February 19, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Program

Italy has asked participants to limit their delegations to 25 members, Italian foreign minister Frattini said. On the second and third days the meeting will expand to include emerging countries. "On the last day there will be up to 24 or 25 heads of state."⁸⁸ (June 16, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

A Major Economies Forum (MEF) is due on the margins of the G8 summit. There was a preparatory meeting in Washington in April. There was a second one in Paris at the end of May and a third is due to take place in Mexico in June.⁸⁹ (May 22, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Berlusconi said in early March that Italy would host leaders of the G20 at the end of the G8 summit in July and that the focus of talks would be on new rules for the financial system. "We will have the G20 as well on the third day of talks at La Maddalena [in Sardinia] ... On this occasion we will prepare a legal system, new rules to stop the phenomenon of excessive securitisation in the financial system, the use of derivatives that led to this crisis."⁹⁰ (March 9, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Process: The Physical Summit

Site

Italy gave assurances that its G8 summit facilities in L'Aquila could withstand almost any earthquake that might again strike the devastated city. The comments by Guido Bertolaso, head of the Italian agency planning the event, came after strong tremors shook the city of L'Aquila again. "There would have to be an earthquake much bigger than the one on April 6 and bigger than in living memory in L'Aquila," said Bertolaso. The recent tremor of a 4.5 magnitude shook buildings and sent scared locals running from the tent

⁸⁶ *Associated Press Newswires* (March 2, 2009), "Gadhafi to Attend G8 Summit in Italy"

⁸⁷ *Reuters News* (February 19, 2009), "Gaddafi to attend G8 in Italy-Berlusconi."

⁸⁸ *Agence France Presse* (June 18, 2009), "G8 to discuss terrorism, nuclear nonproliferation: Italian FM."

⁸⁹ *Reuters News* (May 22, 2009), "INTERVIEW — U.S. climate talks may skirt firm emission goals."

⁹⁰ *Reuters News* (March 9, 2009), "PM says Italy to host G20 leaders at July G8 summit."

villages that shelter thousands of people still homeless from the quake. Successive tremors reached magnitudes of 3.8 and 3.1.⁹¹ (June 23, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Italian Fiat Group is sponsoring the G8 Italian Summit with a fleet of vehicles, including 221 passenger cars, buses, off-road and commercial vehicles.⁹² (June 12, 2009, *Italian News Digest*)

The EU has earmarked €500 million in aid to assist the quake-hit city of L'Aquila. The decision comes as the region prepares for the G8. The endorsement came as European Commission president José Manuel Barroso said the EU could provide Italy with nearly half a billion euros (\$680 million) in aid for central parts of the country hit by the earthquake at the beginning of April.⁹³ (May 20, 2009, *Reuters News*)⁹⁴

U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton backed plans to hold the G8 in L'Aquila, saying the event could boost the regional economy. "I thought it was a very important decision to move the G8 summit meeting ... It serves to highlight the devastation caused by the earthquake, and it also provides an opportunity for the G8 to inject some very needed economic assistance into the region."⁹⁴ (May 19, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

Berlusconi said that L'Acquila will do its best to host the G8. "As you know our decision to change the place of the summit is linked to different motives. Today all countries, which take part in this meeting, agreed with the Italian government's decision [to hold the G8 summit in quake-hit Acquila instead of Magdalene Island ... I believe it right that the town, which became the capital of pain, will be the capital of the whole world these days."⁹⁵ (May 16, 2009, *ITAR-TASS World Service*)

Italy will reintroduce passport checks at all border posts in the lead-up to the G8 summit. Franco Frattini said they would suspend the Schengen agreement, which allows passport-free travel between European countries, for security reasons from June 25 on. The temporary suspension "has always been applied for international summits," he said.⁹⁶ (May 16, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

All sessions, meetings and news conferences of the July G8 summit will be held in a military compound of the Financial Guards' school on the outskirts of the earthquake-stricken Italian city of L'Aquila. The school is located in a mountainous area of 45 hectares, surrounded by a wall over 2 kilometres long. "Security conditions here are even better than those on La Maddalena," Berlusconi said in early May. "Reporters can also stay there on the spot rather than at a distance, as was the case in Scotland and Japan. I

⁹¹ *Reuters News* (June 23, 2009), "G8 facilities earthquake-proof, Italy assures."

⁹² *Italian News Digest* (June 12, 2009), "Fiat to sponsor G8 summit in Italy."

⁹³ *Reuters News* (May 20, 2009), "EU approves quake aid for Italy."

⁹⁴ *Agence France Presse* (May 19, 2009), "Clinton favors G8 summit in Italy's quake-hit city."

⁹⁵ *ITAR_TASS World Service* (May 16, 2009), "Berlusconi: quake-hit L'Aquila to host G8 summit in July."

⁹⁶ *Agence France Presse* (May 16, 2009), "Italy to restore passport checks for G8 summit."

remember it took an hour to reach the centre of Toyako where news conferences were held.”⁹⁷ (May 3, 2009, *ITAR-TASS World Service*)

Italy is planning to suspend the Schengen accord, which allows passport-free movement within Europe, “for a suitable period” as part of its measures to guarantee security during the G8 summit in July, interior minister Roberto Maroni said. At a G8 security meeting, Maroni said the dates would be approved in an upcoming Cabinet meeting and that the European Commission would be informed.⁹⁸ (April 29, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Italy is now planning to host the G8 leaders at a finance police compound in Coppito, a few kilometres south of L’Aquila in Abruzzo. The compound normally serves as a school for inspectors and superintendents. Berlusconi inspected the venue along with a small number of his aides, including the civil defence chief. The venue can only be reached by helicopter and the earthquake that occurred at the beginning of April caused cracks in the walls, which will need plastering. The rooms and barracks can hold approximately 5,000 beds. Berlusconi also wants there to be space for delegations and journalists.⁹⁹ (April 27, 2009, *La Stampa website*)

Building and infrastructure work being done in Sardinia ahead of the G8 summit that had been scheduled to take place on the island of La Maddalena “will remain,” Franco Frattini said. “In Sardinia the infrastructures are already in place and they will be used in many other ways for public or private initiatives. They will be able to host other international summits ... They are works useful to the Sardinians, which will obviously remain. They are not, and were not, just for the G8.” Frattini said the plan to move the summit was based on “the important issue of economic savings, which will be channelled into reconstruction” for the quake-hit central Italian region of Abruzzo. But it was also “to show to the world a model of efficiency and speed in reconstruction and demonstrate that that region, so badly hit, will already be on the road to recovery in July.” La Maddalena mayor Angelo Comiti criticized the decision to move the summit, saying the decision to award the island the honour had been to “reward” its contribution to national defence, after it hosted an American naval base for 35 years. “A premier can’t just wake up one morning and decide something like that, which isn’t like moving a birthday dinner for 20 school friends.”¹⁰⁰ (April 24, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

“What venue could be more appropriate?” Berlusconi asked after deciding to move the G8 summit from La Maddalena to the city devastated by the April 6 earthquake that killed 295 people. Moving the venue would send a “message of hope” to the entire region of Abruzzo, Berlusconi said. “I think it could work out very well.” Officials cautioned that the other G8 heads of government would need to be consulted. But Berlusconi appeared determined that America’s Barack Obama, Germany’s Angela Merkel, France’s Nicolas Sarkozy, Britain’s Gordon Brown and others should hold their three-day meeting

⁹⁷ *ITAR-TASS World Service* (May 3, 2009), “G8 summit to be held at military compound on L’Aquila outskirts.”

⁹⁸ *ANSA – English Media Service* (April 29, 2009), “G8: Italy to Suspend Free Movement Accord.”

⁹⁹ *La Stampa website* (April 27, 2009), “Italian PM inspects proposed new venue for July’s G8 summit.”

¹⁰⁰ *ANSA – English Media Service* (April 24, 2009), “Sardinia G8 Works to Remain, Frattini.”

at the new site. About 5,000 people including delegates, security officials and accredited media representatives are expected, and many more will be needed to feed and accommodate them. Berlusconi said the meeting could be held in an academy just outside L'Aquila for training non-commissioned officers in Italy's militarized revenue guard. Moving the summit would allow the Italian government to divert about €220 million. Doubts had already been expressed about the wisdom of La Maddalena as a venue. There were reports that the island had created a logistical nightmare for planners.¹⁰¹ (April 24, 2009, *The Guardian*)

On April 23, 2009, Berlusconi shifted the G8 summit site from La Maddalena, in Sardinia, to Abruzzo. The Italian government claims that the change was made to boost the areas struck by the earthquake on April 6.¹⁰² (April 23, 2009, *G8 Summit 2009*)

Italy is working to make sure July's G8 summit will be secure. Italy was already "monitoring major flows" of potential troublemakers and would suspend the Schengen free-movement accords for the duration of the summit. There will also be special border controls to weed out those seeking to disrupt the summit.¹⁰³ (April 3, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Italy is urgently seeking cruise ships to put up world leaders and delegates for the G8 summit. Italy will host approximately 25,000 people for the event. The civil protection authority is in charge of the summit's organization and has posted a tender for ships on its website. Offers were to be submitted by April 7. The MSC *Fantasia*, a 333-metre-long cruise liner that can carry about 4,000 passengers, will host most of the heads of state, government leaders and their delegations. It is unclear whether it will be able to dock on the La Maddalena island. If it cannot, passengers would have to be ferried back and forth. About 16,000 security force personnel will be deployed for the summit. There are 4,500 journalists expected. They will be based in a press centre on mainland Sardinia, 50 kilometres (30 miles) away from the summit premises.¹⁰⁴ (April 1, 2009, *Reuters News*)

A cruise ship will be used to ensure there is sufficient lodging at the G8 summit. "Work is going on day and night, seven days a week. But if the space we have planned is not enough, we will resolve the problem with a boat," said Silvio Berlusconi. Italy's efforts to get the military base, which the U.S. abandoned last January, ready for the G8 summit has run into a snag with the EU for allegedly breaching EU environmental laws. The European Commission sent Italy a second warning of possible legal action over a "simplified legal regime" adopted by Rome for the works that means building can commence prior to the completion of environmental impact assessments, contrary to EU law.¹⁰⁵ (March 20, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

¹⁰¹ *The Guardian* (April 24, 2009), "Berlusconi wants G8 to be in quake city: Focus on L'Aquila boosts Italian leader's popularity Venue change will bring 'message of hope', he says."

¹⁰² *G8 Summit 2009* (April 23, 2009), "Cabinet Gives Go Ahead to G8 Summit in Abruzzo." Accessed 23 April 2009. Available from: <www.g8italia2009.it/G8/Home/News/G8-G8_Layout_locale-1199882116809_1199893875834.htm>

¹⁰³ *ANSA – English Media Service* (April 3, 2009), "G8 'Will Be Secure,' Frattini."

¹⁰⁴ *Reuters News* (April 1, 2009), "Italy seeks cruise ships for G8 summit guests."

¹⁰⁵ *ANSA – English Media Service* (March 20, 2009), "G8: Cruise Ship to Ensure Sufficient Lodging for Summit."

Berlusconi's plan to adorn the G8 summit with ancient bronze warriors currently held in a museum hundreds of kilometres away from the summit site is worrying art officials and angering citizens. Officials in Reggio Calabria said that Berlusconi wants to move the fifth century BC Riace Bronzes from the National Museum of Greater Greece so that world can marvel at them during the summit in July. Since Berlusconi's plan was floated, polls have shown most Italians oppose it. Giuseppe Scopelliti, mayor of Reggio Calabria, was considering the proposal but will ultimately follow popular sentiment.¹⁰⁶ (February 16, 2009, *Associated Press Newswires*)

Preparations

Bilateral Meetings

German Chancellor Merkel met with U.S. President Obama to discuss the international economic crisis and climate protection. Merkel said the two would also cover Iran, North Korea and Afghanistan and preparations for the G8. Merkel said there were also differences on new international rules for financial markets and against protectionism ahead of the G8 and G20 in September. "We will have to surmount some difficulties to work toward fiscally sustainable development in the economy," Merkel said. "We have to draw the right lessons from the economic crisis ... Obama is of the same opinion."¹⁰⁷ (June 25, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

Russian president Medvedev and UK prime minister Brown are expected to meet on the sidelines of the G8. "They plan to meet again at the summit in Italy in July and there is no doubt that the current economic situation and bilateral relations will be the main issue of discussions," Russia's ambassador to the UK said.¹⁰⁸ (June 25, 2009, *RIA Novosti*)

Australian prime minister Rudd is scheduled to meet with Italian prime minister Berlusconi in Rome for a bilateral meeting after the G8 summit.¹⁰⁹ (June 23, 2009, *Australian Associated Press General News*)

Merkel will meet Obama in Washington on June 25-26 for talks on Iran's presidential election, Middle East peace and the G8 summit.¹¹⁰ (June 15, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Berlusconi and Obama met in mid-June, ahead of the G8 summit. They both discussed their priorities and hopes for the summit. Obama is also scheduled to meet with Dmitry Medvedev before the summit.¹¹¹ (June 15, 2009, *Reuters News*)

¹⁰⁶ *Associated Press Newswires* (February 16, 2009), "Italian PM's plan to adorn G8 meeting in Sardinia with 2500-year-old bronzes is criticized."

¹⁰⁷ *Agence France Presse* (June 25, 2009), "Urgency on economy, climate at Obama talks: Merkel."

¹⁰⁸ *RIA Novosti* (June 25, 2009), "Medvedev, Brown to discuss cooperation at G8 summit in Italy."

¹⁰⁹ *Australian Associated Press General News* (June 23, 2009), "Fed: Rudd to meet with Berlusconi in Rome."

¹¹⁰ *Reuters News* (June 15, 2009), "Merkel for talks with Obama on Iran, Middle East."

¹¹¹ *Reuters News* (June 15, 2009), "Berlusconi eyes concrete results for G8 summit."

Berlusconi said that he will meet with Obama next month for talks ahead of the G8 summit. He added that he was speaking “almost daily” with other G8 leaders about this year’s summit. Berlusconi stressed that representatives of many non-G8 countries will join the talks from the second day and that there would be around “90% of the world economy” around the table.¹¹² (May 25, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Obama is expected to meet with Pope Benedict XVI when he is in Italy for the G8.¹¹³ (May 18, 2009, *Associated Press Newswires*)

Barack Obama is to make a weeklong foreign tour in July. He will visit Russia at the beginning of July. He will then attend the G8 summit in Italy. Following the summit he will travel to Ghana.¹¹⁴ (May 17, 2009, *Angolan Press*)

Dmitry Medvedev and Silvio Berlusconi have met in Russia to talk about the upcoming G8, energy co-operation and economic ties between Russia and Italy. The two leaders discussed ways to overcome the global financial crisis in the context of the outcome of the London G20 summit in April.¹¹⁵ (May 16, 2009, *Russia Today*)

Japan and Russia will discuss “every possible option” to solve a decades-old territorial dispute when their leaders hold talks in July in Italy, including the idea of a partial return to Japan of the four Russian-controlled islands off Hokkaido, Vladimir Putin said in mid-May. “At the [July] talks, [the two countries] will discuss every possible option for the purpose” of concluding a post-World War II peace treaty, Putin said at a joint news conference with Japanese prime minister Taro Aso after a meeting in Tokyo. Every possible option includes the idea of the return of “3.5” of the four islands claimed by Japan rather than the reversion of all of them, which a Japanese daily reported last month as one referred to by former vice foreign minister Shotaro Yachi, according to Putin. “We agreed to explore a mutually acceptable solution” to the dispute involving Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan and the Habomai islet group — known in Japan as the Northern Territories and in Russia as the Southern Kurils, Aso said. Aso is scheduled to hold talks with Dmitry Medvedev on the sidelines of the G8 summit in July in Italy. He said he was encouraged that Putin has a “strong will” to reach a final settlement on the territorial row.¹¹⁶ (May 12, 2009, *Kyodo News*)

Obama is scheduled to travel to Russia, where talks are expected to focus on nuclear weapons reductions and broader improvements for the U.S.-Russian relationship. He had his first face-to-face meeting with Medvedev at the London G20 summit in April. Talks there focused on plans for negotiations on a treaty to further reduce nuclear weapons. After that meeting, Medvedev and other Russian officials had warm words for the new

¹¹² *ANSA – English Media Service* (May 25, 2009), “G8: Berlusconi to meet Obama Ahead of Summit.”

¹¹³ *Associated Press Newswires* (May 18, 2009), “Vatican: Obama seeks ‘common ground’ on abortion.”

¹¹⁴ *Angolan Press* (May 17, 2009), “Obama to visit Russia and Ghana.”

¹¹⁵ *Russia Today* (May 16, 2009), “Moscow and Rome eye G8 expansion.”

¹¹⁶ *Kyodo News* (May 12, 2009), “Japan, Russia to study ‘every option’ to solve territory row at July talks.”

U.S. administration's recognition that Moscow was an important player in world affairs.¹¹⁷ (May 11, 2009, *Associated Press Newswires*)

Sarkozy and Merkel are scheduled to meet in mid-May. The 2009 G8 summit will be a part of their discussions.¹¹⁸ (May 10, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

Berlusconi is scheduled to meet with Medvedev in Moscow on May 16, 2009.¹¹⁹ (May 8, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

Aso and Medvedev will meet on the sidelines of the G8.¹²⁰ (April 2, 2009, *Kyodo News*)

Obama and Gaddafi could meet in July at the G8 summit in Sardinia where, according to diplomats from the host country Italy, Gaddafi will represent the African Union. If Obama and Gaddafi's presence were confirmed at the part of the summit that is due to include African leaders, it would be the first meeting between Gaddafi and a U. S. president. But it was unclear how keen the U.S. and other G8 members are on Gaddafi's presence. Some G8 diplomats said they were unaware a final list of participants had been discussed.¹²¹ (February 11, 2009, *National Post*)

Japan and Italy agreed in foreign ministerial phone talks that they need to co-operate in calling for a truce in Gaza and co-ordinate humanitarian assistance efforts among the G8. They also agreed to continue close co-operation on other issues such as the world economy and climate change. Both ministers expressed support for efforts in the UN Security Council to broker a solution and reaffirmed their pledges to provide humanitarian assistance to Palestinians.¹²² (January 7, 2009, *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific*)

Other Meetings

During its current term at the helm of the G8, Italy intends to propose a summit of regional organizations to discuss new rules for a system of global governance, Franco Frattini said in early February. A summit of this kind, he explained, would be in line with "the spirit of inclusion and co-responsibility" with which Italy intends to guide the G8 in 2009, also in collaboration with the UN. The AU and the Arab League were among the regional organizations that Frattini said could play a key role in a future summit.¹²³ (February 4, 2009, *ANSA English Media Service*)

¹¹⁷ *Associated Press Newswires* (May 11, 2009), "Kremlin: Obama to visit Russia July 6-8."

