

MEMORANDUM

« Translate the Millennium Development Goals into a model law on poverty reduction »

At the occasion of World Rural Women's Day, World Food Day and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 15-16-17 October 2009



The whole world commemorates every year the World Rural Women's Day - 15 October, World Food Day - 16 October, and on 17 October the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. These three days, proclaimed by the United Nations, recall the daily struggle of the most deprived people of our planet, the rural women in particular, the reality of hunger, the international commitments phrased in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), more in particular the first goal: to reduce by half the proportion of people living in extreme poverty between 1990 and 2015. These three days are linked, as *more than a billion people are living in extreme poverty, of whom three quarters are rural people, and 70 % of the rural poor are women, gaining their livelihood from subsistence agriculture.* Every year, the situation of tens (from 50 to 90) of millions more people is deteriorating.

But poverty is not a fatality and can be eradicated.

The international campaign collective to « Translate the Millennium Development Goals into a model bill on poverty reduction » seizes the occasion of the World Rural Women's Day, World Food Day and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty:

- and calls on all actors to support poverty reduction legislation, first as a model bill, an orientation law resulting from an inclusive participatory process (similar to the model bill on STI/HIV/AIDS in West and Central Africa and the reproductive health bill), then as a national law in the countries where the need is real, after adjusting the model bill to the national specificities.



Translating the MDGs into a poverty reduction law means to:

1. Recognize and proclaim extreme poverty is a massive violation of fundamental human rights.
2. Promote and ensure guaranteed minimum human development to every person (GMHD)
3. Support and accompany national initiatives jointly taken by civil society organisations, parliaments, governments and private sector actors.
4. Respect and finance the implementation of the strategic poverty reduction frameworks and conventions related to these (Paris Declaration, development financing commitments).
5. Encourage and finance the fight against gender inequalities in full respect of human rights.
6. Encourage and bind all decision makers and actors to respect national and international commitments that take into account the human factor.
7. Recognize and respect the binding nature of the UN Covenants on people's economic and socio-cultural rights, and of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
8. Fight and penalize mechanisms and systems that generate and sustain poverty.
9. Install and support citizens' watch bodies at national, regional and international levels for the effective implementation of the law, once adopted.

The international MDGs/PRL campaign collective requests:

- national governments and parliaments
- the United Nations and its agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN-AIDS, ILO, UN-Habitat, UNEP, FAO, IFAD, UNIFEM, UNECA), and all multilateral and financial institutions (World Bank, IMF, ADB, etc.)
- regional and international institutions - African Union, ECOWAS, COMESA, CEMAC, IGAD, CEN-SAD, SADC, EAC, ECCAS, CEPGL, UEMOA, OIF, European Union, etc.)
- international parliamentary institutions (IPU, PAP, EP, APF, FAAPPD, AWEPA, EALA, ECOWAS Parliament, Joint ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly, etc.)



For more information on the campaign: www.aceci.org +1 418 524 7648

- national and international private companies committed to social responsibility
- all communities, active youth and women, and all social movements in the North and the South

to support the campaign carried forward by the international collective to « Translate the MDGs into a poverty reduction law », and to get involved in a concrete way.

The international collective invites

- civil society organisations from Africa, Europe, the Americas, Asia and Australia to join this campaign so that before 2015, and from 2010 onwards, countries are empowered with a national law to fight poverty efficiently.

Campaign spokespersons:

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