



FOOD SOVEREIGNTY FOR AFRICA: A CHALLENGE AT FINGERTIPS

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DECLARATION OF NYÉLÉNI



27 February 2007

Nyéléni Village, Sélingué, Mali

We, more than 500 representatives from more than 80 countries, of organizations of peasants/family farmers, artisanal fisher-folk, indigenous peoples, landless peoples, rural workers, migrants, pastoralists, forest communities, women, youth, consumers, environmental and urban movements have gathered together in the village of Nyéleni in Sélingué, Mali to strengthen a global movement for food sovereignty. We are doing this, brick by brick, have been living in huts constructed by hand in the local tradition, and eating food that is being produced and prepared by the Sélingué community. We give our collective endeavour the name "Nyéleni" as a tribute to and inspiration from a legendary Malian peasant woman who farmed and fed her peoples well.

Most of us are food producers and are ready, able and willing to feed all the world's peoples. Our heritage as food producers is critical to the future of humanity. This is specially so in the case of women and indigenous peoples who are historical creators of knowledge about food and agriculture and are devalued. But this heritage and our capacities to produce healthy, good and abundant food are being threatened and undermined by neo-liberalism and global capitalism.

Food sovereignty gives us the hope and power to preserve, recover and build on our food producing knowledge and capacity.

Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations. It defends the interests and inclusion of the next generation. It offers a strategy to resist and dismantle the current corporate trade and food regime, and directions for food, farming, pastoral and fisheries systems determined by local producers. Food sovereignty prioritizes local and national economies and markets and empowers peasant and family farmer-driven agriculture, artisanal - fishing, pastoralist-led grazing, and food production, distribution and consumption based on environmental, social and economic sustainability. Food sovereignty promotes transparent trade that guarantees just income to all peoples and the rights of consumers to control their food and nutrition. It ensures that the rights to use and manage our lands, territories, waters, seeds, livestock and biodiversity are in the hands of those of us who produce food. Food sovereignty implies new social relations free of oppression and inequality between men and women, peoples, racial groups, social classes and generations. In Nyéleni, through numerous debates and

interactions, we are deepening our collective understanding of food sovereignty and learned about the reality of the struggles of our respective movements to retain autonomy and regain our powers. We now understand better the tools we need to build our movement and advance our collective vision.

What are we fighting for?

A world where...

...all peoples, nations and states are able to determine their own food producing systems and policies that provide every one of us with good quality, adequate, affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food;

...recognition and respect of women's roles and rights in food production, and representation of women in all decision making bodies;

...all peoples in each of our countries are able to live with dignity, earn a living wage for their labour and have the opportunity to remain in their homes;

...where food sovereignty is considered a basic human right, recognized and implemented by communities, peoples, states and international bodies;

...we are able to conserve and rehabilitate rural environments, fish stocks, landscapes and food traditions based on ecologically sustainable management of land, soils, water, seas, seeds, livestock and other biodiversity;

...we value, recognize and respect our diversity of traditional knowledge, food, language and culture, and the way we organise and express ourselves;

... there is genuine and integral agrarian reform that guarantees peasants full rights to land, defends and recovers the territories of indigenous peoples, ensures fishing communities' access and control over their fishing areas and eco-systems, honours access and control over pastoral lands and migratory routes, assures decent jobs with fair remuneration and labour rights for all, and a future for young people in the countryside;

...where agrarian reform revitalises interdependence between producers and consumers, ensures community survival, social and economic justice and ecological sustainability, and respect for local autonomy and governance with equal rights for women and men

...where it guarantees the right to territory and self-determination for our peoples;

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...where we share our lands and territories peacefully and fairly among our peoples, be we peasants, indigenous peoples, artisanal fishers, pastoralists, or others;

...in the case of natural and human-created disasters and conflict-recovery situations, food sovereignty acts as a kind of "insurance" that strengthens local recovery efforts and mitigates negative impacts... where we remember that affected communities are not helpless, and where strong local organization for self-help is the key to recovery;

...where peoples' power to make decisions about their material, natural and spiritual heritage are defended;

... where all peoples have the right to defend their territories from the actions of transnational corporations;

What are we fighting against?

Imperialism, neo-liberalism, neo-colonialism and patriarchy, and all systems that impoverish life, resources and eco-systems, and the agents that promote the above such as international financial institutions, the World Trade Organization, free trade agreements, transnational corporations, and governments that are antagonistic to their peoples;

The dumping of food at prices below the cost of production in the global economy;

The domination of our food and food producing systems by corporations that place profits before people, health and the environment;

Technologies and practices that undercut our future food producing capacities, damage the environment and put our health at risk. Those include transgenic crops and animals, terminator technology, industrial aquaculture and destructive fishing practices, the so-called white revolution of industrial dairy practices, the so-called 'old' and 'new' Green Revolutions, and the "Green Deserts" of industrial bio-fuel monocultures and other plantations;

The privatization and commodification of food, basic and public services, knowledge, land, water, seeds, livestock and our natural heritage;

Development projects/models and extractive industry that displace people and destroy our environments and natural heritage;

Wars, conflicts, occupations, economic blockades, famines, forced displacement of people and

confiscation of their land, and all forces and governments that cause and support them; post disaster and conflict reconstruction programs that destroy our environments and capacities;

The criminalization of all those who struggle to protect and defend our rights;

Food aid that disguises dumping, introduces GMOs into local environments and food systems and creates new colonialism patterns;

The internationalization and globalization of paternalistic and patriarchal values that marginalize women, diverse agricultural, indigenous, pastoral and fisher communities around the world.

What can and will we do about it?

Just as we are working with the local community in Sélingué to create a meeting space at Nyéléni, we are committed to building our collective movement for food sovereignty by forging alliances, supporting each others' struggles and extending our solidarity, strengths, and creativity to peoples all over the world who are committed to food sovereignty. Every struggle, in any part of the world for food sovereignty, is our struggle.

We have arrived at a number of collective actions to share our vision of food sovereignty with all peoples of this world, which are elaborated in our synthesis document. We will implement these actions in our respective local areas and regions, in our own movements and jointly in solidarity with other movements. We will share our vision and action agenda for food sovereignty with others who are not able to be with us here in Nyéléni so that the spirit of Nyéléni permeates across the world and becomes a powerful force to make food sovereignty a reality for peoples all over the world.

Finally, we give our unconditional and unwavering support to the peasant movements of Mali and ROPPA in their demands that food sovereignty become a reality in Mali and by extension in all of Africa.

Now is the time for food sovereignty!



NYELENI 2007: WOMEN'S DECLARATION ON FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

We, women of 86 countries and diverse Indigenous peoples, from Africa, the Americas, Europe, Asia, Oceania and various sectors and social movements, are gathered at Nyeleni 2007 in Sélingué, Mali, to work together on the construction of a new right—the right to food sovereignty. We reaffirm our will to act together to change the capitalist and patriarchal world that prioritizes market interests at the expense of human rights.

Women, who have historically held the knowledge about agriculture and food, who continue to produce up to 80% of the food in the poorest countries, and who today are the principal custodians of biodiversity and seeds for farming, are particularly affected by neoliberal and sexist policies.

We suffer the grave consequences of these policies: poverty, inadequate access to resources, patents on life, rural exodus and forced migration, war and all forms of physical and sexual violence. Monocultures, including those used to produce agro-fuel, and the massive use of chemicals and genetically modified organisms, have a negative impact on the environment and human health, particularly reproductive health.