¹¹⁸ *Agence France Presse* (May 10, 2009), "Sarkozy touts ties with Merkel before EU vote."

¹¹⁹ *Agence France Presse* (May 8, 2009), "Berlusconi to visit Russian President on 16 May: Kremlin."

¹²⁰ *Kyodo News* (April 2, 2009), "Japanese, Russian premiers to meet on G8 sidelines in July."

¹²¹ *National Post* (February 11, 2009), "Obama, Gaddafi might meet at G8."

¹²² *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific* (January 7, 2009), "Japan, Italy agree to coordinate G8 Gaza efforts."

¹²³ *ANSA — English Media Service* (February 4, 2009), "G8: Italy to Propose Summit of Regional Organizations."

Sherpa Process Meetings

The G8 political directors met in Venice on February 2-3 to discuss preparations for a meeting of the group's foreign ministers in Trieste on June 25-27 and a political agenda for the G8 summit, the Russian foreign ministry said in early February. "The parties confirmed the need to strengthen the nonproliferation regimes in light of an upcoming NPT [Non-proliferation Treaty] review conference. They also agreed that it is advisable to adopt an individual statement on the fight against terrorism at the summit that would outline measures to counter the radicalization, recruitment and financing of terrorism," the ministry said. The G8 political directors also underscored the importance of further efforts aimed at building a new world order, including measures to enhance peacekeeping potential in developing countries, primarily African countries. The primary regional issues are the Middle East settlement process and the situation in Afghanistan, including the need for effective measures to stabilize the Afghan-Pakistani border area. They also supported Italy's initiative to hold a session on Afghanistan involving leading regional players on the sidelines of the G8 foreign ministers' meeting in June. The Venice meeting also addressed certain conflicts in Africa and a number of key issues on the European agenda.¹²⁴ (February 4, 2009, *Interfax: Russia & CIS Military Newswire*)

Ministerial Meetings

Overall

- G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, Rome, February 13-14
- G8 Labour Ministers (G8 Social Summit), Rome, March 29-31
- G8 Agriculture Ministers, Cison di Valmarino, April 18-20
- G8 Environment Ministers, Siracusa, April 22-24
- G8 Energy Ministers, Rome, May 24-25
- G8 Justice and Home Affairs Ministers, Lampedusa, May 29-30
- G8 Development Ministers, Rome, June 11-12 (was Pescara, May 21-23)
- G8 Finance Ministers, Lecce, June 12-13
- G8 Foreign Ministers, Trieste, June 25-27¹²⁵ (June 26, 2009, *2009 G8 Summit*)

Special meetings dedicated to agriculture and development will be held for the first time ever on the sidelines on the G8 summit this year, said Frattini said. He said he would preside over the two meetings. Other sideline meetings on welfare, the environment and the economy are scheduled to take place in March.¹²⁶ (January 9, 2009, *Thai News Service*)

¹²⁴ *Interfax: Russia & CIS Military Newswire* (February 4, 2009), "G8 summit in Italy to adopt statement on fight against terror — Russian ministry."

¹²⁵ *2009 G8 Summit*, "Ministerial Meetings." Accessed 14 January 2009. Available from: <www.g8italia2009.it/G8/Home/VersoIlVerticeG8/G8-G8_Layout_locale-1199882116809_IncontriMinisteriali.htm>

¹²⁶ *Thai News Service* (January 9, 2008), "Italy: Italy prepares for G8 aid and agriculture meetings."

G7 Finance Ministers

June 12-13, 2009

At their meeting in in Lecce the G8 finance ministers said it is prudent to consider what exit strategies to deploy once global growth is secured and asked the IMF to examine how to do so without reigniting the two-year crisis. At the same time, they said it's premature to rein back more than \$2 trillion in stimulus packages. "Growth should remain the principal focus of policy," U.S. treasury secretary Geithner said after the meeting. "It is too early to shift toward policy restraint." Policy makers walk a fine line in the knowledge that withdrawing stimulus measures too soon could choke the recovery before it starts, and allowing them to last too long might push up borrowing costs. They are also trying to reassure markets after the yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note rose to its highest since October. "Markets aren't looking for specific exit strategies now, but want governments to start thinking about them," said one chief economist. "They worry that inflation is going to build up if nothing is done to withdraw the stimulus." The G8's statement made no reference to currencies or interest rates given the absence of central bankers from the meeting. "It's too early to speak of an alternative" to the dollar, Russia's Kudrin said in Lecce. IMF managing director Strauss-Kahn said he didn't see a "weak dollar." German finance minister Steinbrueck also said he wasn't concerned by the euro's 10% climb against the dollar in the past four months. The G8 ministers delivered their most upbeat outlook since the collapse of Lehman Brothers in September. There are "signs of stabilization," though "the situation remains uncertain" as climbing unemployment and volatile commodity prices present obstacles, the ministers said in their statement. Geithner and U.K. chancellor of the exchequer Darling were among the most vocal in warning officials not to move too soon. Steinbrueck sought a "credible exit strategy" to avoid inflation. "We're not there yet," Darling said. "No one is talking about exiting yet." The officials argued over whether Europe is endangering the rebound by refusing to follow the U.S. and subject its banks to individual and public stress tests.¹²⁷ (June 16, 2009, *The St. Petersburg Times*)

Britain is planning to invest approximately \$500 million in an international scheme to encourage pharmaceutical firms to develop vaccines against some of the common diseases which plague poorer nations. The Advance Market Commitment, a pilot project launched on the sidelines of the G8 finance ministers, guarantees to buy vaccines at fixed prices once they have been developed, giving drug companies an incentive to produce them. "The UK is pleased to support this initiative ... which should ensure a sustainable and affordable supply of vaccines well into the future," said British finance minister Darling. Britain, Italy, Canada, Russia, Norway and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are investing a total of \$1.5 billion in the project, which is being run by the World Bank, UNICEF, the World Health Organization and the international vaccine agency GAVI alliance. Pharmaceutical firms who sign up will be tasked with developing vaccines to fight pneumococcal diseases, which claim up to 1.6 million lives each year. Firms that participate will also make legally binding commitments to supply the vaccines

¹²⁷ *The St. Petersburg Times* (June 16, 2009), "G8 Makes Plans for Unraveling Anti-Crisis Measures."

at lower and sustainable prices after the donor funds are spent. The AMC scheme aims to prevent more than 7 million deaths by 2030.¹²⁸ (June 15, 2009, *Reuters Health E-Line*)

Russian finance minister Kudrin and Italian finance minister Tremonti signed a protocol to avoid double taxation of income and property during the G8 finance ministers meeting. The protocol replaces a similar document that was in force since 1996. It provides for an obligatory exchange of information between the tax services of both countries.¹²⁹ (June 15, 2009, *Prime-TASS News*)

French finance minister Lagarde said G8 ministers want measures to curb volatility in oil markets, which put at risk growing signs that their economies are heading toward recovery. OPEC secretary-general Abdullah al-Badri said that a too-quick rise in oil prices could harm a global economic recovery, though he said a price of \$80 a barrel would not stem growth. “Of course we do not want to see oil prices rising too rapidly and certainly not to harm growth in the global economy,” al-Badri said. “We need a stable oil price.”¹³⁰ (June 15, 2009, *Reuters News*)

After the G8 finance ministers met, there were a variety of responses. U.S.’s Timothy Geithner said “I don’t think we’re at the point yet where we have a recovery in place. I think what you can say is, that the force of policy actions that have been put in place and in the pipeline have brought about a very important reduction in concern about the prospects of a deep recession globally ... They’ve helped reduced concerns about deflation risk that we saw start to intensify in the second half of last year, and they’ve helped to reduce concerns about systemic risk in the financial system.” The UK’s Darling said “A lot will depend on other countries making progress: on cleaning up their bank balance sheets; volatility in commodity prices, oil for example. So I think there are reasons to be cautious ... We are concerned that the oil price has gone up so dramatically, which is why we need to repeat our efforts of last year, where we closely engaged with the Gulf countries and other oil producers.” The IMF’s Strauss-Kahn said “We see a dollar which today is stronger than one year ago ... so I don’t see today a weak dollar and I don’t forecast that we would have to expect many changes in the coming time.” Italy’s Tremonti said “In Europe we haven’t started to talk together about stress tests either national or European, secret or public....Speculation is coming back, a certain type of finance is raising its head again and doing the same not very nice things it was doing until last summer. Concern about this came not just from Italy but from everybody, there is a return of speculation on derivative and commodity markets.” Germany’s Steinbruek said “I have always said that the German economy is reacting amazingly inelastically to a strong euro.” Canada’s Flaherty said “I don’t expect an agreement ... These are early discussions.” And Russia’s Kudrin said “We are not going to significantly change the structure of our investments. Ten billion is not a significant change (in currency reserve holdings). A serious change is when we used to invest \$100 billion in Freddie Mac and

¹²⁸ *Reuters Health E-Line* (June 15, 2009), “Britain pledges \$485 mln to global vaccine project.”

¹²⁹ *Prime-TASS News* (June 15, 2009), “Russia, Italy sign protocol to avoid double taxation.”

¹³⁰ *Reuters News* (June 15, 2009), “Oil falls near 2 percent on firmer dollar.”

Fannie Mae, but no longer do ... In the nearest future, I do not see major changes in our policy in relation to the dollar.”¹³¹ (June 14, 2009, *Reuters News*)

French finance minister Lagarde said finance ministers from the G8 compared methodologies used to stress test their domestic banks, but that there was no agreement on the best recipe to do that. “We talked about that...and it allowed us to explain to each other what we’re doing ... Each one of us is following its own schedule. We’re not looking at the example of this or that country.”¹³² (June 13, 2009, *Dow Jones International News*)

The world could face future spiked in energy prices because the recession has halted investment in many energy projects. This will be an issue at the upcoming G8 finance ministers meeting.¹³³ (May 21, 2009, *BBC News*)

U.S. treasury secretary Timothy Geithner will travel to Italy in June to attend a G8 finance ministers meeting. The meeting is scheduled to be held in Lecce. Finance officials will focus on working together to battle the worst financial crisis since the 1930s.¹³⁴ (May 21, 2009, *Associated Press Newswire*)

Angola has apparently been invited to attend the G8 finance ministers meeting in June as it is the only African country that registered two digits of growth in its GDP in the last three years.¹³⁵ (May 20, 2009, *Angola Press*)

The G8 finance ministers will gather in the castle of Charles V in Lecce on June 12-13.¹³⁶ (April 2, 2009, *ANSA – English Corporate News Service*)

April 24, 2009

The G7 finance ministers promised billions of new lending for emerging markets when they met on April 24 in Washington. The risks facing emerging economies in Africa, Asia, South America and Eastern Europe have become so severe that they were impossible to ignore at meetings of the IMF and World Bank. The economies of emerging and developing countries will expand a mere 1.6% in 2009, compared to 6.1% in 2008. The World Bank says that 50 million people have already been thrust into extreme poverty as a result of the crisis. “The financial and economic turmoil that began in advanced economies is now truly a global crisis that is spilling over into developing countries, and with serious repercussions,” said Canadian finance minister Jim Flaherty. France and Germany teamed up to contribute almost \$2 billion to a World Bank program

¹³¹ *Reuters News* (June 14, 2009), “Comments from Italy G8 finmins meeting.”

¹³² *Dow Jones International News* (June 13, 2009), “No Country Leading the Way on Stress Tests.”

¹³³ *BBC News* (May 21, 2009), “US CO2 goals ‘to be compromised.’”

¹³⁴ *Associated Press Newswire* (May 21, 2009), “Geithner to attend G8 meeting next month in Italy.”

¹³⁵ *Angola Press* (May 20, 2009), “Angola Italian ambassador ends mission on a positive note.”

¹³⁶ *ANSA – English Corporate News Service* (April 2, 2009), “G8: Perrone [Mayor], Economic Ministers to Lecce in June.”

to finance infrastructure projects in poorer countries at risk of stalling because of the crisis.¹³⁷ (April 27, 2009, *The Globe and Mail*)

The G7 finance ministers have predicted a “weak” economic recovery will start to take hold in the coming months. “Economic activity should begin to recover later this year amid a continued weak outlook, and downside risks persist,” the G7 finance ministers and central bankers said in a statement after their Washington meeting. “We are right to be somewhat encouraged, but we would be wrong to conclude that we are close to emerging from the darkness,” said Geithner. Policy makers have identified the impaired balance sheets of banks as the biggest barrier to recovery.¹³⁸ (April 26, 2009, *Sunday Business Post*)

The G7 finance ministers’ communiqué from April 24 highlighted the issues of regulation, new resources for the IMF, new and more positive economic forecasts, the importance of addressing toxic assets, refraining from protectionist measures, volatility in foreign exchange rates and a commitment to action.¹³⁹ (April 24, 2009, *Reuters News*)

The G7 finance communiqué will not change its language on currencies. “There is no reason for the paragraph on currencies to change. For the moment, there has been a realignment. There is volatility but no currency that has broken away completely,” a G7 official said. The G7 welcomed China’s commitment to move to a more flexible exchange rate. They also said excess volatility in exchange rates had adverse implications for economic and financial stability, and the group would continue to monitor exchange markets closely.¹⁴⁰ (April 24, 2009, *Reuters News*)

German finance minister Peer Steinbrueck did not attend the G7 and G20 meetings in Washington on April 24. Steinbrueck, who is instead attending a conference of delegates from his centre-left Social Democrats in his home state of North Rhine-Westphalia, would be represented by deputy finance minister Joerg Asmussen, the ministry said.¹⁴¹ (April 21, 2009, *Reuters News*)

The G7 and G20 finance ministers will meet in Washington on April 24. Geithner will host both meetings, which will precede the annual IMF and World Bank meetings. A key topic will be the resources allocated to the IMF during the G20 April 2 meeting in Britain and how to use them effectively.¹⁴² (April 13, 2009, *Reuters News*)

February 13-14, 2009

G8 finance ministers are looking at new ways to finance aid for poorer countries, including tax changes, Italian finance minister Giulio Tremonti said. “The hypothesis is

¹³⁷ *Globe and Mail* (April 27, 2009), “G7 vows help for poorer nations: Billions of dollars offered to bolster IMF and World Bank as financial crisis hammers emerging economies.”

¹³⁸ *Sunday Business Post* (April 26, 2009), “G7 chiefs see tentative signs of recovery.”

¹³⁹ *Reuters News* (April 24, 2009), “TEXT-Highlights of G7 draft communique.”

¹⁴⁰ *Reuters News* (April 24, 2009), “No reason to change G7 currency language-official.”

¹⁴¹ *Reuters News* (April 21, 2009), “German FinMin Steinbrueck to skip Washington G7 meet.”

¹⁴² *Reuters News* (April 13, 2009), “US’s Geithner to host G7, G20 meetings April 24.”

to exclude a tiny part of taxes ... which for us in Europe would be VAT [value added tax],” to help poorer countries. Finding a way to bring medical cures to poor countries has near universal support, but rich governments had been reluctant to foot the bill to provide vaccines available to poor nations.¹⁴³ (February 26, 2009, *Dow Jones International News*)

The IMF and the G7 are worried about growing financing gaps in emerging markets that may send more countries to seek cash from the IMF. “There will be a lot of maturing short term debt in 2009 and it’s not clear there will be rollovers,” said Dominique Strauss-Kahn. “Fewer resources from current account surpluses, increasing need to renew short-term credit; the financing gap for emerging market countries is going to become very large in 2009.” Hungary, Iceland and Pakistan have fallen victim to the crisis in recent months, forcing them to tap into IMF funds. Strauss-Kahn is trying to double its resources to \$500 billion for short-term needs. “If there are difficulties,” he said, “it will have an impact in developed countries and it also raises the question in a more concrete way of the Fund.”¹⁴⁴ (February 15, 2009, *Reuters News*)

The G7 renewed its pledge to fight the global recession as members expect the ongoing slump to persist through 2009. They warned against a possible rise in protectionism in global trade and underlined their readiness to make further fiscal spending and tax cuts to boost domestic demand and create jobs in their respective countries. At their February meeting G7 finance ministers issued a statement that said “the stabilization of the global economy and financial markets remains our highest priority ... We reaffirm our commitment to act together using the full range of policy tools to support growth and employment and strengthen the financial sector.” The G7 kept a united front ahead of the G20 summit. In line with their stance against protectionism, the G7 countries also maintained their commitment to concluding the Doha round at an “early time.” They said their fiscal policies will be “frontloaded and quickly executed” and consistent with medium-term fiscal sustainability and will mostly rely on temporary measures. Mario Draghi, Italy’s central bank governor, said, “Now all action has to be taken in a timely matter, and we need an appropriate mix ... which will include [public] spending and fiscal and tax measures.” On currency markets, the ministers said “excess volatility and disorderly movements in exchange rates have adverse implications for economic and financial stability.”¹⁴⁵ (February 15, 2009, *Kyodo News*)

The G7 reiterated their readiness to fight “excess volatility” in currency markets. However, the phrase opted not to single out any specific currency.¹⁴⁶ (February 15, 2009, *Kyodo News*)

G7 finance ministers have urged bold reformed to the world financial system while leaving little doubt that the global economic turmoil is far from over. Tremonti called for

¹⁴³ *Dow Jones International News* (February 26, 2009), “Italy Min: G8 Mulls New Ways To Aid Poorer Countries.”

¹⁴⁴ *Reuters News* (February 15, 2009), “G7, IMF fret about emerging market finance gaps.”

¹⁴⁵ *Kyodo News* (February 15, 2009), “G-7 vows united efforts to combat global recession, avoid protectionism.”

