

# Tsunami

## Commitment:

“Six months on from the enormous tragedy of the Indian Ocean disaster on 26 December 2004, we have underlined our support for UN work on post-tsunami humanitarian aid and reconstruction, as well as confirming our commitment to reduce the risk from future disasters and to encourage reform of the humanitarian system.”

*-Chair's Summary (final press conference)<sup>1227</sup>*

## Background:

On 26 December 2004, an earthquake under the Indian Ocean generated a massive tsunami that seriously affected the coastal regions of Southeast Asia, Asia and Africa, particularly Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Immediately thereafter, the world community reacted to the tragedy by sending humanitarian aid, foodstuffs and supplies. Cognizant that the tsunami had badly damaged the infrastructures and the economies of many developing countries, the G8 Finance Ministers took the relief efforts further by proposing debt moratoriums, through the Paris Club, for tsunami-affected countries. The G8 has also encouraged the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and other multilateral establishments to contribute financial resources to post-tsunami humanitarian relief and reconstruction projects. Such reconstruction and rehabilitation projects will likely be costly and long-term, however, G8 governments' have all reaffirmed their commitment to reconstruction and development plans. While the tsunami revealed the destructive forces of nature, the impact of the disaster would have been mitigated had an effective tsunami warning system been in place. At the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Japan, the G8 countries discussed strategies that might alleviate the impact of future tsunamis. The G8 is committed to finding a global solution that would both minimize the effects of and reduce the risk from future tsunamis. The G8 therefore expresses support for the UNESCO creation of an Indian Ocean Early Warning System. After several rounds of testing, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) announced installation plans for a tsunami detection system, expected to be fully operational by the end of 2007.

Team Leader: Susan Khazaeli

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<sup>1227</sup> Gleneagles Official Documents: Chair's Summary, U of T G8 Information Centre (Toronto), 8 July 2005, Accessed: 16 January 2005. [www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/summary.html](http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/summary.html)

## Assessment:

	Lack of Compliance -1	Work in Progress 0	Full Compliance +1
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Russia			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Overall			1.00

## Individual Country Compliance Breakdown:

### 1. Canada: +1

Canada has taken all the necessary measures to achieve compliance with its Gleneagles commitment regarding the Indian Ocean tsunami. The Canadian government agreed to debt moratoriums for several of the tsunami-affected countries.<sup>1228</sup> In addition, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) earmarked CDN\$383 million for immediate assistance, humanitarian aid, and post-tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction, to be disbursed incrementally over five years.<sup>1229</sup> Of the Canadian government's total CDN\$425 million pledge, CDN\$213 million has already been issued.<sup>1230</sup> Former Prime Minister Paul Martin reaffirmed Canada's commitment to long-term reconstruction and to humanitarian reform, saying: "Reconstruction will take years, and Canada is prepared to go the distance. We will continue to assist those affected by the tsunami through direct support for the affected regions and through the promotion of global efforts to enhance international disaster risk reduction and disaster response efforts."<sup>1231</sup> Canada actively supports the work of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and other international organizations in their efforts to create an early warning system to mitigate the effects and minimize risks of future tsunamis.<sup>1232</sup>

Furthermore, Canada attended the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2006. Six federal departments collaborated to develop an effective action plan. Likewise, Canada is also

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<sup>1228</sup> Canada's Tsunami Response: Frequently Asked Questions, Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa), 2 November 2005. Accessed: 6 January 2005. [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/tsunami.nsf/vLUWebDocen/E26D706AA4E31A6785256FA2007259BC](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/tsunami.nsf/vLUWebDocen/E26D706AA4E31A6785256FA2007259BC)

<sup>1229</sup> Canada's Tsunami Response: Frequently Asked Questions, Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa), 2 November 2005. Accessed: 6 January 2005. [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/tsunami.nsf/vLUWebDocen/E26D706AA4E31A6785256FA2007259BC](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/tsunami.nsf/vLUWebDocen/E26D706AA4E31A6785256FA2007259BC).

