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Ending Poverty in Africa: Geldof Launches Global Live8 Concerts

Philadelphia – June 24, 2005 – Musician and anti-poverty campaigner Bob Geldof recently announced Live8, a simultaneous concert series set for July 2 in eight cities around the world. This free global event will bring together today's biggest names in music – including U2, Sir Elton John, Youssou N'Dour, Madonna, Sir Paul McCartney and Sting in London – and is intended to inspire citizens of the world's most powerful nations to call upon their leaders to provide economic relief for developing nations.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair will chair this year's G-8 Summit at Gleneagles, Scotland, on July 6-8 and has vowed to place the plight of Africa at the top of the agenda. The Commission for Africa report, *Our Common Interest*, issued in March 2005, will guide the G-8 discussions on increasing aid, providing comprehensive debt relief, ending agricultural subsidies in rich nations, and fighting corruption in developing nations.

The Live8 show in Philadelphia will be held on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, with more than a million people expected to fill the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Actor Will Smith will host a lineup of performers, including Bon Jovi, P. Diddy, Jay-Z, Stevie Wonder, The Dave Matthews Band and Sarah McLachlan.

In addition to the concert, a series of educational programs, the **Live8 Social Issues Series**, coordinated by the Centre for Global Negotiations in conjunction with the City of Philadelphia, will be held from June 30 – July 3. A prominent lineup of African development experts - including Dr. John Coonrod of The Hunger Project, Carol Welch of the Millennium Campaign, Neil Watkins of Jubilee USA Network, Stan Straughter of OIC International, and Kamran Mofid of Globalisation for the Common Good - will present their views on how rich nations can meet the needs of the poverty-stricken continent. Receptions, local musical performers, African dance, and other cultural and faith-based events will also be held around the city. The theme of these events is "Ending Poverty in Africa: What Role Should the G-8 Play? What Can Americans Do?"

For information on poverty and development in Africa, the Commission for Africa report, and the upcoming G-8 Summit, see details and links on the Centre for Global Negotiations website, <www.global-negotiations.org>.

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