
Junior 8 Competition 2007

Entry Template - Canada



Team name: Act now for Tomorrow	School: École secondaire de Rochebelle
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1. Introduction to your entry

“You must be the change you want to see in this world” - Gandhi

The world has reached a limit. In a society where corporations own animal's genetics and treatments to disastrous sickness for their own benefits, where we are risking nature and the humanity itself to businesses' profit, we must see the limit which is now so close. We haven't reached the breaking point yet, it is still time to change for children's sake.

We, the youth of Canada, want to invest ourselves in building a better future for the world. We have the power and the will to do so, knowing that it will need efforts and sacrifices. The Junior 8 contest is our chance to propose our solutions to the world's problems to those who take the decisions. What we want to say to them now is that they must act for tomorrow, for the next generations who'll be the victims of our inaction.

2. Junior 8 Agenda

2.1 Climate change and energy efficiency

Help in order to diffuse and set green technologies on the market

At this very moment, green technologies are very numerous. Why is it that they are not being intensively commercialized? Our generation wants to press the G8 countries to encourage their introduction and merchandising and their transfer to the developing countries. Locally, venture capital must be allowed for their merchandising.

Internationally, technology transfer programs to the developing countries must be encouraged, so these countries can continue their progress in a greener way. For



instance, knowing that China actually builds more than a coal thermal power plant per week is quite distressing. Thanks to the support and immediate action of the G8 governments, the companies will be able to bring onto the market the technologies of the future, and the developing countries to put fruitful efforts in sustainable development. These concrete actions could greatly contribute to the fight against climate change.

Recognition of the green technologies relative value

Today, the cost of energy production from polluting conventional sources, such as fossil fuels, is a lot lower than the costs of production of green energy. However, their relative value is not the same. When the firsts are menacing our future, the others represent this very future. The youth wants that future to have a weight on the economic balance. The G8 has the power to have the relative value of green energy recognized. The Cap and trade system must be improved: caps must represent rigorous and strict objectives of carbon emission reduction, and carbon emission rights must have a highly variable value based on offer and demand, like stocks. The taxation of products and companies could also be based, in a certain proportion, more on energy consumption and GHG production, and less on raw profit to encourage the companies to become green, so as to lower their degree of taxation.

2.2 HIV/AIDS

Address the real needs

The number of people touched by AIDS is constantly increasing and for that reason, we have to put an end to the contamination. That involves a better support for women's education and also a superior care for orphans to prevent them from spreading the disease to future generations. To do so, we have to continue supporting local organizations which operate in each country. Those local communities are literally living and fighting the disease and it makes them more capable of handling the money they receive and manage it. To reach our millennium goals with 0, 7% of the total GDP transferred to them, we definitely need a plan. Canada is still not able to achieve it. To be efficient worldwide, we would need a sum of 10 billion dollars but all the developed countries together cannot even provide one. We have to take our commitments more seriously.

World legislation for the right to live

Access to medication must become universal, with the purpose of increasing the lifetime of people affected by HIV, without any form of discrimination. A world legislation shall be proposed to make generic medicine against AIDS production easier. This legislation must limit patent's granting for new drugs as for production techniques. Those patents are actually preventing generic medication production in undeveloped countries that cannot afford registered medication. In order to establish a good help program, it is a necessity to give an easier access to care units and make it possible for all people to obtain an appropriate medication. Every country all over the world should consider that the right to life surpasses the right to profit, and that is why no pharmaceutical companies should keep a monopoly for themselves, if it goes against the right to life. Drugs for AIDS should become public property, for this issue is a planetary concern.

2.3 Prospects for economic development in Africa

African Bank for Development and Microfinance

At the dawn of this new millennium, the UN committed itself to reduce by half world poverty before 2015. But by the way things are going up to now, this objective will not be met and 316 million people on the sole African continent will still live in extreme poverty. We must allow countries with serious economical problems to find out ways to develop their own business activity. In order to do so, we suggest creating the African Bank of development and microfinance (ABDM). This organism, directed by African people with the support of the UN, would be mandated to back microeconomic projects all over Africa with money. Interests on national debt paid by African governments to IMF and WB would be used, to finance ABDM. This society would also provide funds to build infrastructures that will make commerce easier throughout Africa such as roads, traffic railways, airports, etc.