<sup>1230</sup> Canada's Tsunami Response: Frequently Asked Questions, Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa), 2 November 2005. Accessed: 6 January 2005. [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/tsunami.nsf/vLUWebDocen/E26D706AA4E31A6785256FA2007259BC](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/tsunami.nsf/vLUWebDocen/E26D706AA4E31A6785256FA2007259BC).

<sup>1231</sup> Statement by the Prime Minister on the one-year anniversary of the Tsunami, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa), 22 December 2005. Accessed: 3 January 2006. [www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news.asp?id=674](http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news.asp?id=674)

<sup>1232</sup> Canada's Tsunami Response: Frequently Asked Questions, Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa), 2 November 2005. Accessed: 25 June 2006. [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/tsunami.nsf/vLUWebDocen/E26D706AA4E31A6785256FA2007259BC](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/tsunami.nsf/vLUWebDocen/E26D706AA4E31A6785256FA2007259BC)

taking steps to ensure that it is prepared for domestic emergencies and natural disasters. Canada actively seeks to develop multi-hazard warning systems. It financially supports the UN Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN).<sup>1233</sup>

Catherine Braggs, Director-General of the Humanitarian Assistance and Peace and Security Division of the Canadian International Development Agency represents Canada as one of twelve appointed members of the Advisory Group of the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CEPF).<sup>1234</sup>

Analyst: Susan Khazaeli

## **2. France: +1**

France continues to lend humanitarian assistance to those countries directly affected by the tsunami, and has thus complied with its Gleneagles commitment. Thus far, France has contributed approximately €17.6 million to international reconstruction efforts.<sup>1235</sup> France also agreed to a one-year moratorium on debt repayment for Indonesia and Sri Lanka, the two worst affected countries.<sup>1236</sup>

In December 2005, Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy explained France's two main objectives: ensuring continuity between humanitarian assistance and reconstruction and strengthening national and regional capacities for disaster-prevention as well as early warning and response.<sup>1237</sup> Accordingly, France intends to contribute up to €1.6 million to the building of an Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS).

Analyst: Sakshi Mehta

## **3. Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its G8 commitment on the Indian Ocean tsunami. Germany encourages the improvement of the existing prevention and response systems. Under the auspices of the UN, Germany played host to the International Early Warning Conference III, held in Bonn from 27-29 March.<sup>1238</sup> The purpose of the Conference was to “work systematically

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<sup>1233</sup> UN Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Accessed: 25 June 2006. [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)

<sup>1234</sup> UN Secretary-General Appoints CERF Advisory Group (New York), UN Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 28 April 2006, Accessed: 25 June 2006, [www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/WGUA-6PAQRW?OpenDocument](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/WGUA-6PAQRW?OpenDocument)

<sup>1235</sup> Tsunami: Public and Private French Aid, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Paris), Accessed: 17 May 2005. [www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france-priorities\\_1/natural-disaster\\_2701/tsunami-french-aid\\_2702/public-and-private-french-aid\\_3142.html](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france-priorities_1/natural-disaster_2701/tsunami-french-aid_2702/public-and-private-french-aid_3142.html)

<sup>1236</sup> Tsunami: Public and Private French Aid, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Paris), Accessed: 17 May 2005. [www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france-priorities\\_1/natural-disaster\\_2701/tsunami-french-aid\\_2702/public-and-private-french-aid\\_3142.html](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france-priorities_1/natural-disaster_2701/tsunami-french-aid_2702/public-and-private-french-aid_3142.html)

<sup>1237</sup> Commemoration of the Tsunami Disaster, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Paris), 26 December 2005. Accessed: 17 May 2005. [www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france-priorities\\_1/natural-disaster\\_2701/tsunami-french-aid\\_2702/commemoration-of-the-tsunami-disaster\\_3160.html](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france-priorities_1/natural-disaster_2701/tsunami-french-aid_2702/commemoration-of-the-tsunami-disaster_3160.html)