¹⁴⁶ *Kyodo News* (February 15, 2009), “G-7 platitude on currency may worsen headache for Japan firms.”

a “new world economic order” as he wrapped up the meeting. In a joint declaration, the G7 called for “urgent reforms” of the international financial system and reiterated a bleak outlook for the world economy, after fresh data showed the eurozone recession deepening. The G7 ministers vowed to avoid protectionism and said stabilization of the world economy was their “highest priority.” “We need to begin the process of comprehensive reform of our financial system and the international financial system, so the world never again faces a crisis this severe,” Geithner said, adding that it was key to make the banks “strong enough that they can be supportive of recovery.” To do so “will require ways to bring in private capital, provide public capital when that’s necessary and it’s going to require direct action to try to get credit markets working again.” Strauss-Kahn said restructuring banks damaged by the credit crunch was the main problem facing governments. The G7 reiterated the view of several top delegates that protectionism was a threat to stability.¹⁴⁷ (February 14, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

G7 finance ministers are expected to renew commitments to better regulate and supervise banks and financial markets when they meet in Rome, but renewed promises may be as far as it goes. Information gleaned from officials in recent days indicates that stopping the rot of recession is the top, and perhaps sole, priority right now, even if reformers keep working away at rule changes to make markets less crisis-prone in future. Some officials, however, say negotiators are getting close to agreeing on expanded membership of the FSF. South Korea hopes it will be among those allowed to join the expanded FSF, and is awaiting news as early as the end of this week at the G7, said Choongsoo Kim, Korea’s ambassador to the OECD. Others are less sure the names will come so fast, and big as that news may be for any new entrants, other outstanding issues are whether and to what extent the FSF, for now a moving circus of regulators and supervisors with a small secretariat, is turned into a more global rule-making institution. That, officials say, is still a work in progress, even if the state of play in those negotiations is broached by FSF head and Italy central bank governor Mario Draghi in talks with ministers and central bankers in Rome. What to do, concretely, about supervising crossborder banks better controlling derivatives trading, or being more vigilant about tax havens and the role of credit rating agencies is all still under debate. Some officials suggest it will be hard to conclude even when the G20 meet on April 2 for a summit Gordon Brown is billing as the time to deliver on reform pledges G20 leaders made in November at a first summit on the financial crisis. So far the G7 and G20 are working on setting up “colleges of supervisors” to enhance supervision of banks with operations in numerous countries, with a self-set end-of-March deadline to do so. Some officials familiar with negotiations on that issue say the devil is in the detail and that proper supervision requires a more even balance of power within such collegiate groups — between supervisors from a bank’s home country and supervisors in the many host countries where the bank operates.¹⁴⁸ (February 11, 2009, *Reuters News*)

G7 finance ministers agreed during a conference call that they must “act promptly” to repair the battered global economy and markets, setting the tone for their meeting, according to a Japanese finance ministry official. Germany, France and host Italy have

¹⁴⁷ *Agence France Presse* (February 14, 2009), “G7 urges bold action, but future uncertain.”

¹⁴⁸ *Reuters News* (February 11, 2009), “Financial reform to get backseat ride at Rome G7.”

been pushing for a comprehensive overhaul of the world financial regulatory system. That might enhance the powers of international bodies such as the IMF and the FSF to enforce tighter regulation and supervision. This meeting is seen as a warm-up for the G20 summit in London in April. That will include China, as well as other big developing economies. Measuring the Obama administration's support for international financial initiatives won't be easy. Geithner is familiar to the G7 through his previous role as the head of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and his work in the treasury under the Clinton administration. But finance ministers are uncertain about how much power he wields. The Japanese official said the G7 officials are expected to discuss Obama's economic policy and worrying signs of protectionism seen across the globe.¹⁴⁹ (February 11, 2009, *The Wall Street Journal Asia*)

The G7 finance ministers and central bank governors will agree on the need for them to respond "rapidly" to fight the ongoing global financial turmoil when they meet in Italy later this week, a senior Japanese finance ministry official said. The official also said it would be better if the G7 can make it clear that they oppose protectionism in global trade. The Japanese official added that some of the member countries may focus on recent developments in the currency market as part of their discussions on the macro economy.¹⁵⁰ (February 11, 2009, *Thai News Service*)

No matter the record-breaking levels in foreign exchange markets recently, currencies won't be at the top of the agenda at the G7 meeting on Friday. Banking sector weaknesses are the prime concern, along with developing strategies to produce economic growth, and will take up the majority of the agenda. "Other issues beyond foreign exchange would have more impact on growth and investor confidence, so are higher priority," said John Normand, head of global foreign exchange strategy at JP Morgan in London. "Given their limited time and resources, policymakers will discuss stimulus and banking sector rehabilitation more than exchange rates."¹⁵¹ (February 9, 2009, *Dow Jones Capital Markets Report*)

Finance minister and central bank governors representing the G7 are expected to agree on the need to swiftly implement fiscal stimulus plans and further ease credit conditions when they meet in Rome. The leaders will likely argue that such policies are needed to resolve the negative feedback loop between financial instability and deteriorating economic conditions. Tax cuts and public works spending would be expected to boost demand and facilitate a recovery. The attendees are also likely to voice concern over rising protectionist sentiment and the possibility of trade wars. The participants will likely renew their commitments to recapitalizing banks, improving financial market oversight and providing massive amounts of funds through central banks, policies that were agreed upon at the emergency G7 summit held in November. They will also discuss

¹⁴⁹ *The Wall Street Journal Asia* (February 11, 2009), "G-7 meeting to offer look at Obama's policy views — Finance ministers to measure support for global initiatives."

¹⁵⁰ *Thai News Service* (February 11, 2009), "Japan: G7 to agree on rapid response to crisis, says Japanese official."

¹⁵¹ *Dow Jones Capital Markets Report* (February 9, 2009), "G7 To Stress Other Issues Than Currencies."

the need for additional steps, such as helping financial institutions remove bad assets from their books.¹⁵² (February 8, 2009, *Nikkei Report*)

This month's meeting of G7 finance ministers in Rome will start with a dinner to discuss "market integrity and transparency," while the next day's events will be kicked off by new treasury secretary Timothy Geithner, an agenda for the event shows. The G7 will be joined by Russia at the meeting on February 13-14, but they have not invited representatives of the main emerging economies such as China, India or Brazil. The meeting will also be attended by the central bank governors of the eight nations and by the heads of bodies such as the IMF and the OECD. The agenda, issued to the participants says the dinner on February 13 will discuss how to set up what Giulio Tremonti calls a "legal standard," meaning as convergent a network as possible for legal systems governing financial affairs. The document, prepared by the Italian treasury, also shows the main day's events on February 14, will start with addresses by Geithner and federal reserve chair Ben Bernanke on the world economic outlook. Other lead speakers on the same subject will be Japanese finance minister Shoichi Nakagawa, ECB president Jean-Claude Trichet and German finance minister Peer Steinbrueck. The next topic on the agenda is financial markets, including an update of G20 work. Here the lead speakers are slated as British finance minister Alistair Darling, IMF managing director Dominique Strauss-Kahn and Mario Draghi, FSF head. French economy and finance minister Christine Lagarde will then lead a half-hour discussion on reform of international financial institutions, before two hours are devoted to a broad debate of global issues involving all participants. Issues will include climate change, food security and development issues. There will then be a working lunch during which the G7 final communiqué will be drafted, followed by closing press conferences. A G7 source said the Rome gathering was likely to produce little if anything in terms of concrete decisions. "It will mainly be an occasion to discuss progress made in addressing the global economic and financial crisis ahead of the G20," the source said.¹⁵³ (February 5, 2009, *Reuters News*)

The idea of an international agency to validate different countries' banking systems is likely to be attractive to the Obama administration as well as to other G7 countries, said Canada's Jim Flaherty. He made the comments a day after speaking with Timothy Geithner about the upcoming meeting of G7 finance ministers in Rome, February 13-14. He said Canada's position at the meeting will be that each country must get its own financial system in order but, in addition, an international surveillance body should be assigned this year in order to restore confidence in banks. That body should be the IMF, Flaherty said.¹⁵⁴ (February 4, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Financial leaders from the G7 are likely to reassure markets next week that they stand ready to act to prevent more trouble for the economy, but are unlikely to launch any new major initiatives, a G7 source said. The source said the meeting would aim more at getting everybody on a level playing field in terms of information and getting a feel for

¹⁵² *Nikkei Report* (February 8, 2009), "G-7 Seen Advocating Fiscal, Monetary Boosts at Rome Meeting."

¹⁵³ *Reuters News* (February 5, 2009), "Italy carves out Rome G7 financial crisis agenda."

¹⁵⁴ *Reuters News* (February 4, 2009), "Canada says U.S. warms to int'l banking body."

what the new Obama administration is about. “So I don’t have very high hopes about the messages that will be sent out, except that I am pretty sure that the G7 will try to send some reassuring messages about the general economic situation,” the source said. “The messages will be along the lines that we are aware that there is a fire and that we are aware that fires could start in other places and if that happens we stand ready to act,” the source said. “I am sure that is the determination of the G7 and that they will be wanting to convey this message to the outside world, but I don’t think that we should look to the G7 this time for any big new initiatives. I think this is more a get-to-know each other meeting,” the source said.” I think everybody will be pushing very hard on messages regarding protectionism, free trade, etc, because there are conflicting messages coming out from various parts of the world.” The source said the G7 were likely to again call on China to let its currency appreciate more. “Maybe the easiest bit to agree on in the G7 is the rhetoric on the Chinese, because they are not at the table,” the source said.¹⁵⁵ (February 4, 2009, *Reuters News*)

The euro zone wants the new U.S. administration to cooperate more on foreign exchange policy in the G7, sending a signal of unity that could help to reduce exchange rate volatility which is badly hurting firms, Eurogroup sources said. G7 finance ministers and central bankers will discuss foreign exchange issues in mid February, including currency volatility, said the sources involved in the meeting preparations. “This will warrant a good discussion at the G7 because everyone is concerned about this — about the volatility,” said one source. The former Bush administration favoured a hands-off approach to currencies, insisting markets should take the lead. But citing hopes of a shift in stance under Barack Obama, the source added: “There is one big change — there will be a new U.S. treasury secretary [Timothy Geithner] and hopefully a new philosophy and a new approach to coordination.” According to a Euro-zone source, “our concern is to avoid strong fluctuations and to maintain calm on the foreign exchange market in a time of crisis.” Exchange rate volatility would not be the main concern of the G7 during the recession in the United States and Europe, a global financial crisis and fears of deflation, but it still deserved attention, sources said. “The fundamental problem now with foreign exchange is that companies that rely on those variables to determine their business strategy have absolutely now clue how to hedge their bets,” the first source said. A separate G7 source said last week that the group would tackle the fall in the value of the British pound at the Rome meeting. “More readiness to accept that coordination is the name of the game and that coordination is what the G7 should do, and not that the Americans tell the others what they will do and that the others should adjust accordingly,” the first source said. “If the right signals come from the G7, markets will pick up those signals and interpret them as they should be interpreted,” the first source said. Any intervention was unlikely. “I am not sure that’s on the cards at the moment; there are indicators that are worrying policymakers more than the exchange rate,” said the source. But the very fact that there could be more cooperation between the U.S. and the euro zone could help reduce volatility, the sources said.¹⁵⁶ (January 30, 2009, *Reuters News*)

¹⁵⁵ *Reuters News* (February 4, 2009), “G7 to reassure, not start big initiatives-G7 source.”

¹⁵⁶ *Reuters News* (January 30, 2009), “Eurozone seeks more US FX cooperation in G7-sources.”

A G7 source said the fall in value of the UK pound is a problem for mainland Europe and, because of that, will be discussed at regular talks on exchange rate issues at the G7 finance ministers meeting on February 14. “The pound is depreciating. It is obviously a problem for Europe,” said the source, who was described as having first-hand knowledge of preparations for the meeting. “It’s an economic problem. For the moment this does not affect us financially.” The source said the situation on currency markets in general has not reached crisis levels, and that there is no need yet for verbal intervention to try to influence exchange rates.¹⁵⁷ (January 21, 2009, *Dow Jones International News*)

The mid-February finance meeting is likely to focus on measures to bolster financial system transparency. “The main focus will be on boosting transparency, in the financial system, but also from a legal and tax point of view,” an Italian official said. Russia’s finance minister and central bank governor will almost certainly attend, while it remains to be decided whether other countries will be represented at the meeting.¹⁵⁸ (January 9, 2009, *Dow Jones International News*)

Finance ministers and central bank governors from the G7 are expected to meet in Rome on February 13-14, 2009.¹⁵⁹ (January 8, 2009, *Dow Jones International News*)

G8 Health Ministers

A ministerial-level conference of the World Health Organization (WHO) is expected to gather in Venice on June 22 for a discussion on the H1N1 flu, Italian foreign minister Frattini said. In the mean time, eleven new cases of the flu were registered in Italy two days after the WHO had declared a pandemic status for H1N1. All in all, about 29,700 cases of the flu have been registered in 74 countries to date and 145 people have died of the disease, the ministry said.¹⁶⁰ (June 14, 2009, *ITAR-TASS World Service*)

G8 Labour and Social Ministers

The G8 asked the G20 to adopt a “social pact” aimed at recovering confidence and dealing with the global economic crisis, said Silvio Berlusconi. After a G8 social ministers meeting with the key words of “people first,” he said such a pact would “replace pessimism with optimism, mistrust with trust and transform fear into hope ... We will assure everyone that we’ll pull out of this crisis by working together and without leaving anyone behind.” The meeting reached an agreement on promoting “sound and effective policies based on common principles to address the human dimension of the crisis.” An estimated 20 million jobs may be lost worldwide by 2010 because of the global economic crisis. The G8 ministers and their colleagues from Brazil, China, India,

¹⁵⁷ *Dow Jones International News* (January 21, 2009), “Pound’s Fall To Be Discussed At G7 Fin Min Mtg In Feb-Reuters.”

¹⁵⁸ *Dow Jones International News* (January 9, 2009), “G7 Finance Chiefs Feb Mtg Set To Focus On Transparency-Source.”

¹⁵⁹ *Dow Jones International News* (January 8, 2009), “G7 Finance Heads, Ctrl Bankers Due To Meet In Rome Feb 13-14.”

¹⁶⁰ *ITAR-TASS World Service* (June 14, 2009), “WHO to hold conference on H1N1 flu pandemic.”

Mexico, South Africa and Egypt are “very concerned” about the forecasts. Berlusconi also said the “most important factor” in the crisis was for governments to adopt policies which “maintain social cohesion.” He added that “we’re facing two difficult years ahead during which we’ll have to abandon some [planned] measures.”¹⁶¹ (March 31, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

G8 Interior and Justice Ministers

Interior and justice ministers from the G8 adopted a series of proposals aimed at combating international terrorism, sea piracy, organized crime, drug cartels and illegal immigration. In a statement following their talks, the ministers said that despite some successes, terrorism was still one of the most serious threats to international security. “The counter-terrorism cooperation between G8 nations is essential,” stressed the joint statement. They also called for closer monitoring of terrorism groups and the channels they use to spread extremism. They pledged to help strengthen the criminal justice systems in poor regions affected by piracy, such as east Africa. An agreement was reached to work toward a legal framework for the trial of Somali pirates, which would include cooperation between countries that arrest the pirates and those with more developed judiciaries which would be able to prosecute them. Other participants at the summit included officials from Interpol and the UN office on drugs and crime. The participants agreed that a “critical tool” in fighting criminal syndicates is the confiscation of their financial and other material assets. The participants said that consideration would be given to creating a “blacklist” of internet sites containing child pornography. The ministers’ declaration will be presented to the G8 leaders at their summit.¹⁶² (May 30, 2009, *Deutsche Welle*)

Highlights of the two-day G8 interior and justice ministers meeting included discussions on counter-terrorism efforts, advances in the fight against organized crime, combating child sexual exploitation and cyber crime, preventing human smuggling and trafficking in persons, and urban crime. During the meeting the participants had the opportunity to hear from experts on combating maritime piracy, international terrorism, organized crime, the illicit drug trade, cybercrime and child pornography.¹⁶³ (May 30, 2009, *Market Wire*)

The first day of the G8 interior and justice minister meeting will focus on the struggle against transnational organized crime through a common international strategy designed to combat Mafioso assets and to counter today’s “multinational crime corporations.” The meeting will also address the issue of migration, dwelling in particular on illegal immigration, on human trafficking and on immigrants’ integration in society. The last day of the meeting will be used to discuss the issue of urban security, the department said, adding that the decision to address this issue in a G8 context for the first time was sparked by increasing international sensitivity towards the relationship between the growing size of cities, security, and the quality of life. “The debate will go on to focus on

¹⁶¹ *Xinhua News Agency* (March 31, 2009), “G8 to ask G20 to adopt ‘people first’ social pact.”

¹⁶² *Deutsche Welle* (May 30, 2009), “G8 ministers push for tighter anti-crime measures.”

¹⁶³ *Market Wire* (May 30, 2009), “Ministers Nicholson and Van Loan Highlight Canada’s Crime Fighting and Prevention Efforts at the G8 Meeting of Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs.”

developments in the field of international terrorism, and on cooperation in that field.” “One of the crucial topics for debate will be the relationship between the struggle against terrorism and respect for the principles of a rule-of-law state.” Other topics for debate will include various aspects of crime related to information technology, and the tools required to combat online pedo-pornography. At the end of the meeting the ministers will approve projects for operational cooperation in the field of security and will adopt a final declaration. In the course of their working sessions the ministers will benefit from the technical input of the Roma/Lyons Group, which comprises the G8 experts in the areas of counterterrorism, law enforcement, high-tech crime, immigration, transport security and criminal legal cooperation.¹⁶⁴ (May 29, 2009, *BuaNews*)

U.S. attorney general Eric Holder attend the G8 justice and home affairs ministerial in Rome. He will also hold bilateral meetings with his foreign counterparts in addition to participating in the G8 meetings. The first two sessions of the G8 justice and home affairs ministerial will be focused on organized crime, child pornography and cybercrime, and migratory issues.¹⁶⁵ (May 29, 2009, *PR Newswire*)

Italy is determining whether or not it should have a meeting of justice ministers during its G8 presidency. “We’re thinking of a meeting of G8 justice ministers and we’re weighing whether it’s time to address the issue of international justice,” Franco Frattini said.¹⁶⁶ (February 2, 2009, *ANSA — English Media Service*)

A meeting of G8 interior and justice ministers will take place in May on Lampedusa, a tiny island off of Sicily. “This will give others an idea of the problems we face with the emergency of illegal immigration,” Italian interior minister Roberto Maroni said. “Europe is too weak and [member] states are left to deal with the problem on their own.” The minister announced he would hold talks with colleagues from Malta, Cyprus and Greece to discuss the problem.¹⁶⁷ (January 9, 2009, *ANSA — English Media Service*)

G8 Environment Ministers

Environment ministers from major rich and developing countries signed a deal to try to slow species loss, but failed to make progress on climate change, despite U.S. pledges of commitment. In 2002 almost every country in the world agreed to a “significant reduction” in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, but scientists say extinctions are gathering pace. The G8 and major developing economies signed a charter at their April 22-24 meeting in Italy pledging to tackle deforestation, trade in illegal wildlife, and to boost research into the rate of species loss. “We set objectives on biodiversity for 2010 ... but unfortunately we have all recognised they have not been met,” said Italian environment minister Stefania Prestigiacomo. “We are all convinced of the urgency ... of intervening to safeguard our biodiversity.” The document emphasized the economic

¹⁶⁴ *BuaNews* (May 28, 2009), “Radebe to attend G8 Justice Ministers’ conference in Tlal.”