The industrial model and transnational companies threaten the existence of peasant agriculture, artisanal fisheries, pastoralism, artisanal production, and local food businesses in urban and rural areas—all sectors in which women play a major role.

We want to remove food and agriculture from the WTO and free trade treaties. More than that, we reject the capitalist and patriarchal institutions that consider food, water, land, people's knowledge and women's bodies simply as merchandise.

In our struggle for equality between the sexes, we want an end to the oppression we face in both traditional and modern societies and the market system. We want to use this opportunity to put sexist prejudice behind us and develop a new vision of the world based on the principles of respect, equality, justice, solidarity, peace and freedom.

We are mobilized. We are struggling for access to land, territories, water, and seeds. We are struggling for decent working conditions. We are struggling for access to training and information. We are struggling for our autonomy and the right to make our own decisions and participate fully in decision-making bodies.

Under the eye of Nyeleni, an African woman who defied discriminatory regulations and burned with creativity and agricultural prowess, we will find the energy to transform the right to food sovereignty into a beacon for the construction of another world.

We will find this energy in our solidarity. We will bear this message to women across the world.

Nyeleni, February 27, 2007



Nyeléni's steering committee: Via Campesina, ROPPA, World March of Women, World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fisherworkers (WFF), World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), Friends of the Earth International, some representatives of NGOs members of Food Sovereignty Network.

NYÉLÉNI was the inspiration for the name of our Forum for Food Sovereignty in Sélingué, Mali. Nyéléni was a legendary Malian peasant woman who farmed and fed her peoples well – she embodied food sovereignty through hard work, innovation and caring for her people. We, peasant farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, migrant workers, women and young people, who gathered at Nyéléni 2007 are food providers who are ready, able and willing to feed all the world's peoples.

Our heritage as providers of food is critical to the future of humanity. This is especially so in the case of women and indigenous peoples who are historical creators of knowledge about food, agriculture and traditional aquaculture. But this heritage and our capacity to produce healthy, good and abundant food are being threatened and undermined by neo-liberalism and global capitalism.

We debated food sovereignty issues in order to: A) deepen collective understanding; B) strengthen dialogue among and between sectors and interest groups; and C) formulate joint strategies and an action agenda. Our debates gave food providers as well as environmentalists, consumers and urban movements the strength and power to fight for food sovereignty in Mali, the rest of Africa and worldwide.

Through our alliances, we can join together to preserve, recover and build on our knowledge in order to strengthen the essential capacity that leads to sustaining localized food systems. In realizing food sovereignty, we will also ensure the survival of our cultures, our peoples and of the Earth.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY puts those who produce, distribute and need wholesome, local food at the heart of food, agricultural, livestock and fisheries systems and policies, rather than the demands of markets and corporations that reduce food to internationally tradable commodities and components. It offers a strategy to resist and dismantle this inequitable and unsustainable system that perversely results in both chronic under nutrition and rapidly rising obesity.

Food sovereignty includes the right to food – the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through socially just and ecologically sensitive methods. It entails peoples' right to participate in decision making and define their own food, agriculture, livestock and fisheries systems. It

access to, and the sharing of, productive territories free from the threat of privatization and expulsion.

Food sovereignty defends the interests and the right to food and to produce food of peoples and communities, including those under occupation, in conflict zones, facing and/or recovering from disasters, as well as those who are socially and economically marginalized, such as dalits, indigenous peoples and migrant workers.

Food sovereignty provides a policy framework for food, farming, pastoral, fisheries and other food production, harvesting and gathering systems determined by local communities.

A) AT NYÉLÉNI 2007, we deepened our collective understanding of Food Sovereignty which:

1. **Focuses on Food for People:** Food sovereignty puts the right to sufficient, healthy and culturally appropriate food for all individuals, peoples and communities, including those who are hungry, under occupation, in conflict zones and marginalized, at the centre of food, agriculture, livestock and fisheries policies; and rejects the proposition that food is just another commodity or component for international agri-business.

2. **Values Food Providers:** Food sovereignty values and supports the contributions, and respects the rights, of women and men, peasants and small scale family farmers, pastoralists, artisanal fisherfolk, forest dwellers, indigenous peoples and agricultural and fisheries workers, including migrants, who cultivate, grow, harvest and process food; and rejects those policies, actions and programs that undervalue them, threaten their livelihoods and eliminate them.

3. **Localizes Food Systems:** Food sovereignty brings food providers and consumers closer together; puts providers and consumers at the centre of decision-making on food issues; protects food providers from the dumping of food and food aid in local markets; protects consumers from poor quality and unhealthy food, inappropriate food aid and food tainted with genetically modified organisms; and resists governance structures, agreements and practices that depend on and promote unsustainable and inequitable international trade and give power to remote and unaccountable corporations.

4. **Puts Control Locally:** Food sovereignty places control over territory, land, grazing, water, seeds, livestock and fish populations on local food providers and respects their rights. They can use and share them in socially and environmentally sustainable ways which conserve diversity; it recognizes that

local territories often cross geopolitical borders and ensures the right of local communities to inhabit and use their territories; it promotes positive interaction between food providers in different regions and territories and from different sectors that helps resolve internal conflicts or conflicts with local and national authorities; and rejects the privatization of natural resources through laws, commercial contracts and intellectual property rights regimes.

5. Builds Knowledge and Skills: Food sovereignty builds on the skills and local knowledge of food providers and their local organizations that conserve develop and manage localized food production and harvesting systems, developing appropriate research systems to support this and passing on this wisdom to future generations; and rejects technologies that undermine, threaten or contaminate these, e.g. genetic engineering.

6. Works with Nature: Food sovereignty uses the contributions of nature in diverse, low external input agro ecological production and harvesting methods that maximize the contribution of ecosystems and improve resilience and adaptation, especially in the face of climate change; it seeks to heal the planet so that the planet may heal us; and, rejects methods that harm beneficial ecosystem functions, that depend on energy intensive monocultures and livestock factories, destructive fishing practices and other industrialized production methods, which damage the environment and contribute to global warming.

B) THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS ON FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

AT NYÉLÉNI 2007, we strengthened dialogue among and between sectors and interest groups. This was through the main work of the forum which was spent discussing seven themes related to food sovereignty: local markets and international trade; local knowledge and technology; access and control of natural resources; sharing territories; conflicts, occupation, and disasters; social conditions and forced migration; and production models. There is background information for these discussions and on each of these themes in the paper "Towards a Food Sovereignty Action Agenda" presented in the Nyéléni program book and on the Nyéléni 2007 website http://www.nyeleni2007.org/IMG/pdf/TOWARDS_A_FOOD_SOVEREIGNTY_ACTION_AGENDAII.pdf.

What follows is a brief synthesis of the discussions in each thematic working group. The report concludes with a Food Sovereignty Action Agenda that was discussed by the sectors, interest groups and

regions. The Action Agenda summarizes the joint actions to be taken by the organisations of farmers and peasants, pastoralists, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, migrant workers, consumer and urban movements, women, environmentalists and young people represented at Nyéléni 2007. Examples of specific actions agreed by Regions and Sectors are also included.

More extensive and illustrative outcomes of the discussions will be captured in a longer follow up report.

1. LOCAL MARKETS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Food is for people's health and nutrition – it should not be simply a tradable commodity. In order to ensure the right to food for all and the right of peasant farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk and others to produce healthy food sustainably, we must build new mechanisms for fairness in trading, with fair prices that are in the hands of producers and consumers, that are transparent at all steps in the food chain, and where priority is given to local production for local markets. We must fight for radical change in agricultural, fisheries and food policies so that they are based on food sovereignty and not on free trade as promoted by its neo-liberal proponents – governments, multinational corporations and international institutions, such as the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.

