

## FOR THOSE WITH SHORT MEMORIES PROMISES NOT MAINTAINED BY ITALY

Actively fight against poverty means maintaining commitments undertaken internationally. This is a list of the main promises Italy has failed to maintain since 1995

- In 1995, the world summit for social development was held in Copenhagen. The 185 countries involved signed a commitment to eradicate absolute poverty and implement active plans. Donor countries committed themselves to investing **20%** of their aid in **basic social services**, such as basic health, primary education and water and sanitation. Italy has still not yet reached 5%.

- In National Law 209/2000, the Italian parliament decided to **cancel 100% of bilateral debts** towards the 42 poorest and most heavily indebted countries (HIPC) and all other low-income countries. Of these 42 countries, only 19 have undersigned agreements with Italy, while the other countries have not benefited from any cancellation. Overall, Italy has until now cancelled 2.5 billion Euro of debts of the 6 billion Euro established by the 2000 Law.

- On 25 and 26 April 2001, during the Annual High Level Meeting of the Development Assistance Committee (OECD), the Recommendation for the untying of **tied aid** for least developed countries was adopted (“tied aid” means aid provided on condition that the donor country may impose one of its own services – usually a company – to manage the resources made available). Italy, as a member of the DAC and signatory of the Recommendation, was committed to adhere to the principles of this document. In 2002, the year of its entry into force, the percentage of bilateral tied aid in Italy was 92%. In subsequent years, the data on tied aid concerning Italy was no longer made available.

- On 15 and 16 March 2002, with the agreements undersigned in Barcelona by the EU Ministers, Italy pledged to achieve a ODA/GDP ratio of **0.33% by the end of 2006**, for which an increase in funds of 113% would have been required in four years.

- On 21 and 22 March 2002, in the declaration undersigned in Monterey, Italy pledged to allocate additional resources to fight global Poverty, in addition to cancelling debt.

- On 11 April 2002, closing his speech at the Palermo Conference on e-government, the Prime Minister criticised the commitment undertaken as “insufficient”, stating that: “as far as I am concerned, in the name of my country, I pledge to make progressively available to the countries that most need additional resources **up to 1%** of the Gross Domestic Product”;

- On 10 May 2002, in his opening speech at the FAO summit, the Prime Minister again referred to the **1% of the GDP** as the target to be achieved, convinced that “more needs to be done” and that “the trial

period is over, now is the time to act, to do what we want to do: eliminate hunger from the face of the Earth”;

- After the World Food Summit, Italy pledged to finance the Fund for Food Security with an initial quota of 100 million Euro; up to 2006, it had only paid 60 million.

- In the “economic and financial planning document” for the years 2003-2006, it was stated that: “the Government has pledged to achieve the 0.33% target of the GDP in respect of the conditions laid down by the Stability and Growth Pact, in two ways: 1) gradually increasing all the components of the resources allocated to ODA; 2) cancelling the bilateral debts of Developing Countries towards which Italy has sovereign credit (aid credit and trade credits insured by SACE) as implementation of Law 209/2000. As a gradual approach is required, the Government has outlined the following timeline, which will be reviewed year by year on the basis of public finance equilibrium: in 2003, 0.19-0.20 percent; in 2004, 0.23-0.24 percent; in 2005, 0.27-0.28%; in 2006, 0.33%”.

- During the European Council meeting in Brussels in May 2005, member states (including Italy) pledged to achieve the **0.51%** ODA/GDP by the end of 2010 and **0.7%** by the end of 2015.

- Despite these various promises and commitments undertaken internationally, this country is currently allocating only **0.13%** of the GDP to development aid.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is demanding that 1.4 billion Euro be allocated for development aid in 2006 to near the European objective of 0.33%. The 2006 budget presented at the end of September 2005 allocated only 392 million Euro, cutting 152 million.

- On 4 and 5 September 2005, during the conference for the re-financing of the Global Fund for the Fight Against AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, Italy pledged to pay **130 million Euro** a year to the Global Fund in 2006 and 2007. However, the 2006 budget does not provide enough resources for the allocation of any such funds or for the allocation of the 20 million Euro outstanding from the 2005 quota.