¹⁶⁵ *PR Newswire* (May 29, 2009), “Attorney General Eric Holder to Participate in G8 Justice Ministerial in Rome.”

¹⁶⁶ *ANSA — English Media Service* (February 2, 2009), “G8: Italy Mulls Justice Summit.”

¹⁶⁷ *ANSA — English Media Service* (January 9, 2009), “G8 Ministers to Discuss Immigration Issue on Lampedusa.”

value of biodiversity, particularly for developing countries. It was adopted after Washington dropped opposition to a reference to the future need to pay for the use of wildlife, such as plants employed in medical and scientific research, delegates say. Obama has promised to reduce U.S. greenhouse gases output to 1990 levels by 2020. Developing countries welcomed the positive U.S. approach but expressed disappointment that Washington did not take the first steps in the negotiation. “If the U.S. does not say clearly what it wants, then we cannot move forward,” said Brazil’s environment minister Carlos Minc. “Developing countries, like China, are willing to make cuts, I believe, but there is a climate of mistrust ... The U.S. has still not put anything concrete on the table.” The G8 environment ministers meeting brought together ministers from Australia, Brazil, the Czech Republic, China, Denmark, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, South Korea, South Africa and Sweden for the first time.¹⁶⁸ (April 24, 2009, *Reuters News*)

“The G8 anti-crisis plans should be coloured green,” said Prestigiacomo after the April 22-24 G8 environment ministers meeting. The delegates spelled out “frankly and clearly” the issues on which G8 heads of state and government should “devote their leadership capacities” at their July summit. These include improving energy efficiency, developing renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and transportation and building and protecting ecological infrastructure. The three-day talks in Sicily also found new momentum toward a landmark deal to fight global warming at the end of the year. The main stumbling blocks are setting targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and financing for the greening of developing countries. Brazil’s Minc said “great distrust” remained between North and South. Both sides agreed that they could make “substantial compromises” appropriate to their means and situation. Since the talks were not required to produce decisions, “they allowed for constructive exchanges between the G8 countries and the others,” Minc said.¹⁶⁹ (April 24, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

Environment ministers from 16 countries have been arguing over how to “raise ambitions” for creating a green future. Describing the three-day G8 environment ministers meeting as “among the most frank,” the United Nations Environment Programme head Achim Steiner described “an impasse on how to move forward and raise the level of ambition.” He said, “Developed countries and emerging economies have already signaled they are willing to accelerate efforts conditional on a fair deal in Copenhagen ... If [stimulus] money is spent to prolong the status quo and is not invested in tomorrow’s economy, we will lose a major opportunity to deal with climate change as well as the possibility of creating a low-carbon economy.”¹⁷⁰ (April 24, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

A reduction in health risks from lead to children worldwide was high on the agenda at a meeting of environment ministers from the G8. Environment ministers or high-level officials in charge of the environment from 11 countries and the European Union also participated in the talks, including Australia, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, South Korea and South Africa. Intake of lead is harmful to the functioning of children’s central nerve

¹⁶⁸ *Reuters News* (April 24, 2009), “G8 and poor nations vow to tackle species loss.”

¹⁶⁹ *Agence France Presse* (April 24, 2009), “G8 crisis plans should be painted green: minister.”

¹⁷⁰ *Agence France Presse* (April 24, 2009), “G8-led climate change talks debate ‘raising ambitions.’”

systems. Risks from lead paints on toys and stationary products are notably high for children. The G8 countries have appealed to the rest of the world to gradually reduce the uses of lead in paints and to share technologies to wipe out lead-containing compounds for houses and buildings. The environment ministers were also expected to take up infectious diseases, worsening air pollution and increasing allergy illnesses that are believed to be linked with global warming. Lead, which can be taken into the human body through air, water, food, dust and soil, negatively affects children's intelligence levels. Japan had proposed taking up children's health and the environment as a theme for discussions at the environment ministers' meeting, a Japanese government source said.¹⁷¹ (April 23, 2009, *Kyodo News*)

International strategies for fighting climate change and protecting biodiversity will be the focus of the G8 environment ministers. Presenting the schedule for the talks, which are taking place in Siracusa at the end of April under Italy's G8 presidency, Stefania Prestigiacomo explained that the meeting would spotlight climate change policies, ahead of the Kyoto protocol's expiry in 2012. "We will focus on climate change, with particular emphasis on the wider availability of technologies that are currently only available in limited parts of the world," she said. "We know that the fight against global warming can only be won if the so-called developing countries, such as China and India, commit to such technologies and join the great global battle. Another crucial issue is biodiversity." The April 22-24 meeting will be attended by environment ministers not only from the G8, but also from China, India, Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, South Africa, Australia, South Korea and Egypt. The Czech Republic, in its capacity as European Union president, and Denmark, which is hosting a pivotal United Nations climate change summit in December, will also attend. A preparatory technical meeting in Trieste at the start of April will focus on low-carbon technology, with the main event starting on April 22. The first two working sessions will focus on climate change, with an emphasis on low-carbon technology capable of promoting economic recovery while reducing carbon emissions. On the second day representatives will seek to flesh out some of the non-binding, post-Kyoto commitments reached in 2008, ahead of the UN climate change summit in Copenhagen later this year. The third day will consider initiatives for 2010, designated the International Year of Biodiversity; as well as consider longer-term global strategies to protect biodiversity. The talks will take place in the 13th-century Maniace Castle.¹⁷² (March 10, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Franco Frattini said the Italian government has invited the Indonesian energy and environment ministers to a ministerial meeting prior to the summit.¹⁷³ (March 5, 2009, *Jakarta Post*)

Japan will propose international cooperation on studies on the impacts of chemical substances on the growth of children at a G8 environment ministers meeting. At the G8 meeting in Italy, Japan will underscore the need for the international community to share data on studies on certain substances, including dioxin, government sources said. At the

¹⁷¹ *Kyodo News* (April 23, 2009), "G8 ministers discussing health risks from lead to children."

¹⁷² *ANSA – English Media Service* (March 10, 2009), "Climate Change, Biodiversity in G8 Environment Talks."

¹⁷³ *Jakarta Post* (March 5, 2009), "Italy and Indonesia push for lasting peace in the Middle East."

G8 ministerial, Japan will likely propose analyses of the maternal blood and umbilical cord blood to identify chemical substances that fetuses are exposed to and determine the densities of such substances. At a meeting in the U.S. in 1997, G8 environment ministers adopted a joint declaration calling for further efforts to protect children from harmful substances.¹⁷⁴ (February 3, 2009, *Jiji Press English News Service*)

G8 Energy Ministers

The G8 energy ministers wrapped up their two-day meeting on energy security and climate change, adopting coordinated measures to help promote energy investment and security. In their final communiqué, the ministers stressed the need of “long-term scenarios on energy policy with the aim to increase transparency and reduce volatility in the energy markets.” They urged governments and companies “to adopt a long-term view in planning their investments in energy infrastructures.” Italy, which holds the G8’s rotating presidency, hosted the two-day meeting with the theme “Beyond the Crisis: Towards a New World Energy Order.” The final conclusion will be presented for ratification at the G8 summit. Participants included energy ministers from the G8 and the European Union as well as ministers from 15 emerging and oil-producing economies in Asia, Latin America and Africa. Altogether they accounted for 80% of global energy consumption and production. Representatives from eight global institutions including the World Bank and the IMF, and 20 energy enterprises also attended the meeting. During the meeting, the ministers and other participants agreed to enhance energy market transparency and draft new rules for energy commodities, to limit speculation and stabilize market prices. Greater coordination is needed between national energy authorities and multilateral institutions, an alliance between the private sector and the government is essential to spur investments, the ministers said. Plummeting oil prices have been at the core of the talks. The financial turmoil has reduced many investments in energy infrastructures and projects. According to the IEA, 2009 will witness the first decrease in electric consumptions since World War II, and investment in oil-linked projects has dropped by 21% compared to 2008. Energy ministers of industrialized and emerging economies have agreed to coordinate in setting suitable oil prices for both producers and consumers in order to increase market stability. An “ideal level” of price will support both economic recovery and boost investments, the officials said. The meeting called attention to energy shortage in Africa, where social instability, uncontrolled migration and epidemics are partly attributed to the lack of energy resources on the continent. Energy ministers agreed on the priority of increasing electricity access in Africa’s rural areas and developing energy networks across the African continent by increasing investments. “It’s a difficult challenge but we have the power of changing Africa into a prosperous continent,” said Italian economic development minister Claudio Scajola. Reducing energy poverty in emerging economies is strictly linked to cutting fossil fuels’ dependence and changing energy consumption habits in western countries. The ministers also signed a deal to strengthen the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) launched in 2008 in Japan and agreed to establish a

¹⁷⁴ *Jiji Press English News Service* (February 3, 2009), “Japan to Seek Int’l Cooperation on Chemical Studies at G8 Meeting.”

sustainable buildings network to promote efficiency gains in residential, commercial and industrial buildings. Energy ministers stressed the need to boost investments in renewable energies, energy mix, low-carbon technologies and energy efficiency in the economic gloom. At the joint press conference after the meeting, Scajola said governments must make progress on carbon dioxide stockage and capture systems and the safe use of nuclear power by increasing research. He said he was satisfied with the meeting's outcome. "We have reached a positive agreement on most central issues," he said.¹⁷⁵ (May 26, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

Energy ministers from the G8 said they would increasingly emphasize nuclear energy and the creation of a common low-carbon technology platform as solutions to climate change and supply insecurity. The statement comes as a number of countries, including the oil-rich United Arab Emirates, are turning their attention to once-unpopular nuclear energy to produce electricity. In a closing statement at their two-day Rome meeting, the energy ministers from the G8 said, "In the opinion of a growing number of countries, the use of nuclear energy can contribute to energy security while reducing greenhouse emissions." "We encourage all countries interested in the civil use of nuclear energy to engage in constructive international collaboration," the statement said, while reiterating "the fundamental prerequisite for the peaceful use of nuclear energy." The G8 energy ministers' collective statement also announced the operational launch of the new international technology alliance designed to cooperate on energy efficiency and low carbon technologies, the IPEEC. "We recognize the importance of increasing energy efficiency through the entire energy chain," from transportation to carbon capture and storage projects, it said. The group also said it was looking forward to the activity of a global steering group to look at "technical factors affecting energy market volatility" and "the linkage between financial and energy markets."¹⁷⁶ (May 25, 2009, *Dow Jones International News*)

The G8 energy ministers meeting concluded with an action plan aimed at tackling key sector issues. Italian economic development minister Claudio Scajola said that "important decisions" had been made during the two days of talks. He said representatives had continued negotiating throughout the night until the last morning, and "agreement was reached among all participating countries." The minister declined to discuss the plan in any detail but said it focused on three key areas: the fight against climate change, reviving an alliance between government and business, and the fight against energy poverty. Scajola said a "common framework and shared rules and regulations" were needed and called for greater cooperation between national governments and multilateral bodies. The meeting was attended by energy ministers and officials from 23 countries, including the G8, emerging economies and oil exporting nations. The action plan agreed on at the meeting will be put before leaders at an upcoming G8 summit.¹⁷⁷ (May 25, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

¹⁷⁵ *Xinhua News Agency* (May 26, 2009), "G8 ministers lay course on energy security, efficiency."

¹⁷⁶ *Dow Jones International News* (May 25, 2009), "Nuclear, Low-Carbon Platform Solutions to Climate Change — G8."

¹⁷⁷ *ANSA — English Media Service* (May 25, 2009), "Energy ministers ok G8 action plan."

Consumer countries urged producers to keep oil prices stable or risk derailing a fragile global economic recovery, as top exporter Saudi Arabia forecast prices eventually moving toward \$75 a barrel. G8 energy ministers were meeting in Rome against the backdrop of a price rally that has sent oil prices to a six-month high of more than \$60 a barrel. “If oil prices do spike up considerably, that would be a factor in delaying economic recovery,” U.S. energy secretary Steven Chu said. Claudio Scajola said: “A low oil price helps in times of economic crisis but discourages investment and does not guarantee a future of stability. It is necessary to have an equitable and not volatile price that can guarantee global economic growth and also the possibility of investment.” Oil prices have almost doubled from last December’s low and risen well above the \$50 level that Saudi Arabia has said it could live with to help nurse the world economy back to growth. Algeria’s oil minister said an output cut was unlikely when OPEC meets in Vienna. Saudi Arabia, the biggest and most influential player in the 12-member producer group, also said OPEC would “probably stay the course.” Saudi oil minister Ali al-Naimi offered the prospect of prices and demand eventually rising but declined to speculate on when prices would hit the \$75 level producers say is needed to encourage investment. “Demand will pick up eventually when the economy recovers,” Naimi said. “Eventually could be tomorrow or it could be 10 years from now, but eventually it’s going to happen, but when I don’t [know].” Algeria’s energy minister Chakib Khelil predicted oil prices could touch \$70 per barrel by end-2010 if the economy recovered, but warned recent price rises were being driven by speculation and a weak dollar rather than fundamentals. Energy leaders at the summit agreed the financial crisis has dealt a sharp blow to investment in production for the long term. The IEA warned investment in oil and gas production would fall 21% in 2009. “The experience of the last price cycle demonstrated that to ensure steady economic growth, prices should not rise higher than \$75 per barrel,” Poli said. “Oil price instability and unpredictability are the worst enemies of any well thought-out plan to build a different energy future.” OPEC ministers are expected to make no change to oil supply at their Vienna meeting as higher prices ease their concerns about overflowing fuel inventories and the deepest fall in demand for years.¹⁷⁸ (May 25, 2009, *Reuters News*)

The head of the Italian energy group Eni called for stabilization of oil prices, pinning a “reasonable” price between 60 and 70 dollars per barrel, in an address to G8 energy ministers in Rome. “Whatever energy future we have in mind, it will be strictly dependant on oil prices,” said Eni chair Roberto Poli. “The persistence of high uncertainties related to oil price up to 150 dollars per barrel or down to 30 dollars might upset the entire energy system blocking investments both in traditional and in alternative sources” including nuclear and renewables, he said. Poli addressed the energy chiefs of the G8 who opened a two-day meeting focusing on the problem of less investment in energy projects and new technology due to the global economic crisis. “There are no magic formulas” for setting reasonable oil prices, Poli said. In order to stabilize oil prices, Poli called on governments to institute more regulation of oil financial markets which “remains so opaque and uncontrollable.”¹⁷⁹ (May 23, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

¹⁷⁸ *Reuters News* (May 25, 2009), “G8 energy leaders urge stable oil prices.”

¹⁷⁹ *Agence France Presse* (May 23, 2009), “Eni chief calls for oil prices stability.”

Australia was included in the list of ‘outsiders’ invited to attend the G8 energy ministers meeting at the end of May.¹⁸⁰ (May 23, 2009, *Western Australia*)

Saudi Arabian oil minister Ali al-Naimi attended the G8 energy ministers meeting.¹⁸¹ (May 23, 2009, *Bloomberg News*)

Kim Young-hak, Korea’s vice knowledge economy minister for trade and energy, was to attend the G8 ministers meeting. Energy ministers from 24 countries planned to discuss joining multinational initiatives for developing technologies on low-carbon energy sources. “As part of plans to deal with climate change, [ministers] are to discuss technical ways to develop renewable energy, atomic power and a smart grid,” a ministry official said.¹⁸² (May 22, 2009, *Korea Herald*)

At the G8 energy ministerial, Russian energy minister Sergei Shmatko said, “One of the main tasks of the meeting ... is to prepare the summit of the heads of state within the G8 framework.” The ministers were to consider coordination of the international energy-saving activity and development of renewable energy sources. The discussion of a conceptual approach to create a new legal mechanism in the sphere of power generation, recently proposed by Russia, will become an important event. “A preliminary analysis of the situation and the work we’ve organized on contacts with a number of countries, have shown that many view this Russia initiative with interest.”¹⁸³ (May 22, 2009, *ITAR-TASS World Service*)

Canada’s natural resources minister Lisa Raitt missed the G8 energy ministers meeting after an Ontario nuclear reactor that produces medical isotopes unexpectedly shut down. A deputy minister attended the conference in her stead. “With the pressing issues here domestically it’s more important for us to stay here and look after the house than it is for us to go and represent Canada at the G8,” Raitt said.¹⁸⁴ (May 21, 2009, *Bloomberg News*)

Energy investment is “plunging” because of the recession, paving the way for oil-price surges within three years, the IEA warned in a new report. In recent months, oil companies and investors have canceled or postponed about \$170 billion of investment equivalent to roughly 2 million barrels a day in future oil supply. An additionally 4.2 million barrels a day in future oil-supply capacity has been delayed by at least 18 months as companies slash spending. The study was to be presented to energy ministers of the G8.¹⁸⁵ (May 20, 2009, *Wall Street Journal*)

Italian foreign minister Franco Frattini said the Italian government has invited the Indonesian energy and environment ministers to a ministerial meeting prior to the summit.¹⁸⁶ (March 5, 2009, *Jakarta Post*)

¹⁸⁰ *Western Australia* (May 23, 2009), “Australia gets energy role at G8.”

¹⁸¹ *Bloomberg News* (May 23, 2009), “Saudi Arabia Oil Minister Naimi Says Oil to Reach \$75 a Barrel.”

¹⁸² *Korea Herald* (May 22, 2009), “Vice minister to attend G8 meeting on energy.”

¹⁸³ *ITAR-TASS World Service* (May 22, 2009), “Shmatko to attend G8 energy ministers meeting in Rome May 24-25.”