We will continue to reject all bilateral and multilateral agreements that do not respond to the needs of local producers and consumers. Food Sovereignty is not against international, regional or national trade but places priority on local production for local markets in order to guarantee food sovereignty. It values the production of culturally appropriate foods without forcing people to consume things they do not want, such as genetically modified organisms.

The local markets emphasis also supports the use of land for food production rather than for the production of agrofuels and other monocultures; coastal marine resources for local fishing rather than destructive fisheries; pastoral grazing territories for sustainable livestock keeping; and so on. We will continue to fight against free trade and other market mechanisms that promote over-production and the dumping of "cheap food" and unnecessary imported food aid, which benefit large corporate producers and harm food sovereignty. Instead, we will encourage laws and policies that promote local autonomy in food production and consumption so that indigenous peoples, peasant farmers, fishers, pastoralists, forest dwellers and other local food providers are able to produce for themselves, their local communities and wider society.

2. LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY

The majority of the world's food is still being produced or harvested at relatively small scales by local communities, based on local knowledge, using locally based technologies and locally available resources. Our knowledge and wisdom is what the world needs for food sovereignty. We are the women and men, peasant farmers, pastoralists, artisanal fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, forest dwellers and others who for millennia have created, maintained and developed the basis not only for our survival but also the survival of society. This includes the knowledge and skills to produce food, clothing, medicines, seeds, livestock etc, to sustain biodiversity and to respect the environment and ecosystems.

Our knowledge is alive, shows itself in many ways and is essential for food sovereignty. It is local, collective, and diverse and is ever changing and dynamic – not static – and gathers strength through exchange and solidarity. Fighting for food sovereignty means recognizing women's contributions and experiences and making indigenous knowledge and production systems a central element in strengthening local food systems under the control of local communities. The impacts of the technologies for intensive monocultures including those for agrofuel production, industrial aquaculture and destructive fisheries that are imposed through the green (crops), blue (aquaculture) and white (milk) revolutions, are now being re-imposed on Africa, are having devastating impacts on our local knowledge systems, technologies and environment. It actively leads to the consolidation of the market power of transnational corporations throughout the entire food chain from production to distribution.

This corporate control and domination, supported by local elites, leads to the concentration of land, erosion of soils, poisoning of waters from nitrates and pesticides, damage to productive ecosystems, culminating in the disappearance of farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolk. With this distortion of power come new genetically modified organisms, nanotechnologies and seed sterilization technologies, protected by patents and other intellectual property rights. Also, the privatization of agricultural research moves knowledge, seed varieties and livestock breeds from the public domain into corporate hands; thus, damaging transformative local knowledge development. In the name of hunger, bird' flu, climate change and the thirst for fuel by the wealthy, unsuitable and unsustainable technologies are being imposed in our territories, are poisoning our water bodies and, with the impacts of industrial extractive fisheries and aquaculture, are killing our seas.

3. ACCESS AND CONTROL OVER RESOURCES

The access, control and stewardship of the natural resources that peasant farming, pastoral, artisanal fishing, forest dwelling and indigenous communities rely on for food and livelihoods – for example, land, forests, water, seeds, livestock, fish and other aquatic species – are essential for food sovereignty. For generations, local communities have conserved the richness and diversity of these resources by controlling access to them for the practice of agroecologically sustainable and biodiverse agriculture, livestock production, pastoralism and artisanal fishing, saving and protecting their lands, territories, forests and water bodies from over-use, depletion and contamination. We must ensure women's access to land, abolishing discriminatory laws of inheritance and repartition in the event of divorce; transforming customs that deny women's right to the land; and equality between women and men in processes of agrarian reform.

A genuine agrarian reform is needed that allows us continued rights of access to and control over our territories, including for Indigenous Peoples and pastoralists, that can then be used exclusively for ecologically and socially sustainable production. We require similar rights to water bodies and coastal commons for artisanal fisheries, preventing the imposition of industrial aquaculture or destructive fishing practices, as well as guaranteeing riparian and beach access to these resources. We must develop a common plan of action around the fight against water privatization, commodification of water and exploitation of ground water by transnational corporations. Access to and control over our seed varieties, livestock breeds and fish species that are the basis of food sovereignty should not be compromised by intellectual property rights nor should they be contaminated by genetically modified organisms.

We must guard against humanitarian and development assistance that reduce access and our control over natural resources, as happened, for example, after the December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. We must force governments either to apply existing international laws and agreements, or design national laws, that guarantee the rights of access to the resources to which people are entitled and prevent the privatization of common resources and the actions of transnational corporations, which limit our access to the natural resources we need to realize food sovereignty.

4. SHARING TERRITORIES

We must first define territories beyond geopolitical boundaries so as to include the territories of indigenous peoples, nomadic and pastoralist communities and beach-based fisherfolk. We should also view nature as material and spiritual beings, not

as 'resources' that exist to be exploited. We understand the holistic nature of territories as including land, water, seeds, livestock breeds and aquatic organisms. Local communities and peoples that share territories should have equitable, but controlled, access. One of the biggest obstacles to equitable access to territories is the privatization of land, water and material beings. We need to fight against all forms of expulsion of peoples from their territories and against mechanisms that favour remote, corporate or centralized control of territories.

We need to ensure the peaceful coexistence of diverse communities in territories by strengthening our organizations and multi-sectoral alliances so as to democratically negotiate and share territories. A strong, aware and organized civil society will be able to assert the rights of peasants/farmers, artisanal fisherfolk, pastoralists and indigenous communities. We must also assert the rights of young people and women to access territories. We can solve conflicts over shared territories between different sectors by improving our traditional management of territories, particularly since one major source of conflict is the overexploitation of nature and unsustainable management of territories by one sector to the detriment of another, by one generation to the detriment of future generations. We need to fight for genuine comprehensive agrarian reform based on the diverse needs of peoples and for governments to protect the rights of those who inhabit territories. Anchored in our traditional knowledge, we need to create our own research activities to collect and imagine alternative solutions to the obstacles to sharing territories by diverse communities. One such solution is the creation of an alternative economic system of exchanges among local producers that resists global market domination.

5. CONFLICTS, OCCUPATIONS AND NATURAL DISASTERS:

Food sovereignty is threatened by conflicts, occupations and disasters, as well as by efforts to ameliorate the situation such as through inappropriate food aid and development / reconstruction projects, which themselves can generate more conflicts. Environmental degradation as a result of warfare and disasters also compromises food sovereignty, as it affects local production. At the same time, we see that where food sovereignty is present, communities and their production systems are better able to survive and recover including sourcing local foods to avert famine. Examples were given about the loss of food sovereignty due to occupation in Palestine and Lebanon; as a result of conflicts over natural resources in Cameroon and Colombia; and due to the precarious living conditions

because of human-made and natural disasters in Sri Lanka and the Philippines. These and many other stories articulated the importance of food sovereignty in areas deeply affected by conflicts, occupations, and disasters.

We often speak of access to markets for local producers and peoples who want to consume local products. But for communities living with conflicts, occupation and the aftermath of disasters, access to markets is a basic physical issue when there is, for example, a wall between the producer and the market, or where the transport infrastructure disappears in a flood. Also, after conflict or a disaster, people are often displaced from their lands and territories, which are then appropriated for other purposes, such as tourism or occupation by others.

