



# Policies and actions to eradicate hunger and malnutrition

Working document





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This working document has been drafted by a committee that also integrated input from a broad range of organisations and individuals. Members of the Drafting Committee can be found in the Annex. Ratification of the documents by the organisations of members of the drafting committee is in process. Their signatures will be published on the website [www.eradicatehunger.org](http://www.eradicatehunger.org)

Organisations and individuals are invited to sign on to an open letter and the summary of the working documents.

The letter and summary as well as this working document are online. To sign on, see the list of signatories and download the documents in English, French and Spanish, please go to [www.eradicatehunger.org](http://www.eradicatehunger.org)

Any comments, additional proposals, feedback and so on are welcome. Please write to [info@eradicatehunger.org](mailto:info@eradicatehunger.org)

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# Executive summary

## Background to the working document

The working document provides proposals for policies and actions to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. It is based on the experiences and political work of social movements, non governmental organisations (NGOs) and others from all over the world during past decades and currently. It is based largely on the food sovereignty framework that embraces the human right to adequate food.

These policies and actions have been prepared to inform governments, institutions and others, who are committed to eradicating hunger and malnutrition. They may also be helpful in discussions on these key issues within and between governments, institutions, social movements and NGOs. And they could be used by social movements, organisations and individuals in all regions as an input to their own proposals at local, national, regional and global levels.

## Why change is needed

A billion people are hungry because they do not have the means to produce food for themselves or purchase it. The majority of these hungry people are rural small-scale food providers, workers and their families, who are unable to grow sufficient food or earn enough income from their production and labour to meet their food and health needs.

Women are especially hard hit. They are the principle providers of food for their families and communities, playing central roles in food production, processing and preparation. Yet they are subject to multiple forms of social, economic and cultural discrimination, which prevent them from having equality in access to food and control over productive resources and natural wealth.

Hunger and malnutrition are chronic structural problems and worsening in the wake of the food price, financial, energy and climate crises. The food price crisis has hit particularly hard those who depend on markets affected by global prices for their access to food.

Not only have most governments and international institutions failed to reduce hunger and poverty and build on the findings of international processes designed to find ways forward (e.g. the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development - IAASTD), but they have, instead, adopted and implemented policies that have exacerbated the problems.

There is an urgent need to change the power and economic structures and policies that have caused the current crises.

## Vision

Actions to eradicate hunger and malnutrition must be based on a vision of a world where:

- food sovereignty is recognised and implemented by communities, peoples, states and international institutions;
- all peoples, societies and states determine their own food systems and have policies that ensure availability of sufficient, good quality, affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food;
- there is recognition and respect for women's rights and their crucial contribution to food provision, and representation of women in all decision making bodies;
- terrestrial and aquatic environments and biodiversity are conserved and rehabilitated based on ecologically sustainable management of land, soils, water, seas, seeds, livestock and aquatic organisms;
- the diversity of traditional knowledge, food, language and culture, are all valued and respected;
- the way people organise and express themselves is accepted and peoples' power to make decisions about their material, natural and spiritual heritage is defended;

To realise this vision, a series of policies and actions are proposed that address the key issues which are needed to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. These are summarised below.

## Sustainable food provision

There should be a shift from, high input industrial agriculture and livestock production and industrial fisheries towards smaller-scale ecological food provision that secures local livelihoods and strengthens



organisations and communities. Ecological food provision conserves nature, rehabilitates and values local and traditional knowledge and uses socially just and appropriate technologies, excluding GMOs. It maximises the contribution of ecosystems and improves resilience and adaptation of production and harvesting systems, especially important in the face of climate change. Conversion towards smaller-scale ecological food provision requires support. Research systems need to be reframed and use inclusive and participatory methods. Losses post-harvest should be minimised.

Sustainable food provision also requires that gender equity is at the heart of genuine agrarian and aquatic reforms and that all local small-scale food providers – women and men and especially young people, small-scale farmers and fishers, pastoralists, indigenous peoples and workers – have secure access to and control over territories, lands, water, fishing grounds, seed varieties, livestock breeds and fisheries resources. This access should be respected by state and societal actors, in accordance with customary laws, governance and benefits rights. On no account should access to hitherto common property resources be privatised for the benefits of a privileged minority.

### **Environment, climate change and agro fuels**

The production of food is increasingly vulnerable due to climate change, ecosystem destruction, loss of biodiversity, land conversion and agrofuel production. Thus, the adaptive ecological systems outlined above, that are more resilient to environmental shocks must be the foundation for environmentally-sound food provision. These systems will better secure food supplies and will also regenerate soil carbon and restore natural and developed habitats for water security.

Production systems must minimise greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). In all countries GHGs must be kept at or reduced to a sustainable level (about 1 tonne CO<sub>2</sub> per capita per year). The most effective way to reduce GHGs in food provision is to localise production and consumption, reduce the use of chemical fertilisers, reduce fossil fuel use and increase energy efficiency, including use of decentralised, alternative energy technologies and systems. To enable people and communities to tackle climate change effectively and sustainably, countries in the North must pay compensation and reparations of at least 1% of annual GDP to countries in the South.

An immediate moratorium on the production, trade and consumption of agrofuels, is called for, together with an in-depth evaluation of their social and environmental costs. This is required because, in general, the use of industrial agrofuels does not reduce GHG emissions and the corporate driven, industrial-scale production of agrofuels is converting land from food production and displacing local communities.

### **Markets, trade and price policies and subsidies**

New market, trade and price policies and redirected subsidies that prioritise local and national production and consumption and the needs of people for food, are needed. Government procurement systems, publicly owned and managed food stocks, supply management policies and sound market regulation are essential to guarantee good and stable prices for small-scale food providers and to avoid speculation, hoarding and food price escalation.

Governments and international institutions should not finance and facilitate the operations of agribusiness corporations but should formulate and enact laws to reduce their power and, in the short-term, make them socially, environmentally and economically accountable to the public.

New international trade rules are urgently needed. These should be based on the rights of peoples and their governments to determine their desired levels of self sufficiency, market protection and support for sustainable food provision for domestic consumption. The ongoing negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) should be stopped and all trade and investment agreements that impact negatively on local and national food systems should be revoked.

Equally urgent are the prevention of dumping of low priced imports and a ban on all direct and indirect export subsidies. If available, subsidies should be provided for localised ecological food provision that creates employment, protects the environment and strengthens local and national economies.

### **Ensuring access to adequate food**

In addition to the measures outlined above, assuring decent work for all and universal social security nets, especially for those who are most vulnerable, are crucial. Urban food insecurity is also a serious

problem that cannot be addressed in isolation from the crisis in the countryside. Hunger and malnutrition in urban areas can be reduced through sustainable food provision through urban and peri-urban farms and gardens, and building “urban-rural linkages” in which cities are fed through sustainable provision from surrounding regions. All these will also drastically reduce the need for emergency food aid and humanitarian actions.

Emergency food aid will, however, still be necessary in the short-term but resources needed must be made available in sufficient quantities and in ways that do not undermine local economies and structures.

Peace, based on justice, civil and political rights, is a precondition for any lasting solution to wars, occupations and conflicts. Special support to people in all areas of conflict is needed to help them to maintain food production and secure access to food.

### **Finance, debt and development aid**

Speculation and derivatives trade in sensitive sectors, especially food, agriculture, fisheries, water, weather conditions and climate must be heavily penalised and banned. Equally important is preventing corporate concentration in the insurance, credit and banking sectors. Financial institutions and conglomerates should not be allowed to become “too big to fail.”

The unconditional cancellation of the external debts of countries in the South and immediate dismantling of Structural Adjustment Policies (SAPs) and neoliberal policy regimes are crucial. Also important is repayment by countries in the North of their massive ecological debts and historical exploitation.

Aid donors must immediately fulfil their commitments to pay at least 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) in development assistance, without conditionalities other than programmes supported should be based on the priorities and plans of peoples and communities in the aid receiving countries, in ways that do not create aid dependency. The power of multilateral financial institutions and IFIs over development aid and credits must be removed, and aid programmes and arrangements must be subjected to national and sub-national democratic and public scrutiny.

### **Governance**

The world’s food supplies and food producing natural wealth should be governed through transparent and accountable multilateral fora and regional and international agreements that are forged, implemented and monitored democratically with the full participation of people’s organisations and States.

States should promote policies and actions that actively support the measures outlined above that will realise food sovereignty and the progressive realisation of the human right to adequate food. Also, food providers, their communities and their organisations must have rights of access to information about policies, technologies, programmes, agreements, in appropriate and accessible forms.

All international institutions, and especially the Rome-based UN food and agriculture agencies, as well as the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) must support states to formulate and implement the policies needed to effectively tackle hunger and realise food sovereignty. They should ensure that States have the policy space and political agency to limit and discipline the operations of corporations, as well as protect their domestic food and economic systems from international markets, and trade and investment agreements.

UN agencies, in particular, should actively: implement the recommendations of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) and IAASTD; promote the adoption of the Covenant 169 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on Indigenous Peoples; implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN DRIP); implement the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); and support the formulation of international conventions that defend the rights of small-scale food providers, including fishing communities and pastoralists, along the lines of the UN DRIP and the proposed International Convention on the Rights of Peasants.

# 1. Background to the document

This working document presents proposals for policies and actions to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. It is based on the experiences and political work of social movements, civil society organisations (CSOs), non governmental organisations (NGOs) and others from all over the world. These proposals are designed to inform governments, national, regional and international institutions, and other actors committed to eradicating hunger and malnutrition and facilitating discussions on hunger and malnutrition within and between governments, institutions, social movements and NGOs. Social movements, organisations and individuals in all regions can also use this document in developing their own proposals for concrete actions and policies at local, national, regional and global levels.

This document is based largely on the food sovereignty framework<sup>1</sup> that embraces the human right to adequate food<sup>2</sup>. The proposal for food sovereignty was launched at the World Food Summit in 1996 and has since been developed as the key approach for many social movements and NGOs working on agriculture<sup>3</sup>, fisheries, pastoralism, food rights and related issues. The CSO/NGO parallel conferences organised by the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)<sup>4</sup> and its forerunners during the World Food Summits in 1996 and 2002, the Terra Preta Forum in 2008 and Nyéléni 2007: Forum for Food Sovereignty<sup>5</sup>, as well as many other national, regional and international events, have played an important role in strengthening consensus among social movements and CSOs on food sovereignty, and have inspired many actions around the world in support of its realisation.

It is crucial to secure the involvement of the women and men, peasants and small-scale family farmers, fisher peoples, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, forest dwellers and other small-scale food providers, workers as well as the urban and rural poor who are actually suffering from hunger and malnutrition, in order to realise the necessary changes in policy and practice to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in the long term. This document offers an analysis and proposals for policies and actions that could solve the problems, based on their realities and needs. In preparing this document, the greatest care has been taken to capture the views of a wide range of social movements and CSOs representing and/or working with these small-scale food providers, workers and the urban and rural poor. This is a working document and is open for comment<sup>6</sup>.

1 Food sovereignty puts the right to sufficient, healthy and culturally appropriate food for all individuals, peoples and communities at the centre of food, agriculture, livestock and fisheries policies, rather than the demands of markets and corporations that prioritise internationally tradable commodities and edible components. It localises food systems and values the knowledge and skills of small-scale food providers, and works in harmony with nature. For more on food sovereignty see reports from Nyéléni 2007: Forum for Food Sovereignty.

2 The human right to adequate food was clarified and interpreted as requested by the 1996 World Food Summit, and subsequently underwent a process to develop a set of Voluntary Guidelines for the realisation of the right to adequate food, prepared by Member States and endorsed by the FAO Council in 2004. See General Comment No 12 on the right to adequate food, prepared and adopted by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1999, UN Doc E/C.12/1999/5.

3 In this document 'agriculture' is used in a broad sense to refer to multiple types/systems of food production, gathering and harvesting through farming, livestock raising, pastoralism, fisheries, aquaculture, collection of forest products etc.

4 For more on the IPC for Food Sovereignty, see [www.foodsovereignty.org](http://www.foodsovereignty.org).

5 See Nyéléni Declaration and Synthesis Report at [www.nyeleni.org](http://www.nyeleni.org).

6 This document has been drafted by a committee set up by the IPC through several rounds of consultation/discussion with key social movements, networks, associations, CSOs, academics and researchers working on food rights and hunger. The first draft, in English, French and Spanish, was discussed by the committee and sent out for comments to a broad range of organisations and individuals in May 2009; based on this feedback, a second draft was prepared and sent out in September 2009 for comments; the drafting committee met in October 2009 and worked on a third draft that was also sent around for comments and approval; this working document is the fourth draft.



## 2. Why change is needed

A billion people are hungry because they do not have the means to produce food for themselves or to purchase it. The majority of these hungry people are rural, small-scale food providers<sup>7</sup> and workers who are unable to earn enough income from their production and labour to meet their food and health needs. At the same time, locally produced foods sold in local markets feed the large majority of people all over the world.

Hunger and malnutrition are chronic, structural problems that are worsening in the wake of the crises in food prices, finance and the climate. Despite hundreds of millions of dollars poured annually into development assistance, including food aid and agricultural development, over the past 60 years, the numbers of people who are cash- and resource-poor, hungry and under-nourished have continued to grow. The recent food price crisis has exacerbated hunger and hit particularly hard those who depend on internationally influenced markets for their access to food. But even as food prices come down, food will not automatically become more accessible to everyone. On the contrary, hunger is likely to increase as the financial crisis wipes out jobs and real incomes, and depletes the financial reserves of scores of countries.

Women represent a disproportionately high percentage of the disadvantaged, poor, undernourished and hungry members of society. Of the 1.02 billion hungry people worldwide, about 60 % are women. Rural and urban poor women carry a heavy load of domestic and productive work to ensure the well-being and feeding of their families. But because of social-cultural discrimination in many communities, women are often the last to eat or eat less nutritious food, and do not share the same privileges as men with regards to access to means of production. The global food and financial crises have worsened the food and nutrition situation for women. Wars and conflicts heighten the risks of women's mobility in food provision.

### Recurring and multiple crises

The world is currently in the grip of multiple crises—financial-economic, food, environment-climate and fossil-fuel—that are deeply inter-connected in terms of their causes and effects. They are also recurrent; they have happened before and will happen again with increasingly serious consequences unless their root causes are effectively tackled. Equally serious are the responses of governments and international institutions such as United Nations (UN) agencies, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), national and transnational corporations (TNCs), which are likely to exacerbate the impacts of these crises and entrench conditions for their future recurrence.