¹⁸⁴ *Bloomberg News* (May 21, 2009), “Canada Energy Minister to Miss G8 on Isotope Shortage.”

¹⁸⁵ *Wall Street Journal* (May 20, 2009), “Downturn Sets Up Surge in Oil Prices.”

¹⁸⁶ *Jakarta Post* (March 5, 2009), “Italy and Indonesia push for lasting peace in the Middle East.”

Frattini said that Italy will hold a G8 meeting in April, which will focus on the energy issue and promote dialogues between producers and consumers with the objective of reaching a stable price scheme.¹⁸⁷ (January 3, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

G8 Development Ministers

Supporting Africa in overcoming the adverse impact of the financial crisis was the main theme at the G8 development ministers' meeting. Delegates from the African Union Commission, African countries and several G8 countries specifically called for more support for Africa, as well as an enhanced role of multilateral development organizations, such as the African Development Bank to channel resources to the continent. This call for more resources has been echoed by the AfDB's delegation, which highlighted the number of requests of support the Bank is receiving, as well as the need to ensure adequate resources are provided to meet with such demands. The meeting's final communiqué also called for a more coordinated response to the crisis, highlighting the need to monitor vulnerability more closely, to promote development investments and to take rapid and effective action to combat climate change.¹⁸⁸ (June 15, 2009, *All Africa*)

G8 Agricultural Ministers

At the first G8 agriculture ministers meeting in late April, Luca Zaia, Italy's farm, food and forestry policies minister and chair, said "The simple solution to the global food emergency is to put farm produce back in the front seat in the economy. To come through this crisis undamaged we must strengthen the industry from the foundation up." He explained the G8 agriculture ministers would now redesign the future of farming assisted by relevant organizations such as the FAO and the World Bank. He added food prices are sure to rocket once more when the global economic cycle picks up again. "We must cut the waste that comes at a social and economic price we can no longer afford," he explained. "For every calorie we eat we use up seven just to transport the food." In a final declaration after the three-day meeting, the ministers pledged to pull out all the stops to alleviate the financial crisis' impact on hunger and poverty. They undertook to use all available tools to strengthen and encourage sustainable agriculture and food production, increase investments in agriculture and research and avoid unfair competition and agricultural-trade distortions, including export-restrictive measures.¹⁸⁹ (May 11, 2009, *Main Report's Profitable Agri-Business*)

The G8 agriculture ministers took steps to combat the price speculation that has helped pushed up the cost of basic foods, sparking riots in poor countries. They called for a study into setting up a global system to stockpile essential foodstuffs, following three days of talks in Italy where they were joined by the G5 agriculture ministers of Brazil, China,

¹⁸⁷ *Xinhua News Agency* (January 3, 2009), "News Analysis: Italian G8 2009 presidency faces tough challenges."

¹⁸⁸ *All Africa* (June 15, 2009), "Africa on the Spotlight at the G8 Development Ministerial Meeting."

¹⁸⁹ *Main Report's Profitable Agri-Business* (May 11, 2009), "Italy-G8 Minister re-design agriculture."

India, Mexico and South Africa. Ministers from Argentina, Australia and Egypt also attended the talks, as well as officials from the AU, the FAO and the World Bank. “We call upon the relevant international institutions to examine whether a system of stockholding could be effective in dealing with humanitarian emergencies or as a means to limit price volatility,” the ministers said in their final declaration. Host Italy led calls to tackle commercial price fixing, and both Italy and France advocated the global stockpiling of essential foodstuffs. French agriculture minister Michel Barnier said that an international system to manage food reserves would “fight against speculators preying on primary foodstuffs, which is scandalous.” He said the world needed the sort of supply management systems that operate across the European Union. The G8 ministers also lamented that the world is “very far” from attaining the UN goal on malnutrition. Food prices “are still above previous lows in many countries,” the ministers said. “Structural factors may affect prices over the medium term, and increased volatility and demand raise important questions about food security for the future.” Although the recession has cooled soaring prices, officials say it offers only a temporary respite, while activists complain that only a fraction of the \$22 billion in aid announced at a UN food agency summit in Rome last June has been disbursed. The ministers also repeated calls for more investment in agriculture. “More should be done to increase the quantity and enhance the quality of agricultural production,” the statement said, calling for increased “public and private investment in sustainable agriculture.” On the issue of biofuels, the statement said: “Renewable energy production ... must be increased in a sustainable manner [such that it] does not compromise food security.”¹⁹⁰ (April 20, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

G8 agriculture ministers agreed that control of agricultural exports is undesirable. The agreement was reached at a three-day meeting in Cison di Valmarino, Italy. They also agreed it is necessary to increase farm production to prepare for possible food crises and expand agricultural investment. They adopted a joint statement that would be reflected in the G8 summit meeting in Italy in July. The ministers also emphasized at an extended meeting that small-scale farmers must be supported in increasing production amid a downturn in agricultural investment due to the global financial crisis. On the first day, G8 ministers met on their own before the talks were expanded to include other countries. India explained its measures to support its numerous small-scale farmers, while countries including Mexico, China and Brazil said family-run farms will play an important role in increased production. The gathering of the G8 agricultural ministers, the first of its kind, was agreed to at the 2008 G8 summit.¹⁹¹ (April 19, 2009, *Kyodo News*)

Agricultural ministers will discuss returning agriculture to a leading role on the international economic and political scene, including boosting the share of farm support in overall aid to developing countries. They will try to tackle how to increase agricultural productivity to reduce the gap between food supply and demand. They will talk about strengthening the economy of rural areas, improving the price and labelling on the international markets and coordinating management of international stocks — either through using the reserves of bigger producing countries or through coordinated interventions on future markets. They will fight against speculative trading and push

¹⁹⁰ *Agence France Presse* (April 20, 2009), “G8 takes first step against food price speculation.”

¹⁹¹ *Kyodo News* (April 19, 2009), “G8 farm ministers criticize export controls on farm products.”

their governments to combat climate change and improve the management of water resources. The meeting will include agricultural ministers from the G8 as well as Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa, Argentina, Australia, Egypt, the Czech Republic as president of the EU council, the EU commissioner for agriculture, the AU, FAO, UN high-level task force on food security, the International Fund for Agriculture and Development, the OECD, World Bank and the World Food Programme.¹⁹² (April 16, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Ministers of agriculture are expected to focus on a framework for international food security during their meeting in Treviso. They will discuss how to create a global framework to prevent disruptions stemming from food price surges and growing demand from emerging economies. The ministers will also talk about how to increase agricultural production in emerging economies and strengthen agriculture-related investment. The agenda also includes discussion of an international food reserves system and related policy coordination and cooperation among governments and research institutes of the countries. Participants will likely reaffirm the anti-protectionist pledge their leaders took during the G20 meeting in April.¹⁹³ (April 15, 2009, *Jiji Press English News Service*)

G8 agriculture ministers will discuss world hunger, food security and the fluctuation of market prices when they meet. “Productive identity” will be the overarching theme of the meeting. The ministers will also discuss how the global economic crisis is affecting world hunger.¹⁹⁴ (April 14, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

U.S. agriculture secretary Tom Vilsack will attend the April 18-20 G8 agricultural ministerial in Treviso. “Hunger and malnutrition afflict more than one billion people around the world, causing human suffering, political instability and economic stagnation,” he said. “This ministerial affirms our strong commitment to global food security and provides a unique opportunity to work with other agriculture ministers in developing a shared strategy to deal with food security issues.” In addition to agriculture leaders from the G8, agriculture ministers from Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa, Egypt and the Czech Republic are expected to attend, as well as the European Union’s Commissioner of Agriculture and leaders of the World Bank, the World Food Program, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization.¹⁹⁵ (April 7, 2009, *US Fed News*)

Russian president Dmitry Medvedev will host the World Grain Forum on June 6-7. Deputy agriculture minister Andrei Slepnev said that the conference had been initiated by the Russian president and backed by the leaders of the G8 in Japan in 2008. The forum will bring together the leaders of a number of countries, agricultural ministers of the G8 countries, heads of the leading international organizations, national and transnational

¹⁹² *Reuters News* (April 16, 2009), “G8 farm ministers meet in Italy.”

¹⁹³ *Jiji Press English News Service* (April 15, 2009), “G8 Farm Ministers to Discuss Global Food Security System.”

¹⁹⁴ *Xinhua News Agency* (April 14, 2009), “G8 meeting to focus on poverty, food security and market price.”

¹⁹⁵ *US Fed News* (April 7, 2009), “Agriculture Secretary Vilsack to Lead U.S. Delegation to Italy for G8 Agricultural Ministerial.”

grain companies, and representatives of financial and banking circles. The forum will focus on ways of solving pressing problems, reflected in the final document of the G8. According to Slepnev, within the framework of the forum there will be business discussions, conferences and round-table discussions devoted to the causes and consequences of the world crisis, macroeconomic factors influencing the world economy's development, forecasts of grain and food prices, humanitarian programs and their role in the world agricultural and food system, innovations in grain farming, world trade policies, new challenges of globalization, national farming support programs.¹⁹⁶ (March 26, 2009, *ITAR-TASS World Service*)

Food security, fluctuating food prices and world hunger will be among the key issues on the agenda at the meeting of G8 agriculture ministers. The meeting, from April 18 to 20 in the northern town of Cison di Valmarino, near Treviso, will also deal with increasing productivity in developing countries and the identity of food products. Also attending the meeting will be Czech agriculture minister Petr Gandalovic, whose country is the current president of the European Union, EU agriculture commissioner Marianne Fischer Boel and ministers from Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa and Egypt as well as representatives from the FAO. Italy is particularly concerned over fluctuating food prices.¹⁹⁷ (March 9, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Italy announced plans to hold a G8 agriculture summit with six emerging economies in April to find ways of beating the global food crisis. “The Italian government proposes to hold a big G8 meeting on agriculture and farm output at a time when the world experiences a serious food crisis with nearly one billion people suffering from hunger,” agriculture minister Luca Zaia said. Italy took over the rotating presidency of the G8 this month. The summit will be held in the northern region of Treviso and be attended by the agriculture ministers of the G8 members. The emerging economies to be invited are Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Mexico and South Africa. Others attending will include the agriculture minister of the Czech Republic, which currently heads the EU, EU agriculture commissioner Marianne Fischer Boel as well as UN and World Bank representatives. The aim of the meeting will be to “minimize” the impact of the food shortages and ways to “increase productivity in developing countries and reinforce rural areas,” according to a government document. Zaia also said he would take steps to protect Italian farm produce. “Nowadays, out of 10 ‘Made in Italy’ products bought on the international market, only one is made in the peninsula,” he said, citing cases of “fake” Parmesan cheese and Prosecco, a dry sparkling wine made from grapes grown mainly in the Veneto region.¹⁹⁸ (January 23, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

The first G8 agricultural meeting is to take place in Pescara in May. Italian foreign minister Franco Frattini, who will preside over the event, said food security would be the main topic at the meeting.¹⁹⁹ (January 9, 2009, *Thai News Service*)

¹⁹⁶ *ITAR-TASS World Service* (March 26, 2009), “World Grain Forum to be held in St. Pete on June 6-7.”

¹⁹⁷ *ANSA — English Media Service* (March 9, 2009), “G8 Agricultural Ministers to Discuss Food Security in April.”

¹⁹⁸ *Agence France Presse* (January 23, 2009), “Italy to hold G8 farm summit with developing nations.”

¹⁹⁹ *Thai News Service* (January 9, 2008), “Italy: Italy prepares for G8 aid and agriculture meetings.”

G8 Foreign Ministers

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Hassan Qashqavi said that Tehran "regrets" to see the G8 foreign ministers interfere in its internal affairs. Qashqavi said that despite the remarks made by the G8, Iran's presidential election was held in a "competitive and free atmosphere ... The 85 percent turnout (in the election) means Iranians trust the country's electoral mechanisms." He also condemned the remarks of European Parliament president Hans-Gert Poettering, who has offered to lead a mission of EU lawmakers to Iran to probe possible "frauds" following a disputed June 12 presidential election.²⁰⁰ (June 27, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

Foreign ministers from the G8 along with Afghanistan and Pakistan have pledged to work together to tackle insurgency, corruption and other regional challenges, saying that stability and development in the region are linked. "Insurgency and terrorist activities, narcotics, trafficking, corruption, human rights violation and limited economic opportunities need to be tackled with resolve wherever they appear," they said in a statement. "We, the foreign ministers of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the G-8, affirm our commitment to working together to address the challenges that affect Afghanistan and the region." Bringing greater stability to Afghanistan and Pakistan was the central theme host Italy pushed for this year's G8 foreign ministerial talks, held in the northern city of Trieste. In the statement, the G8 ministers threw support behind Pakistan's offensives against the Taliban in its western region, saying that the G8 supports the country's "decisive action" against extremists. While acknowledging Afghanistan's efforts to improve its governance, the ministers lamented that widespread corruption continues to make difficult the delivery of basic services, such as health care and water.²⁰¹ (June 27, 2009, *Kyodo News*)

The G8 foreign ministers deplored the post-election violence in Iran at their meeting in Italy. They urged Iran to respect human rights and to reflect the will of the Iranian people. The ministers condemned "in the strongest terms" the nuclear and missile tests in North Korea and urged Pyongyang to abandon all nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs, demanding the government not conduct any "further destabilizing actions." The G8 also urged Israel and Palestine to re-enter into direct negotiations. They urged Israel to freeze settlement activity as well as "natural growth" and called for an end to violence and terrorism. They also called for the immediate opening of border crossings for humanitarian aid, commerce and people. The minister urged the release of all political prisoners in Myanmar and called for a real process of dialogue and reconciliation with full participation of all political representatives leading to democratic multiparty elections. They urged the government of Sri Lanka to address the humanitarian situation of displaced civilians and to ensure free access to aid groups. They expressed deep concern about the "undemocratic transfer of power" in Africa and urged regimes to restore constitutional order through transparent elections. They urged continued international aid in addressing the economic and food crises. The ministers also

²⁰⁰ *Xinhua News Agency* (June 27, 2009), "Iran 'regrets' G8's interference in its internal affairs: spokesman."

²⁰¹ *Kyodo News* (June 27, 2009), "G8, Afghan, Pakistani foreign chiefs pledge work on insurgency."

expressed serious concern about the threat of piracy off the Africa's eastern coast. They stressed the need to ensure legal frameworks to fight piracy and to find ways to freeze pirate's assets.²⁰² (June 26, 2009, *Associated Press Newswires*)

Italy has said that the G8 foreign ministers were working on a joint declaration condemning post-election violence in Iran. "We are working on a document that should condemn the violence and the repression and at the same time stress that electoral procedures are an [internal] Iranian matter," Italian foreign minister Frattini said.²⁰³ (June 25, 2009, *Reuters News*)

"I am certain that we will condemn these very serious violations to the right to life and to the physical integrity of persons," said Italian foreign minister Frattini about the situation in Iran. "We will reassert that these acts further isolate Iran from the international community, something that we do not want." The U.S. is pushing for a common stance on Iran at the meeting. "It would be impossible not to discuss current events at this meeting and just stick to broader nuclear agendas, as if nothing had changed," a U.S. official said. "This will be an opportunity for foreign ministers ... to compare notes on what's happening in Iran and to then perhaps think about how that might affect our long-term strategy that was initially the agenda," he added. Reaching consensus on Iran however is shaping up as a delicate diplomatic exercise, with Frattini pointedly noting that "the door between the West and Iran must not be closed shut." Among G8 members, Russia has refused to condemn Iran, saying the election turmoil was an internal matter while calling for a peaceful resolution.²⁰⁴ (June 25, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

The G8 foreign ministers will be focusing on regional stabilization at their meeting. In particular they will focus on Afghanistan and Pakistan. They have invited a number of key regional players to participate in the discussions including India, the central Asian republics, and other countries which, while having no direct border with Afghanistan, can contribute important added value—in particular, the Gulf states, Turkey, and Egypt. In concrete terms, the ministers hope to improve the structure of, and to impart an operational impulse to, the various regional initiatives for Afghanistan's stabilization which have run in parallel and often in a confused manner alongside one another over the past few years. They will try and achieve this through the integration of the efforts being made by the neighbouring countries and by the various international organizations in five specific sectors: border management; the struggle against illegal trafficking; infrastructure development; assistance for refugees and migrant flow management; and the development of farming (on which the livelihood of most of the Afghan population depends) and food safety and security. The ministers want to lay the groundwork for a "process" capable, also in the future, of imparting greater consistency to the actions and efforts for Afghanistan being made by the various players in the region and by the international community. They would have liked to have Iran, which shares a 700-km long border with Afghanistan and which should thus have an objective interest in contributing to its stabilization, to participate in the discussions, if for no other reason

²⁰² *Associated Press Newswires* (June 26, 2009), "Highlights from G8 foreign ministers' statement."

²⁰³ *Reuters News* (June 25, 2009), "Italy aims for G8 condemnation of Iran violence."

²⁰⁴ *Agence France Presse* (June 25, 2009), "Iran Overshadows G8 Trieste Meeting."

than to contain such problems as drug trafficking and the flow of refugees. However, the days of tragic instability that Iran has experienced and is still experiencing in the wake of the disputed presidential election - an instability which gives us serious cause for concern and which the ministers hope may be settled in a peaceful manner and with the full agreement and respect for the will of Iranian civil society - have unfortunately prevented the appropriate conditions for Iran to be able to come to Trieste. The G8 foreign ministers intend to issue a clear and concrete signal that Afghanistan's stability is a global public asset, to which everyone can and must make a concrete contribution: "a shared responsibility for concrete actions."²⁰⁵ (June 25, 2009, *La Stampa*)

The U.S. is planning to ask major nations to expand their economic support for Pakistan at the G8 foreign ministers meeting to help the South Asian anti-terror ally deal with the "enormous humanitarian challenge" to provide relief to millions of displaced people. Undersecretary for Political Affairs William Burns will be representing the U.S. at a series of meetings on Pakistan and Afghanistan. "We'll put a particular focus at this meeting on what they can do to help Pakistan, in particular, to bolster Pakistan's civilian government and its efforts to combat Taliban and extremists," a senior State Department said. "The EU had a conference on Pakistan I believe it'll be its first one in history - last week and came up with a significant amount of money, I think \$100 million, getting us towards the goal of \$500 million for Pakistan. That's an important contribution of a nonmilitary sort, the likes of which we'll be looking to build on at the G-8 meeting," the official added. "If we're all working together, and I think there's a significant amount of common interest in Pakistan in bolstering the Pakistani government and in providing more resources for its fight against the Taliban and other extremists, and for finding money. ...And I hope this meeting will help us work towards that goal for the tremendous challenge of IDPs [internally displaced people] in Pakistan. There's an enormous humanitarian challenge and the international community will need more resources to deal with that. And all of these countries coming together who have an interest in all of these same things: bolstering the government, fighting extremists, and dealing with the humanitarian situation, we hope we'll be able to coordinate the efforts better with a chance to talk about it."²⁰⁶ (June 25, 2009, *Daily The Pak Banker*)

Iran's foreign minister Manouchehr Mottaki confirmed he would not attend the G8 foreign ministers meeting. "I have no plans to go to Italy," Mottaki said. Iran is expected nevertheless to be in the spotlight at the G8 foreign ministers meeting over the turmoil in the country following the disputed June 12 presidential election.²⁰⁷ (June 24, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

Foreign ministers and the foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India may meet separately on the sidelines of the G8 finance ministers meeting. "Efforts are being made so that the foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India could meet in a third country preferably before the NAM summit in Egypt," one official said. "There are no hard and fast rules. If the

²⁰⁵ *La Stampa* (June 25, 2009), "Italy's foreign minister previews G8 meeting on Afghanistan 'without Tehran.'"