Food sovereignty is challenged by repression and state terrorism, particularly as conflicts affect communities' control over territories. This limits their access to land, water, food and excludes their participation in decisionmaking. For peoples living under occupation, self-determination and local autonomy becomes crucial in order to achieve food sovereignty. Self-determination can also prepare against the impacts of natural and human-made disasters by ensuring ecological community-based management, reliant on traditional knowledge and lifestyles that increase the resilience of ecosystems to catastrophic events. In order to achieve food sovereignty, we must ensure that those who are victims/survivors of disaster/conflict can determine and lead the relief, recovery and rebuilding efforts.

We assert that food sovereignty is essential for community resilience and response to all disasters. In this context, we discussed: how to secure the benefits from legal frameworks that should maintain biodiversity and provide compensation when the livelihoods of communities are intentionally destroyed; as well as an international convention on food sovereignty, especially for communities living with conflict, occupation or disaster.

6. SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND FORCED MIGRATION

We need to integrate the struggle for food sovereignty in the fight for migrants' rights. The causes of forced migration, often to work in agriculture and fisheries, include international financial and development policies, warfare, and destruction of habitats and cultures due to social and environmental injustices, among other factors. The characteristics of forced migrations include racism and sexual exploitation, human trafficking, the use of migrants for cheap or slave labour, and the treatment of migrants as "second class citizens".

We see an increased awareness of the contributions of migrant workers as evidenced by the mobilizations

in the United States and France in 2006, and by the weight placed on remittances by migrants to their families in their countries of origin. However, there are no policies in place to support the right of displaced peoples to return to their home communities, particularly those who have been displaced by occupation, disaster, or conflict. In order to confront the problems generated by forced migrations, the following proposals are made as strategies to contain forced migration:

- 1) The defense of territories, cultures, food sovereignty and self-reliance and the defense of rural, farmer, agrarian and urban organizations that are essential to ensuring dignity in the countryside and the city;
- 2) Articulating the value of peasant production and the creation of sustainable economic relationships that are outside of capitalist market rules.

We need to strengthen and promote independent migrants' organizations and movements, from local to international. This includes strengthening alliances between organizations and social movements in countries of origin and the places where migrants live and work. We need to increase awareness about forced migration and the conditions that migrants face, especially in the food, fishing and agricultural sectors, and we need to stand in solidarity with migrant organizations as crucial allies in the fight for food sovereignty.

7. PRODUCTION MODELS

Food sovereignty and environmental stability are underpinned by agroecological production of food and the use of ecologically sensitive artisanal fisheries practices. But this form of production can only continue if society values and supports it and buys local foods whilst at the same time removing privileges and subsidies from industrial production systems that benefit transnational corporations. Industrial production models are capturing and destroying local markets, the livelihoods of small scale food providers and the diverse ecosystems upon which sustainable, low energy production depends. This industrial model pushes monocultures as well as the use of food crops and land for agrofuel production rather than to feed people. It also causes downstream pollution which, together with industrial fisheries and aquaculture, is killing our seas. The corporate-led production model is also environmentally damaging, destroying nature's capacity to adapt and flourish and greatly contributes to climate change.

The models of production and the way in which food is sold and distributed are more important than the scale of production (small scale in one country can be seen as large scale in others) or where production takes place: food sovereignty is as applicable in

Northern industrialized countries as in the global South.

Strengthening the links between producers and consumers and persuading them to switch to a 'solidarity economy' that supports local farmers, livestock keepers, artisanal fisherfolk and their systems of agroecological production and harvesting, as well as persuading authorities at all levels to buy locally produced foods for schools, hospitals and other public institutions, are key strategies. A challenge for the current generation is not only to change policy and societal support in favour of ecologically sustainable production but also to keep alive the values and the resources needed for this production system so that they can be taken up and used by the next.

C) FOOD SOVEREIGNTY ACTION AGENDA

WHAT WILL WE DO?

AT NYÉLÉNI 2007 we formulated the following joint strategies and action agenda to realize food sovereignty through actions to PROMOTE our agenda, to RESIST policies and practices that undermine it and to STRENGTHEN OUR MOVEMENT.

PROMOTE

We will PROMOTE strategies, policies and lifestyles that strengthen community control, ecological sustainability, local knowledge and autonomy, and traditional wisdoms to assert food sovereignty in all of its dimensions as well as our associated Rights. We will identify and strengthen existing autonomous practices that provide food sovereignty as well as push our governments to respect and protect our rights to food sovereignty.

LOCAL MARKETS

We will assert the right of food providers and consumers to have autonomous control over local markets as a crucial space for food sovereignty. We will strengthen local formal and informal markets and direct links between consumers and food providers by promoting community supported agriculture and fisheries that builds the necessary trust. We will promote food cooperatives, local processing, consumer forums and solidarity economies that favour local markets and fair prices for small scale producers. We will support fairness in trading and "fair trade" where it contributes to food sovereignty. We will create opportunities for an alternative market through initiatives such as community funds and product exchanges, such as bartering, seed fairs etc., which will reinforce links and solidarity among small scale food providers. We will propose to governments, policies that protect local production and markets.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

We will assert that local knowledge and cultural values are paths to realizing food sovereignty and will identify local, collective, and diverse experiences and practices, as examples, recognizing that they are ever changing and dynamic – not static – and gather strength through exchange and solidarity. We will respect, recognize and strengthen local wisdom through preserving seeds, local seed networks, natural and traditional farming and alternative markets. Most importantly, we will conserve local knowledge by encouraging its use and supporting peoples who keep this knowledge alive through daily life, particularly women and indigenous communities. We will fight against all forms of intellectual property over life and knowledge, including the privatization and patenting of traditional wisdoms associated with food production. We will encourage the teaching of local knowledge in schools. We will organize research activities in order to compile and develop alternative solutions to problems faced by the different communities in their territories, emphasizing and promoting traditional knowledge and wisdom. We will support research that is done by the people themselves and their local organizations, that strengthens food sovereignty and helps preserve productive land, water, seeds and livestock.

AGROECOLOGICAL PRODUCTION AND HARVESTING

We will promote socially and environmentally sensitive production systems that can be controlled by local food providers. These include: Agroecological production of food by peasant and family farmers; Pastoralism by traditional migratory and cross-border pastoralists that conserves grazing territories and utilizes them for meat, milk, other foods, as well as fibre, fuel and other goods; Artisanal fisheries by fisherfolk that limit catching of fish and other aquatic organisms in order to conserve fish populations, fishing grounds, coral reefs, mangrove swamps and other areas and fish habitats essential for the regeneration of fish populations; Production from forests by forest dwellers who recognize and live by the diversity of forest products.

USE OF INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND PROGRAMS

We will assert food sovereignty and associated rights by utilizing international legal instruments such as the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and protocols, decisions, guidelines and programs developed through, e.g., Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Convention on Biological Diversity and International Fund for Agricultural Development,

such as: the Voluntary Guidelines on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food; instruments that can limit imports of genetically modified organisms and granting of intellectual property rights on living organisms; and policies and programs that promote small scale production. We will pressure governments to implement international agreements that enforce policies in support of food sovereignty and, in the framework of these agreements, to enact legislation that eliminates policies and practices that undermine food sovereignty. Through these instruments and related international negotiating forums we will promote the rights of farmers, livestock keepers, nomads, pastoralists, artisanal fisherfolk, indigenous peoples and others.