The global food crisis is not the result of shortages of food, nor is it a crisis for everyone. Since 1961, the world's population has doubled, but world cereal production has tripled. Global grain production in 2007 was a record 2.3 billion tons, 4% more than in 2006. Yet in 2008 there were record levels of hunger among the world's poor despite record global harvests and record profits for the world's major agribusiness and agri-food corporations. As world leaders and global policy institutions declared a global food crisis, corporate producers and traders of grain, oil palm, animal feed, poultry and seafood, suppliers of agricultural inputs (seeds, pesticides, fertilisers and machinery), and food processors and retailers made huge profits in both 2007 and 2008.

Most of the food shortages in 2007-2008—such as those faced by net food importing countries—were triggered by the manipulation of food commodity stocks through speculation and trading in de-regulated global markets. In fact, speculative stocking and hoarding, trade in agricultural commodity futures and derivatives, and the financialisation<sup>8</sup> of food and agriculture have become major threats to food security in a financially globalised world.

These conditions are the direct outcomes of several decades of neoliberal policy regimes that have accelerated financial and economic globalisation, and transformed national and international economic structures, institutions and systems to make them corporate- and market-friendly. While hunger and poverty have national social dimensions, the roots of the global food crisis lie in the increasing

<sup>7</sup> This term has been selected for use in this document to capture diverse forms of local food production, processing and procurement.

<sup>8</sup> Financialisation describes an economic system or process that attempts to reduce all value that is exchanged (whether tangible, intangible, future or present promises) into either a financial instrument or a derivative of a financial instrument. The original intent of financialisation is to be able to reduce any work-product or service to an exchangeable financial instrument, such as currency, and thus make it easier for it to be traded in financial markets.

corporate control of the world's agriculture, food, energy and financial systems. Corporate power has been systematically shored up by most governments through development aid, trade and investment agreements, and by institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, regional development banks and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) through Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs), economic reform packages and trade rules and agreements.

As a result, agriculture and food systems are dominated by a globalised, highly centralised, industrial agri-food complex of corporations dealing in grain, seeds, chemicals, fertilisers, food processing, retailing and finance. These corporations dominate local and national markets and increasingly control the world's food-producing resources: land, labour, water, inputs, seeds, credit, genes, technology, information, equipment and investment. This consolidation of corporate power has not only set the stage for the global food crisis, but also made the world extremely vulnerable to environmental, energy and economic shocks. Tragically, corporate power and its regime of trade and investment operations have been built with the help of public policies and public funds for production, distribution, trade, foreign aid and international agricultural<sup>9</sup> research.

### **A history of toxic policies**

One of the most significant developments since World War 2 has been the Green Revolution, which aimed to 'modernise' Third World agriculture through the application of hybrid and high-response seeds, chemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers, modern machinery and irrigation systems, and 'scientific' knowledge and technology. Through publicly financed agricultural extension systems, Green Revolution technology packages were aggressively promoted among farmers in the South along with loans and other incentives to adopt these packages and 'progress' from traditional, diverse multi-cropping to 'modern', mono-crop cultivation. The Green Revolution paved the way for agribusiness corporations to build monopoly control over seeds, agricultural inputs and modern technology and resulted in the massive erosion of local crop varieties and biodiversity, chemical contamination of land and water, and loss of soil fertility. Initial increases in agricultural yields could not be sustained without the application of costly chemical inputs. As a result, numerous smallholder farmers were driven into vicious debt traps and forced off the lands that they had used as collateral. Agricultural land was consolidated in the hands of local elites while many smallholders took their own lives out of despair.

The so-called Blue Revolution, promoted by governments in the South to increase export earnings and support large fishery and associated industries, also had similar impacts on artisanal fisheries. It promoted high tech, more powerful engines, modernised more extractive fishing techniques, use of destructive fishing gear such as lights, purse seine nets, and bottom trawling, as well as industrial aquaculture of monocultured varieties, the use of hormones and other chemicals for fish breeding, and the destruction of biodiverse aquatic ecosystems in favour of conversion to aquaculture farms. These practices devastated natural fish breeding grounds and led to the depletion of fish stocks and reduced availability of fish for small-scale fishers and consumers. Promotion of the blue revolution limited attention to small-scale fishers and marginalised the most vulnerable subsistence producers.

At the same time, the World Bank and IMF started modernising the financial and economic systems of developing countries through packages of neoliberal policy reforms called Structural Adjustment Policies (SAPs) that institutionalised privatisation, liberalisation and deregulation. SAPs rolled back public investment and subsidies for vulnerable groups, dismantled social security systems, privatised land, water and essential services, slashed import tariffs, deregulated agricultural markets, dismantled national marketing boards, eliminated price guarantees for agricultural producers, introduced private intellectual property regimes and undermined national research and extension systems. Through the enforcement of private property regimes, SAPs facilitated the concentration of land, wealth and resources into the hands of national and transnational elites. Corporate power was further entrenched in 1995 by the establishment of the WTO and subsequent free trade agreements (FTAs) which give primacy to corporate profits over local and national needs.

The neoliberal policy onslaught has wreaked devastation on the world's small-scale food providers. It has deepened agrarian and fisheries crises, accelerated distress migration and greatly increased rural and urban poverty and hunger. The access of small-scale food providers and indigenous communities to life

<sup>9</sup> Agriculture is used here in a broad sense to refer to multiple types/systems of food production: farming, livestock raising, pastoralism, fisheries, aquaculture, etc.

sustaining resources has been seriously eroded and rural landlessness is increasing at a scale never seen before. Because of development in the form of harbour construction, tourism zones, Marine Protected Areas, etc., or for security reasons that create demarcated coastal security/buffer zones, small-scale fishers have been forced out of coastal communities into unemployment without income, leading to increased hunger and poverty.

Land, forests, water, plants, animals and genetic resources have been commodified, seeds and livestock breeds are being patented by private biotechnology firms, and local indigenous knowledge built by communities over generations is being pirated by pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies.

The newest craze is agro fuels purportedly to reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions. Massive land grabs for agro fuel production trigger violent land conflicts and food shortages, and drive many smallholder farmers and pastoralists off their lands and further into hunger and poverty. To preempt the risk of food shortages, wealthy countries are acquiring productive farmland in poor countries despite the food deficits and land-related violence in these countries.

Numerous policies and plans of action designed by international experts for international institutions have failed to prevent a continuing increase in hunger and malnutrition. Massive and systematic violations of the human right to adequate food are at the core of continuing and deepening poverty and hunger. Decades of misguided international policies have failed to create and maintain an enabling environment for states to respect, protect and fulfil the human right to adequate food. Governments have, sometimes deliberately, failed in their legal obligation to protect the right to adequate food, particularly in terms of guaranteeing access to productive resources or access to food for every citizen. Indiscriminate trade liberalisation, privatisation of essential services and the natural commons, dismantling or restricting public distribution systems and economic reforms that create unemployment, all violate the right to adequate food. But through the WTO, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and neoliberal economic reforms, governments have opted to support corporations and markets rather than meet their legal and ethical obligations to ensure the rights of their peoples.

### **The Failure of International Efforts**

Today<sup>10</sup>, the number of hungry people has for the first time in history surpassed the one billion mark and now stands at 1.02 billion.

Not only will the goal of the 1996 World Food Summit of halving the number of hungry people by 2015 not be reached, but more alarming, the number of hungry people is in fact increasing by about 4 million every year.

However, the declaration from the G20 Summit in November 2008 on the financial crisis reaffirmed governmental commitment to an unregulated global economy through open trade and investment regimes and financial markets. The World Bank's World Development Report (WDR) 2008: Agriculture for Development, released in October 2007, outlines a strategy to bring all agricultural production into a market paradigm. It argues for small-scale food providers to be incorporated into "value chains" owned by agribusiness and finance capital, under the guise of increasing agricultural productivity and of meeting new consumer demand for commodities such as agrofuels.

The Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) developed by the UN High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis promotes some positive policies such as giving increased importance and support to smallholder agriculture and sustainable food production systems, and to a paradigm shift in urban planning. However, at the same time the CFA also promotes policies and actions that will increase hunger, malnutrition and poverty, exacerbate climate change, and undermine biodiversity and soil fertility. These include further trade liberalisation, unsustainable, chemical-intensive agriculture and increased power to corporations and the World Bank. The CFA thus cannot be the foundational document for policies and actions to ensure adequate food for all.

Most governments and international institutions show no commitment to systemic change away from these policies. The current crises are instead being used to expand and deepen corporate control and management of the world's natural wealth and food. Biotechnology and genetically modified (GM) seeds are being promoted as solutions to hunger and malnutrition through the "next green revolution." The

<sup>10</sup> See the State of Food Insecurity (SOFI) 2009, FAO

Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is attempting to repackage the Green Revolution into a 21<sup>st</sup> century version ostensibly to help Africa overcome poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Devised, promoted and funded by (among others) the Gates and Rockefeller Foundations, AGRA will replace local seeds with varieties developed for industrial monocultures, and push for the massive adoption of synthetic fertilisers. It is also lobbying for changes in national regulatory regimes to allow new, commercial (probably GM) seed varieties into the market without sufficient testing in local conditions or adequate liability and redress systems in place.

However, states that join the United Nations automatically adopt the UN Charter which establishes human rights as one of the pillars of the aims and work of the UN. These rights are spelled out in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948, which includes the right to adequate food as part of the right to an adequate standard of living. The UDHR, together with the two International Covenants of 1966 on civil and political rights (ICCPR) and on economic, social and cultural rights (ICESCR), make up the International Bill of Human Rights. In addition to deepening the content of the UDHR, the two covenants also establish binding obligations on states that ratify them, to put into place policies and programmes to ensure full compliance with their provisions, including the right to adequate food and the right to be free from hunger. In the authoritative interpretation of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1999, this means access for all to “food in a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals, free from adverse substances, and acceptable within a given culture;... in ways that are sustainable and that do not interfere with the enjoyment of other human rights”. Furthermore, in numerous world conferences and summits since 1974 (such as the World Food Conference in 1974, the World Food Summits in 1996 and 2002, the Millennium Summit in 2000, and the High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy in 2008), governments have agreed to eliminate (1974 target) or halve the number of hungry by 2015. Governments have also agreed on several plans and programmes of action aimed at combating hunger and poverty.

### **Time for new thinking**

Social movements, people’s organisations and their allies have consistently pointed to the urgent need for systemic overhauls of existing economic, financial, social and environmental policies and for new thinking to tackle poverty and hunger in a sustained manner. They have forwarded proposals for actions based on proven practices that correctly locate the causes of hunger, malnutrition and poverty in unequal power relations in society and the economy.

An increase in the relative power of women is absolutely key to overcoming hunger and malnutrition and must be a central element of new thinking. Women and their children comprise most of the hungry and malnourished in the world and their nutritional needs must take the highest priority. The period from pre-conception to around 24 months of age is critical for the foundation for life-long health of an infant. Women are the principle food providers for their families and communities, and play central roles in food production, processing and preparation. And yet women are subject to multiple forms of social, economic and cultural discrimination, which deny them equal access to food and control over productive resources and natural wealth.

The World Bank, FAO and other UN bodies co-sponsored the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), which presented its report in May 2008. IAASTD concludes that unless agriculture and the way society engages with food, agriculture, livestock production and fisheries are fundamentally changed, it will not be possible to feed the projected 2050 world population of 9 billion people, ensure equity and sustain the planet.

IAASTD’s report and findings were approved by 58 governments. The report challenges industrial agriculture and GM foods as solutions to the social and ecological crises brought about by chemical-intensive agriculture. It critiques the market obsession with neoliberal economics and the narrow focus of agricultural development on boosting productivity of monoculture commodities rather than the holistic integration of ecological, food and nutritional security. Recognising the threats to future food supplies and analysing future options to sustain production, IAASTD confirms that biologically diverse, agroecological farming and grazing methods that improve ecosystem functions, especially those practised sustainably by small-scale food providers, particularly women, make agriculture more resilient, adaptive and capable of eliminating hunger and rural poverty in the long term.

This type of new thinking needs to be developed and built upon. Yet few international institutions and governments have referred to IAASTD in their deliberations on the food crisis. This may be because IAASTD's 22 findings are 'inconvenient'; they do not promote the proprietary technologies that will make profits for agribusiness corporations.

The food sovereignty framework, developed by social movements, is at the forefront of new thinking about how to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. Food sovereignty includes people's right to adequate food and to be able to produce their own food. Food sovereignty puts those who produce, distribute and consume local foods at the heart of food systems rather than the demands of markets and corporations that reduce food to internationally tradable commodities. It works with nature. The food sovereignty framework values the contributions, knowledge and skills of women and men, peasants and small-scale family farmers, pastoralists, small-scale fishers, forest dwellers, indigenous peoples, agricultural and fisheries workers, including migrants, and other small-scale food providers who cultivate, grow, harvest and process food, and respects their rights.<sup>11</sup>

### 3. Vision

Actions to eradicate hunger and malnutrition must be based on a vision of a world free from hunger where:

- Food sovereignty is recognised and implemented by communities, peoples, states and international bodies.
- All peoples, societies and nations and states determine their own food systems and have policies that ensure availability of sufficient, good quality, affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food.
- There is recognition and respect of women's rights and their crucial contribution to food provision, and representation of women in all decision-making bodies.
- Terrestrial and aquatic environments and biodiversity are conserved and rehabilitated based on ecologically sustainable management of land, soils, water, seas, seeds, livestock and aquatic organisms.
- The diversity of traditional knowledge, food, language and culture is valued and respected.
- The way people organise and express themselves is accepted and people have the power to make decisions about their material, natural and spiritual heritage.

To realise this vision, a series of policies and actions are proposed to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

Strong, popular pressure is indispensable in the battle to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Trade unions, peasant organisations, fisher communities, indigenous peoples, landless rural workers, women, pastoralists, youth and other broad-based social movements already have central roles in this battle. On the understanding that this is where change has to start, they are building awareness within their own organisations as well as in broader society of the actions necessary to realise the right to adequate food and food sovereignty. They need to coordinate more effectively and build alliances at multiple levels with other societal actors, governments, and regional and international institutions.

The proposals for policies and actions outlined in this document are directed primarily towards states, governments, and international and multilateral institutions, who have the legal obligation, capacity and power to put in place the structures and measures that can eradicate hunger and malnutrition and prevent its recurrence. Achieving these goals does not require ad hoc acts of charity or systems of hand-outs; but they do demand that state and institutional actors respect the right to adequate food as a fundamental human right of crucial importance to the enjoyment of all rights.

<sup>11</sup> For more on food sovereignty, see the reports from Nyéléni 2007: Forum for Food Sovereignty



## 4. Sustainable food provision

Peasant-based production, pastoralism and small-scale fisheries are the world's largest economic sectors in terms of the numbers of people engaged, and, with appropriate policy and government support, can sustain food supplies and be key pillars of robust domestic economies. However, present economic policies tend to favour industrial, export-oriented agriculture and fisheries where the chief beneficiaries are corporations.