<sup>1238</sup> Final Statement Third International Conference on Early Warning (EWCIII), 28 March 2006. Accessed: 10 May 2006. [www.unisdr.org/news/ewc3/FinalStatementfinal.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/news/ewc3/FinalStatementfinal.pdf)

at a global level to close the gaps still remaining” in the field of early-warnings, damage control, and risk reduction.<sup>1239</sup> Besides having demonstrated support to UN post-tsunami humanitarian and reconstruction activities, the German Cooperation Agency (GTZ) is funding and coordinating microfinance initiatives that might better equip vulnerable populations, particularly in the tsunami-affected regions, to cope post-disaster.<sup>1240</sup> Other positive actions on the part of the German government include working alongside the European Union to secure funds and coordinate resources for humanitarian efforts and reconstruction activities.<sup>1241</sup>

Analyst: Aaron Ghojarah

#### 4. Italy: +1

Italy’s measures regarding post-tsunami humanitarian aid and reconstruction in the Indian Ocean region have brought the country into compliance with its Gleneagles commitment. Italy has directed some €10 million toward rehabilitation and reconstruction. In addition, Italy has extended assistance loans to Indonesia and Sri Lanka in order to ease the reconstruction burden. In regards to its Gleneagles commitment to reduce the risk from future disaster, Italy supports the creation of the UNESCO-sponsored Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System.

Analyst: My-Hanh Hoang

#### 5. Japan +1

Japan has registered full compliance with its Gleneagles commitments. Japan actively supported the UN post-tsunami aid effort, with an aid package totaling US\$500 million.<sup>1242</sup> In addition to its financial contributions, Japan hosted the World Conference on Disaster Reduction on 18-22 January 2006. It supported the Hyogo Framework for Action and the Hyogo Declaration, which underline a commitment to international disaster reduction strategy and action.<sup>1243</sup> To reduce the risk from future tsunamis, Japan also supports the development of meteorological radars for early warning.<sup>1244</sup> Over the last months, the Japan Meteorological Agency has been working to

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<sup>1239</sup> Federal Foreign Office organizes Third International Conference on Early Warning in Bonn, The Federal Foreign Office (Berlin), 26 July 2005. Accessed: 26 December 2005. [www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/en/ausgabe\\_archiv?archiv\\_id=7419](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/en/ausgabe_archiv?archiv_id=7419).

<sup>1240</sup> Aceh and Nias One Year After the Tsunami: The Recovery Effort and Way Forward pg 65, The World Bank, December 2005. Accessed: 26 December 2005. [siteresources.worldbank.org/INTEASTASIAPACIFIC/Resources/1YR\\_tsunami\\_advance\\_release.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTEASTASIAPACIFIC/Resources/1YR_tsunami_advance_release.pdf)

<sup>1241</sup> Progress Report from the Commission on Response to Tsunami, The European Commission (Brussels), 18 November 2005. Accessed: 26 December 2005. [europa.eu.int/comm/world/tsunami/disaster\\_response/ip05\\_1444.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/world/tsunami/disaster_response/ip05_1444.htm).

<sup>1242</sup> Joint Announcement of the Japanese Prime Minister and the Indonesian President on the Cooperation between the Two Countries on Disaster Reduction, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo), 2 June 2005. Accessed: 2 May 2006. [www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/koizumispeech/2005/06/02press1\\_e.html](http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/koizumispeech/2005/06/02press1_e.html).

<sup>1243</sup> Cooperation in Disaster Reduction, International Policies and Activities, Cabinet Office (Tokyo), 5 April 2006. Accessed: 1 May 2006. [www.cao.go.jp/en/international.html#disaste](http://www.cao.go.jp/en/international.html#disaste).