AGRARIAN REFORM AND COMMUNITY CONTROL OF TERRITORIES

We will fight for a comprehensive genuine agrarian reform that upholds the rights of women, indigenous peoples, peasants, fisherfolk, workers, pastoralists, migrants and future generations and enables the coexistence of different communities in their territories. Customary rights to territory must be recognized but must be adapted if they discriminate against women or marginalized communities. Agrarian reform must ensure priority in the use of land, water, seeds and livestock breeds, etc. for food production and other local needs rather than production for export. We will promote community-based management of territories that recognizes the needs of diverse users and that protects territories from environmental threats, such as the destruction of mangroves and the fragility of coastal and marine ecosystems. We will protect our territories by promoting traditional low impact production mechanisms and fighting against industrial aquaculture and agribusiness. We will promote the just sharing and management of water territories by, among other strategies, presenting a united alternative to the 2009 Istanbul Summit on Water.

RESIST

We will RESIST the corporate-led global capitalist model and its institutions and policies that prevent communities from asserting and achieving food sovereignty. This includes challenging government policies that facilitate corporate control of our food production and distribution, as well as taking direct action against corporate practices.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

We will combine fights against trade liberalization with struggles to promote local production and markets and thus build food sovereignty. We will continue to target the World Trade Organization,

regional and bilateral trade agreements, dumping, the politicization and manipulation of food aid and win back the right of every country to protect its domestic production and markets. We will fight for alternative policies in large food and agro-exporting countries that include supply management and price supports to prevent dumping, including an alternative Farm Bill in the United States of America and an alternative Common Agricultural Policy in Europe that promote family farm agriculture rather than agribusiness. We will also take actions against the massive imports of "cheap" food, which threaten sustainable local production. We will fight against trade rules and international financial policies that undermine food sovereignty. We will continue to resist any bilateral and multilateral agreements that threaten the needs of local producers and consumers and threaten food sovereignty.

TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

We will fight against the corporate control of the food chain by reclaiming control over our territories, production, markets and the ways we use food. We will demand that our governments enact policies that eliminate corporate control and, instead, facilitate community control over food production and distribution. We will promote ecological production (agroecology, pastoralism, artisanal fisheries etc.) as a direct strategy against transnational corporations. We will join international boycotts and campaigns to dismantle the power of specific corporations in the food system. We will strengthen joint strategies by sharing information on the impact of these corporations on food sovereignty.

CONFLICTS AND OCCUPATION

We will join struggles against occupation and fight the walls and militarization of borders that splinter peoples and prevent their access to local food and productive territories, recognizing that conflicts and occupations present a serious threat to food sovereignty and that asserting food sovereignty is crucial for peoples and communities to survive and thrive under adverse conditions. This includes standing in solidarity with all peoples who live under occupation, whose territories are divided by walls and who suffer from conflicts and disasters. We will strengthen our struggles, resistances and responses to conflict, occupation and disasters through learning from the experiences and strategies of each others' communities and movements.

TOXIC TECHNOLOGY

We will continue to fight against genetically modified crops, animals, and trees; against industrial aquaculture; against cloned

livestock; and against the irradiation of food. We will fight against the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa and the introduction of genetically modified crops through food aid. We will organize national campaigns to prohibit Terminator and other technologies that lead to the sterilization of seeds and animals, in addition to supporting the international moratorium. We will work towards an immediate moratorium on new technologies such as nanotechnology, which has already been introduced into food and agriculture, and now presents new threats to health, the environment and peasant and fishing economies.

MONOCULTURES & AGROFUELS

We will mobilize and engage in international campaigns against the industrial production of agrofuels; these are often under the control of transnational corporations and have negative impacts on people and the environment. We will highlight the destructive impacts of the production model that pushes the conversion of productive land into monocultural production for agrofuels, paper pulp, genetically modified trees, and similar industrial crops (e.g. through the International Green Desert Campaign).

CLIMATE CHANGE

We will denounce industrial agriculture as a contributor to climate change and question the utility and effectiveness of carbon markets to reduce emissions and ensure climate justice. We will evaluate the impact at local and regional levels of climate change on food sovereignty, particularly how climate change affects our seeds, animals, fish etc, and the resilience of diversity to the effects and impacts of climate change. We will also look at climate change as a creator of natural disasters and support communities affected by climate change in developing mechanisms for adaptation and survival. We will develop strategies based on solidarity and exchanges between regions, but always ensuring local control. Finally, we will promote food sovereignty as an effective response to the impact of climate change.

STRENGTHEN THE MOVEMENT

We will STRENGTHEN THE MOVEMENTS for food sovereignty through mobilization, alliance building, education, communication and joint action among movements throughout the world; and we will win.

MOBILIZATION

We will mobilize across sectors in our joint struggles against those governmental policies, corporations and institutions that prevent the realization of food sovereignty. Importantly, we

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will come together as pastoralists, fisherfolk, peasant farmers, women, indigenous peoples, and other communities from all regions of the world to practice and expand food sovereignty. By forging a common agenda and developing joint policy proposals we will be able to build a united movement that is strong enough to win the struggle for food sovereignty.

ALLIANCE BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING OUR OWN MOVEMENTS

We will build the movement for food sovereignty by strengthening organizations, cooperatives, associations and networks, and building strategic alliances among diverse constituencies such as consumers, students, academics, health practitioners, religious communities, the environmental justice movement, water justice movements and people affected by large dams, extractive industry, wars, occupation and disasters. We will encourage constructive relationships between urban and rural communities, between producers and consumers and between peasants/farmers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, and indigenous peoples. We will work with migrants' organizations to build solidarity with them and increase our understanding of their priorities. We will strengthen networks and alliances between social movements and migrants' organizations, in both their countries of origin and the places where they live and work, and promote a code of rights from their point of view. We will support women's organizations engaged in food sovereignty and the defense of local seeds and culture. We will reach out to peoples and communities that are not present at this forum and yet are essential in our collective struggle for food sovereignty.

EDUCATION

We will promote political education in order to assert food sovereignty. We will increase awareness within our organizations and movements, by learning from each other, and will also raise awareness in other constituencies that include urban consumers and environmentalists in both North and South. Some education tools include: awareness raising days; workshops based on local wisdom; popular and political education and outreach in school systems. We will rely on our own wisdoms and hands-on education experiences that bring food sovereignty to life. We will implement education strategies on, for example: migration, the conditions of migrants and the links to our food; how our customary rights and land ownership laws affect our food sovereignty; the importance of consuming healthy local foods; and the effects of using genetically modified organisms and pesticides.

COMMUNICATION

We will strengthen our own means of communication based on our cultures and local conditions, in order to counter corporate propaganda, challenge the globalized industrial food system and highlight good local experiences and knowledge. We will use diverse media, such as Radio Mundo Real, websites and community radio, working to bridge the digital divide. We will maintain the Nyeleni2007 website.

DAYS OF ACTION

We will coordinate and participate in days of action that are organized and promoted by allied organizations, bringing a focus on food sovereignty and encouraging the participation of all constituencies, especially women.

For example:

8 March: International Women's day
14 March: International day against large dams
17 April: International Day of Peasants' Struggle
12 October: Day of Indigenous Resistance
16 October: World Food Sovereignty Day
21 November: Small scale Fisherfolk Day
10 December: Human Rights day
18 December: International Migrants' Day

The joint strategies and action agenda described above are summarized from the reports of the Thematic Working Groups and Sectoral and Regional discussions. They are a synthesis of all the proposals made.

The following pages provide examples of some of the specific actions proposed by Regions and Sectors.