Sustainable food provision requires localised, ecological, diverse, and low external input methods of production, harvesting, fishing, pastoralism, processing and distribution. These maximise the contribution of ecosystems and improve the resilience and adaptation of production and harvesting systems, especially in the face of climate change. Accordingly, research, development and production systems should build upon the skills and local knowledge of food providers and their organisations that conserve, develop and manage localised food production and harvesting systems, and reject technologies that undermine, threaten or contaminate these, such as genetically-modified crops, aquatic organisms and animals.

It also requires that local small-scale food providers have secure access to and control over land, fishing grounds, water, seed varieties, aquatic species and livestock breeds with full respect by states and societal actors for their use, access, governance and right to benefits. For generations, small-scale fishing and farming, pastoral and indigenous communities have shared and protected the, land, water and natural wealth upon which life depends, in socially, environmentally and economically sustainable ways, sustaining diversity, building traditional knowledge and respecting collective rights.

Production methods that harm beneficial ecosystem functions, that depend on energy intensive monocultures and livestock factories, that use destructive fishing practices and other industrialised production methods, that damage the environment and contribute to global warming, should be transformed to minimise GHG emissions.

### Towards small-scale ecological food provision

The first priority in food production and consumption policies at all levels should be to support and protect food production for local markets and consumption in the communities themselves. Smallholder and peasant-based ecological farming, pastoralism and small-scale fisheries are the foundation of sustainable food provision. These diverse production systems, with many different crops and products and types of livestock produced within a single area and a variety of aquatic species harvested sustainably, ensure dietary diversity. Such production systems empower women's capacities for food provision and social reproduction.

Ecological production<sup>12</sup> sustains agricultural biodiversity, is resilient to climate change and other shocks, regenerates and locks carbon in the soil, improves water quality, and restores natural and managed habitats. The transition to food sovereignty will require a shift towards low carbon ecological practices for cropping, nomadic pastoralism that conserves and uses rangelands sustainably by keeping carbon in the soil, and small-scale fisheries that promote sustainable use of fisheries resources. These production systems are supported by appropriate technologies, including small-scale mechanisation, that encourage innovation and reduce drudgery, and result in good quality food products without negatively affecting the environment.

Agricultural biodiversity<sup>13</sup> is not only essential for ecological production systems but is also further developed by them. It comprises diverse crop species and varieties, livestock breeds, fish and aquatic species as well as complementary species that support production. It is nurtured through exchanges and careful selection involving farmers and gardeners, pastoralists and small-scale fishers across communities, countries and continents over millennia. It provides security against future adversity, be it climate change, war, occupation, industrial developments, biotechnological calamity or ecosystem collapse. Agricultural

12 Ecological production may be defined as a system of agricultural, livestock, aquatic and fisheries production that conserves the natural assets (air, soils, waters, biodiversity), through their sustainable use, by rehabilitating and valuing local and traditional knowledge and using socially just and appropriate technologies, for the production and equitable trade, at local and national levels, of healthy food and other products, whilst ensuring food sovereignty, and securing livelihoods and sustaining life.

13 Agricultural biodiversity encompasses the variety and variability of all terrestrial and aquatic animals, plants and micro-organisms (including invertebrates, insects, aquatic organisms and other species) which are necessary to sustain key functions of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, their structures and processes for, and in support of, food production.

biodiversity is threatened by industrial production and harvesting and is declining rapidly. Seed and livestock diversity, in particular, is decreasing as a result of intellectual property rights (IPRs), laws, policies, commercial contracts and technologies that facilitate monopoly ownership over varieties, breeds, species and genes.

Ecological production systems are diverse. They develop and renew production based on cultural roots, local and traditional knowledge and practices of small-scale food providers. They underpin food sovereignty.

In the process of transforming production, small-scale food providers who are caught in the trap of the dominant industrial production system should be supported to minimise external inputs (fertilisers, pesticides, fossil fuels, etc.) and preserve the natural wealth of agricultural and grazing lands, soil, biodiversity, water, aquatic resources, etc. used in production. This transformation is achievable by small-scale food providers but not by large scale industrial production and harvesting.

Regulation and transformation of unsustainable large-scale industrialised agriculture, livestock raising and fisheries towards smaller-scale ecological production systems is also urgently required if hunger is to be eradicated, an equitable food system established and the environment restored<sup>14</sup>.

Industrial agribusinesses, livestock factories, industrial fisheries and aquaculture produce commodities and food ingredients in monocultures and harvest fish species in unsustainable ways, principally for global markets. They are protected by patents, commercial contracts, technologies and trade rules. They are currently controlled by a handful of corporations and are supported by public and private research institutions. This protection has enabled corporations to capture and control markets for inputs (high-response, hybrid and GM seeds; livestock breeds; seed for aquaculture; water; fertilisers) and products (food, animal feed, agrofuels, fibre and industrial commodities), and to capture ecosystems and overexploit and degrade natural resources, resulting in soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, desertification, water depletion and contamination and pollution of water bodies. The costs of these impacts are never internalised.

Local food production and small-scale agricultural industries in rural areas have the potential to provide rural youth and women with decent jobs and revitalise agrarian, pastoral and fisheries-based economies, and thereby preventing distress or involuntary migration to cities.

### ***Proposals for policies and actions:***

- Promote and support knowledge-intensive and biodiverse ecological production and harvesting of food, primarily for local markets, in small-scale peasant and family farms, aquaculture farms, water bodies and pastoral grazing lands.
- Strengthen local markets for ecologically-produced foods, promoting decentralised distribution and processing systems that create the shortest possible links between consumers and producers.
- Increase support for area- and community-specific labelling schemes that identify socially and ecologically sound production methods.
- Promote and support sustainable pastoralism in which traditional and participatory management systems are recognised, and which sustain a diversity of livestock species and breeds used for food, fibre production and transport.
- Promote extensive traditional and small-scale forms of aquaculture of herbivorous species, directed at local markets that provide employment, particularly for women in rural communities, and reject industrial aquaculture.
- Promote sustainable small-scale fisheries that typically employ a wide diversity of gear attuned to the season and the species targeted, generate minimal bycatch, and consume lower fossil fuel energy per unit of fish output, while prohibiting illegal fishing and all destructive fishing gear and practices that are responsible, among other things, for habitat degradation, destruction of corals and seagrass, capture of juveniles and high levels of bycatch.
- Defend agricultural biodiversity sustained by small-scale food providers including farmers, gardeners, pastoralists, livestock keepers and small-scale fishers; uphold their collective rights to the varieties,

<sup>14</sup> IAASTD found that a move towards agroecological sciences is necessary if hunger is to be eradicated, equity realised and the environment restored. (Finding # 7) [www.iaastd.net](http://www.iaastd.net)

breeds and species needed for food production; in particular, ensure the right of peasant and family farmers to save, use, exchange and sell their seeds and livestock breeds within and between different communities, countries and continents.

- Increase equitable allocation and efficient use of irrigation water, wherever available, among small-scale food providers; in rain-fed areas, improve water-harvesting capacities and assist with 'drought-proofing' farms.
- Support capacity building and training of small-scale food providers in the transition to ecological production methodologies.
- Increase access to credit, appropriate technology and small-scale mechanisation, training and capacity building, especially for women, to help in the transformation towards ecological production and to reduce drudgery.
- Internalise the social and environmental costs of destructive production systems within the price of products. Governments must enforce sanctions to reduce the negative social and environmental impacts of industrial production.
- Restore and recover the regenerative ability of nature by reorienting methods of production, consumption and marketing away from the present destructive and exploitative processes in order to ensure the long-term survival of all life forms and to endeavour to heal the earth.
- Suspend or revoke patents and other IPR systems, restrictive laws and policies, and commercial contracts and technologies that limit seed saving in the interest of ensuring local control of food production and food sovereignty; the reproduction of seeds on the farm and the rejection of patented, GM and hybrid seeds are key to sustaining small-scale ecological production.
- Reject genetically modified plants and animals in agriculture and livestock production and genetically modified and exotic species in aquaculture.
- Ban GM seeds that include technologies that prevent germination – terminator technology –; maintain the *de facto* moratorium, agreed by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the release and commercial sale of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTS).
- All countries, especially the 58 that approved the IAASTD, and national and international institutions should immediately implement the findings of the IAASTD; increased research is required, in particular, for the transformation of high input, often industrial, production into more sustainable small-scale food production using ecological practices, in ways that will prevent unsupportable and significant losses of productivity per unit of area or water during the conversion process.
- To achieve the above changes, governments and institutions must actively support, and provide incentives for maintenance of and conversion towards, small-scale, sustainable, ecological crop production, pastoralism and small-scale fisheries that are diverse, multifunctional, produce many goods (for example, food, clothing, housing materials, etc.) and provide essential ecosystem functions of preserving ecological goods (such as clean air and water and healthy soils).
- Direct any available subsidies or financial incentives for food and agriculture to ecological food production including support during the transformation process and for capacity building and training, especially for women and young people.
- Governments should regulate and eliminate the widespread pollution of soils, watercourses and aquatic ecosystems (rivers, ponds, lakes, coastal waters and wetlands) due to sewage disposal, industrial and agricultural effluents, household waste, nuclear waste and other pollutants that have a fundamentally negative effect on their productive and regenerative capacities.
- Governments should remove all subsidies that undermine ecological food provision and take active measures to rebuild the capacity of soils and waters to produce healthy food.

## Reframing Research

Both public and private research in food production predominantly support industrial production systems because patentable and other monopoly-controlled production technologies and systems allow researchers, and the governments and corporations that fund research institutions, to reap profits. An alternative research system led by small-scale food providers can develop systems that will realise food sovereignty.

Conventional research must be reorganised for greater democratic oversight and prioritisation. A transformation of research is also increasingly necessary to ensure food that keeps people healthy. Equally important is the transformation of knowledge about food and food provision, using ecology as the basis for sustainable production and moving beyond narrow definitions of wealth, efficiency and economies of scale. This in turn will entail more direct citizen participation in decisions about new technologies, research priorities and policies for food, farming, livestock-keeping and fisheries.

***Proposals for policies and actions:***

- Research should be redirected and include technology, energy and post harvest issues, among others, in support of diverse smaller-scale ecological practices in cropping, livestock-raising, pastoralism and small-scale fisheries that conserve resources, with a focus on producing good quality local food in support of food sovereignty.
- Knowledge, research, education/training and public assessment systems must empower women food providers and strengthen their capacities to participate in policy formulation and decision-making about food and agricultural policies.
- A new paradigm for research, in tune with food sovereignty principles, is urgently needed that will build on local and traditional knowledge and will use regular citizen panels, consensus conferences, citizen juries, future scenario workshops and referenda to capture the full diversity of interests and values in deciding on strategic research and funding priorities in the social and natural sciences, the allocation of resources and technological risk assessments.
- Open up decision-making bodies and governance structures of research and development (R&D) organisations to allow a wider representation of different actors, and greater transparency, equity and accountability in budget allocation and decisions on R&D priorities.
- Reorganise conventional scientific and technological research to encourage participatory knowledge creation and technological developments that combine the strengths of small-scale farmers and fishers, pastoralists and other small-scale food providers with those of scientists in the search for locally adapted solutions and food systems. Capacity building to realise this is essential.
- Ensure that knowledge, genetic resources and innovations remain accessible to all, and especially for small-scale food providers, as a basic condition for economic democracy and human rights, including the right to adequate food.

## Reducing post-harvest losses

A third or more of food is lost post-harvest (and an equivalent amount is lost in the retail and domestic consumption chain). Some of these losses involve the highly perishable quality of food and inadequate access to infrastructural facilities such as processing, grading, storage, transport etc. Communities and governments need to take urgent action to minimise these losses.

***Proposals for policies and actions:***

- Recognise and support the central role of women in conserving food and minimizing losses.
- Drastically reduce post-harvest losses through improved supply management policies/practices at all levels and the wider adoption of both traditional and modern safe food preservation techniques that can be used by local communities and consumers. Also important is the development of community-based processing for foods that cannot be stored for long periods of time.
- Support the crucial roles women play in the processing and marketing of agricultural and fisheries produce in specific ways, to enable them to enhance these roles and the associated benefits.
- Ensure that sufficient publicly accessible collection centres and storage facilities are available locally, regionally and nationally to secure food supplies and minimise waste, and provide price support, incentives and training for these as needed.
- Reduce the distance between food providers and consumers and improve market linkages to enable small-scale food providers, particularly those dealing with perishable commodities, to access local markets and to obtain fair prices.
- Establish and/or assist individuals and communities to establish food banks where they can get loans or payments in advance when they store food.

- Regulate production and prices (including minimum support prices), as well as imports and exports through cooperation between governments and organisations of small-scale food providers in order to minimise post-harvest losses.

## Access to territories and natural wealth and associated agrarian and aquatic reforms

Access to territories and natural wealth,<sup>15</sup> and associated agrarian and aquatic reforms are essential for sustainable and ecological food provision.

The notion of territory in the context of food sovereignty was initially proposed by indigenous peoples and is subscribed to by many social movements and peoples' organisations. It encompasses all the components of the ecosystem and its natural wealth in which a particular community may be based, such as land, forests, coastal areas, flora, fauna, mineral and oil deposits, inland and marine waters, etc. This notion of territory involves the political, economic, environmental, cultural and social rights of food producing communities in rural areas. Territories are essential for diverse and sustainable food production and to reinforce local markets, build capacities to support safe and decent jobs, and create the conditions for the full implementation of food sovereignty. Territories often extend beyond the formal boundaries of nation states. Such cross-border considerations are extremely important when formulating and implementing rural development policies.

For the majority of local food providing communities, natural wealth means much more than "productive or natural resources".

Indigenous peoples value their territories and natural wealth as gifts from Mother Earth. However globalisation and destructive development models have expropriated and depleted their lands and natural wealth, making indigenous peoples among the poorest and most vulnerable in the world. Article 26:2 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights Indigenous Peoples reaffirms the inter-linkages between sustainable development and indigenous rights: *"Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control their lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional occupation or use."*<sup>16</sup>

Peasants and small-scale family farmers depend on their lands and territories in a similar way. Defending 'Pacha Mama' or Mother Earth is central to many cosmovisions or world views of local communities.

Fishing communities depend on the natural wealth of aquatic bodies and coastal and marine areas for not only their livelihoods, but also to realise their cultural and spiritual values. Economically, socially and ecologically, the health and well-being of coastal and aquatic ecosystems and fishing communities are deeply intertwined.