Reform of Trading Agreements

The present international economic system prejudice rising economies and is also a great disadvantage to commerce in some parts of the world. Africa is victim of unfair trading agreements, should receive absolute support from rich nations to come out from this situation. A step forward would be the reform of these agreements. First of all, developing countries must have a special status accompanied with positive commercial advantages such as cutting tariff barriers down on African exportation. Furthermore, in order to

support industrial diversity, it would be necessary to reduce taxation on manufactured goods. Finally, from a humanitarian viewpoint, western countries should encourage the purchase of African food products instead of dumping their own surplus stock on the African continent. They should also decrease the grants given to their farmers as not to disadvantage African producers.

2.4 New challenges for the global economy: intellectual property rights and corporate social responsibility

Intellectual Property Rights

Even though we think the actual system of intellectual property is efficient, we can clearly see that it has its shortcomings. Because we believe these problems do not lie in the current patent system, but in its misuse, we think that negotiations should be started amongst the various countries members of the WIPO to solve these problems. This would insure the standardization of the world's IP legislation, and shift the fundamental value of the intellectual property system from corporate profit to the benefit of humanity. We want to create a trust fund administrated by a comity formed of representatives from different countries. This comity would have the power to negotiate, or even to clamp the terms of use of certain patents. Furthermore, it could buy or force the patent holder to license certain patents, to pharmaceutical companies for example. This trust fund would be financed by the UN countries, the WIPO and by funds generated from the sales of the patents.

Corporate Social Accountability

To promote the principle of Corporate Social Accountability, we propose the creation of a multi-level regulation, split in two main parts. The first part would be the World Charter of Corporate Rights and Responsibilities. It would be a universal legislation which would apply equally everywhere in the world, including international waters and countries without proper regulation. However, we know than there is no "one-size-fits-all" law which could apply everywhere in the world. This is why the second part would be much more oriented towards national and regional scale. It would allow national governments and regional institutions such as European Union to adapt and adjust some of the rules to fit their particular economical and social context, within the framework of the Charter. The rights defined in the charter would be for example, that of free trade, that of possess, etc. These rights would be associated to responsibilities, such as that of reducing to the minimum the impact of their activities on the environment, respecting the rights of all

humans, men, women or children, ensuring good working conditions to all workers or employees, etc. Those who would not comply could be sanctioned.

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4. Social Involvement

In order to represent the opinions and preoccupations of today's youth, we used different ways for consulting our peers. Our Wiki site let us be connected with anyone who wants to share their opinions. We also asked a lot of our friends everywhere in Canada of their thoughts, allowing us to better represent the whole Canada. Also, we created a conference and a bilingual presentation in order to spread our ideas and collect opinions of more children of today. Finally, we even made a publicity that present the J8 and our team, inviting even more people to take part for the global problems.

Our team has a great social involvement which it manifests. Lessons taken from the BI program of International Education Program, we are greatly engaged in our community. Every member of our team participate in a lot of organizations such as the International Amnesty, UNICEF, the SÉÉM, the Canadian Foundation for the kidney, Héma-Québec, and a lot more. Some of our teammates are also implicated in an international way. For example, Marie-Ève organized herself a travel in Costa Rica in order to prevent the deforestation and help keeping a natural river in place. All those details can be found on our Wiki site: <http://rochebelle-j8.csdecou.qc.ca>

5. Entry Complements

- PowerPoint presentation for conferences (Rochebelle_J8.ppt)
- Additional Material for our propositions (Additional_Material.doc)
- CV of every member (Curriculum.doc)
- Supervisor letter

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- Conference's Pictures
 - Our team's picture
 - Team member's curriculum video
 - Promotion video for youth social involvement (Voir http://rochebelle-j8.csdecou.qc.ca/index.php/Compl%C3%A9ments_au_dossier_/Additional_Material)
 - Pictures from the project Africa with UNICEF

6. Cultural Diversity

Our team has a great cultural diversity which proves our openmindedness. It is composed of four girls and four boys. Coming from many different ethnic origins: Canadian, Chinese, French, Italian and Rwandan, we have a great interest for the world and foreign cultures. Altogether the team speaks English, Mandarin, French and Spanish. Moreover, some among us are learning German, Japanese, Italian, Esperanto and Korean. Every member of our team has traveled a lot in a way to immerse into the wealth of different languages and cultures of our world. We are passionate by history, politics and international relations. We find a motivation in opening our horizons on what occurs in the world, thus allowing us to develop a social awareness and empathy towards the victims of world injustices.