<sup>1244</sup> Address by Prime Minister Koizumi at Japan-Bangladesh Summit Meeting, Office of the President (Bangladesh), 14 July 2005. Accessed: 3 May 2006. [www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/koizumiphoto/2005/07/14bangladesh\\_e.html](http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/koizumiphoto/2005/07/14bangladesh_e.html)

institute a new Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System. This system, which was successfully tested in May,<sup>1245</sup> is expected to be operational globally by the end of 2007.<sup>1246</sup>

Analyst: Aprile Cadeau

## 6. Russia: +1

The Russian Federation has taken the necessary steps toward compliance with regard to its Gleneagles commitment, undertaking initiatives supportive of all broad aspects of the commitment. Russia has been an active participant in and contributor to various UN-supported post-tsunami humanitarian aid and reconstruction projects. Second, Russia has reaffirmed the role of UNESCO and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) commitment to the creation of a tsunami early warning system.<sup>1247</sup> While Russia is has not financially supported the United Nations' Emergency Response Fund, it has contributed approximately US\$3.5 million to WHO post-tsunami activities.<sup>1248</sup> Nevertheless, much of the funds have yet to be disbursed: Russia has accumulated an estimated total of US\$18.5 million in outstanding or uncommitted pledges.<sup>1249</sup> Furthermore, Russia has provided direct humanitarian aid to hard-hit Indonesia. Russia donated 20,000 tons of wheat to the province of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam, Jakarta.<sup>1250</sup>

Analyst: My-Hanh Hoang

## 7. United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fulfilled the tsunami commitments to which it agreed at Gleneagles, offering humanitarian and financial aid for both humanitarian and reconstruction activities. To minimize the effects of another undetected tsunami, Britain actively supports the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), and has contributed financial aid to the International Oceanographic Commission's plan to implement early warning systems in the

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<sup>1245</sup> UNESCO chief hails first test of new tsunami warning system, UN News Center (New York), 17 May 2006. Accessed: 17 May 2006.

[www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=18519&Cr=tsunami&Cr1=&Kw1=tsunami&Kw2=&Kw3=](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=18519&Cr=tsunami&Cr1=&Kw1=tsunami&Kw2=&Kw3=)

<sup>1246</sup> UNESCO chief hails first test of new tsunami warning system, UN News Center (New York), 17 May 2006. Accessed: 17 May 2006.

[www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=18519&Cr=tsunami&Cr1=&Kw1=tsunami&Kw2=&Kw3=](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=18519&Cr=tsunami&Cr1=&Kw1=tsunami&Kw2=&Kw3=)

<sup>1247</sup> G8 response to the Indian Ocean disaster, and future action on disaster risk reduction, Official Website of the G8 Presidency of the Russian Federation in 2006 (Moscow), Accessed: 25 May 2006. [en.g8russia.ru/g8/history/gleneagles2005/15/](http://en.g8russia.ru/g8/history/gleneagles2005/15/).

<sup>1248</sup> Indian Ocean Earthquake-Tsunami Flash Appeal 2005, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (FTS) (New York), 31 December 2005. Accessed: 31 December 2005. [ocha.unog.ch/fts/reports/daily/ocha\\_R2\\_A669\\_\\_06011521.pdf](http://ocha.unog.ch/fts/reports/daily/ocha_R2_A669__06011521.pdf). and United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, United Nations, Pledges and Contributions for 2006, 23 June 2006, Date of Access: 26 June 2006. [ochaonline2.un.org/Default.aspx?tabid=7483](http://ochaonline2.un.org/Default.aspx?tabid=7483).

<sup>1249</sup> Indian Ocean Earthquake-Tsunami Flash Appeal 2005, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (FTS) (New York), 31 December 2005. Accessed: 31 December 2005. [ocha.unog.ch/fts/reports/daily/ocha\\_R2\\_A669\\_\\_06011521.pdf](http://ocha.unog.ch/fts/reports/daily/ocha_R2_A669__06011521.pdf).

<sup>1250</sup> Russia donates 20,000 tons of wheat, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta), 12 August 2005.