²⁰⁶ *Daily The Pak Banker* (June 25, 2009), "Pakistan: US to push for Pakistan economic support at G8 meeting."

²⁰⁷ *Agence France Presse* (June 24, 2009), "Iran confirms it won't go to G8 meet."

two countries agree then both the foreign secretaries can meet either at Trieste or at Sharm el-Sheikh before the NAM summit. Pakistan is trying to impress upon India that it is ready to meet in a third country or in India or Pakistan for the meeting.”²⁰⁸ (June 24, 2009, *Daily the Pak Banker*)

Italy continues to extend an open hand to Iran even after withdrawing its invitation to take part in the G8 foreign ministers meeting. “We must support the policy of [U.S.] President Obama of extending an open hand in the framework of obtaining a serious commitment from Iran to stop its nuclear program,” Italian foreign minister Frattini said. Frattini said he was sorry to have had to withdraw the invitation to Iran to take part in the ministerial meeting. The invitation was withdrawn after Iran did not make any reply on its intentions. Iran, Frattini observed, “missed a chance to make a positive contribution. It is important that Iran does not isolate itself from the international community and seeks to be a constructive player, at least in regard to regional stability’.” Turning his attention to the situation in Iran, where authorities continue to crack down on protests against the contested presidential election, Frattini said “it is not up to us to recount the ballots. And while we have no right to take the place of Iranian authorities, we must listen to the voice of millions of Iranians who are asking for transparency” in the election process. Taking part in the talks will be the G8 foreign ministers along with the diplomatic chiefs from Afghanistan and Pakistan as well as China and India. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will not be at the meeting because of her broken elbow. Williams Burns, the undersecretary for political affairs will attend in her stead. Also attending will be the special White House envoys for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Holbrooke, and the Mideast, George Mitchell.²⁰⁹ (June 23, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Chinese vice foreign minister Song Tao is to attend an enlarged G8 foreign ministers meeting.²¹⁰ (June 23, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

Piracy in international waters, tensions in North Korea and political turmoil in Iran will be top on the agenda at the G8 foreign ministers’ meeting. This will be the first time that piracy will be discussed at a G8 meeting.²¹¹ (June 23, 2009, *Platts Commodity News*)

Japanese foreign minister Hirofumi Nakasone will attend the G8 foreign ministers meeting and will push for talks on North Korean nuclear and missile issues as well as disarmament and piracy. Japan hopes to work with other countries in enforcing sanctions against North Korea in accordance with a new UN Security Council resolution aimed at punishing Pyongyang for its recent missile and nuclear activities. The foreign minister plans to assert that Japan would not tolerate North Korea’s development of nuclear weapons and launching of ballistic missiles, the officials said. Nakasone also hopes to see a chair’s statement to be issued at the G8 meeting include support for Japan’s long-running efforts to have the issue of Japanese people abducted by North Korea resolved, they said. Nakasone is also expected to stress the need to work on reducing nuclear weapons stockpiles in the world. In connection with the rampant piracy off the coast of

²⁰⁸ *Daily The Pak Banker* (June 24, 2009), “Pak-India talks likely on G8 meeting sidelines.”

²⁰⁹ *ANSA – English Media Service* (June 23, 2009), “Open Hand Still Extended to Iran, Frattini.”

²¹⁰ *Xinhua News Agency* (June 23, 2009), “Chinese Vice FM to attend G8 meeting in Italy.”

²¹¹ *Platts Commodity News* (June 23, 2009), “Piracy, North Korea, Iran top on G8 ministers’ agenda.”

Somalia, the minister plans to confirm with his G8 counterparts the need to work on upgrading the maritime policing functions of Horn of Africa countries and to cooperate with one another on exchanging piracy information. Nakasone will also attend an outreach session to discuss ways to stabilize Afghanistan and Pakistan. He is expected to highlight Japan's involvement in such efforts, including the hosting of a donors' conference in Tokyo in April. On the sidelines, Nakasone is scheduled to have bilateral meetings with the foreign ministers from several countries, including U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton.²¹² (June 22, 2009, *Kyodo News*)

Italian foreign minister Frattini called on Iran to take urgent action to secure a peaceful end to its political crisis. "We are worried and particularly upset by the violence and loss of human life in Iran. ...We ask the Iranian government to urgently act to create the condition for a peaceful resolution to the internal crisis ... Priority must be given to the protection of human life above all else." Italy has officially invited Iran to the G8 foreign ministers meeting on June 25-27, which will deal with the crises in Afghanistan and Pakistan. "Italy believes that the resolution to the crisis must be sought on the basis of an open and peaceful debate between the government and the other authorities in Iranian society," Frattini said. He pointed out that Italy "respects Iran, its sovereignty and recognises its important role in the region." It plays a particular role in the "stabilisation of Afghanistan, where Iran can make a particularly useful contribution. ...It's in this positive and constructive spirit that Italy considers it to be in the interest of Iran itself to seek internal stability in agreement with civil society ... in keeping with the grand tradition of the country's civilisation."²¹³ (June 21, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

The international quartet on the Middle East (Russia, the U.S., the UN and the European Union) will meet in Italy on June 26. "The quartet will hold the meeting on the sidelines of the G-8 ministerial conference. The quartet will meet with the contact group of the League of Arab States," a spokesman from the Russian foreign ministry said. "The Trieste agenda includes the Arab initiative put forward at the Beirut summit in 2002. The initiative promises the normalization of Arab-Israeli relations in case of the Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab lands it occupied in 1967 ... We believe that this initiative, which is shared by practically all members of the Arab and Islamic community and actively supported by Russia, has vast potential that may be in demand under the current circumstances," he said.²¹⁴ (June 18, 2009, *Interfax: Russia & CIS General Newswire*)

Italy's foreign minister said he is still awaiting a response from Iran after inviting the country to participate in a G8 meeting later this month. "We have not yet received an official response from Iran," Frattini said, adding he was hopeful Iran would send its representative to the meeting of G8 foreign ministers taking place on June 25-27 in Trieste. Italy wants Iran to be included in discussions on the stabilization of Afghanistan and Pakistan. "It's an important opportunity for Iran to contribute to the stabilization of Afghanistan and Pakistan," Frattini said. He said Tehran's participation would also be an "important signal" that Iran's regime is open to dialogue with the West despite the

²¹² *Kyodo News* (June 22, 2009), "Nakasone to push N. Korean issues at G8 foreign ministerial meeting."

²¹³ *Agence France Presse* (June 21, 2009), "Italy calls for urgent action to end Iran crisis."

²¹⁴ *Interfax: Russia & CIS General Newswire* (June 18, 2009), "Middle-East mediators to convene in Italy on June 26."

crackdown surrounding the country's contested elections. Frattini welcomed as "encouraging" the news that Iran's Islamic leadership is prepared to conduct a limited recount of the presidential elections, in which President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was declared the winner.²¹⁵ (June 16, 2009, *Associated Press Newswires*)

Afghan foreign minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta has welcomed the possible presence of Iran at the G8 foreign ministerial meeting on restoring stability in Afghanistan. The Afghan foreign minister expressed hope that Iranian foreign minister Manouchehr Mottaki would take part in the meeting in Italy on Afghanistan, saying the future of the region will depend on the close cooperation of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. He added that the three neighboring countries should make efforts to enhance cooperation in the campaign against terrorism and to establish security and stability.²¹⁶ (May 26, 2009, *Trend News Agency*)

Iranian foreign minister Manouchehr Mottaki said Tehran is still studying the invitation by the Italian government to attend an Afghan security conference in Rome. "Iran's participation or non-participation is under consideration," Mottaki said on the sidelines of a trilateral meeting of Iranian, Pakistani and Afghan presidents.²¹⁷ (May 24, 2009, *Fars News Agency*)

Iran has not yet decided whether or not it will accept an invitation to participate in the G8 foreign ministers meeting. "Since no details are available about the meeting Iran cannot announce definitely that it will or will not attend the gathering," Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Hassan Qashqavi said.²¹⁸ (May 19, 2009, *FNA News Agency*)

Hillary Clinton is in favour of Iran attending a meeting on Afghanistan in June when the G8 foreign ministers gather in Italy, said Franco Frattini said. He said Clinton expressed "her positive opinion on the subject of the eventual participation of Iran" at the talks to take place in the Italian city of Trieste." Our objective is to have the Iranian and American foreign ministers seated at the same table," he added, referring to the talks that will focus on restoring stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan.²¹⁹ (May 9, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

The G8 foreign ministers demanded that the warring factions in Sri Lanka take all necessary action to prevent further civilian casualties. They were deeply concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the country and the "mass civilian casualties" that have resulted. They condemned the rebels for using civilians as human shields. "It is time for the conflict to end now," said a statement released by G8 president, Italy. The United Nations estimates that 50,000 civilians are caught in Sri Lanka's northern war zone, where the military has pushed forward with its offensive to destroy the Tamil Tiger rebels. The rebels have warned they face starvation. More than 100,000 civilians have fled the tiny coastal strip still under rebel control, flooding hospitals in the north and

²¹⁵ *Associated Press Newswires* (June 16, 2009), "Italy awaits response from Iran on G8 invitation."

²¹⁶ *Trend News Agency* (May 26, 2009), "Afghanistan hopes Iran will attend G8 meeting."

²¹⁷ *Fars News Agency* (May 24, 2009), "FM: Iran over Participation in Rome Conference."

²¹⁸ *FNA News Agency* (May 19, 2009), "Iran Mulling over Participation in G8 Summit."

²¹⁹ *Agence France Presse* (May 9, 2009), "Clinton wants Iran presence at Afghan G8 meeting: Italian FM."

overwhelming government-run displacement camps, according to aid workers. The government has barred aid groups and journalists from the war zone since last year, arguing that it was too dangerous for them to work. International pressure on Sri Lanka has grown in recent days, with the UN sending its top humanitarian official to assess the situation and neighbouring India sending two top officials to demand a pause in the fighting to allow civilians to escape. The G8 foreign ministers were concerned about reports that the injured haven't been able to move to safety. "Strongly condemning the use of civilians as human shields by the [rebels], the killing of civilians and terrorism in all its manifestations, we call all parties to take all necessary action to avoid further civilian casualties," the statement said.²²⁰ (April 25, 2009, *Associated Press Newswire*)

G8 foreign ministers will discuss the situation in Afghanistan as well as Afghanistan-Pakistan relations in Trieste on June 25-27. "The ministers will discuss the key issues of global policy, particularly nonproliferation of mass destruction weapons, anti-terror fight, struggle with transnational organized crime, sea piracy and many other regional problems," said a representative of the Russian foreign ministry.²²¹ (April 16, 2009, *ITAR-TASS World Service*)

Franco Frattini said that although his visit to Iran had to be postponed, he hoped it still could be scheduled for this month. He had been expected to travel to Iran in the first part of this month to discuss the possibility of Iranian officials attending a June conference in Trieste on the stabilization of Afghanistan and Pakistan that Italy is organizing in its role as president of the G8 for 2009. However, he announced that he had put off the trip because of what he defined as "horrible and unacceptable" statements and threats Iranian officials had made against Israel. Iran has already said it was examining "with interest" Frattini's invitation to Trieste in June. Aside from Iran, the Italians also want to invite India, Turkey, China, the Gulf states and the Asian republics to the Trieste G8 conference.²²² (March 10, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

The U.S. has given an initial green light to Italy's plans to invite Iran to a regional conference on Afghanistan and Pakistan in Trieste at the end of June, Franco Frattini said. He said he received the go-ahead from Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. special envoy on Afghanistan and Pakistan. "Iran could play a positive role and with the Americans we are discussing how to involve them, not whether to involve them," Frattini said. Aside from Iran, Italy also wants to invite India, Turkey, China, the Gulf states and the Asian republics.²²³ (February 27, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Art thefts and the protection of artistic heritage will be one of the issues discussed at the G8 foreign ministers meeting hosted by Italy, said Italian foreign minister Franco Frattini. He said Italy will ask participants to agree on a series of global regulations aimed at thwarting art thefts. Culture minister Sandro Bondi will chair the special session on art

²²⁰ *Associated Press Newswire* (April 25, 2009), "G8 to Sri Lanka factions: no more civilian loss."

²²¹ *ITAR-TASS World Service* (April 16, 2009), "G8 FMs to discuss Afghanistan situation in Trieste June 25-27."

²²² *ANSA – English Media Service* (March 10, 2009), "Frattini Hope to Visit Iran in March."

²²³ *ANSA – English Media Service* (February 27, 2009), "G8: US Green Light to Iran at Afghan Conference, Frattini."

and illustrate the work of Italy's special unit police force in preserving its art heritage. The Cultural Heritage Protection Unit of the Carabinieri has gained a worldwide reputation for its work in recovering stolen works and stopping trading. Its research has also led to landmark antiquity returns from foreign institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Getty Museum in California. The special unit recovered stolen archaeological treasures and artworks worth €183 million in 2008, more than double the previous year.²²⁴ (February 25, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Italy said it was considering inviting Iran to an international meeting on Afghanistan. The conference would discuss securing the borders of Afghanistan and Pakistan to fight the “spillover” of terrorism, drugs and organized crime. The talks will be hosted by Italy in Trieste on June 27, a day after the G8 foreign ministers meet.²²⁵ (February 23, 2009, *Reuters News*)

Iran said Tehran was considering an invitation by Italy to participate in a meeting on Afghanistan.²²⁶ (February 23, 2009, *BBC Monitoring Middle East*)

Franco Frattini said he wants to invite Iran to the G8 foreign ministers' meeting on Afghanistan. He plans to invite all nearby countries that have an influence in Afghanistan, including Pakistan, China, India, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. He added that a way must be found to involve Iran, which is one of Afghanistan's largest neighbours. “We want to consider how to involved Iran, not whether to involve Iran,” he said. “I'm convinced we will have to find somehow, a way to get Iran involved.” He added, “I don't know whether Iran is ready to accept or whether all the partners that take part in G8 are in agreement with my idea. But we will be exploring further their support in trying to involve in a positive way Tehran.”²²⁷ (February 18, 2009, *Financial Times*)

In June, Italian authorities are organizing an international conference on the stabilization of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Apart from the G8, India, China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, will be involved. Special attention will be paid to anti-terrorism, a new plan on the Iraqi issue following the end of the Bush presidency in the U.S., and to Iran's nuclear program and the construction of a new European security structure.²²⁸ (January 3, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

G8 foreign ministers will meet on June 26 in Trieste.²²⁹ (January 2, 2009, *BBC Monitoring European*)

²²⁴ *ANSA – English Media Service* (February 25, 2009), “G8: Bondi to Host Meeting on Art Heritage and Thefts.”

²²⁵ *Reuters News* (February 23, 2009), “Italy says considering Iran invite to Afghanistan talks.”

²²⁶ *BBC Monitoring Middle East* (February 23, 2009), “G8 invitation to Iran's constructive role in Afghanistan-official.”

²²⁷ *Financial Times* (February 18, 2009), “Italy seeks to involve Iran in G8 talks.”

²²⁸ *Xinhua News Agency* (January 3, 2009), “News Analysis: Italian G8 2009 presidency faces tough challenges.”

²²⁹ *BBC Monitoring European* (January 2, 2009), “Italy to bring “flexible format” to G8.”

Other

The Italian foreign ministry said that a meeting on funding African infrastructure will be held in Rome. As president of the G8, Italy will host the meeting of the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) on March 10-11. The Italian foreign aid department will arrange a debate on ways of mitigating risk to attract private capital, the ministry said. Donors, funding agencies and risk insurance institutes will discuss problems such as governance with African representatives, said the ministry. The ICA was set up in 2005 following the G8 Gleneagles Summit and aims to meet Africa's urgent need for growth and development by encouraging the public and private sectors to build power, water and computer networks.²³⁰ (March 3, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

Civil Society and Other G8-Related Activities

Catholic bishops from the G8 have written to their leaders urging them to take action to fight poverty especially in Africa. "Our moral traditions commits the Church to protection human life and dignity, especially the poorest, most vulnerable members of the human family. In the faces of poor persons the Catholic Church sees the face of Christ whom we serve in countries throughout the world," the bishop wrote. The bishops urge the G8 to keep and increase their ODA commitments and to achieve the MDGs. The bishops also expressed concerns over climate change. They called for concrete commitments and mechanism to mitigate additional global climate change and to help poor person and developing nations adapt to its effects.²³¹ (June 26, 2009, *All Africa*)

The science academies of the G8 and G5 have released a joint statement outlining recommendations for addressing climate change. The recommendations include: adopting an international climate change agreement in Copenhagen that sets a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 50% below 1990 levels by 2050; increasing climate change research; collaborating on the implementation of low-carbon technology; supporting developing countries' access to such technologies; developing, demonstrating and deploying carbon capture and sequestration technology; and pursuing "international cooperation on safe and secure nuclear power capacity."²³² (June 22, 2009, *Carbon Control News*)

Pope Benedict XVI met with key religious figures from around the world as part of a two-day spiritual initiative ahead of the G8 summit. The pontiff addressed 129 delegates, who are in Italy to discuss issues on the G8's agenda from a spiritual and ethical perspective. Benedict said he hoped the world's political leaders would pay heed to what he described as "a grave duty to ensure their decisions and policies support the common good." He thanked the Italian Episcopal Conference for their efforts in organizing the two-day event alongside the Italian Foreign Ministry. "I trust this initiative will do a great deal to draw the attention of the world's political leaders to the importance of religion in

²³⁰ *Xinhua News Agency* (March 3, 2009), "Italy to host meeting on funding infrastructure in Africa."

