

ANNALES EPREUVE DSCG 6

Epreuve orale d'économie se déroulant partiellement en anglais

Sujet 1

Sécurité ou insécurité alimentaire dans le monde ?

Annexe

G8 Supports Cutting Greenhouse Emissions 50 Percent by 2050

Washington, 08 July 2008

The G8 -- which consists of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States -- adopted a position on the global environment and climate change that is designed to support the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. The new U.N. framework convention is designed to succeed the Kyoto Protocol when its first phase expires in 2012. The new U.N. framework convention must be concluded by December 2009.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said in a prepared statement that the G8 agreement is a "new, shared vision by the major economies. This is a strong signal to citizens around the world." The European Union also participates in the annual G8 Summits.

Price, U.S. deputy national security adviser for international economic affairs, said the G8 made a strong link between the emissions-reduction goal and developing a new generation of environmental technologies. Previously the two issues were treated separately, weakening the effects of both efforts, he said. "All of the leaders now understand that the progress we make this year is essential to making possible broad international agreement in the [United Nations] at the end of next year," Price said. "The G8 declaration is a significant contribution both to the U.N. negotiations as well as to the major economies process."

At President Bush's urging, the G8 collectively committed to dedicating \$10 billion annually for technology research and development, Price said, and the United States will be investing nearly half of that amount to cover a broad range of technology needs.

To help developing countries also develop new energy technologies, the G8 agreed to a proposal from the United States to support the Clean Technology Fund with more than \$5 billion in commitments, Price said. The fund will lower the cost of financing clean-energy projects in developing countries, and will help leverage greater amounts of public and private financing.

FOOD AND FUEL SECURITY

In another G8 statement, the leaders expressed deep concern over the steep rise in global food prices and oil prices along with the availability problems in a number of developing countries. "The negative impacts of this recent trend could push millions more back into poverty, rolling back progress made toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals," the joint statement said.

The G8 leaders said oil production and refining capacities should be increased in the short term while the underlying causes are examined. And the G8 pledged to make more than \$10 billion available to support food aid, nutrition interventions, social protection activities and measures to increase agricultural output in affected countries.

"In the short term, we are addressing the urgent needs of the most vulnerable people," the G8 statement says.

The G8 said food security requires an open world market and trading system for food and agriculture. "Rising food prices are adding inflationary pressures and generating macroeconomic imbalances, especially for some low-income countries," the group statement said.

To help improve the economic prospects of many low-income nations, the G8 said it will work for the successful conclusion of global trade negotiations to reduce trade barriers.

"There was wide recognition and support for the importance of the conclusion of a balanced Doha [Trade] Round that achieves positive and tangible results in agriculture, industrial goods and services," Price said. But achieving trade liberalization is not something developed economies can achieve alone, he said.

"Given the vast amount of trade that is among developing countries, for the Doha Round to fulfill its mission of lifting millions out of poverty, we will need market openings and trade liberalization in the major emerging markets as well," he said.

Sujet 2

La microfinance, levier de lutte contre la pauvreté ?

Annexe

Microlending Pioneer Opens First Branch in the United States

New York 18 July 2008

Grameen Bank, acclaimed for improving the lives of the poor in Bangladesh by providing tiny business loans, has begun operations in the United States. This is its first attempt to bring microlending to the poor in a developed country.

Grameen America's first branch is in the heavily immigrant neighborhood of Jackson Heights in New York's borough of Queens, where recent arrivals from India and Africa mix with more settled communities from Latin America. The neighborhood is 16 kilometers from Wall Street's global financial center, where billions of dollars move daily through transactions completed in shiny skyscrapers.

Grameen makes loans of \$500 to \$3,000 from a cramped, shabby office in a small commercial center, next to a shop selling Indian saris and another selling South Asian videos. Grameen's loans are intended to help borrowers start or build small businesses. They support enterprises such as home-based food preparation, clothing sales, tailoring and cleaning.

On a recent Wednesday afternoon, a middle-aged woman with short, blond-dyed hair who arrived from Peru 20 years ago came to the Grameen branch to pick up a \$2,000 loan. Esther, who declined to give her last name, was borrowing the money to buy jewelry, which she plans to sell in beauty shops.

Although she works five days a week cleaning stores, Esther has trouble making ends meet. "I need to earn extra," she said. "The price of milk, food, gas -- everything -- is going up."

Grameen hopes borrowers' businesses eventually will bring in more money than their low-paying jobs do and that they will even hire employees.

Esther is just the kind of borrower the bank targets: the working poor, especially women, since the bank has found that women use their earnings to help their families more reliably than do male borrowers. A recent study estimates there are 28 million poor people in America who are "unbanked" -- with no bank account or credit history. As a result, larger retail banks typically will not lend to them.