Pastoralists need to be mobile in order to survive and for generations they have governed territories through customary governance systems that guide the use, access and protection of control over the common property of natural resources.

The expropriation, privatisation and commodification of lands, water, oceans, inland waterways, biodiversity and knowledge by states, corporations and market interests result in the destruction of ancestral territories, prevent their effective use for food provision, create and deepen poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and exacerbate the root causes of climate change. Local communities are dispossessed from their lands, waters and resources through a variety of measures that range from official, state-directed expropriation to outright encroachment or theft by private corporations.

Land confiscation, which has intensified in the wake of the global food crisis, deforestation, the sequestration of water bodies, inland waters and coastal zones, and forced evictions and displacement of local communities to make way for industrial agriculture, plantations, large infrastructure projects, tourism and luxury recreation have become commonplace in many parts of the world. Governments

<sup>15</sup> In this document, the terms natural wealth, natural assets and natural resources are used interchangeably, recognising and respecting that different social movements, indigenous peoples' organisations and food providing communities may use one of these terms in preference to others.

<sup>16</sup> This is also reaffirmed in Guideline 8 on Access to Resources of the 2004 Voluntary Guidelines on the progressive realisation of the Right to Adequate Food, which gives special attention to access to land and the natural wealth of pastoralists and indigenous people.



have no qualms about using the principle of *eminent domain*<sup>17</sup> to possess territories to feed the interests of private capital or public-private projects. Many of these areas are prime productive lands and fertile waters with significant value for terrestrial and marine biodiversity and ecology. These actions have long-term, damaging implications for the availability of precious natural wealth for food provision by local communities. Rural communities are being driven into poverty and marginalisation and forced into distress migration to other rural areas or from rural to urban areas, where they compete with previously settled communities for scarce resources and livelihood opportunities, thus creating new conflicts and vulnerabilities. Fresh water consumption worldwide has more than doubled since the 1940s to nearly 4,000 cubic kilometres annually and is set to rise another 25 percent by 2030. Up to three times that amount is said to be available for human use, but waste, climate change, and pollution have left clean water supplies in short supply. Water is becoming commodified and privatised, and often times diverted to uses other than sustaining life, ensuring health and hygiene, and producing food. Aquifers and water sources are increasingly contaminated by the leaching of chemicals and poisons from industrial aquaculture, agriculture and food processing, extractive industries and other types of industrial production. In many regions, aquifers are becoming depleted because of over-exploitation by industry, tourism, luxury recreation and over-consumption by the wealthy. Watersheds are being destroyed by deforestation, hillside erosion and large dams.

A growing threat to the availability of fresh water for rural and vulnerable communities is the water trade. The trade in 'virtual' water is estimated at around a thousand cubic kilometres a year. Much of this water is going to wealthy nations from countries that are depleting their ground water beyond its capacity for replenishment. Climate change and overuse of ground water are impacting the water footprints of some countries. The amount of the earth's surface that is suffering drought has more than doubled in the past 30 years, partially as the result of rising temperatures.

Water is an ecosystem component essential for sustaining life, regenerating nature, nurturing biodiversity and producing food. Without adequate water, people are easily affected by health and nutritional problems. Water in its myriad fresh and saline forms is fundamental to the conceptualisation of territory. The human right to water entitles all peoples to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable fresh water for personal and domestic uses, which includes water for drinking, domestic food preparation and maintaining standards of hygiene. The right to water is thus closely linked to the right to food. Almost 70% of harvested fresh water is used for agriculture and more than one third of global food production is based on irrigation. Food sovereignty and the human right to adequate food therefore implies secure access to, and sustainable use of, irrigation water as much as it implies secure access to land and territory.

States have the obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the human right to adequate food both at home and abroad. Violations of states' extraterritorial obligations (ETOs) can take various forms, such as the financing of dam or mining projects without proper rehabilitation and compensation of affected communities, the failure to exercise due diligence in the context of World Bank policy advice leading to the destruction of livelihoods, non-regulation of destructive operations of TNCs and the signature and implementation of international agreements such as new trade rules that inhibit/restrict the access to food and resources for vulnerable groups. Consequently, states are required to protect and guarantee the rights of local communities to territories and natural assets/resources, as outlined by national and customary laws and international treaties and conventions, in order to ensure fulfilment of the right to adequate food.

Genuine agrarian and aquatic reforms can put an end to the massive, forced exodus from the countryside to the city, which forces cities to grow at unsustainable rates and under inhumane conditions. They can help provide a life with dignity for all members of society and open the way toward broad-based, inclusive local, regional and national economic development that benefits the majority of the world's population. They can put an end to the unsustainable practices of intensive monoculture and industrial fishing that poison lands, forests, and water with chemicals, overexploit fishing grounds and deplete water and genetic resources.

<sup>17</sup> Eminent domain refers to the power possessed by the state over all property within that state, specifically the power to appropriate property for public use. For further information refer to: [http://www.expertlaw.com/library/real\\_estate/eminent\\_domain.html](http://www.expertlaw.com/library/real_estate/eminent_domain.html)

***Proposals for policies and actions:***

- Agrarian and aquatic reforms must recognise the importance of the concept of ‘territory’ especially territories that go beyond geopolitical boundaries. They must include the cosmovisions of territory of communities of peasants, the landless, indigenous peoples, rural workers, fisher peoples, nomadic pastoralists, tribes, afro-descendants, ethnic nationalities and minorities, and displaced peoples, whose production and provision of food is based on relationships of respect and harmony with the Mother Earth, including the oceans.
- Genuine agrarian and aquatic reforms must ensure that communities and peoples that share territories have equitable access. The peaceful coexistence of diverse communities has to be ensured by strengthening organisations and alliances so as to democratically negotiate the sharing and protection of territories and resources.
- Genuine agrarian and aquatic reforms should recognise the socio-environmental functions of land, sea, and natural wealth, and uphold the rights of access to and control over of territories to local food providers, including indigenous peoples.
- Genuine agrarian and aquatic reforms should ensure land and resource redistribution as and where needed and guarantee equitable access to and control over natural wealth by rural women, peasants, indigenous peoples, fisher peoples, rural workers, pastoralists, and socially/politically excluded communities.
- The privatisation, commodification, expropriation and trading of water must be halted. Water must remain in the “commons” and not be made subject to market mechanisms of use and governance. Aquifers, surface water sources and watersheds should be protected and regenerated.
- Small-scale food providers should be fully and genuinely involved in formulating policies related to agriculture, fisheries, forests, water, land use, rural development and the environment.
- Gender equity must be at the heart of genuine agrarian and aquatic reforms. Reforms should guarantee women full equality of opportunities and rights to land and natural wealth, and redress historical and ongoing discrimination. Governments, policy makers and society must recognise and respond to the rights and particular needs of female food providers. Discriminatory laws of inheritance and repartition in the event of divorce should be abolished, and customs that deny equality between women and men in land and rights to natural wealth must be transformed. Access for women in fishing communities to fish resources for processing, trading, and food must be protected, as must the diversified and decentralised nature of small-scale and indigenous fishers;
- Rural youth should be guaranteed a future with dignity through genuine agrarian and aquatic reforms.
- States and international agencies must immediately implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which reaffirms the inter-linkages between sustainable development and indigenous rights.
- Aquatic reforms should give legal recognition, protection and enforcement of the collective rights of small-scale fishing communities to access and use fishing grounds and maritime resources. They should also include measures that halt the depletion of marine life and undermine marine and coastal resources through unsustainable fishing practices and destructive investment and infrastructure projects.
- Governments and policy makers must adopt and implement policies that legally recognise the rights of local communities to territories and natural wealth such that they can continue to live and work in the countryside and coastal waters by means of collective and community rights. Agrarian and aquatic reforms should create jobs with dignity and strengthen the rights of rural workers.
- Governments and policy makers must ensure access for small-scale producers, pastoralists, fisher peoples, indigenous communities and landless peoples to territories, lands, water and water bodies, fishing grounds, seeds, livestock varieties and appropriate credit facilities.
- Governments and policy makers must immediately stop the expropriation of lands, natural wealth and territories from local communities through land grabs, economic concessions, plantations, industrial agriculture and aquaculture, tourism and infrastructure projects and all other means; the principle of eminent domain should not be applied to the territories of local food providers.

- Governments must protect all small-scale food providers against agricultural, fishery and food imports, especially dumping in all forms. Domestic agricultural and fishery prices should be linked to the costs of production.

#### ***Specifically for pastoralists***

- Recognise and respect customary laws in relation to territories and food production by pastoralists.
- Recognise that pastoralism is essential for food sovereignty and that pastoralists need to be mobile in order to survive.
- Other sectors and constituencies should build alliances with pastoralists in support of pastoralism and the human rights of pastoralist communities.
- Reverse policies and legislation that negatively affect pastoral peoples and develop adequate mechanisms of restitution and compensation in cases where pastoral peoples have lost access to their customary natural wealth.
- Recognise the crucial role of indigenous knowledge and the capacity of pastoralists and all other indigenous communities to conserve biodiversity in full compatibility with pastoral livelihoods.

#### ***Specifically for Rural young people***

Policies, programmes, special supportive measure to encourage young people take up farming and to live a dignified rural life and thus to reduce forced migration

Give value for the traditional knowledge in the field of agriculture and promote it through inter generational transfer

Adequate education to prepare young people for life in rural areas. Professional training possibilities in sustainable agriculture is the urgent need of this era

Young people in rural areas should have adequate professional training and assistance and access to productive resources such as land water ,seeds and capital which would allow them to set up in farming.

#### ***Sustainable agrarian reform recognizing the needs of young people with the aim of:***

- intergenerational national transfer of land and other resources through the creation of an incentives or retirement fund for old farmers who choose to transfer their land to young people
- providing technical and financial support to young farmers for investments and giving young people a free choice of what to produce
- giving young people a debtless future
- acknowledging special situation of youth in rural areas
- enabling the access and control of farmers, especially young farmers, to land, water, seeds and credit
- engaging the participation of people, and especially young rural people, in the definition of agrarian , food and rural development policies

#### ***Specifically for fishing communities***

- Guarantee the rights of small-scale and indigenous fishing communities to access territories, lands and waters upon which they have traditionally depended for their lives and livelihoods.
- Protect the rights of small-scale fishing communities to access coastal lands and natural wealth especially where these rights are under recurrent threat due to tourism, aquaculture, defence/military establishments, conservation, industry and other activities.
- Recognise the traditional fishing rights of small-scale and indigenous fishers with respect to immediately adjacent states and set up appropriate bilateral arrangements to protect their rights. Take urgent and immediate steps for the release and repatriation of arrested fishers, in keeping with the provisions of UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and human rights instruments;
- Ensure that foreign fleets and large-scale fishing boats do not have access to fishing grounds upon which small-scale local fisheries depend, whether through fisheries agreements or through private licensing, and that the fishing vessels are prohibited from using non-selective and otherwise destructive fishing gear.
- Recognise and implement the rights of fishing communities to restore, protect and manage local aquatic and coastal ecosystems.

- Reverse and prevent the privatisation of fisheries resources, such as through individual transferable quotas (ITQs) and similar systems that promote private and market-friendly property rights.
- Ensure that the declaration, establishment and management of marine protected areas (MPAs) require the active participation of local and indigenous communities and small-scale fishers.
- Ensure the integration of traditional and indigenous knowledge and customary laws in fisheries management and decision making.
- Implement the ILO Work in Fishing Convention 2007 and extend its provisions to include small-scale, inland and shore-based fishers

## Access to genetic resources and associated knowledge

Biopiracy gravely threatens community access to and control over genetic resources and associated knowledge. Biopiracy is **the appropriation of the knowledge and genetic resources of farming, pastoral, fishing and indigenous communities by individuals, institutions or corporate entities seeking exclusive monopoly control (usually through patents or breeders' rights) over these resources and knowledge**. Industrialised countries have accumulated ecological debts to developing countries from centuries of biopiracy of the genetic resources and associated knowledge of communities in the South. These ecological debts should be recognised and compensated, with industrialised countries providing sufficient funding and other support to enable communities in the South to conserve and sustainably use their biological diversity and associated knowledge.

For millennia, Indigenous Peoples and other small-scale food providers have used their lands and territories in accordance with their cultures and traditions ensuring that all the biodiversity is protected and conserved. This should be the starting point for all policies and actions concerning access to the natural assets used by them including any legally binding regime on 'access and benefit sharing' (ABS). Respecting this principle will help prevent biopiracy and defend the rights of food providers and local communities over their territories, genetic resources and traditional and local knowledge, free from the threat of misappropriation through intellectual property rights and privileges.

*Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts.* (Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Article 31)

There are a number of intellectual property treaties that directly affect agriculture, food sovereignty and biodiversity. These include the WTO's Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), the Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), and the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Micro-organisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure (Budapest Treaty). Other multilateral agreements that deal with access to genetic resources for food and agriculture also have implications for food sovereignty and agricultural biodiversity. These include the Convention on Biological diversity (CBD), the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Economic Partnership Agreements, Free Trade Agreements, Bilateral Investment Treaties and so on. The Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) in the ITPGRFA, for example, facilitates the exchange of genetic resources among researchers in the formal system but does not provide for any mechanism for farmers to track the fate of genetic resources that they have contributed.

### **Proposals for policies and actions:**

National policies and international agreements should contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity by the communities of small-scale food providers and, *inter alia*:

- protect the inalienable rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and ensure participation of small-scale food providers in order to prevent national policies and international agreements from causing conflicts between communities sharing the same genetic resources and traditional and local knowledge.

- ensure that their genetic resources and traditional knowledge can be kept free of intellectual property rights regimes that restrict access by small-scale food providers, including the patenting of life forms, monopoly privileges and restrictive laws.
- guarantee free and prior informed consent of indigenous peoples, local communities and countries of origin when access to genetic resources or traditional and local knowledge is being negotiated including third party transfers.
- ensure that legal systems in user countries enable countries and rights holders providing genetic resources and traditional and local knowledge to enforce their rights.
- define conditions and processes that guarantee genuinely fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the sustainable use of genetic resources and associated knowledge, if any access is permitted.
- reject the inclusion of IPR provisions in Economic Partnership Agreements, Free Trade Agreements, Bilateral Investment Treaties and so on, but, if such provisions are included, ensure that flexibilities in the WTO TRIPS agreement are fully maintained and that states are not obliged to accede to the UPOV Convention 1991 Act and other TRIPS-plus agreements.
- recognise, protect and realise farmers' rights to their knowledge and genetic resources including the right to save, sow, exchange and sell their seeds, their rights to territory and their rights to participate in making decisions and policies that affect them.