Examples of Specific Actions proposed by Regions

Africa

- Calls for agriculture to be removed from the
- World Trade Organization; and rejects Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) that are currently being foisted on our people and calls for a moratorium on this process.
- Rejects all moves by Transnational
- Corporations and their international support institutions to control our seed and demands a moratorium on the introduction of genetically modified organisms and particularly Terminator seeds into our continent.
- Africa can definitely feed itself but three
- successive globalizations have obstructed us; our farmers – and especially women who

today do most of the work in food production and whose rights must be fully recognized, supported and realized - are the quintessential practitioners of agroecological farming practices.

West and Central Asia

- Initiate solidarity campaigns with farmers affected by occupation and wars, especially those denied access to their lands due to confiscation, unexploited ordinances/cluster bombs and apartheid walls; including media actions, boycott products of occupants and strengthening market opportunities of affected farmers.
- Run eco-friendly local markets and fight against Government policies that stop subsidies being applied to small scale production but which are in favour of large scale production.
- Plan joint regional actions and campaigns to reclaim and protect agricultural biodiversity in the region, starting with wheat.

South Asia

- Campaign as a region against eviction of farmers from the land, fisher people from the sea; and mobilize landless people to acquire land.
- Organize a regional campaign against privatization of water, land and seeds; take direct action against genetically modified organisms and Bt Cotton; declare GM-free villages.
- Organize a forum similar to Nyéléni 2007 in South Asia to develop a regional level platform and train a wide group of people from different sectors in food sovereignty issues.

South East and East Asia

- Campaign against Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), the international fish trade and against transnational corporations (TNCs).
- Support the struggles of peasants, fisherfolk and indigenous peoples for a comprehensive and genuine agrarian reform in the region.
- Further substantiate the Food Sovereignty framework and strengthen alliance building and communication among and between sectors and countries in the region through people-to-people exchanges

Latin America and Caribbean

- Campaigns against mono-cropping, green deserts, genetically modified organisms and agrofuels (not biofuels).
- Campaigns against the Free Trade Area of the

Americas (FTAA), Free Trade Agreements, World Trade Organization and Plan Colombo.

- Campaign to defend and restore marine and coastal resources, defend access to water and against its privatization and against large dams.

North America and Mexico

- Carry out massive education campaigns on food sovereignty and campaign, with international support, to change the US farm Bill.
- Demand that Free Trade Agreements be renegotiated and agriculture taken out; demonstrations with Canadians on US border, US in Washington, Mexicans on US border. Fisherfolk joining our struggle; Indigenous Peoples embraced and supported; women, youth, workers included.
- Continue anti-GMO and Ban Terminator campaigns, working for national bans around the world, and targeting specific Transnational Corporations.

Europe

- Campaign against Free Trade Agreements / Economic Partnership Agreements with regional trade blocks and link with activists from the respective regions; join Global Week of Action against Economic Partnership Agreements; change the Common Agricultural Policy with one based on Food Sovereignty.
- Build on existing campaigns - such as those against genetically modified organisms, Terminator technology (especially at the Convention on Biological Diversity/9th Conference of the Parties CBD/COP9 in Bonn, Germany), agrofuels and Transnational Corporation control - identifying and promoting food sovereignty elements in these campaigns and incorporating new actors who support the Declaration of Nyéléni.
- Promote Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) systems including in countries where they are not yet present; strengthen local markets; campaign to break the armlock of supermarkets

Examples of Specific Actions proposed by Sectors

Peasants / Farmers

- Undertake a massive global awareness campaign on food sovereignty.
- Fight against Transnational Corporations and the corporate control of the food chain – from

seeds to supermarkets.

- Fight against transgenic industrial monocultures which are destroying biodiversity and promote agroecological agriculture as our option and a weapon against Transnational Corporations.

Fisherfolk

- Step up our fight for the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems, such as mangroves, through community based management of these ecosystems and with a central role for women.
- Continue to struggle against industrial aquaculture and destructive fishing and for the rights of subsistence and artisanal fisheries.
- Unite with others against the privatization and liberalization of coastal areas and the open seas and for the access to and control over these areas by traditional fisheries and artisanal aquaculturalists.

Pastoralists

- Increase recognition that pastoralism is essential for food sovereignty and that pastoralists need to be mobile in order to survive. Build alliances with other sectors in support of pastoralism. We will organize an international day of support for pastoralism. Work with other sectors to ensure Human Rights and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Strengthen the pastoral movement at all levels and base our movement on traditional social organizations and tribal structures and find ways of sharing territories with other communities. Improve communication within our communities and learn more about our rights.
- With the support of the food sovereignty movement, pastoralists will pressure local governments and states to set laws to allow migration and Trans-boundary migration

Indigenous Peoples

- Protect territory of indigenous peoples. Continue producing our food in a traditional way, as we have done. Publicize, through alternative media, the struggles of indigenous peoples to gain food sovereignty.
- Strengthen local and national networks of indigenous peoples as well as national and international coordination spaces and seek international support for national and local mobilizations: for example on April 17 throughout the world to join the campesino movement against Transnational Corporations, asking the campesino

movement to join indigenous peoples on October 12 (Day of Indigenous Resistance).

- Adopt the Atitlan (Guatemala) Indigenous Peoples declaration on food sovereignty and other similar international declarations.

Migrants

- Participate in and, in solidarity, support the fights against the walls in e.g. Palestine, Ceuta-Melilla, and on the Mexican-US border; militarization of borders; detention centers; criminalization of migrants and their families; deportation.
- Work for the legalization of migrants and their families to enjoy the rights that others have; promote a legal rights framework for Migrants.
- Oppose policies and models of Transnational Corporations and the states that serve them. Oppose agreements, wars and violence that cause displacement and make the situation worse for migrants.

Consumers

- Promote local markets as well as public procurement for schools, hospitals, government offices and get a fair price for producers.
- Diffuse information and share experiences about Community Supported Agriculture movements and local food systems, from countries where these systems already work, to countries that do not have these: link local initiatives into a global movement.
- Raise awareness of urban consumers through farmers as educators not exhibits for tourists, bearing in mind that consumer attitudes are mainly formed by elites and the media; in this context, hands-on education has a vital role, from city farms to edible school gardens.

For more information about Nyeleni 2007:
www.nyeleni2007.org

Organizers:

Climate Network Africa, International Alliance Against Hunger, More and Better, União Nacional de Camponeses Mozambique, Coordination Nationale des Organisations Paysannes (CNOP - Mali), IRPAD-Mali (Institut de recherche et de promotion des alternatives en développement), African Centre for Biosafety, FoodFirst, Terra Nuova (Italy), Development Fund (Norway)

More than 150 participants from 25 African countries and 10 countries from other continent representing farmers', pastoralists, environmental, women, youth and development organizations, gathered at the Nyéléni center in Selengue, Mali from November 26th to December 2nd. Different networks and organizations joined hands to cooperate and organize field trips to visit farmers and to discuss issues of crucial importance for the majority of people in Africa and the environment;

- Climate change and agriculture, fisheries and pastoralism in Africa
- The fight against hunger
- Development aid for agriculture and rural development in Africa
- African Agroecological Alternatives to the Green Revolution

We, the participants, shared information and viewpoints, and discussed our responses to the challenges. We have undertaken to take back these discussions and information which we found to have been inspiring and useful to our organizations and networks. We agreed that the real test of the significance of our week at the Nyéléni centre will be what we are doing in practice in the next weeks, months and years.

There was a rich diversity of experiences and viewpoints, but there was also a broad consensus on key issues. We have, however, decided not to make declarations from the conferences because we did not have any mandate to sign on to declarations which it had not been possible to discuss in the organizations. In this document we therefore outline some of the main common viewpoints, some information and proposals for further work. Presentations and notes from the group discussions will also be available on the websites of the organizers.