²³¹ *All Africa* (June 26, 2009), "G8 Bishops Urge Leaders to Focus on Poverty."

²³² *Carbon Control News* (June 22, 2009), "G8 Science Academies Release Goals for Global Climate Treaty."

the social fabric of every society.” The religious representatives began their two-day stay in Italy with a visit to the central Italian town of L’Aquila to pay tribute to April’s earthquake victims. They then travelled down to Rome for a meeting with Italian president Giorgio Napolitano and a later encounter with Italian foreign minister Frattini. Delegates were present from industrialized and developing countries around the world and from an array of faiths, including Hindus, Christians, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists and Shintoists. The talks focused on an array of topics: water, health, education, food security and peace, with a particular focus on Africa and the impact of the world economic crisis. “We hope these talks will remind political leaders that a religious dimension is essential for the development of peace and for coexistence between different peoples,” said the President of the Episcopal Commission for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue at the Italian Bishops Conference, Vincenzo Paglia. Delegates resumed discussions following their meeting with the pope and wrapped up with a public press conference and a final statement of issues they want considered at the July summit of leaders. Speaking at the conference, Paglia explained talks had focused on the need to reassert the primacy of spirituality over materialism. Now in its fourth year, the religious assembly is one of a series of gatherings in the run-up to the G8 summit. Other meetings have seen civil society representatives, climate change scientists, university chancellors, students and business figures from around the world meeting in Italy, which is president of this year’s G8. The aim is to provide world leaders with a range of views from different sectors of society when they meet for the final summit.²³³ (June 17, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Six people have been arrested on suspicion of planning an attack on the G8 summit next month. The six are apparently members of an extreme leftwing cell. The gang apparently did not have an attack plan but “were discussing how they could get close to strategic points at the summit.” They had maps of the summit’s closed-circuit surveillance system and “were trying to figure out how to bypass the security systems,” a chief police officer said.²³⁴ (June 11, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

Scientists from the G8 and five other states urged the G8 leaders to accelerate the development and introduction of low carbon technologies to tackle global warming. Ichiro Kanazawa, president of the Science Council of Japan, presented a joint statement from science academies to Japanese Prime Minister Aso. The statement was issued by science academies of the G8 and the G5. This was the fifth such appeal to the G8 summit by the academies since 2005. The statement warns that “climate change is happening even faster than previously estimated” and “the need for urgent action to address climate change is now indisputable.” Against this backdrop, the statement called on the governments to “collaborate in the implementation of low carbon and climate resilient infrastructure and technologies...through the use of economic and regulatory instruments, to accelerate adoption of clear ‘green’ technologies.” It also emphasizes the need for a rapidly increased adoption of renewable energy technologies such as wind, geothermal, solar energy, biofuels and wave power. “The development of standards and certification

²³³ *ANSA – English Media Service* (June 17, 2009), “Pope meets with 129 Religious Leaders Gathered for G8 Talks.”

²³⁴ *Agence France Presse* (June 11, 2009), “Italy arrests six over suspected plot to attack G8.”

for the environmentally sustainable implementation of these technologies is essential,” the statement said.²³⁵ (June 11, 2009, *Kyodo News*)

Addressing a Rome meeting of non-governmental organizations and civil society representatives, Italian G8 sherpa Giampiero Massolo said Italy’s presidency of the G8 would make a virtue of “inclusiveness.” “This is crucial in order to extend areas of global consensus,” he told delegates attending the Civil G8 Dialogue, which brings together representatives from international civil society to draft a list of issues to raise with G8 leaders. He said it would be impossible to discuss the issues on the summit agenda, which include the financial crisis, climate change, food security and global health without the presence of developing countries. Massolo recalled that G8 host Silvio Berlusconi and U.S. president Barack Obama will jointly chair a forum of developing economies this summer. Massolo praised the “important contribution” made by the Civil G8 Dialogue each year, as well as its “fruitful collaboration” with official G8 organizers.²³⁶ (May 5, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

At the two-day meeting of the Civil G8 Dialogue in May, Rome mayor Gianni Alemanno said he will try to organize a meeting between G8 leaders and representatives of civil society at this summer’s summit. He stressed the importance of ensuring civil society had a voice in the proceedings. “If, as I’m certain will be the case, this meeting agrees on appropriate representation and produces a document with clear objectives, then I will ask Premier Silvio Berlusconi to organize a meeting during the summit,” Alemanno said. The proposed meeting would see talks between leaders of the G8, representatives from the Civil G8 and the Italian arm of the Global Coalition Against Poverty (GCAP), which brings together more than 70 Italian NGOs. Alemanno stressed the importance of an event “that will ensure governments listen to the voice of civil society — in the shape of associations representing public opinion — before taking action.” Alemanno urged the 258 delegates from Africa, Asia, Europe and South America to draft a suitable document that could be used by G8 leaders that would provide “answers to the current crisis that are not just based on market and development initiatives but also on solidarity and environmental protection.” GCAP published a document listing its concerns ahead of the meeting, which was expected to form the basis of the Civil G8’s declaration. Top of the list was soaring food prices, which GCAP said rose 85% last year. The list also touched on the global financial crisis, stressing the need for action against the current “distorted” system it said was responsible for the crisis. Climate change was the third issue listed. GCAP said industrialized nations needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25-40% by 2020, with a global cut in emissions of 80% by 2050.²³⁷ (May 4, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Anti-globalization activists will lay siege to La Maddalena during the G8. “We will organise a fleet of hope that will break the blockage of the eight powers,” said Francesco Caruso of No Global, explaining that arriving by sea is “the only possible way.” No

²³⁵ *Kyodo News* (June 11, 2009), “Scientists urge G8+5 leaders to speed up low-carbon tech development.”

²³⁶ *ANSA – English Media Service* (May 5, 2009), “Berlusconi Rep Promises ‘Inclusiveness’ at G8 summit.”

²³⁷ *ANSA – English Media Service* (May 4, 2009), “Rome Mayor Promises Meeting for Civil Society and G8 Leaders.”

Global will take its cue from the Free Gaza movement, which is organising a fleet from Cyprus that will sail to the Gaza Strip in May. “If the expedition is a success we’ll repropose it at the G8,” he said. A parish priest has already signed up to help staff the No Global boats during the siege. Franco Frattini warned that Italy “will not tolerate violence” during the summit. “We have activated all the preventive tools to guarantee a safe G8 ... People who want to protest must and can do so peacefully, but we will not tolerate violence, extremist groups, people who only want to destabilise things and who have no interest in the solution of the major global questions.”²³⁸ (April 2, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Celebrity Diplomacy

Former United Nations secretary general Kofi Annan and musician Bob Geldof urged Italy to keep up efforts to cut poverty in Africa despite the global economic crisis. “In richer countries this crisis is resulting in bankruptcy, unemployment, personal misery and fear for the future,” Annan said. “But for many in Africa, the effects are life-threatening ... The impact is profound and deepening.” He cited decreasing trade and foreign investment, diminishing credit and slumping revenues. Annan said hunger will likely increase, school attendance will drop, and women and children will be the hardest hit. Geldof challenged Italian prime minister and G8 host Silvio Berlusconi to prove his leadership by leading efforts to halve extreme poverty around the world by 2015. “Don’t talk to me about the financial crisis,” Geldof said. “Whatever financial crisis we meet, it is life or death” for people in Africa. “This money does not go into some black hole, it goes into an empty stomach.”²³⁹ (February 20, 2009, *Associated Press Newswires*)

Activities

Teams of young people aged 14 to 17 are heading to Rome for the Junior Eight (J8) to be held from 5-12 July. This year, the 32 young people from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK and the U.S. will be joined by teams of four young people from Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Mexico and South Africa. The young people will be able to speak to the press on several occasions throughout their stay in Rome, including after their meeting with the G8 leaders on the 9th. The focus of this year’s J8 will be climate change, the financial crisis, and poverty in Africa as they impact on the lives of children and young people. The youth event is being hosted at the Istituto Superiore Antincendi in Rome, the central training centre for Italy’s firefighters, who are also Italian Goodwill Ambassadors.²⁴⁰ (June 19, 2009, *States News Service*)

Italian police fought running battles with thousands of students protesting over the economic crisis on the sidelines of an international meeting of university leaders. Nineteen police and two demonstrators were injured. The students tried to break through

²³⁸ *ANSA – English Media Service* (April 2, 2009), “Anti-Globalisation Activists to Stage Naval Siege of G8.”

²³⁹ *Associated Press Newswires* (February 20, 2009), “Annan, Geldof urge Italy to keep Africa on the map.”

²⁴⁰ *States News Service* (June 19, 2009), “Young Leaders Head for Junior 8/G8 Summit in Rome.”

a security cordon around the Valentino castle where 40 university rectors from nineteen countries were meeting as part of a G8 preliminary meeting. The demonstrators hurled rocks and fire extinguishers at police who responded with baton charges and volleys of tear gas. The students tried to attack several nearby banks. The university presidents were discussing the impact of the world economic crisis and durable development. Italy's policy unions said the clashes were an alarm bell ahead of the G8. "We are very worried because in Turin we have seen scenes of violence that we thought belonged to the past," Christiano Leggeri of the UGL police union said.²⁴¹ (May 20, 2009, *Agence France Presse*)

Business leaders from the G8 plan to urge their political chiefs to strike an agreement on trade liberalization talks taking place at the WTO by the end of this year and reduce tariffs, a draft statement for the business gathering stated. The business organizations will also ask their political leaders to refrain from forming new regulations that could hinder trade. The business leaders are scheduled to hold a two-day meeting starting April 23 in Italy. In the draft statement the business organizations also ask the G8 leaders to take coordinated action on fiscal stimuli and they encourage the leaders to take "fair and binding reduction targets" on climate change.²⁴² (April 17, 2009, *Kyodo News*)

Bocconi University in Milan hosted the G8 Youth Summit in March. The annual gathering began in 2006 and usually takes place in the country where the G8 is organized. Looking for a common ground, participants discussed the reform of international financial institutions, climate change, economic crisis, energy, environment and poverty. More than 21 national delegations attended, including representatives from China, India, Mexico and Turkey. Organized by young volunteers from the host country with the help of national student teams in the other G8 countries, the summit represents the voice of youths to the G8 leaders. Previous youth summits have been held in Russia, Germany and Japan.²⁴³ (March 20, 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*)

African women are finding it difficult to progress in the business world and those lucky enough to be well educated are finding that the "glass ceiling" is preventing them from achieving the success of their male counterparts. The G8 Africa Infrastructure Investment Conference in London will aim to provide a platform for investors, governments and international funding agencies to discuss business opportunities in Africa. It is hoped that the conference will go far toward convincing investors that targeting opportunities in African infrastructure will provide best value in the challenging global environment. "The main focus of this conference in June is to examine the role of women in business and in society," one participant said. "African women, especially those of Nigeria, Egypt, Zimbabwe and the Congo, really battle with running their businesses and generating an income for their family. It has to do with culture and lack of education." The G8 Africa Infrastructure Investment Conference will take place in London from June 29 to 30.²⁴⁴ (March 19, 2009, *Daily News*)

²⁴¹ *Agence France Presse* (May 20, 2009), "Italian police baton charge students."

²⁴² *Kyodo News* (April 17, 2009), "G8 business leaders to seek WTO accord by year-end, tariff cuts."

²⁴³ *Xinhua News Agency* (March 20, 2009), "G8 Youth Summit calls for joint efforts to tackle world issues."

²⁴⁴ *Daily News* (March 19, 2009), "Local woman invited to G8 Africa in London."

Farmers from G8 countries are aiming to create a global cereals reserve to offset price shocks and reduce speculative trade in grains. A proposal to create global cereal stocks will top the agenda of the first-ever meeting of G8 farmers unions in Rome on March 19, where the farmers will also discuss world hunger, food security, climate change and economic crisis, they said. “The goal is to stabilise prices and protect farmers from speculation,” a spokesman for Italy’s biggest farming group Coldiretti said. Coldiretti will host the meeting in Rome. World cereal prices soared to record highs in 2007 in the first half of last year, fuelling spikes in food prices that triggered riots in some developing countries. Grain prices have fallen back since then thanks to large crops in 2008. “The policy of zero stocks has shown its limits. Stabilising markets will require the creation of buffer stocks on a world level and major farming countries should provide the impetus,” said an official at FNSEA, France’s main farm union. The farmers will sign a joint declaration calling for greater investment in agriculture to meet the demands of a growing population and ensure farmers could contribute to renewable energy and fighting climate change. Italy’s agriculture minister Luca Zaia said the farmers’ meeting would set the agenda for the G8 agriculture ministers’ meeting in April and would be part of a dossier he would bring to the G8 summit in July.²⁴⁵ (March 17, 2009, *Reuters News*)

The heads of business associations from the world’s largest industrialized countries will meet in Santa Margherita di Pula, near Cagliari, Sardinia, on April 23-24, 2009, said Massimo Putzu, the local head of Confindustria, Italy’s industrial employers’ association. They will discuss economic theories to be examined by the G8 at Maddalena Summit in July. Putzu said it was an “honour” to host the “G8 of industrialists,” which would be “at an absolutely international level.”²⁴⁶ (March 3, 2009, *ANSA – English Media Service*)

Italy’s G8 Team

Silvio Berlusconi, Prime Minister
Giampiero Massolo, Sherpa
Franco Frattini, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Giulio Tremonti, Minister of Economy and Finance
Stefania Prestigiacomo, Minister of Environment
Ignazio La Russa, Minister of Defence
Angelino Alfano, Minister of Justice
Luca Zaia, Minister of Agriculture
Mariastella Gelmini, Minister of Education, University and Research
Maurizio Sacconi, Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
Roberto Maroni, Minister of the Interior
Sandro Bondi, Minister of Culture

²⁴⁵ *Reuters News* (March 17, 2009), “G8 farmers mull world grain reserve for stable price.”

²⁴⁶ *ANSA – English Media Service* (March 3, 2009), “Sardinia to Host ‘G8’ of Industrial Heads.”

Participating Leaders

G8 Leaders

Canada

Stephen Harper was first elected prime minister of Canada in January 2006, assuming office from Paul Martin in February and leading a minority government. He later ran for re-election in October 2008 and returned to the House of Commons with a stronger minority. Before running for politics he served as a policy advisor for the Reform Party. Harper first ran for a seat in the House of Commons in 1988, but was not successfully elected until 1993. He served as leader of the opposition for a number of years before becoming prime minister. He was born in Toronto, Ontario, on April 30, 1959. He did studied economics at the University of Toronto and the University of Calgary, later returning to the University of Calgary to earn his master's degree in economics in 1991. He and his wife, Laureen Harper, have two children.

France

Nicolas Sarkozy became president of France on May 16, 2007, taking over from Jacques Chirac, who had held the position since 1995. He worked as a lawyer while he pursued politics. From 1983 to 2002, he was mayor of Neuilly-sur-Seine. He has been president of the Union pour un Mouvement Populaire, France's major right-wing party, since 2004. During his time in parliament he has held a number of cabinet portfolios including minister of state of economy, finance and industry, minister of the budget and minister of the interior. He was born in Paris on January 28, 1955. In 1978, he received his law degree from the Université de Paris. He is married to Carla Bruni and has three children from his two previous marriages.

Germany

Angela Merkel became the first female chancellor of Germany on November 22, 2005, replacing Gerhard Schröder who had been in power since 1998. Before entering into politics Merkel worked as a researcher and physicist. She was first elected to the Bundestag in 1990 and has held the cabinet portfolios of women and youth, environment, nature conservation and nuclear safety. She was born in Hamburg on July 17, 1956. In 1978, she received her doctorate in physics from the University of Leipzig. She is married to Joachim Sauer and has no children.

Italy

Silvio Berlusconi became prime minister of Italy for the fourth time after winning the April 2008 election. Before entering politics, he started his career as a building

contractor. In 1980, he established Canale 5, the first private national television network in Italy. He also became a leading Italian publisher with Mondadori. In 1994 he resigned from all his posts at Gruppo Fininvest in order to establish the political movement Forza Italia and, in the same year, he became president of the Council of Ministers for the first time. In June 2001 Berlusconi became premier again, an office he held until 2006. In 2009, for the third time, he chairs the presidency of the G8. Born in Milan on September 29, 1936, he received his law degree from the University of Milan. He is married to Veronica Lario and has five children.

Japan

Taro Aso became prime minister of Japan on September 24, 2008, replacing Yasuo Fukuda, who held the position since September 2007. Before entering into politics, Aso worked in mining. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1979 and has been re-elected eight times. He has served in a variety of positions in government including minister of foreign affairs and minister of international affairs and communications. He was born in Iizuka, Fukuoka, on September 20, 1940. He studied politics and economics at Gakushuin University as well as Stanford University and the London School of Economics. He was also a member of the Japanese shooting team that competed at the 1976 Olympics. He is married to Chikako Aso and they have two children.

Russia

Dmitry Medvedev became president of Russia on May 7, 2008, after winning the presidential election in March, replacing Vladimir Putin, whose term in office had expired. Before entering politics, Medvedev worked as a legal expert and lawyer. He was officially endorsed as a presidential candidate on December 17, 2007, by Russia's largest political party, United Russia, as well as by Putin. Medvedev served as deputy prime minister from 2005 to 2008. He was born in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) on September 14, 1965. He earned a degree in law in 1987 and a doctorate in private law in 1990 from Leningrad State University. He is married to Svetlana Medvedeva and they have one child.

United Kingdom

Gordon Brown became prime minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on June 27, 2007, three days after becoming leader of the Labour Party. He was first elected to parliament in 1983 as representative for Dunfermline East. Since 2005 he has been the representative for Kilmacduy and Cowdenbeath, both in Scotland. Before entering politics he worked as a lecturer and journalist. He served as chancellor of the exchequer from 1997 to 2007. As the United Kingdom holds the chair of the G20 for 2009, Brown will host the London Summit on April 1–2, 2009. He was born in Govan, Glasgow, on February 20 1951. He studied history at the University of Edinburgh and completed his doctorate in 1982. He and his wife, Sarah, have two children.