## 5. Environment, climate change and agrofuels

The destruction of the environment and climate change are significant long term threats to the capacity to end hunger and malnutrition. It is crucial that production, distribution and consumption practices do not deplete and contaminate land, water, air, resources and the environment. The huge loss in diversity due to ecosystem destruction, land conversion (including that for agrofuels), and climate change make production systems less resilient and food production highly vulnerable. Therefore, as described above in the chapter on ecological food provision, small-scale, biodiverse, ecological farming, fishing and pastoralism, which are based on diverse and culturally-adapted practices and are more resilient to environmental shocks, must be the foundation for food provision. These systems will also regenerate soil carbon, restore natural and developed habitats for water security, and provide adaptive capacity for addressing the climate change emergency.

### Climate change

Industrialised countries bear the historical responsibility for causing climate change through production and consumption patterns that are highly dependent on fossil fuels and which have caused the accumulation of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the world's atmosphere. Countries in the South, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable communities - who have made the least contribution to climate change - are the most severely impacted by this global challenge. Agricultural and coastal communities in many countries in the South are currently suffering from the impacts of extreme weather patterns - from devastating typhoons and hurricanes and massive flooding in Southeast and South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, to unprecedented droughts in Africa, resulting in the loss of arable lands, changes in natural growing conditions, drastic reduction in food availability, and conflicts over increasingly scarce resources. Unpredictable climate changes resulting in extreme weather conditions and an increased frequency and intensity of weather catastrophes mean that local knowledge and capacities, which have been the basis for good husbandry and the ability to adjust to past changes in climate, may no longer be sufficient to address this situation.

The highly unequal relationship that is magnified in the context of climate change has brought to the fore the call for the repayment of the climate debts owed by industrialised countries to developing nations. Climate debt is based on the reality that industrialised countries have long used up their fair share in the world's available carbon space and have already usurped the carbon space that developing and least developed countries are entitled to. Repayment of climate debts comes in the form of allocating a significant proportion (at least 1%) of the annual GDP of industrialised countries to pay for the costs of adaptation in countries in the South. Large-scale, industrial commodity production has a significant impact on global warming. This is exacerbated by the intensive use of fossil fuels for the production of agrochemicals, transport, processing, refrigeration and retailing: each unit of food energy produced requires the input of many times more fossil fuel energy units that results in high emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs). These unsustainable production systems are promoted for so-called 'food security', yet they harm small-scale food providers and damage the environment – soils, water, productive ecosystems, fisheries and the planet's biodiversity and life support systems. Industrial crop and livestock production and intensive fisheries and aquaculture facilitate the rise of consumerism and materialism with consequent increases in food waste that further contribute to global warming.

Industrial agriculture and intensive livestock production account for 16 % of GHG emissions while deforestation and land conversion (much of which is caused by clearing forests for agriculture and agrofuel production, particularly industrial production and plantations) account for another 18 %.

Free trade in agricultural and other goods also contributes significantly to climate change through pollution and GHG emissions from storage, shipping and transportation, distribution, refrigeration and retail. Globalised food that has travelled long distances has an extremely large carbon footprint, without even counting the carbon costs of waste from packing and shipping. Further intensification of these trends combined with the expanding agrofuel and bio-plastics industries to replace fossil fuel products will only worsen the situation.

Ironically, policy makers – including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and FAO – are proposing further intensification of industrial agriculture and the expansion of first and second generation agrofuels as solutions to food and energy shortages associated with climate

change. This is being done without proper assessment of their long-term ecological and economic impacts. Worse, the carbon market and trading of carbon offsets are presented as means for countries in the South to generate financial resources from industrialised countries while allowing the latter to continue with their current level of GHG emissions. Carbon trading does not offer an effective solution to the problem of climate change in any way and will only perpetuate deforestation and industrial food and commodity production while threatening the livelihoods and environments of small-scale food providers. Women in rural and urban poor communities will be particularly affected by climate change since they depend on local environments and production for food provision.

Only a genuine shift in production and consumption patterns to sustainable pathways in industrialised countries and support for the efforts of countries in the South towards that path, presents a long-term solution to climate change. Technological “quick fixes” and “market solutions” will not help to address the current global environmental disaster. Alternative models of production, trade and consumption are urgently needed which reduce emissions, minimise waste and conserve energy. It is crucial and urgent to adopt and promote food production, distribution and consumption practices that slow down climate change. Small scale ecological farming, pastoralism, small-scale fisheries and foraging-gathering by forest-dependent peoples cool the planet and provide adequate and nutritious food.

#### ***Proposals for policies and actions:***

- Governments and international and multilateral agencies should support and promote food self-sufficiency through local-national production to the maximum extent possible. In particular, sustainable ecological food provision that is labour-intensive and uses alternative energy sources can effectively contribute towards slowing down and reversing the effects of climate change by storing more CO<sub>2</sub> in soil organic matter, replacing nitrogen fertilisers with organic agriculture and cultivating nitrogen-fixing plants which capture nitrogen directly from the air. Local food production also reduces unnecessary long-distance transportation of food and can bring down GHG emissions.
- Industrialised countries should repay their climate debts equivalent to at least 1 % of their annual GDP to countries in the South as compensation and reparation for the damage caused by climate change for which they are historically responsible. That amount will be used to support the efforts of people in countries in the South to adapt to the adverse consequences of current climate change and attain sustainable development.
- GHG emission per capita per year in all countries must be reduced to and/or kept at a sustainable level of about 1 ton of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents in order to allocate equitably the available carbon space among the world's population.
- A funding window must be established under the UNFCCC to support small-scale food production and provision as a means to reduce GHG emissions.
- Unilateral trade measures adopted by governments under the guise of domestic responses to climate change must be banned.
- The food and agriculture sectors should be excluded from carbon offsetting schemes, flexibility mechanisms and the carbon market. Putting the world's food supplies at risk in such highly speculative and unreliable schemes is unacceptable.
- Agricultural and trade policies should be implemented at local, national and international levels that support small-scale ecological production and local food consumption. This includes the ban on all subsidies that facilitate the dumping of cheap food on markets.

### **Agrofuel and energy policies**

The model of economic growth that has defined the world economy since the industrial revolution in the 18<sup>th</sup> century is based on indiscriminate extraction and use of fossil fuels. Today, the global energy matrix is mainly composed of petroleum (35%), coal (23%), and natural gas (21%). However, fossil fuel energy use is not equitably distributed, with ten of the wealthiest countries consuming close to 80% of the fossil fuel energy produced in the world. These countries are also responsible for the negative environmental impacts associated with such intensive energy use. For example, the United States is responsible for 25% of the atmospheric pollution produced by this energy.

So called “conventional” models of food production and distribution promoted by governments and international agencies are based on an industrial-export system of resource use and are fossil fuel intensive. Production is made ‘cost-efficient’ through large-scale monocultures that are dependent on petroleum-based chemicals, and heavy machinery and irrigation systems that require fossil fuels for their operation. Food and agricultural products are transported across long distances, stored for long periods of time and processed to the maximum extent possible in an attempt to extract maximum ‘value.’ Food products are packaged and stored in ways and places that require refrigeration, and retailed through outlets that consume large amounts of energy.

This dependence on fossil fuels has come at extremely high environmental, social and economic costs. The recent global price increases in chemical inputs for conventional farming (particularly fertilisers) were a direct result of the increasing price of petroleum, and a major causal factor in the recent global food price inflation. As petroleum prices rise, so do the operating costs of conventional food/agricultural production and distribution.

The majority of the world’s food producers are actually small-scale food providers who use 80 times less energy than conventional producers. They also use energy and resources much more efficiently than conventional producers. Also, the majority of the world’s consumers rely on food that is largely produced locally or regionally. However, spurred on by the profit motives of agribusiness and agro-industrial food corporations, the world’s policy makers and financiers continue to support and promote an export-driven, industrially-oriented, corporate-controlled food regime that results in deforestation, environmental contamination, atmospheric pollution (especially the release and concentration of GHGs), hunger and poor health. These same actors are behind the push for the promotion of agrofuels as alternatives to fossil fuels as a response to concerns about global warming.

The burgeoning agrofuel boom is also a significant contributing factor in the recent food price crisis. While agrofuels are being billed as substitutes for fossil fuels and promoted as climate friendly, studies show that agrofuels actually consume more fossil fuels to produce than the GHG emissions they reduce. On closer analysis, agrofuels are mere extensions of fossil fuels, not an alternative to fossil fuels. Just like fossil fuels, agrofuels are mainly produced on an industrial scale in highly-centralised operations that involve extraction and over-exploitation of the earth’s wealth in the form of land and water. Just as in fossil fuel pricing, the true costs of agrofuels are not factored in the market price, and are actually being borne by rural and indigenous communities who are adversely impacted by the long-term impacts on soil fertility and water resources.

The resulting scramble to produce the so-called “green gold” has resulted in massive conversion of land from food production to agrofuel crop production and the expansion of agrofuel plantations into forest lands and so-called marginal lands. Agrofuels are a new type of value-added agricultural product resulting in a renewed push for mono-crop industrial agriculture, genetically modified crops and infrastructure projects, all of which increase the access of energy, agribusiness and biotech corporations to natural and genetic resources. By competing with food production for land, water and financial resources, agrofuels are already contributing and will continue to contribute to increases in food prices and hunger and reductions in the reliability of food supplies, leading the former UN Rapporteur on the Right to Food to call them “a crime against humanity”.

Massive land grabs are happening in many countries in the South where host governments are allowing foreign governments and corporations to acquire land for production of agrofuels at the cost of food supply and availability for local peoples in the host countries. These concessions also trigger land conflicts between local communities and governments. Agrofuels are often produced on productive agricultural land, contrary to claims that they are cultivated in so-called marginal lands. And in any case, so called “marginal lands” are often the sole source of food and medicines of the rural poor and forest communities. Studies have shown that the world’s agricultural lands will never be enough to satisfy the fuel needs of industrialised countries, and that the environmental and social costs of agrofuel production are completely unsustainable.

***Proposals for policies and actions:***

- Make possible the decentralised production, distribution and use of alternative renewable energy.
- Direct public investment towards technologies for producing, storing and distributing renewable energy.
- Exempt technologies for renewable energies and energy efficient production, storage and transportation systems from patent protection and intellectual property rights systems.
- Promote fundamental lifestyle changes at individual and collective levels that drastically reduce the use of fossil fuels and increase energy efficiency, such as reducing the number of private vehicles, increases in mass transit and public transport systems, higher public investment in sustainable living spaces, reduction of packaging, garbage and waste, and so on.
- End corporate-driven, industrial-scale production of agrofuels. As a first step, an immediate moratorium on the production, trade and consumption of agrofuels must be declared; simultaneously, an in-depth evaluation of the social and environment costs of the agrofuel boom and of profits made by corporations in the processing and trading of the raw materials must be carried out by an independent body.
- Ban GM trees, plants and crops for agrofuel, food and forest production which are already under experimentation and promoted through variations of the green revolution. GM plants, presented as “climate ready crops”, will not solve the environmental crisis as they themselves pose serious risks to the environment as well as to health and safety. Moreover, they increase corporate control by depriving farmers of their right to grow, develop, select, diversify and exchange their own varieties.
- Halt trade liberalisation, especially in food and agricultural goods that increase GHGs.
- Break the link between food and petroleum prices by transforming food production, distribution and retail systems.
- Promote the development of small-scale production and local consumption models and reduce food miles by maximising local and seasonal procurement, distribution and consumption.
- Protect and regenerate forests, wastelands, wetlands and eco-systems under threat.
- End dependence on fossil fuels: “Leave the Oil in the Soil; Leave the Coal in the Hole.”
- Help and support small-scale farmers and peasants in the transition from dependence on chemical fertilisers to sustainable and locally-available inputs and systems based on ecological methods of production and harvesting.
- Support genuine alternatives to fossil fuels that are locally produced, environmentally sustainable, socially equitable and provide for the energy needs of local communities.
- Promote small-scale food provision that is environmentally sustainable, socially just, provides decent jobs for rural and urban populations, and creates rural industries.
- Promote diverse small-scale fisheries that use less fossil fuel and are selective and sustainable, with their produce going almost entirely for human consumption.

## 6. Markets, trade, price policies and subsidies

Market, trade and price policies that prioritise local and national production and consumption and the needs of people for food are crucial to reduce hunger and malnutrition, strengthen democratic control of food production and protect the rights of small-scale food providers and economically vulnerable consumers. Government supports should go to small-scale food provision by local and indigenous communities that provide food for local markets. Communities and nations should be able to define the extent and boundaries of self sufficiency, build and strengthen local-national food production and distribution systems, and regulate trade and markets through democratically formulated public policies.

These policies should take priority over providing food and commodities for international trade and export markets. However, existing policies are directed towards integrating small-scale food providers into 'global value chains', where they and agricultural and fisheries workers have no voice in determining prices and wages.

One of the most important challenges for society is appropriate regulation of food, fisheries and agriculture markets which are currently controlled by wealthy traders and corporations who manipulate food and commodity prices and wages to amass profits.

Laws and regulations must prevent the concentration of assets by the elite, control and manipulation of markets by middlemen and corporations, dumping, and appropriation of resources by corporate investors. National initiatives for developing these laws and regulations must be supported by international institutions, frameworks and conventions. Particularly urgent is the need for new trade and financial regimes based on diverse needs, especially for food, of people and communities and preservation of the environment.

These measures are of special importance for women, youth and indigenous peoples. Women are the main food providers in most communities and societies, and the main losers when corporations take the control over natural resources and food production or destroy local markets. The same is true for indigenous peoples whose existence is directly linked to access to the natural commons in their territory.

### Adequate market and price policies

To be able to get a good price, a fair proportion of the retail price of the produce needs to be retained by small-scale food providers. They need to organise so that they can have collective bargaining power, reduce the role of middlemen and have greater control over sales. Such organisations for commercialisation and sales must be owned, controlled and run by the small-scale food providers themselves.

Government procurement systems and import controls are essential to guarantee fair and stable prices for producers and to avoid black markets, speculation and high prices which hurt both producers and consumers. Building up public food stocks are also important to mitigate food crises and hunger during times of temporarily low production.

Public support must not be given to export subsidies that cause dumping, or perpetuate unsustainable, high-input, export-oriented agriculture. Exporting countries must not be allowed to use domestic support schemes to benefit the largest producers and exporters, stimulating over-production for export.

#### ***Proposals for policies and actions:***

Local authorities and national governments and international institutions need to collect and pay attention to accurate and timely information and analyses about the effects of trade policies on food sovereignty and the realisation of the right to adequate food. Using this and other information and knowledge, they must implement policies that ensure:

- that the production of staple foods for the basic needs of local populations should have priority over production for export; during times of food and financial crises and other emergencies, small-scale food providers should be enabled to get sufficient food supplies to domestic markets.
- supply management through national control of production in major food exporting countries in order to avoid over-production and dumping and to guarantee fair prices to small-scale producers.



