

RUSSIA



The Gleneagles commitment to increase development assistance to sub-Saharan Africa to \$25 billion a year by 2010 did not include a Russian contribution. Although it is a chief donor to the republics of the former Soviet Union, Russia is not a member of the OECD or the Development Assistance Committee. As a result, throughout this report, DATA does not hold Russia to account for the financing targets set by the G8 in 2005. However, because Russia is playing an increasingly important role in setting policies that impact the G8's overall commitment to sub-Saharan Africa, its individual commitments are important to note.

WHAT WAS THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITMENT IN 2005?

Russia made the following commitment on debt relief at Gleneagles:

¹Russia has cancelled and committed to cancel \$11.3 billion worth of debts owed by African countries, including \$2.2 billion of debt relief to the HIPC Initiative. On top of this, Russia is considering writing off the entire stock of HIPC countries' debts on non-ODA loans. This will add \$750 million to those countries' debt relief.²

This commitment was updated at the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit:

³Russia and the World Bank agreed to collaborate in developing a debt-for-development swap for channelling R4.2 billion (\$250 million) freed up from debt service to high-priority development actions in sub-Saharan Africa.⁴

In the annex to the St. Petersburg Update on Africa, Russia also made the following specific commitments to Africa:

- Russia will join forces with the World Bank in the fight against malaria in sub-Saharan Africa, and will support the World Bank-led Booster Programme for Malaria Control which aims to achieve tangible results by 2010.¹
- Russia has doubled its pledge its pledge to the Global Fund to R570 million (\$40 million). It also intends to reimburse the Global Fund, up to 2010, nearly R3.9 billion (\$270 million), which was distributed distributed to fund projects in the Russian Federation.
- Russia has committed to contribute \$18 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

No new commitments were made at the 2007 G8 summit in Heilengendamm.

TRACKING THE COMMITMENTS

Because Russia did not make a commitment on ODA to Africa at Gleneagles, this chapter does not hold it accountable for ODA levels to the continent. Although Russia has not made a pledge at the G8 to increase aid, in 2007 it passed a law that committed it to raising ODA levels to \$400–500 million per year in the short term, with a longer-term goal of scaling up development assistance to reach 0.7% of its gross national income.² Although the law does not specify a timeframe for this increase, Deputy Finance Minister Sergey Storchak said that he expects to reach the short-term target in the next four to five years.³ Once Russia joins the OECD (which is expected to happen by 2011), progress against this commitment will be measurable.

In 2007, total Russian ODA was \$210 million, an amount equal to 0.02% of its GNI. This level reflected an increase from \$100 million in 2006.⁴ DATA is unable to determine what share of total ODA was directed towards sub-Saharan Africa.

DEBT

- Russia passed legislation at the end of 2006 to cancel the remaining debt of African countries. Its 2007 budget made provisions to pay for the debt cancellation.⁵ In total, Russia's plan is to cancel approximately \$550 million in outstanding debts from Mozambique, Benin, Zambia, Madagascar, Tanzania and Ethiopia. Russia also agreed to share in the costs of debt forgiveness for Liberia and has committed to contribute \$57.5 million to the IMF for this in 2008.⁶

TRADE

- Russia is still in negotiations to become a member of the World Trade Organization. Once a member, Russia will be required to report its agricultural subsidy levels and participate fully in negotiations.

HEALTH

- Russia has contributed \$107.76 million to the Global Fund to date but is currently a net recipient of Global Fund financing. Russia announced in 2007 that it will reimburse the Global Fund for grant financing it has received to date, totalling \$270 million over the next four years.
- Russia's total contributions to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative amount to \$18 million, including \$4 million pledged (but not yet paid in) in 2008. Russia contributed \$3 million in both 2006 and 2007.⁷
- Russia is one of four G8 donors contributing to the Advanced Market Commitment. It has pledged \$80 million payable over 7–10 years to the AMC effort which is designed to incentivise the development of a vaccine against pneumococcal disease.⁸

EDUCATION

- Russia has contributed \$3 million to the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI) Catalytic Fund, with \$2 million paid in 2007 and \$1 million pledged for 2008. Russia also pledged \$1.2 million and \$1 million in 2007 and 2008 respectively to the Education Program Development Fund of the FTI, though these were unpaid as of October 2007.⁹

GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY

- Russia ratified the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) on 9 May 2006.
- Since its establishment in November 2006, the Russian Centre for Training Peacekeepers has trained over 100 peacekeepers from African countries.
- Russia has pledged to increase its contribution to the UN peacekeeping budget from \$80 million in 2007 to \$120 million in 2008.¹⁰ Russia has committed to contributing \$2 million annually to the UN Peacebuilding Fund starting in 2008.¹¹