United States

Barack Obama became president-elect on November 4, 2008, and was inaugurated January 20, 2009, replacing George W. Bush. In 2005 Obama was elected to the Senate, having previously worked as a community organizer, a civil rights lawyer and a state legislator for Illinois. The first black president of the United States, he was born on August 4, 1961, in Honolulu, Hawaii, to a Kenyan father and American mother. He received his bachelor's degree from Columbia University in 1983 and a law degree from Harvard University in 1991. He is married to Michelle Obama and they have two children.

European Union

Until June 30: **Mirek Topolánek** has been prime minister of the Czech Republic since August 16, 2006. The Czech Republic assumed the six-month presidency of the European Council from France on January 1, 2009. Topolánek was a member of the Czech Senate from 1996 to 2004 and its deputy chair from 2002 to 2004. Since June 2006 he has been a member of the Chamber of Deputies. Born in 1956, Topolánek received his degree in mechanical engineering from the Brno University of Technology. He is separated from his wife, Pavla Topláňková, and has four children.

As of July 1: **John Fredrik Reinfeldt** has been prime minister of Sweden since October 2006. Sweden assumes the six-month rotating presidency of the European Council on July 1, 2009. Reinfeldt has been a member of the Swedish parliament since 1991. Born in 1965 in Österhaninge, Stockholm County, he graduated from Stockholm University with a degree in business and economics. He is married to Filippa Reinfeldt and has three children. This will be the first G8 summit Reinfeldt has attended.

José Manuel Barroso became president of the European Commission on November 23, 2004. Previously he was prime minister of Portugal from 2002 to 2004. Before entering politics Barroso was an academic. He studied law at the University of Lisbon, holds a master's degree in economics and social sciences from the University of Geneva and received his doctorate from Georgetown University in 1998. He is married to Maria Margarida Pinto Ribeiro de Sousa Uva and has three children.

G5 Leaders

Brazil

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva first assumed the office of the president on January 1, 2003, after being successfully elected in October 2002. He was re-elected in October 2006, extending his term until January 2011. "Lula" first ran for office in 1982 in the state of Sao Paulo, but it was not until 1986 that he was first elected to congress. He did not run for re-election in 1990. Instead, he became more involved in the Workers' Party, where he continued to run for the office of the president. He was born in Caetés, Pernambuco, Brazil, on October 27, 1945. He received no formal education and began working in a

copper pressing factory at the age of 14. He became heavily involved in the workers unions at a young age. He is married to Marisa Leticia and has five children.

China

Hu Jintao has been president of the People's Republic of China since March 15, 2003. He replaced Jiang Zemin, who had held the position since 1989. Hu also serves as general secretary of the Communist Party of China's (CPC) Central Committee and chair of the Central Military Commission. Before entering into politics he worked as an engineer. He joined the CPC in April 1964, and began working with the party in 1968. In 1992, he was elected to the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and re-elected in 1997. He became vice-president of China in March 1998 and vice-chair of the Central Military Commission in 1999. In November 2002, Hu was elected general secretary of the CPC Central Committee. He was born in Jiangyan, Jiangsu, on December 21, 1942. In 1965 he received his engineering degree from Tsinghua University. He is married to Lui Yongqing and they have two children.

India

Manmohan Singh became prime minister of India on May 22, 2004, replacing Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who held the position from 1998 to 2004, and also for a short period in 1996. Before entering into politics, Singh worked as an economist, including for the International Monetary Fund. He was governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 1982 to 1985. Singh was first elected to the upper house of Indian parliament in 1995. He was re-elected in 2001 and 2007 and held cabinet positions including minister of finance and minister for external affairs. Singh also served as minister of finance from November 2008 to January 2009. He was born in Gah, Punjab (now known as Chakwal district, Pakistan), on September 26, 1932. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Punjab University in 1952 and 1954. He also received an additional undergraduate degree from Cambridge University in 1957 and a PhD from Oxford University in 1962. He and his wife, Gursharan Kaur, have three children.

Mexico

Felipe Calderón Hinojosa became president of Mexico on December 1, 2006, replacing Vicente Fox, who held the position from 2000 to 2006. In his early twenties Calderón was president of the youth movement of the National Action Party. He later served as a local representative in the legislative assembly in the federal chamber of deputies. In 1995 he ran for governor of Michoacán. He served as secretary of energy from 2003 to 2004. Born in Morelia, Michoacán, on August 18, 1962, he received his bachelor's degree in law from Escuela Libre de Derecho in Mexico City. He later received a master's degree in economics from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México as well as a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University. He and his wife, Margarita Zavala, have three children.

South Africa

Jacob Zuma became president of South Africa on May 9, 2009, succeeding Petrus Kgalema Motlanthe, who had held the position since September 2008. He joined the ANC in 1958 and started serving in the National Executive committee of the African National Congress (ANC) in 1977. In 1994, Zuma was elected National Chair of the ANC and chair of the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal. He was re-elected to the latter position in 1996 and selected as the deputy president of the ANC in December 1997. Zuma was appointed executive deputy president of South Africa in 1999. He held that position until 2005 and was elected ANC president at the end of 2007. He was born April 12, 1949, in Inkandla, KwaZulu-Natal Province. He has three wives and several children.

Other Participating Leaders

Australia

Kevin Rudd became prime minister of Australia on December 3, 2007, replacing John Howard, who had held the position since 1996. Before entering into politics, Rudd worked for the Department of Foreign Affairs, where he held posts in Stockholm, Sweden and China. He also spent time as a political staffer and held positions that included chief of staff for the premier of Queensland and director general of the office of the Queensland cabinet. Rudd first ran for office in 1996, but was not successfully elected until 1998. Since then he has served in various positions including shadow minister of foreign affairs and leader of the opposition. He was born in Nambour, Queensland, on September 21, 1957. He earned a bachelor's degree Asian studies at Australian National University in 1981, where he focused on Chinese language and history. He and his wife, Thérèse Rein, have three children.

Egypt

Muhammad Hosni Mubarak became president on October 14, 1981, assuming the office after the assassination of Anwar el-Sadat. He is the fourth president of Egypt. Before becoming president he served as vice-president and prime minister. He was born on May 4, 1928, in Kafr-El-Meselha, Al Monufiyah Governorate. He joined the Egyptian Military Academy, where he received a bachelor's degree in military sciences in 1949. In 1950, he joined the Air Force Academy, earning a bachelor's degree in aviation sciences, and was assigned to the bombers squadrons. He received part of his pilot training in Moscow. He and his wife, Suzanne, have two children.

Indonesia

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono became president on October 20, 2004, after winning the election in September, replacing the incumbent Megawato Sukarnoputri. Before entering into politics, he served as a lecturer and a military general. His first experience in politics came when he was appointed minister of mines and energy in 1999. He later served as

co-ordinating minister for politics and security. He was born on September 9, 1949, in Pacitan, East Java. He received his doctorate in agricultural economics from the Bogor Institute of Agriculture in 2004. He and his wife, Kristiani Herawati, have two children.

South Korea

Lee Myung-bak became president on February 25, 2008, replacing Roh Moo-hyun, who had occupied the position since 2003. Lee joined the Hyundai Construction company in 1965 and eventually became chief executive officer of the Hyundai Group before being elected to the Korean National Assembly in 1992. In 2002 he was elected mayor of Seoul, a position he held until 2006. He was born in Kirano, Osaka, Japan on December 19, 1941. He received a degree in business administration from Korea University in 1965. Lee and his wife, Kim Yun-ok, have four children.

Appendices

Commitments and Remits Due in 2009

2004 (G8 Plan of Support for Reform)-12. Working to train, including through appropriate multilateral institutions, 100,000 teachers by 2009, with a particular focus on high-quality literacy skills;

2004 (Breaking the Cycle of Famine in the Horn of Africa)-2. We will work with the New Coalition for Food Security to offer unified support for the Government's reform program to realize the Government's goal of attaining food security for five million chronically food insecure people by 2009.

2004 (Ending the Cycle of Famine in the Horn of Africa, Raising Agricultural Productivity, and Promoting Rural Development in Food Insecure Countries: A G8 Action Plan)-12. We will work with the Government and other donors to realize the Government's goal of attaining food security for five million chronically food insecure people by 2009.

2007-23. [Fully respecting the mandate, function and role of the competent multilateral organizations, in particular the WTO and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), participants in the dialogue may also discuss initiatives aimed at strengthening intellectual property rights protection which should then be addressed in the appropriate international forums.] The G8 Summit 2009 will take stock of the progress made by that date.

2007-141. The G8 Summit in Japan in 2008 will receive an interim report on the progress made and at the G8 Summit in Italy in 2009 a final report on the outcomes of the Dialogue Process will be presented. [Heiligendamm Process]

2008-21: We therefore compiled national reports, with the assistance of the International Energy Agency (IEA), evaluating our efforts to adhere to those principles and welcome the corresponding overview provided by the IEA. We are committed to updating our reports for 2009 Summit.

2008-49: We reiterate our commitment to the Process and look forward to receiving a comprehensive concluding report at the G8 Summit in 2009. [Heiligendamm Process]

2008-50: We reaffirm our commitment to take strong leadership in combating climate change and in this respect, welcome decisions taken in Bali as the foundation for reaching a global agreement in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process by 2009. We are committed to its successful conclusion.

2008-57: At the same time, in order to ensure an effective and ambitious global post-2012 climate regime, all major economies will need to commit to meaningful mitigation actions to be bound in the international agreement to be negotiated by the end of 2009.

2008-129: In this regard, acknowledging the need to accelerate the achievement of the internationally agreed goals on water and sanitation, we will reinvigorate our efforts to implement the Evian Water Action Plan and will review it on the basis of a progress report prepared by our water experts by the next Summit.

2008-144: G8 progress to support FTI, including meeting shortfalls, will be monitored through a report to be delivered at the 2009 Summit.

2008-190: Additionally, we agree that transfers of enrichment equipment, facilities and technology to any additional state in the next year will be subject to conditions that, at a minimum, do not permit or enable replication of the facilities; and where technically feasible reprocessing transfers to any additional state will be subject to those same conditions.

2008-206: We task our experts to discuss G8 efforts including the implementation of the initiatives above, in cooperation with the UN and regional organizations, and to submit a progress report prior to the Summit in 2009.

2008-235: We will review the progress on this issue at our next Summit. [food crisis]

2008-246: We stress the urgent need for full implementation of existing standards, including Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Special Recommendations VIII and IX, and ask our experts to take steps to share information, evaluate threats, assess new trends and promote implementation and review these efforts next year.

2008-280: Our nations will continue to work constructively together to promote the success of the Copenhagen climate change conference in 2009.

Emissions Table

(million tonnes CO₂ equivalent)

Country	2006	2005	2000	1990	% Change 2006/2005	% Change 2006/1990
United States	7,017.3	7,106.6	7,002.6	6,135.2	-1.3	+14.4
Russia	2,190.4	2,123.5	2,038.4	3,326.4	+3.1	-34.2
Japan	1,340.1	1,658.1	1,348.3	1,272.1	-1.3	+5.3
Germany	1,004.8	1,005.0	1,019.5	1,227.7	-0.02	-18.2
Canada	721.0	734.0	718.0	592.0	-1.9	+22.0
Britain	655.8	658.7	673.8	772.0	-0.4	-15.0
France	541.3	555.1	555.6	563.3	-2.5	+3.9
Italy	567.9	577.9	552.3	516.9	-1.7	+9.9
Total	14,038.6	14,118.9	13,908.5	14,408.7	-0.6	-2.6

²⁴⁷(May 23, 2008, *Reuters News*)

Sources: national submission to UN Climate Change Secretariat, except for Canada, for which the data come from Environment Canada

G8 Gross Domestic Product

Country	PPP in US\$ (2009 est.)
United States	14,002,739,000,000
Japan	4,122,547,000,000
Germany	2,772,927,000,000
United Kingdom	2,159,320,000,000
France	2,086,743,000,000
Italy	1,749,954,000,000
Canada	1,281,958,000,000
Russia	2,145,764,000,000
European Union	14,774,530,000,000
World	68,651,450,000,000
G8 % of World	44.1679702%
G8 + EU % of World	52.9159078%

Source: International Monetary Fund

Note: G8 + EU does not double count Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Italy.

²⁴⁷ *Reuters News* (May 23, 2008), "TABLE-Greenhouse gas emission in G8 members.

Abbreviations

AfDB	African Development Bank
ANC	African National Congress
AMC	advance market commitment
AU	African Union
CTBT	Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FNSEA	Fédération nationale des syndicats d'exploitants agricoles
FTI	Fast Track Initiative
GCAP	Global Coalition Against Poverty
GDP	gross domestic product
GHSI	Global Health Security Initiative
ICA	Infrastructure consortium for Africa
IDP	internally displaced person
IEA	International Energy Agency
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture and Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPEEC	International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation
J8	Junior Eight
MEF	Major Economies Forum (formerly Major Economies Meeting)
MEM	Major Economies Meeting
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	non-governmental organization
NPT	Non-proliferation Treaty
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VAT	value-added tax
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Who's Who

Abbas, Mahmoud	Palestinian president
Alemanno, Gianni	Rome mayor

al-Badri, Abdullah	OPEC security general
al-Naimi, Ali	Saudi Arabian oil minister
Alorabi Mohamed	Egypt's deputy international and economic affairs minister
Annan, Kofi	former United Nations security general
Asmussen, Joerg	German deputy finance minister
Aso, Taro	Japanese prime minister
Balkenende, Jan Peter	Dutch prime minister
Barnier, Michel	French agriculture minister
Barroso, José Manuel	European Commission president
Berlusconi, Silvio	Italian prime minister
Bernanke, Ben	U.S. Federal Reserve chair
Bertolaso, Guido	Head of the Italian Civil Protection Department
Boel, Marianne Fischer	European Union agriculture commissioner
Bondi, Sandro	Italian minister of culture
Brown, Gordon	British prime minister
Burns, William	U.S. undersecretary for political affairs
Calerón, Felipe	Mexican president
Caruso, Francesco	No Global
Choongsoo Kim	Korea's ambassador to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Chu Steven	U.S. energy secretary
Clinton, Hillary	United States secretary of state
Comiti, Angelo	La Maddalena mayor
Craxi, Stafania	Italian secretary of state
Darling, Alistair	British exchequer
Da Silva, Luiz Inácio Lula	Brazilian president
De Bernardin, Sandro	Italian deputy foreign minister
Diouf, Jacques	director general, Food and Agriculture Organization
Draghi, Mario	Italy's central bank governor; Financial Stability board chair
Flaherty, Jim	Canadian finance minister
Franco, Marc	head of European Union delegation to Moscow
Frattini, Franco	Italian foreign minister
Gaddafi, Muammar	Libyan president
Gandalovic, Petr	Czech agriculture minister
Gantsho, Mandala	deputy president, African Development Bank
Geithner, Timothy	U.S. treasury secretary
Geldof, Bob	
Gordeyev, Alexei	Russian agriculture minister
Gurría, Angel	secretary general, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Hajaig, Fatima	South African deputy foreign minister
Holbrooke, Richard	U.S. special envoy on the Middle East
Holder, Eric	U.S. attorney general
Hu Jinao	Chinese president
Ide, Michio	Japanese vice minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries

Kanazawa, Ichiro	president, Science Council of Japan
Khelil, Chakib	Algeria's energy minister
Ki-Moon, Ban	United States secretary general
Kim Young-hak	Korea's vice knowledge economy minister for trade and energy
Kudrin, Alexei	Russian deputy prime minister and finance minister
Lagarde, Christine	French finance minister
Lavrov, Sergei	Russian foreign minister
Lee Myung-bak	Korean president
Leggeri, Christiano	security general of the UGL police union (Turin, Italy)
Lipsky, John	first deputy managing director, International Monetary Fund
Maroni, Roberto	Italian interior minister
Massolo, Giampiero	Italian sherpa and secretary general of the foreign ministry
Mbeki, Thabo	former South African president
Medvedev, Dmitry	Russian president
Merkel, Angela	German chancellor
Minc, Carlos	Brazilian environment minister
Mitchell, George	White House special envoy for the Middle East
Mottaki, Manouchehr	Iranian foreign minister
Moussa, Amr	Arab League secretary general
Mubarak, Hosni	Egyptian president
Nakasone, Hirofumi	Japanese foreign minister
Nakagawa, Shoichi	Japanese finance minister
Napolitano, Giorgio	Italian president
Nene, Nhlanhla	South African deputy finance minister
Normand, John	head of global foreign exchange strategy, JP Morgan
Obama, Barack	United States president
Olmert, Ehud	Israeli prime minister
Paglia, Vincenzo	president of the Episcopal Commission for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue
Poli, Roberto	chair of Eni
Poettering, Hans-Gert	European Parliament president
Pope Benedict XVI	
Prestigiacomo, Stefania	Italian environment minister
Prince Charles	Britain's Prince of Wales
Putin, Vladimir	Russian prime minister and former president
Putzu, Massimo	head of Confindustria
Qashqavi, Hassan	Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson
Raitt, Lisa	Canada's natural resources minister
Reinfeldt, Fredrik	Swedish prime minister and EU president as of July 1
Rudd, Kevin	Australian prime minister
Ryabkov, Sergei	Russian deputy foreign minister
Sacconi, Maurizio	Italian labour minister
Salgado, Elena	Spanish economy minister
Sarkozy, Nicolas	French president

Scajola, Claudio	Italian economic development minister (responsible for energy)
Scopelliti, Giuseppe	Reggio Calabria mayor
Scotti, Vincenzo	Italian foreign affairs undersecretary
Shmatko, Sergei	Russian energy minister
Singh, Manmohan	Indian prime minister
Slepnev, Andrei	Russian deputy agriculture minister
Song Tao	Chinese vice foreign minister
Spanta, Rangin Dadfar	Afghanistan's foreign minister
Steiner, Achim	United Nations Environment Programme head
Steinbrueck, Peer	German finance minister
Strauss-Kahn, Dominique	International Monetary Fund managing director
Susilo Bambang Yuhoyono	Indonesia president
Tremonti, Giulio	Italian finance minister
Trichet, Jean-Claude	European Central Bank president
Vilsack, Tom	U.S. agriculture secretary
Yachi, Shotaro	former Japanese vice foreign minister
Yar'Adua, Umaru Musa	Nigerian president
Zaia, Luca	Italy's farm, food and forestry policies minister
Zuma, Jacob	South African president