- control of imports to protect domestic food production against low priced imports and dumping without threats of economic and political retaliation.
- stabilisation of internal market prices at levels that cover the full costs of production.
- public assistance for the development of sustainable and environmentally sound small-scale fisheries, pastoralism, peasant-based production and marketing to build strong and robust local and national economies.
- effective public management of food buffer stocks at local and national levels to stabilise markets during shortages.

***Especially for fisheries communities, ensure:***

- improved access of women to fish markets, particularly through provision of credit, appropriate technology and infrastructure at landing sites and markets.
- effective involvement of fishing communities in international trade negotiations dealing with fish and fish products; guaranteed institutional arrangements that give priority to fish for local consumption over fish for export or for reduction to fishmeal.
- regulation of processing capacity, particularly in export-oriented fisheries, to be in line with the sustainability of the fishery.

## **Regulate and dismantle national and transnational agribusiness corporations**

National and transnational agribusiness corporations<sup>18</sup>—often with support from governments and multilateral agencies—have been given free reign to control food chains from access to capital, land, water and other natural wealth to production inputs, labour, post-production storage, distribution, processing and trade. This restricts and denies the rights of small-scale food providers and workers to income, food and good health, as well as to decision-making about how natural wealth, capital, production and distribution should be organised and governed. It is essential to protect natural wealth in the form of land, seeds, livestock, aquatic organisms, water, flora and fauna, from privatisation and corporate control. It is essential to safeguard the sovereign rights of local small-scale food providers and communities to the water and biodiversity needed to produce diverse foods and fair payment for their products. Agribusiness operations are based on industrial production models and come with extremely high environmental, social and economic costs. They shift cropping, livestock raising and fisheries from diverse, seasonally appropriate and ecologically sustainable production towards mono-cropping, factory farming, industrial harvesting and centralised production, all of which diminish the abilities of communities and nations to be food secure through their own means. They secure monopoly access to large tracts of land and forests, water sources and other resources for long periods of time, which results in physical displacement and dislocation of communities from lands and ancestral territories, livelihoods, sources of food, and social and cultural security. Industrial, chemical-intensive production pollutes water and soils, destroys forests and biodiversity, and poisons local food sources. Corporate operations come with intellectual property rights protection which promote biopiracy and result in the loss of traditional knowledge.

These impacts are billed as “externalities” by agribusiness companies and multilateral agencies such as the FAO, World Bank and IFAD. The costs of mitigating these impacts are either left to governments who pass the burden on to national populations, or not met at all and precipitate environmental, economic and social crises.

***Proposals for policies and actions:***

- Governments and multilateral agencies must cease support for national and transnational agribusiness corporations; instead, they should support small-scale food providers and their production systems, and secure their land, territory and resource rights.
- Public resources should not be used to finance agribusiness corporations; instead, they should be directed towards localised food production and distribution systems that create employment, protect the environment, and strengthen local and national economies.

<sup>18</sup> The terms corporations and TNCs as used in this document generally refer to both national and transnational corporations.

- Instead of public-private partnerships that benefit private companies and corporations, governments should build public institutions and infrastructure whereby national resources are used to boost the productive abilities of the majority of the country's food producers and workers.
- Governments and multilateral agencies must formulate and enact laws immediately to make corporations socially, economically and environmentally accountable to the public with the longer term goal of dismantling agribusiness corporations altogether.
- Agribusiness corporations must be legally compelled to pay for the costs of mitigating the negative impacts they cause.
- Intellectual property rights and other corporate friendly private property regimes must be dismantled.
- International and regional institutions and agreements that promote agribusiness corporations—such as international finance institutions, the WTO and free trade and investment agreements—must be disempowered through national and international regulation.
- Privatisation and liberalisation processes which give more power to corporations (taking power away from public control and small-scale food providers) must be halted and reversed.
- Control of international supplies and fair and stable prices to peasant producers for export crops such as cocoa, coffee, cotton, maize, wheat, rice etc. should be guaranteed through new international commodity agreements.
- Ensure that international trade does not lead to environmental degradation or undermine the human rights and food security of local fishing communities;

## International trade agreements

International trade in food could play an important role in fulfilling the right to adequate food and in the fight against poverty. However, most existing international trade agreements undermine sustainable production of food for local and national markets, and increase poverty and environmental destruction. Economic reform programmes imposed by the World Bank and the IMF, the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), free trade and investment agreements and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) have undermined local and national productive capacities, increased unemployment and poverty in many countries and seriously damaged the environment. Current trade and investment regimes have increased the wealth and power of national and multinational corporations and elite classes while disempowering small-scale food providers, workers, indigenous communities and consumers.

There is an urgent need to overhaul international trade and investment rules based on the rights of peoples and nations to determine their levels of self sufficiency in meeting food and other consumption needs, and the structure of their domestic economies. Negotiations on a new trade regime based on the diverse needs of people and societies, and the preservation of the environment should be within the UN system.

### ***Proposals for policies and actions:***

- Multilateral trade agreements must be subservient to the International Bill of Human Rights and associated rights and environment conventions of the United Nations. In case of conflicts between trade agreements and human rights or environment conventions, the latter should prevail.
- All countries (peoples and states) must have the right to make decisions about their desired levels of self-sufficiency, and be able to implement appropriate policies to protect and support sustainable food production for domestic consumption.
- International trade agreements must respect and be based on the principles of food sovereignty, serve the needs of peoples, societies and nations, and be compatible with environmental priorities. They should be governed through genuinely multilateral platforms where negotiations and decision-making processes are transparent and open. They should be subject to democratic, public scrutiny and regulation at the most appropriate local levels in each country.
- All direct and indirect subsidies for exports from rich countries must be banned. Special and differential treatment for developing countries must be granted in all international and bilateral trade agreements.
- The WTO TRIPs agreement must be reviewed; no patent or intellectual property rights should be granted for any and all biological and genetic resources and associated knowledge.

- Ongoing negotiations on the AoA in the WTO, free trade and investment agreements/treaties, EPAs, and the indiscriminate liberalisation of food and agricultural trade should be stopped; neoliberal economic reform programmes and policies must be discontinued.

## Sanitary and phytosanitary regulations

Sanitary regulations must respect and support small-scale, diversified, culturally appropriate and ecological food production and processing. Governments and international institutions should support and promote small-scale, diversified and ecological food provision. Sanitary and phytosanitary regulations should not block or reduce the possibilities for preserving and continuing to practice local food cultures, and traditional methods of food production, processing, and products.

The Codex Alimentarius promotes and supports industrialised and standardised food production, destroying small-scale, traditional and diversified food production under the guise of “safe food” and consumer protection. This has reduced the nutritional quality, diversity and taste of foods, and contributed to increased obesity and other forms of malnutrition.

Corporations have a huge influence on the Codex Alimentarius. All interactions of governments with any international or commercial body should be transparent and subject to democratic scrutiny.

### ***Proposals for policies and actions:***

- Sanitary and phytosanitary regulations should be based on and support the real and diverse needs of local food production and processing, whilst regulating large scale, damaging and polluting industrial food production.
- No industry representative should be a member of any government delegation in international negotiations, including the Codex Alimentarius, that have impacts on setting standards for food supplies. There should be no direct or indirect participation by individuals or commercial companies with vested interests in negotiating health, food- and nutrition-related policies at any level of governance.
- The Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS) of the World Trade Organisation must be revoked.

## 7. Ensuring access to adequate food

The world faces an unacceptable level of hunger. In addition to the one billion people suffering from hunger, two billion people are suffering from malnutrition, including about one billion obese people.

It is ironic that hunger is increasing while per capita food production is also increasing. This points to the dismal failure of states and governments to take adequate measures to ensure access to safe and nutritious food through equitable distribution, to ensure that productive resources are available to small-scale food providers, and to regulate the activities of hoarders, traders and the corporate food industry.

Food production and the availability of food for local peoples is being threatened by, among other things, climate change, increased trade in food and food products in ways that deprives local populations of access to food, the capture of agricultural and coastal lands for purposes such as industrial and urban growth, the depletion and destruction of fisheries resources and grazing lands, wars/conflicts and occupations, etc. The livelihood crisis in rural areas greatly accelerates rural to urban migration and results in new forms of rural and urban poverty and hunger. Some international agencies estimate that a majority of the world's population will be urban by the year 2050. This projection is being used as further justification to promote agribusinesses, industrial agriculture, large-scale fisheries and aquaculture to meet the projected demand for food. This industry-driven logic needs to be strongly challenged and exposed, and the role of food providers—farmers, fishers, pastoralists—in providing solutions to the food crisis needs to be strongly affirmed.

### Ensuring access of people to food

Comprehensive policies are needed to ensure that people everywhere have access to sufficient, safe and culturally acceptable foods.

#### ***Proposals for policies and actions:***

##### ***Governments should:***

- ensure access for all people in rural and urban areas, to sufficient, safe, healthy and nutritious food, with particular attention to the needs of women and the socio-cultural barriers they may face in some communities with regard to access to food.
- ensure equitable distribution of food through, *inter alia*, well-functioning public distribution systems and school meal programmes. Specific attention needs to be paid to meeting the needs of vulnerable populations, including women, children, senior citizens, and the chronically ill or disabled. All schools, for example, should provide students with free meals of locally produced, safe and nutritious food.
- provide targeted support for those who otherwise lack the necessary resources to purchase adequate amounts of nutritious food, for example, through vouchers redeemable at public markets and other healthy food outlets.
- procure food from local and regional farms and fisheries to ensure maximum nutrition while supporting local and regional economies.
- ensure that any food or ingredient introduced in public food and public health programmes undergoes strict holistic scientific assessment and is subject to regulation.

### Addressing urban food insecurity

With half of the global population now living in cities, the question of how to feed urban communities in a manner that is sustainable and that guarantees the right to adequate food is all the more pressing. While the needs of urban and rural populations are often treated as separate and even competing issues, the reality is that they are inextricably linked. The same forces that are driving peasants off the land are spurring rising rates of food insecurity and diet-related health pandemics in cities throughout the world. Indeed, many of those joining the ranks of the urban poor and food insecure are those who once earned their livelihoods from the land and have been driven into cities by rural poverty. Urban food insecurity therefore cannot be addressed in isolation from the crisis in the countryside.

Hunger and malnutrition in urban areas can be reduced through increased sustainable provision of food through urban and peri-urban farms and gardens, and building “urban-rural linkages” in which cities are

fed through sustainable farms in surrounding regions. The purchasing power of people and institutions in cities can support new investment in rural areas.

Additionally, urban communities must be empowered to have a say over the food they eat; to develop their own local and regional food systems; and, to the extent possible, grow their own food. While food sovereignty is often associated with rural social movements, it is no less relevant or critical to urban movements, who are grappling with their own set of pressing challenges related to food and agriculture, such as disparities in food access and food quality. In many poor urban communities, a lack of access to healthy food combined with a barrage of highly processed food from multinational food corporations is fuelling epidemics of obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related disease. Effectively tackling issues of urban hunger, malnutrition, and diet-related disease will encourage city dwellers to become active participants in shaping food systems in cooperation with food producers in surrounding areas and supporting food sovereignty.

#### ***Proposals for policies and actions:***

- Promote and support land and agrarian reform that supports a continuum of food production from city centres into the countryside, including urban and peri-urban farms and gardens.
- Adopt urban and regional planning that prioritises land for food production, space for public markets and other locally-owned food retail outlets, as well as additional infrastructure to support local and regional food systems, including transportation, storage, and processing facilities.
- Support the access of urban farmers to land, water, eco-friendly inputs, tools and credit, as well as training and technical assistance specifically geared to urban conditions.
- Support community markets in which both urban and rural farmers, as well as fisher people and artisanal food makers, sell fresh, culturally appropriate products directly to consumers, at terms that are beneficial to both.
- Introduce and facilitate direct marketing opportunities to connect farmers, fishers and urban consumers, such as community-supported agriculture and fisheries, box schemes, mobile markets, and food purchasing cooperatives, without the involvement of corporate retail chains.
- Facilitate wholesale markets and additional mechanisms for direct sale from farms and fish-landing centres to retail stores, restaurants, and institutions.
- Invest public funds in infrastructure for regional food systems that connect cities to the countryside, including transportation, storage, and processing facilities for local and regional foods.
- Support local economies, create new employment opportunities, and strengthen local and regional food systems through public policies, financing and infrastructure.
- Establish and ensure, with targeted supports and subsidies as needed, the functioning of public outlets for safe and nutritional foods at affordable prices easily accessible to urban poor communities, and particularly women from these communities.
- Establish community-based bodies that enable citizens to play a direct role in shaping local, sub-national and national food policies (similar to food policy councils in the US and Canada).

## **Ensuring decent work conditions for waged workers**

Decent work for all adults who are capable of working and not under education is crucial for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. With a living wage, people who are not food producers or are not producing enough food for themselves and their families can buy the food they need. Although there is no lack of work that should be done, hundreds of million people are unemployed or underemployed. Women, youth, agricultural workers, migrants and people with special challenges are hardest hit by unemployment, especially in rural areas in developing countries.

One of the most shameful and recurring tragedies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is that the majority of those who produce and prepare food are poor, hungry and malnourished, and work under poor and unsafe conditions. These include many small-scale food providers, workers in agriculture and aquaculture, workers in agricultural and fisheries processing, distribution and retail operations, crews on industrial fishing vessels, and those who work in food outlets. The ILO estimates that the waged work force in agriculture is made up of 700 million women and men who produce food, but who are often unable to afford it. These numbers are even larger if the many smallholder rural producers, who are also dependent

on seasonal or temporary waged work for basic survival, are included in the statistics. Workers transformed into “out-growers” are generally entirely dependent on their former employers for inputs, sales and credit.

Women form an important part of the food-associated workforce by producing, processing and selling food, often working under poor and unsafe conditions, and at low wages. They often work in the unorganised or organised food processing sector under exploitative conditions, and are exposed to specific occupational health problems. They are also vulnerable to sexual harassment and exploitation, endangering their health and well-being. In markets, where women play crucial roles, they have to deal with lack of even basic facilities of sanitation and water, and with ongoing harassment by local agents. Issues faced by women workers need specific attention.

