



## Stockholm Communique

### A Progressive Agenda for Democracy and Development

**We, 11 Heads of State and Government, from five continents, are united in a commitment to pursue modern and progressive policies. We stand on a solid base of common values and we share a commitment to use the power of government to improve peoples' lives; to foster a fair society and a dynamic economy; and to ensure that the powerful pressures of globalisation serve the needs of the many, not the few.**

In the face of new global threats we are committed to ever-greater international co-operation to close divides and overcome conflicts. The horrors of the September 11 attack on the United States, served to reaffirm our resolve. Terrorists who seek confrontation, and put their distorted perceptions above regard for human life and dignity, must not prevail. Our response is clear: we must be resolute in fighting terrorism and equally resolute in tackling its causes. For the only lasting answers lie in justice, more effective international co-operation, peace and freedom, democracy and development.

At home progressive governments must sustain support for and remain committed to progressive values. We will stick to the following principles:

We will not abandon our commitment to economic discipline and competence as it is the condition for social justice. We will be steadfast in the pursuit to create more jobs. Only societies with high levels of employment offer people a route out of poverty and dependence. High employment is the foundation of social justice. It is fundamental to the mission of all progressives who want every individual to have the chance to develop their potential. We reject free market dogma, but for the sake of more and better jobs, we will pursue reforms to open up markets, invest in knowledge, and promote social inclusion through more active labour market policies. We will expand educational opportunity. Education liberates the potential of every human being to realise their own individuality and break free of the constraints of their environment. It is also the key for economic growth and the level of knowledge and competence of all our citizens must be raised. Education must be the progressives' top priority whatever the economic difficulties and conflicting demands we face. We will continue to take a firm approach both in dealing with crime, particularly violent crime, and in tackling its underlying causes. We believe that every citizen has a right to security. We will be innovators. We need to be as innovative in the 21st century as we were in the 20th century, ensuring that public services are constantly modernized, designed to meet the needs of today's more demanding citizens. As progressives committed to a fairer, more socially just society, we often advocate novel means to achieve traditional goals. We should be prepared to experiment with different partnerships between the public, private and non-profit sector, and be imaginative in the use of and access to technology. We will govern inclusively. Modern societies thrive only on the basis of real inclusion, equal opportunity for women and men, participation and empowerment. Both domestically and internationally we believe in an active engagement with civil society as well as business and other interests. We advocate a new concept of citizenship. Our societies must hold together in face of radical change in the nature of the family, increasingly diverse life choices and the growing presence of different religions and cultures in our once homogeneous societies. That concept of citizenship depends on acceptance by all of clearly defined rights and responsibilities as the only basis for a commitment to tolerance of otherness and difference. We are committed to a global perspective and a multilateral approach. Internationalism cannot be optional - it is at the core of our progressive values. We cannot insulate ourselves from the problems of an increasingly interdependent world by putting up barriers. If we are to solve challenges at home like economic instability, providing asylum from

persecution, and illegal trade in drugs, arms and human beings we need to engage with the rest of the world. Only by working together can nation states restore the potential for political action to be effective in more and more crucial fields. We encourage cultural diversity. Globalisation, contributing to more contacts and more exchanges, should not lead to uniformity, but to the enrichment of people through the meeting of cultures. We aim to democratise globalisation, just as we aim to globalise democracy and human rights. Globalisation has helped lift millions of people out of poverty. However the poorest part of humankind have not access to the tools to benefit from globalisation. We are convinced that a globalised world requires stronger, and more legitimate mechanisms for international cooperation and for development. Global institutions need to be more accountable and give better public access to information. IT offers good possibilities. We recognize that in most countries many people feel detached from politics and from the democratic process, even as their interest in, and knowledge of, the world around them, has grown. Our priority is therefore to revitalize our political systems and re-engage the public. The spread of democracy has been the greatest achievement of the last century. In some parts of the world people are still risking their lives for the right to elect their representatives. Democracy can be slow, cumbersome and involve compromise. But there is no better system for ensuring that everyone's voice is heard. We have, as progressives, the task to create a constructive context in which people, communities, parties and other social forces can play their part in building a better and cohesive society. We welcome the ideas and serious engagement of social movements in connection to international summits. We commit ourselves to a relation of dialogue not distance in order to intensify the important debate on issues of global justice.