New policies and practices are needed

The situation with tremendous poverty and hunger in Africa is totally unacceptable. Women are especially effected and carry the heaviest burdens. Climate change, mainly caused by the unsustainable way of production, transport and life style in industrialized countries, is killing people and destroying livelihoods

today, and will create even worse problems in the future. Africa's situation is closely linked to the colonial oppression and continuous oppression by rich countries. But the political leaders in Africa have also failed its people. There is an urgent need for new policies and practices.

Multinational companies, some international institutions and Foundations, and some political leaders and scientists are now pushing very hard for a "New Green Revolution in Africa". They say that such a "green revolution" will eradicate hunger and poverty in Africa, and make it possible for peasants to overcome the problems caused by climate change. The experiences from the first "green revolution" show that it did not eradicate hunger and poverty (India has still more than 200 million hungry people), and it has had very negative impact on the environment, for instance loss of biodiversity and soil fertility. We will strongly oppose and fight against such policies and practices promoted as "a new green revolution for Africa".. Instead of solving the main problems for Africa, the Green Revolution will exacerbate current problems and create new problems in the long run. Their policy is environmental unsustainable, and will create more hunger and poverty.

Our overall alternative is food sovereignty, agroecology and other sustainable forms of sustainable food production, and strengthening of the social movements, especially the farmers' and pastoralists' organizations.

Food sovereignty is increasingly getting more support as the alternative political model for food, agriculture, fisheries and pastoralism. We encourage organizations and individuals to study the documents from Nyéléni 2007 – World Forum for Food Sovereignty that took place here at the Nyéléni centre in February this year (www.nyeleni2007.org)

Agroecology and other sustainable food production systems are preserving the biodiversity and increasing food productivity. These systems have in practice shown alternatives to the high tech, expensive and unsustainable model of the "green revolution". We will share experiences of and knowledge about agroecology and other methods for sustainable food production, and we encourage everybody to study and use such production methods.

Strengthening of the social movements, especially the farmers', pastoralists', rural women's and youth organizations is needed to mobilize the majority of

people, to put pressure on the political leaders to change policies, to stop the attempts from multinational companies to take over and industrialize agriculture, and to put into practice sustainable production methods. The eradication of hunger and poverty, stopping the climate change, preserving the natural resources and create sustainable development will not be possible without strong and democratic social movements.

Climate change and agriculture, fisheries and pastoralism in Africa

Climate change has for a number of years had serious and damaging impact on farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolk. Women are especially hard hit. People have been pushed into poverty, millions have died and many more have been forced to migrate. The large scale use of fossil fuels since the industrial revolution, mainly in the rich countries, is the main cause for climate change. The production, transport systems, and energy production based on fossil fuels are not sustainable. However, industrialized agriculture, accounting for almost 20% of green houses emissions in rich countries, has also contributed to climate change. Several developing countries are now also following the same unsustainable model of development.

The political leaders, big business and other elites in rich countries have for many decades, at least the last 20 years, known that they are responsible for the killing of people and destroying livelihoods in the developing world, as well as for the destruction of biodiversity and natural resources, caused by the climate change. Despite of this, they have continued their destructive policies and practices. It is time for them to pay for their destruction, and it's time to pressure them to change policies.

Peoples' lives, livelihood and the destruction of nature cannot be measured in money. Nevertheless, it is time for the rich countries and big companies to pay compensation to the developing countries. The total development aid from the rich countries is just a very small portion of what they should pay.

The concerns for the consequences of climate change are now being used as a cover for promoting the interests of the multinational companies and the rich. The big scale production of agrofuels is one example. It is not possible to replace most of the fossil fuels with agrofuel because of the enormous quantities needed. Most of the production of agrofuel is very harmful for the environment, especially biodiversity, people's livelihoods and food production, and does not reduce but will increase greenhouse gas emission in the long run. With agrofuels, multinational companies will be able to earn huge profits and provide rich countries an opportunity to reduce their dependence on oil imports.

Some initiatives which pretend to combat climate change are also being used to promote the "new green revolution in Africa" and GMO's. We will strongly oppose and protest against such misuse of this serious threat for people and nature to promote the interest of the biotech, fertilizer and chemical companies.

No technical fix can stop the climate change or solve the problems caused by climate change. Substantial changes in industrial production, transport systems, energy production and life styles, especially in the rich countries, are urgently needed. New policies for production, transport and consumption of food is also necessary. Our alternatives are respect for and implementation of food sovereignty and the promotion and use of agroecological and other sustainable farming methods.

People, especially peasants, pastoralists, herders, gatherers and fisherfolks, need to find ways to overcome the effects of climate change.

Strong social movements with alternative policies and practices for sustainable development are needed to pressure decision makers to follow policies and take actions which can stop the climate change and support people to overcome the consequences of climate change.

We commit ourselves to

- document the serious impact of climate change for agriculture, pastoralism and fisheries in Africa,
- share experiences on how peasants, pastoralists and fisherfolks overcome the consequences of climate change, and increase our own scientific and practical work in this area,
- strengthen the social movements, especially the organizations of peasants, pastoralists, fisherfolks and women and their pressure on people in power to change the unsustainable policies and practices causing climate change,
- co-operate with social movements and NGOs in the North to increase the pressure on the rich countries and multinational companies to pay down on their enormous debt to peoples and counties in the South because of their exploitation and oppression of the South, destruction of nature and causing climate change,
- co-operate with other organizations and networks in our countries, regions and the whole Africa as well as on other continents to strengthen our common struggle for sustainable development,

- develop and promote sustainable alternative policies and practices, and especially to implement and promote food sovereignty, agroecology and other sustainable food producing systems,
- support and co-operate with scientists and organizations which defend African biodiversity and culture.

The fight against hunger

The right to food is a human right. It is totally unacceptable that 200 million people in Africa are permanently undernourished. The political leaders in the world, including the elites and people in power in Africa, are responsible for the continuation of hunger in Africa. While they have been talking and setting new targets for the fight against hunger, for instance, at the World Food Summits and the Millennium Development Goals, the number of hungry people in Africa and the world has increased.

The causes of hunger are many and diverse, but some of the main causes of hunger in Africa include:

- For a very long time, African systems and practices have been ignored and destroyed, since the colonial period. This has been a contributing factor to the current crisis in Africa.
 - The neo-liberal policies and practices of the international institutions like the World Bank, IMF and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have forced Africa to privatize, deregulate, cut down government services, open up their markets to cheap imports, and export orientate their agricultural production systems
 - Wars and conflict, many of them rooted in conflicts created by the colonial powers and the conditions of colonialism
 - Africa's priority issues are not addressed in terms of actions and resources. Low priority is given to the needs of farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolks by African leaders and governments and by the international donor community
 - Climate change which has lead to unpredictable weather, stronger and more frequent natural disasters like droughts, erratic rain and floods.
 - Promotion of hybrid seeds and chemical fertilizer by multinational companies, international institutions and foundations, people in power and some scientists.
 - Food aid and dumping of food from rich countries in developing countries which destroy local markets, livelihoods, cultural foods and local production systems
- Lack of knowledge in sustainable farming techniques for the majority of poor peasants.
 - HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases are also very important causes of hunger in many areas and countries.

What is needed to eradicate hunger in Africa?