***Proposals for policies and actions:***

- Guarantee decent work for all adults who are capable of working so that they can buy sufficient healthy food for themselves and their families if they cannot produce it themselves.
- Take specific steps to address the problems faced by women workers, including those engaged in marketing and processing on a self-employed basis. Measures must include ensuring decent wages, safe conditions of work, childcare facilities and maternity benefits, sanitation and hygiene.
- Enact laws and regulations to ensure the occupational health and safety of workers as well as mechanisms for effective monitoring of the implementation of these regulations.
- Ban the use of harmful substances in agriculture (including livestock), aquaculture, food processing, packing and retail, in view of their adverse health and environmental impacts.
- Recognise and guarantee by law the rights of workers to organise and to collective bargaining.
- Accord migrants the full enjoyment of their human rights regardless of the country they are working in; this includes the right to decent work, living wages, occupational safety and health, and freedom from exploitation.

## Ensuring social security

Women, youth, agricultural workers, migrants and people with special challenges are hardest hit by unemployment and most at risk of becoming food insecure, especially in rural areas in countries of the South. Comprehensive social security programmes need to be implemented, enabling people to feed themselves and to remain healthy enough to absorb food that is eaten. Comprehensive social protection systems and access to basic services are thus of utmost importance in guaranteeing an adequate and dignified standard of living for all persons. Neoliberal policies that lead to privatisation of essential services such as health, water and education, need to be challenged. Such policies make livelihoods more vulnerable, and compromise the ability of marginalised groups to earn a decent living.

***Proposals for policies and act***

- Put in place comprehensive and universal social protection systems, that include unemployment benefits, old age pensions and maternity benefits, covering all peoples, and in particular women and other vulnerable groups.
- Ensure appropriate and universal health care, education, water and sanitation services to enable all citizens to lead healthy lives and to have the requisite skills to find work and feed themselves with dignity.

## Regulation, education and public campaigns and support for healthy and nutritious food

Healthy food keeps the body healthy. On the contrary, unbalanced or unvarying diets and food that is not fresh and safe lead to nutritional deficiencies, physical and mental disorders and disease. A malnourished person can no longer maintain natural physical capacities such as growth, pregnancy, lactation, learning and physical work as well as resistance to and recuperation from disease.

Malnutrition is the largest single contributor to disease and child mortality. For a person who is already sick, an insufficient or inadequate diet may make medical treatments ineffective and can have a negative impact on the evolution of the disease. This is especially the case for people living with HIV-AIDS.



The preservation and development of diverse and sustainable small-scale food provision for local consumption is the most important contributing factor to providing sufficient nutritious and culturally acceptable food. In addition governments must directly promote, and if necessary subsidise, healthy food. Governments must also regulate the food industry and stop the promotion by national and multinational food companies of unhealthy food, habits and cultures that create malnutrition. Highly processed fast foods, ready-made foods and so called “fortified foods” undermine regular and healthy food habits and increase malnutrition.

People with specific nutritional assistance needs include:

- Women and girls (because of food taboos and discrimination within the family).
- Pregnant and lactating women (because of the specific nutritional needs they have and because breast-feeding by healthy mothers is crucial for the development and health of new-born children and infants).
- Children and the elderly (because of their dependence on others to buy and prepare food and because of the erosion of family and social structures, which formerly cared for them).
- Adults and children living with HIV-AIDS (because of their specific nutritional needs and because of their economic and social vulnerability to food insecurity).

Six months of exclusive breastfeeding is the single most effective way to bring down high rates of infant stunting and mortality. This will be achieved only when adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women are strongly supported and sensitised by ensuring their adequate nutritional status and by alleviating their high work burdens. Breastfeeding encourages women’s self-reliance by reducing their dependence on medical professionals and by countering the entrenched vested interest of the baby food industry. Breastfeeding contributes to household food autonomy and saves unnecessary purchase of breast milk substitutes, feeding equipment and medical care. Mothers’ and babies’ right to breastfeed places a legal obligation on governments to enact policies and legislation to make this possible for them.

In times of food crisis, particular attention should be given to children and women. Collective community action should be at the core of such efforts. Communities should be able to access quality services and support from the government to implement agreed solutions. In the face of food price rises and food shortages, school meals are important both for keeping children in school, as well as protecting them from the effects of the shortages. School meals are especially important for keeping the girl child in school, as it is she who is most likely to be removed from school in the event of a financial crisis and/or to help increase food collection and/or harvest.

#### ***Proposals for policies and actions:***

- Awareness-raising campaigns on healthy food habits, safe foods and key nutritional issues should be promoted at all levels. Governments should ensure full transparency for consumers on the quality and nutritional values of food.
- Governments must ensure that any food or ingredient in publicly procured food and public health programmes undergoes strict holistic scientific assessment and is subject to regulation. New chemicals, industrial additives, fortified foods or therapeutic foods must not be introduced into public health and public food programs until all the conditions of providing adequate, safe and nutritious foods are in place.
- Governments must carry out nutrition programmes aimed at meeting the specific needs of vulnerable populations, including pregnant and lactating women, infants and children, senior citizens, and those who are chronically ill or disabled. The food for these programs should be procured from local and regional farms and fisheries to ensure maximum nutrition while supporting local and regional economies.
- School gardens and educational programs for youth should be encouraged to help them understand where their food comes from and to build awareness and appreciation of food, farming, and nutrition from an early age, including the importance of breastfeeding.
- Local and national governments must ensure skilled counselling and education on child care and breastfeeding, and provide crèches in communities and at work sites to enable women to fulfil their children’s rights to survival, care and development. Nutrition programs and additional support for

pregnant and breast-feeding women should be implemented to reduce infant mortality and support a healthy start to life. Breast-feeding in the workplace must be supported.

- Food safety and nutrition should be included in all health- and food-related curricula without commercial sponsorship or influence.
- Campaigns to highlight the nutritional benefits of local foods produced by small-scale food providers should be undertaken, and promotion “biofortified foods” and of corporate campaigns that promote unhealthy food and eating habits should be ended.

## Ensuring emergency aid and humanitarian action

Implementation of food sovereignty and other policies and actions outlined in this document will drastically reduce the need for emergency aid and humanitarian food delivery. Local communities and countries will be able to fulfil the right to adequate food on a regular basis, and to handle most emergency situations caused by bad harvests, natural disasters and conflicts. Hunger and famines have complex multiple causes. Each situation has to be dealt with systemically and holistically according to its specific circumstances. Food delivery alone will often not be sufficient to rescue people in emergency food crises. In emergencies, although development aid may well be provided for humanitarian motives and solidarity, international institutions and rich countries should ensure that the aid needed to counter hunger and prevent famines and other crises does not undermine food sovereignty. There are enough economic resources in the world to avoid hunger and related health catastrophes and it is unacceptable that they are not made available when needed.

Emergency aid is often used to dump surplus production from some rich countries and to pressure aid recipient countries to accept GMOs, both of which undermine local production and biodiversity. Such aid must be stopped. All emergency aid should be based on the needs of affected peoples, provision of safe and nutritious food, support for local production and conservation of local biodiversity.

### ***Proposals for policies and actions:***

- Rich countries must guarantee adequate and stable funds in emergency situations to fulfil the right to adequate food, the right to shelter, sanitation and basic health services.
- Emergency aid has to build and strengthen long-term strategies for food security and food sovereignty, not undermine them.
- When food delivery is needed in emergency situations, it should be procured as locally as possible, first from local small-scale farmers, herders and small-scale fishers, then from nearby communities, producers from other areas in the country and, when not available within the country, from other parts of the region.
- Food delivery in emergency situations must be carried out in close cooperation with people affected by hunger, their organisations, local authorities and governments. This is important in order to reach the people most in need, strengthen local capacities and avoid distortion of local markets.
- Special care must be taken to ensure that women have access to food, water and medical attention in emergency situations.
- Public distribution systems for food and emergency aid must be based on nutritional norms and provide access to diverse foods including fruit and vegetables.
- To avoid extreme high food prices and black markets, aid recipient governments should control food prices and markets.
- Community-controlled and public food storage facilities to ensure a stable supply of food in the event of emergencies should be put place.

## Mechanisms to support people in zones of conflict

Conflicts and wars disrupt the regular availability and supply of food, access to and control over the resources needed to produce and distribute food, and sources of income (by which one might purchase food). Particularly important in such situations is access by affected populations to water, health facilities, land and other culturally valuable assets. Conflict can take various forms: between or among states, civil (within states), tribal, sectarian, ethnic, etc. The presence of valuable natural resources such as diamonds,

oil and minerals can generate and aggravate conflict dynamics, especially when these are stoked by the interventions of external actors.

People in conflict/war zones are subject to evictions, displacement, blockades, land mines, high security exclusion zones, contamination of water sources by used weapons, loss of natural resources and destruction of livelihood security. Impediments to proper cultivation of land and production in the absence of normal living conditions, limited access to markets and restrictions on freedom of movement, of expression and of the exercise of democratic rights, and the use of food and water as weapons, magnify the threat of hunger as a chronic condition. Women are especially vulnerable in such situations because of the frequency of violence targeted at women.

Conflict zones should be aided by sound policies and plans to enhance local peoples' abilities to foster a will for life in face of all risks and dangers threatening their existence. Moreover, fostering solidarity among members of a community in crisis is vital for their ability to cope with dire conditions.

Engaging people in conflict zones through support groups is essential to any initiative designed to assist them. This may involve setting up relief operations which strengthen their abilities to cope with disaster situations, or contributing to efforts to ease tensions in such areas that could keep away the danger of hunger. Development aid is preferred to pure aid which creates dependence and does not meet actual needs.

In the presence of double standards and the absence of international will to impose a just peace for people under long-term conflicts and occupations, affected societies need to create their own local support groups and organisations, connect with each other, communicate with their local leaders and organise themselves into local committees. They should depend on autonomous innovative means to hold on to their lands, protect their natural resources and define ways to reduce consumption.

Affected societies and peoples must foster resilience by seeking alternative foods, meet their basic needs through barter systems, diversify production and rely on locally produced food and materials. They should try to document atrocities on the ground when possible. They should connect with national, regional and global human rights and other activist organisations to spread awareness and secure international support. It is through their testimony that the world will learn about the injustices they suffer.

#### ***Proposal for policies and actions:***

Facing up to the threat of hunger in conflict zones requires combined efforts that should involve policy making, conflict resolution, engagement of affected populations and societies, training and awareness. Such efforts may include the following:

- establish and sustain peace based on justice: the restoration of human dignity and of civil and political rights are preconditions for any lasting peace.
- ensure that war and conflict do not become opportunities for the appropriation of natural resources and other commercially, strategically and culturally valuable assets, either by parties to the conflicts themselves, or by external actors intervening, for example, under a humanitarian guise.
- Spread awareness of the impacts of the conflicts by documenting cases of violations of human rights through international fact-finding and protection missions.
- Hold UN bodies accountable for monitoring violations of people's livelihoods and resources, and ensuring that conflict actors observe international law and international human rights covenants. Those who transgress against international law and international human rights covenants must be held accountable for their actions, if necessary through the use of sanctions.
- Enforce the right of return and resettlement mechanisms for displaced peoples, including the reunion of families, rehabilitation of destroyed livelihoods, trauma counselling and prevention of further damage.
- Provide basic needs such as water, food, medicines and sanitation, and security for women and children, and prohibit the use of food and water as weapons or instruments of control and oppression.
- Introduce local 'no interest' credit and funding programmes, and shift emergency and charity aid into development aid which enables self sufficiency to prevent dependency on outside resources.

- Reach out to people in all areas of conflict and help them to maintain production, through access to land, water and national wealth.
- Support resilience among affected populations by maintaining or developing traditional crafts and handiwork, offering capacity building to women to maintain/create self reliance through creating home jobs, developing food alternatives, encouraging urban agriculture and 'home economics', and encouraging barter programmes.
- Support people's resistance to occupation.

## 8. Finance, debt and development aid

### Finance

Over the past 30 years, unregulated finance capital has grown increasingly powerful, with hedge funds, investment banks, commercial banks and stock brokerages developing many diverse and complex ties with one another. Financial liberalisation and deregulation in many Northern countries have allowed risky mortgage, insurance and speculative instruments (such as derivatives) to burgeon and proliferate in almost every aspect of life, including weather, housing, sports, climate, food and agriculture. The current financial and economic crises are evidence of the dangers of allowing finance institutions to become “too big to fail” and of allowing them to operate unfettered by national and international laws and regulations.

Financial deregulation has been a significant factor in precipitating the food price crisis and in making food inaccessible to poor and vulnerable communities, many of whom are food providers themselves.

Deregulation of the financial system has resulted in a disconnection of finance from the ‘real economy’ in agriculture, manufacturing, and the labour of people and communities. National economies have become hostage to the dangers of speculative bubbles based on the irresponsible trade of products and services in financial markets. Each time these bubbles burst, the entire global economy is affected, the major burden of which is borne by small-scale food producers and workers. When the industrial and services sectors slow down, unemployed workers return to agriculture, fisheries and livestock rearing, creating additional pressure on already strained rural economies and resources. Lack of regulation allows finance capital to become ‘predatory,’ moving from housing mortgages to futures markets in grains to agricultural lands with devastating consequences for housing, commodity and food prices, credit facilities for small-scale food providers, wages for workers, and national economies as a whole.

Because of the collapse of speculative financial markets, investors are now looking for new ways to make large quick profits. Some are engaging in massive, world-wide land –grabs through the purchase of agricultural lands in countries in the South. This allows governments in the South to prioritise easy access to capital over their long-term agricultural interests, which in turn drives up the price of land and pushes peasants off their farms., Rural families absorb laid-off workers, employees see their wages cut, citizens pay higher taxes, children are taken out of school to work, and millions lose their jobs and sources of income. As in all crises, most of the burden is borne by women, youth and children.

Despite rhetoric from world leaders about creating a new global financial architecture, serious efforts to regulate international/global speculative capital flows and large-scale private financial investment are virtually non-existent. Most countries in the South remain massively indebted to and dependent on aid flows from the North and IFIs. In the latest financial crisis, instead of disciplining the financial firms and institutions and banking systems responsible for the crisis, Northern governments led by the US have provided hundreds of billions of dollars to bail them out. Rather than regulate finance capital, the G 20 has increased the powers of the IMF, the World Bank and other multilateral financial institutions that cater to the interests of private capital.

The current global financial and banking systems need to be fundamentally overhauled and transformed in order to combat poverty and hunger effectively and over the long term. These systems cannot be made just and fair unless the economic and social orders they emanate from and support is also changed. The construction of a new financial architecture must thus be part of a larger agenda and process of changing the global economic order.