Indian Ocean.<sup>1251</sup> Though not wholly related to its specific commitment, Britain works in partnership with the European Union in encouraging the reform of the humanitarian system to better respond to future tsunamis.<sup>1252</sup>

Analyst: Aaron Ghobarah

## 8. United States +1

The United States has achieved full compliance with its G8 commitment, with approximately US\$631 million committed to, and approved for distribution by USAID to help with the reconstruction and rebuilding of the tsunami devastated areas.<sup>1253</sup> The United States, through the American National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has also worked closely with both the UNESCO and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).<sup>1254</sup> Having previously committed to the development of an early warning system, the United States realized its compliance obligations as American research contributions in cooperation with UNESCO/IOC led to the successful testing of a tsunami early warning system for the Pacific region.<sup>1255</sup>

Analyst: Aprile Cadeau

## 9. European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitments to which it agreed at the 2005 Gleneagles Summit. The EU has provided substantial humanitarian and financial aid to those countries affected by the tsunami. On 31 March 2006, the European Commission approved a further contribution of €118 million to support rehabilitation and long-term reconstruction programs in Indonesia's Aceh province, bringing the total aid contribution for the region to €207 million.<sup>1256</sup> The Commission also committed an additional €3 million in support of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Integrated Regional Information

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<sup>1251</sup> Frequently Asked Questions on Indian Ocean Tsunami Aid Effort, Department for International Development (London), December 2005. Accessed: 26 December 2005. [www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/emergencies/asian-earthquake-faqvers2.asp](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/emergencies/asian-earthquake-faqvers2.asp).

<sup>1252</sup> Tsunami: One year on... What has been spent?, Department for International Development (London), December 2005. Accessed: 26 December 2005. [www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/emergencies/tsunami-oneyearon/oneyearon-funding.asp](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/emergencies/tsunami-oneyearon/oneyearon-funding.asp).

<sup>1253</sup> USAID Rebuilds Lives After the Tsunami Update, United States Agency of International Development (Washington), 2 December 2005. Accessed: 11 May 2006. [www.usaid.gov/locations/asia\\_near\\_east/tsunami](http://www.usaid.gov/locations/asia_near_east/tsunami)

<sup>1254</sup> Pellerin, Cheryl. First Test of Pacific Tsunami Warning System May 16, 17, US Department of State (Washington), 8 May 2006. Accessed: 11 May 2006. [usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/May/08-584801.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/May/08-584801.html)

<sup>1255</sup> UNESCO chief hails first test of new tsunami warning system, UN News Center (New York), 17 May 2006. Accessed: 17 May 2006. [www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=18519&Cr=tsunami&Cr1=&Kw1=tsunami&Kw2=&Kw3=](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=18519&Cr=tsunami&Cr1=&Kw1=tsunami&Kw2=&Kw3=).

<sup>1256</sup> Commission Provides Additional €118 Million to Help Rebuild Indonesia's Aceh Province, Europa: Gateway to the European Union (Brussels), 31 March 2006. Accessed: 17 May 2006. [europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/415&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/415&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en).

Networks (IRIN) and various umbrella programs.<sup>1257</sup> Part of the funding will be directed toward the creation of a Global Disaster Alert System for early warnings, damage assessment and strategic planning in natural disasters.<sup>1258</sup> Furthermore, the European Union encourages the reform of the humanitarian system by proposing “concrete measures to deliver EU aid better and faster” which will scale-up aid substantially and improve its impact and speed of delivery.<sup>1259</sup>

Analyst: Sakshi Mehta

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<sup>1257</sup> Commission Approves €3 Million to Strengthen the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance Under the UN Umbrella, Europa: Gateway to the European Union (Brussels), 9 March 2006. Accessed: 18 May 2006. [europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/285&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/285&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en).

<sup>1258</sup> Commission Approves €3 Million to Strengthen the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance Under the UN Umbrella, Europa: Gateway to the European Union (Brussels), 9 March 2006. Accessed: 18 May 2006. [europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/285&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/285&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en).

<sup>1259</sup> Commission Proposes Concrete Measures to Deliver EU Aid Better and Faster, Europa: Gateway to the European Union (Brussels), 2 March 2006. Accessed: 17 May 2006. [europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/256&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/256&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en).