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Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda,
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16th June 2008

Dear Prime Minister

We are writing to you as members and supporters of End Water Poverty, an international coalition of civil society organisations committed to bringing an end to the global sanitation and water crisis that kills 5000 children every day. We also write on behalf of over 900,000 people who have so far signed a global petition addressed to you and your fellow G8 leaders.

We welcome the strong leadership you have shown in ensuring that meeting the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets on sanitation and water, which are far off-track, will be discussed at the Hokkaido Toyako G8 Summit. With just three weeks remaining, we urge you to take the bold and concrete actions needed to deliver life and dignity to the 2.6 billion people who lack access to safe sanitation, and the 1.1 billion people who lack access to clean water.

In 2003 the G8 announced the Evian Water Action Plan, yet to date this has failed to deliver the step-change in progress needed to deliver the MDG targets on sanitation and water. This year, we urge the G8 to go much further and commit to delivering a Global Action Plan that provides the institutions and finances necessary to put these targets back on track. This should include:

- A high-level annual review to monitor global progress.
- A high-level task force empowered to identify barriers and take remedial actions.
- A commitment that no credible national water and sanitation plan should fail through lack of finance.

The evidence is clear; investing in sanitation and water brings the greatest public health gains of any single development intervention, a fact highlighted by the development experience of East Asia. It is cost-effective too, with the United Nations Development Programme estimating that every \$1 of investment in sanitation reaps over \$9 in economic return. Further, there are now serious doubts as to whether the MDGs on infant mortality, maternal mortality and universal access to primary education can be met without a greater focus on sanitation and water.

In this International Year of Sanitation, which includes both your Presidency of the G8 and the High-Level Meeting on the MDGs at the United Nations this September, there is a real opportunity to scale up efforts to end the sanitation and water crisis. Therefore we urge you, and your fellow G8 leaders, to show the leadership needed to truly deliver for communities across the world.

Yours sincerely,

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