A network of progressive thinking and practices across the world is essential to fulfill these goals. We recognise that our strength lie both in diversity - finding solutions that fit our institutional and historical traditions - and in unity - our common values and willingness to learn from each other. We will continue to publish reports on best practices in Progressive Governance in order to identify challenges and policy options. We want our advisers and policy experts, as well as scientists and researchers, to continue to meet and co-operate on a regular basis, and to engage with wider stakeholders, discuss political solutions and to learn from each other. We will specifically bring our representatives together with a view to prepare detailed papers and analysis of best practices for the next summit on:

- Education - Immigration and inclusion
- Patient concerned health care
- Modernising public services more generally



We will fight to reduce global inequalities. The combined wealth of humankind has never been greater and is sufficient to provide a decent life for all, if better distributed. The task for progressive leadership is to press on the agenda for more trade access, faster and deeper debt relief, more and more effective development assistance and more coherent development policies. We will strengthen our commitment to a reformed United Nations: the meeting point of the interest of all nations. Its Millennium Declaration is our starting point. We vigorously support the New Partnership for Africa's Development. It tries to formulate an alternative to the top-down externally driven approach to African development, which failed in the past. We are convinced that Africans must be responsible for their own destiny, not to be the objects of somebody else's design. We commit ourselves to work together to promote economic growth, education and health and fight the development challenges in Africa, including those posed by HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. We have the privilege to announce that former US President Clinton has accepted to chair a mission on behalf of us. The purpose is to identify the steps needed by the international community and African governments and people to tackle Africa's challenges in these fields. The Summit mandates him to make consultations he finds proper, to develop efforts and make proposals of specific or concerted character. We welcome the WTO Development Agenda agreed at Doha. The Doha Development Round negotiations must now address the priorities of developing countries, answering questions about institution and capacity building, improved market access, trade in agriculture and implementation of earlier agreements. We will seek to enhance international financial institutions by strengthening the participation of all countries. Reform should aim to decrease country risks and instability in the financial system, help markets work more efficiently and realise the great growth potential of the developing world. We will let our officials in consultation with academics and other outside experts, continue to study how to promote an international financial architecture that better supports rational market behaviour and financial stability. We will strive for a progressive outcome of The World Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March. This is an important opportunity to set an

institutional reform agenda. We welcome that a common understanding already is emerging. That gives scope to look at the next steps. Among worthwhile ideas are: a new balanced procedure to ensure more orderly workouts of unsustainable debts to assist debtor countries in maintaining social stability and to promote more equitable burden sharing, and continued work towards stronger global control to suppress financial flows linked to crime and terror. Financial inspection, long an accepted part of national practice, must now be strengthened globally in order to make it possible to maintain an open financial system, where money laundering and tax evasion is curtailed. New approaches have to be considered when dialogue and incentives are not sufficient. We will improve development co-operation, which remains indispensable for a progressive partnership between South and North. We reconfirm our commitment to improve aid effectiveness and to achieving the target of 0,7 % of GDP. We share the goal of working towards ratification and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and urge others to join the process. We will demonstrate global leadership for sustainable development by actively preparing together for the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, this 26th August 4th September. We will ask our officials to work together to exchange ideas and practical proposals for the Summit in the three dimensions of sustainable development economic, social and environmental. Implementation of already set objectives and targets is the key. The overriding goals are poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns. The development, application and exchange of clean and resource efficient technology is crucial. We will work in partnership with civil society and the private sector to develop ideas for a new relationship between North and South. In particular, the Progressive Governance network will help to coordinate work on developing strategies and actions for combating climate change and promoting technology transfer. We will organise round tables on these global issues. The solutions and best practises for achieving global justice can only be identified through open-minded discussions. Scientists, development NGOs, civil society and private companies will be invited to participate.

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We have all gained new knowledge from this summit and we have decided to meet in London, in 2003.

As progressives, we believe there are political options and that government does matter. Politics can make a real and positive difference to peoples' lives. This view determines our policies at home where we are committed to fairness and justice within the context of a market economy and our policies internationally, where we believe that globalisation needs to be matched by joint political action by governments to tackle the pressing problems of development, security and the environment. We will therefore continue working together to develop and share progressive policies that can improve the lives of the millions of citizens not only in our own countries but also in others.

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