There is no doubt that Africa can feed itself. Africa is a rich continent with huge resources for food production, rich biological and cultural diversity, good and sustainable traditions and practices for food production. There are strong needs for fundamental changes in many polices and practices. Here we just point out a few:

- The neoliberal policies much be replaced by policies based on the needs of peoples, societies and the environment.
- Countries must have the right to protect and support food production for domestic consumption, and to regulate import.
- Food sovereignty has to be respected and implemented.
- Agroecology and other sustainable methods for food production have to be promoted and used instead of high-tech, quick fix agricultural solutions imported and imposed from outside of Africa.
- The power of the multinational companies in food, agriculture and fisheries has to be reduced.
- The push for a "new green revolution in Africa", GMOs and other initiatives of the biotech, chemical fertilizer and seed companies have to be stopped.
- Get governments and donor agencies to give more and better support to agriculture and other food production, based on the demands from the food producers and local communities.
- Support of women must be increased substantially,
- Strengthening of the social movements, especially the organizations of farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolks, and alliances with other social movements to push for new and sustainable policies and practices.

We commit ourselves to

- increase our efforts and cooperation to fight hunger and poverty,

help to strengthen the social movements, especially the organizations of farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolks and women,

- fight against policies and practices which leads to or preserve hunger and malnutrition, and to fight for sustainable alternative policies and practices,
- promote food sovereignty, biodiversity, GM-free zones, agroecology and other sustainable food production,
- put pressure on governments and donor agencies to give higher priority to agriculture and to increase the quality of the support, based on the needs and demands of the food producers and local communities,
- cooperate with social movements and other organizations in the North to strengthen the support from the North in the fight against hunger.

Development aid for agriculture and rural development in Africa

More and better support for sustainable agriculture, pastoralism and fisheries is needed to eradicate hunger and poverty. The support for agriculture and rural development in Africa has drastically been reduced especially in the last two decades. Governments in Africa and donor countries and agencies have given very low priority to agriculture and rural development. This might change now. The governments in Africa have committed themselves to increase the share of their national budgets for agriculture to 10% by 2010, many donor countries and agencies have said they will prioritize agriculture. The World Bank Development Report 2008, Agriculture for Development, is arguing that more support for agriculture is needed to fight poverty and hunger. The big question is if this will promote sustainable food production and the livelihoods of the small scale farmers, or support the industrialization of agriculture and the interests of big farmers, multinational companies and agribusiness. We fear it will be the latter.

Social movement and non governmental organizations (NGO's) working on development issues are concerned about the quality of aid and aid effectiveness. The support must be based on policies and programs developed by the food producers, their communities and organizations, and support ecological, social and economical sustainable development. The support must strengthen diversity and especially support women.

Initiatives like the "Aid effectiveness" by the OECD countries and the "Rural Donor Platform" by the European Union are totally top-down. The food,

producers, their organizations and local communities have not been involved until recently, and in a very small scale. The same applies to governments in developing countries.

We commit ourselves to

- share information and viewpoints about development aid for food, agriculture and rural development,
- monitor the support for food, agriculture
pastoralism and fisheries,
- discuss and promote principles and practices for good support for food, agriculture, pastoralism and fisheries to eradicate hunger and poverty. The principles developed by the More and Better campaign is a good starting point.

African Agroecological Alternatives to the Green Revolution

There are many initiatives from multinational companies, foundations and politicians to push a "new green revolution" in Africa. One of them is Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). In 2006, The Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced a joint \$150 million Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) to save Africa from hunger. AGRA is actually the philanthropic flagship of a large network of chemical-seed, fertilizer companies and Green Revolution institutions seeking to industrialize African agriculture. AGRA's high-profile campaign for a new Green Revolution is designed to attract private investment, enroll African governments, and convince African farmers to buy new seeds and fertilizers. AGRA is preparing researchers, institutions, and African farmers for the introduction of GMO crops—not only for rice, wheat and maize, but also for cassava, plantain and other African food crops.

The first Green Revolution, introduced by Ford and Rockefeller Foundations in 1960-90 deepened the divide between rich and poor farmers and degraded tropical agro-ecosystems, exposing already vulnerable farmers to increased environmental risk. It led to loss of farmer varieties and agro-biodiversity, the basis for smallholder livelihood security and regional environmental sustainability. While production per capita increased in Asia and Latin America, the percentage of hungry people increased even more. Because it responds to corporate interests rather than the needs of African farmers, the new green revolution, based on an industrial model, is likely to worsen—not improve—the condition of Africa's small farmers.

The AGRA-led Green revolution not only threatens the richness of African traditional agriculture, it ignores (and is attempting to co-opt) the many successful African alternatives in organic agriculture, sustainable agriculture, agro-forestry, pastoralism, integrated pest management, farmer-led plant breeding sustainable watershed management and many other agroecological approaches. Because AGRA is but one—highly visible component of a wide industrial push, we need to decide where to put our energies, and be prepared for the divisive nature of involvement with AGRA.

At its core, the Green Revolution undermines Africa's food systems and food sovereignty: People's right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.

There is an urgent need for information and public debate at local and national levels about the push for a "new green revolution". We also have the right to transparency and accountability from AGRA and all Green Revolution institutions, including our own government and Green Revolution researchers. We need to work at the national level to mobilise, building on existing struggles against GMOs,

agrofuels, and for food sovereignty. Sustainable agriculture alternatives are linked to socio-economic and political reforms.

We seek to advance a campaign for African alternatives to AGRA's campaign for a new Green

Revolution. These alternatives are locally rooted in local agroecosystems and struggles for food sovereignty. Farmer to farmer learning and research, grassroots information campaigns, and policies that support our agro-biodiversity and the rights of pastoralists, women farmers, and all small farmers are important pillars of this campaign.

We commit ourselves to:

- advancing a campaign for African traditional, sustainable and agroecological alternatives to the Green Revolution
- providing information and promoting public debate at local and national levels about the push for a "new green revolution"
- demanding transparency, and accountability from all Green Revolution institutions and seed, chemical and fertilizer companies

Sélingué, Mali, December 2007





La Vía Campesina : The International Peasant's Voice

Who is La Vía Campesina?

We are the international movement of peasants, small- and medium-sized producers, landless, rural women, indigenous people, rural youth and agricultural workers. We defend the values and the basic interests of our members. We are an autonomous, pluralist and multicultural movement, independent of any political, economic, or other type of affiliation. Our members are from 56 countries from Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas.

How was La Vía Campesina created?

In May of 1993, the First Conference of La Vía Campesina was held in Mons, Belgium, where it was constituted as a world organization, and its first strategic guidelines and structure were defined. The Second International Conference was held in 1996 in Tlaxcala, Mexico; the third in 2000 in Bangalore, India; and the fourth in 2004 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

What is our main objective?

The principal objective of La Vía Campesina is to develop solidarity and unity among small farmer organizations in order to promote gender parity and social justice in fair economic relations; the preservation of land, water, seeds and other natural resources; food sovereignty; sustainable agricultural production based on small and medium-sized producers.

Events

To globalize the struggle against injustice and neo-liberalism worldwide, La Vía Campesina has two important dates:

17th of April: The international peasant struggle day

People all around the world will commemorate the killing of 19 peasants struggling for land reform in Eldorado dos Carajas (Brazil) on April 17, 1996.

10th of September: The international struggle day against WTO.

On that date in 2003, Mr. Lee Kyun Hae, a Korean peasant, stabbed himself to death during a massive protest against the WTO in Cancun, Mexico. He was holding a banner saying "WTO kills farmers".

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GLOBALIZE STRUGGLE! GLOBALIZE HOPE!

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