#### ***Proposals for policies and actions:***

- Finance capital and the financial system should be based in and serve the real economy, which includes the production of goods and services and social reproduction.
- Governments and international agencies must introduce and implement laws to strictly regulate capital flows, and discipline the operations of finance capital; financial deregulation must be ended and capital must be re-regulated to serve the real economy; the people of the world must not be made to pay for the crises created by irresponsible and unaccountable financial institutions.
- Speculation and trade in derivatives related to sensitive sectors, especially food, agriculture, fisheries, water, weather conditions and climate, must be banned.

- The natural and intellectual commons such as lands, water, seeds, genes, air, knowledge and biodiversity must be protected from commodification and speculative exploitation in financial markets.
- The continuing concentration in the insurance, credit and banking sectors must be halted, and institutions must 'unbundled' or dismantled; it is unacceptable that financial institutions can become "too big to fail," and that the costs of saving these financial monocultures are borne by ordinary people.
- International financial agencies such as the IMF and World Bank should not be given additional power to resolve the financial crisis; instead, the financial crisis should be resolved through genuinely multilateral, democratic processes and actions in the United Nations that facilitate in-depth analyses of the crisis, and include the participation of key actors in national legislatures and civil society.
- Instead of making the poor and ordinary people pay for resolving the crisis, those who own most of the capital, who triggered the crisis and who benefit from it must cover the losses through specific taxes on capital and taxes on foreign exchange transactions (such as the Tobin Tax), etc. Nations, societies and communities need to build economic autonomy in order to reduce dependence on the current predatory international financial system; efforts should be directed towards building and strengthening solidarity economies where capital and finance are put at the service of people and not the other way around.
- National financial and economic systems must be re-embedded in society and subject to genuine democratic and public oversight through laws and regulations.
- Financial and economic resources and benefits should be distributed and owned through just, democratic and equitable means.

## Financial policies and debt cancellation

Since the 1970s, most countries in the South have been caught in vicious debt traps to the countries of the industrialised North and IFIs. These debts have prevented countries in the South from directing public resources towards building strong and self-sufficient domestic economies, food and agriculture systems, and manufacturing and services industries. Ironically, many of these debts were incurred by newly decolonised countries to their former colonisers. Wealth and resources once appropriated through colonialism were— after decolonisation – expropriated through development aid, debt repayment and free trade and investment agreements. Servicing external debts has diverted precious national resources away from tackling the root causes of poverty, hunger and malnutrition in countries in the South.

Countries in the South have also been subjected to SAPs and neoliberal policy regimes designed by IFIs under other names that prioritise rapid economic growth and integration into global markets through privatisation, deregulation and liberalisation regardless of their social, economic and environmental costs.

Almost four decades of debt servicing and neoliberal policies have systematically dismantled national food production and distribution capacities in most countries in the South. Despite the fact that small-scale food providers feed the majority of the world's peoples, neoliberal policies are taking away the facilities they need to survive, such as minimum price guarantees, state-supported marketing boards, credit, technical assistance and markets for their produce. In many indebted countries, the IMF and World Bank have forced governments to sell off their public sector enterprises that maintained grain reserves. Food inventories are now largely in the hands of the private sector, usually foreign corporations, that tend to hoard and speculate in times of crisis to increase their profit margins. Instead, national food needs are increasingly met through imports even as national productive capacity is oriented towards exports stimulated by enormous government subsidies to agribusiness using taxpayers' money.

The external debts of countries in the South have been paid several times over through principal and interest payments, the expropriation of natural resources, agricultural raw materials, mineral wealth and labour capacity to the corporations of wealthy countries, and other forms of resource flows from South to North as a result of policies imposed through loans.

What remains unpaid and even unacknowledged by the countries of the North is the huge ecological debt that is owed to the countries of the South. Ecological debt includes the looting and destruction caused during the colonial period, as well as the extraction and export from the South to North of natural



resources such as petroleum, minerals, forest, marine and genetic resources, and use of the best lands, water, air and human energy to establish export crops to feed Northern industries and corporations. It also includes the appropriation through biopiracy of traditional and local knowledge and technologies related to seeds, medicinal plants, etc., on which the biotechnology and the modern agro-industries are based. And finally, it includes the adverse ecological and environmental impacts of neoliberal policies imposed on countries in the South by IFIs dominated by Northern governments.

There should be total and unconditional debt cancellation for countries in the South and full payment of the ecological debt to them. Equally crucial is an end to neoliberal policy regimes imposed by IFIs, regardless of the names they are given. This will create policy space and free up resources in national budgets to allot adequate resources to support sustainable small-scale food provision, and appropriate social protection systems.

***Proposals for policies and actions:***

- Unconditional cancellation of the external debt of all countries in the South, accompanied by the immediate cancellation and repudiation of all illegitimate debts.
- Acknowledgement of and reparations for the ecological debt owed by the North to the peoples of the South.
- Abolition of neoliberal economic programmes, whether they are called SAPs, Poverty Reduction Strategies-Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (PRSP-PRGF) or economic reform programmes. The neoliberal reform agenda that currently underwrites much of North-South development assistance through grants and loans must be rejected and transformed.
- Reparations by private and public financial institutions (including the IFIs) and Northern governments for irresponsible lending, financial transactions and policy advice.
- Reduced dependency on foreign financing, especially loans, in local and national development. Most development priorities (for example, food security, education, healthcare, environmental protection, clean water, etc.) can be supported through domestic resources, and the use of foreign financing can be limited to those goods and services that are as yet unavailable domestically at reasonable cost.
- The international financial system must support and contribute to the development of the domestic capacity of economies to generate financial resources, moving away from “dependence” on aid and borrowing, and pursuing alternative sources of financing; the financial system should not lead to the creation and accumulation of illegitimate debt.

## Development aid

The dependency of countries in the South on development assistance and aid must end. At the same time, rich countries must pay to countries in the South the ecological debt they owe and reparations for the damage they have caused through historical and contemporary exploitation. Aid dependency undermines national sovereignty and sustainable development of societies.

Poverty and hunger in countries in the South are a result of economic and political structures and power established hundreds of years ago through a combination of feudalism, colonialism and contemporary forms of unequal power relations. Since the 1950s, development aid has been used by Northern countries to preserve colonial political and economic relations with countries in the South and promote unsustainable development models that serve the economic interests of Northern countries, especially their corporations. Development aid has also made countries in the South dependent on external resources and weakened national capacities for self determination and self-managed development. A similar dynamic of dependency also occurs within countries in the South between elite and economically disadvantaged classes.

Much of the development aid in the world is routed through and controlled by multilateral financial institutions such as the IMF, the World Bank, and regional development banks. These aid packages come with policy conditions that undermine local and national economies, food production and distribution systems, and the natural environment. By promoting privatisation, liberalisation and deregulation, these institutions push aid recipient countries to create ‘enabling policy environments’ for the control of national wealth and assets by national and transnational corporations.

Development aid can contribute in a positive way to sustainable development, the eradication of hunger and poverty, and strengthening peoples' autonomy and well-being. But for this to happen, aid has to be planned, routed and targeted through genuinely democratic means, be free of policy conditions and be accountable to the public in aid-recipient countries.

Although the exploitation and destruction wreaked by rich countries (often with the complicity of national elites in countries in the South) can never be fully compensated financially, there should be no doubt that rich countries owe countries in the South enormous reparations for both ecological and historical debts. Development aid is a small portion of the reparations owed by the North to the South. Rich countries should fulfil their obligations and commitments to increase development aid, augmenting the efforts of peoples and communities in countries in the South to eradicate hunger and poverty.

***Proposals for policies and actions:***

- Rich countries must immediately fulfil their promises to allocate at least 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) to development assistance. The assistance must be given unconditionally and based on the priorities and plans peoples, local communities and countries.
- The power of multilateral financial institutions and IFIs over development aid and credits must be removed; such institutions must not be allowed to impose policy conditions on aid-recipient and borrowing countries.
- All aid programmes and arrangements must be subjected to national and sub-national democratic and public scrutiny
- Rich countries must increase the percentage of ODA to be invested in food and agricultural development from the current 3 % to at least the 1980 level of 17%, within five years.
- Development aid for agriculture and fisheries, based on food sovereignty and principles for better aid, must be directed towards small-scale food provision including peasant-based and small-scale family farming, pastoralism and small-scale fisheries, based on peoples' own needs and decisions.
- The use of aid from rich countries, philanthropic foundations to promote and support unsustainable, high input agriculture, genetically modified plants, animal and fish varieties, green, white and blue revolutions, and commodification of water , must end.
- Rich countries must fulfil their obligations to pay for climate change adaptation as a compensation for the damage and misery they have caused. These payments are not development assistance, but additional moneys as reparation of climate debt.

## 9. Governance

### The roles of states

States should promote policies and actions that actively support smallholder and small-scale ecological food production, safe working conditions, the consumption of healthy foods and local-domestic markets. Productive resources, essential services and the environment are public goods and commons, and must be protected from privatisation and corporate capture.

States should engage in constructive dialogues with relevant social movements, peoples' networks, constituency-based organisations (for example of indigenous peoples, women, workers, youth, senior citizens, etc.) and CSOs and integrate their proposals in the formulation of effective policies and actions. States must end violations against the rights to adequate food and prevent future violations by adopting appropriate rights-based policies in all sectors related to food production and provision.

States should, in close cooperation with food producers' organisations and social movements and organisations working with food and nutrition related issues, set up concrete plans of action for the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food and all associated rights. These are already legal obligations of states in the UN system and in steps towards meeting these obligations, states should put in place and comply with appropriate monitoring and reporting mechanisms. Furthermore, governments at all levels must guarantee the rights of all food providers, their communities and their organisations to information about policies, technologies, programmes, agreements, etc., in appropriate and accessible forms.

The right to adequate food is an individual right but has powerful collective dimensions. Therefore, States must put in place policies, structures, systems and institutions that facilitate the progressive realisation of the right to food for all communities, constituencies and nationalities regardless of geographic boundaries. The Voluntary Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Food, which were unanimously adopted by all FAO member States, provide a useful guide for governments in terms of policies and strategies for action. The Guidelines promote basic human rights principles such as participation, transparency, accountability and non-discrimination. The rights to information, freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and freedom of association, as well as effective participation in food-related policy decision-making and timely and adequate remedial mechanisms for those whose rights are violated, are all associated rights that need to be met to ensure realisation of the right to adequate food.

The Guidelines also provide recommendations in key policy areas such as economic development, market systems, agriculture, nutrition, social policy, education, and emergency measures in food crises, which are compatible with food sovereignty and the proposals outlined in this document. Particularly salient steps recommended for the formulation of national strategies include:

- careful and participatory analysis of the causes of hunger and malnutrition and the identification of the groups most affected.
- based on the above, an assessment of the existing legislative and policy framework in order to identify problematic legislation or policy areas.
- formulation and enactment of policies, strategies, and institutional and legal frameworks conducive to the realisation of the right to adequate food.
- installation by states, with the full participation of civil society, of functioning monitoring mechanisms to assess progress in the implementation of the right to food and to identify violations of this right.
- The provision of effective remedial mechanisms in cases of violations so that individuals and communities can claim effective remedies.

States should ensure that their economic and social policies are linked with commitments to uphold the rights of particularly vulnerable populations under, for example, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention 169 of the ILO on Indigenous Peoples, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), etc.

## The roles of international institutions

International and especially multilateral institutions should support local and national policies to eradicate hunger. UN agencies such as the FAO, IFAD, and WFP, as well as the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) must revisit their mandates and orientate their support towards protecting and facilitating the formulation and implementation of policies needed to effectively tackle hunger and implement food sovereignty. For example, clear rules should be established to end and prevent dumping, avoid food aid that destroys local production, and oppose international agreements and policy reform programmes that demand or facilitate the privatisation of lands, seeds, plant and animal genetic resources (terrestrial and marine), fresh water and oceans, and public goods and services. Instead, UN agencies must actively support the rights of small-scale local food providers to land, territory and natural assets/resources, agrarian and aquatic reforms, and sustainable rural development as described in the final Declaration of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) and the documents of the Civil Society Forum on Land Territory and Dignity, and implement and promote the findings of the IAASTD.

International and multilateral institutions should also provide and enable spaces at international fora where peoples' organisations can participate effectively in the formulation of regional and international policies to address hunger, achieve food sovereignty and fulfil the right to adequate food. Regional and international policy making should not be the exclusive preserve of government and non-government so-called "experts."

Immediate action needs to be taken against the aggressive operations of TNCs that are expanding their reach into the world's food supplies and resources, and destroying communities that produce and provide food. Multilateral institutions must ensure that states are not prevented through international trade and investment agreements from legally curtailing and disciplining TNC operations. Instead, multilateral institutions should ensure that states are empowered and enabled to protect their domestic food and economic systems from the devastating effects of corporations and corporate-friendly international markets.

The appropriation and concentration of land, fishing grounds and natural and mineral wealth by industrial producers and corporations, and the destruction of ancestral territories of indigenous peoples, must be investigated by the UN Human Rights Council and the International Court of Justice in order to fully comprehend their impacts on rural economies, livelihoods and societies.

UN organisations, especially those concerned with food, agriculture and fisheries must guarantee that policies based on food sovereignty and the right to food have priority over trade agreements and other international policies. The current negotiations within the WTO must stop and international trade should be based on the rights of states and their citizens to decide the levels of self-sufficiency and or 'openness' that they need to maintain.

The UN should promote among all its member states the adoption of the necessary international conventions that strengthen the right to food, for example, Convention 169 of the ILO on Indigenous Peoples and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Additionally, there is need to work actively towards international declarations and conventions that defend the rights of small-scale food providers, including fishing communities and pastoralists, along the lines of the UNDRIP and the proposed International Convention on the Rights of Peasants. All these instruments should be integrated into the UN Human Rights System and be associated to other relevant treaties.

Multilateral institutions should pay special attention to link between the right to adequate food and CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The FAO, IFAD, WFP and CGIAR have failed in effectively tackling the global food crisis, primarily due to a lack of political will among several member states as well as within the agencies. This is an appropriate moment to evaluate and assess the operations and governance of the multilateral institutions involved in food, agriculture and fisheries, using the findings of the IAASTD as a reference.

Corporate and market-friendly institutions such as the IFIs and WTO should not be permitted to exert influence over the regulation and governance of the world's food supplies and resources. Food supplies and resources should be governed through transparent and accountable multilateral fora and agreements that are forged, implemented and monitored democratically with the full participation of peoples and states.

## ANNEX

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Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education (Tebtebba), Philippines / Int

Neth Dano, ETC-group, Philippines /Int.

Ndiougou Fall, Le Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPFA), Senegal

Herman Kumara, World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), Sri Lanka /Int.

Margareth Nakato, World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF), Uganda /Int.

Patrick Mulvany, Practical Action, United Kingdom

Christina M. Schiavoni, Whyhunger, USA