

## NEXT PUBLICATIONS TO ORDER NOW !

« *Nous peuples des Nations Unies...* »

### Sortir le Droit international du placard

By Monique and Roland Weyl

The Charter, which underpins the United Nations Organization, is an eminently innovative text, as well as being the foundation of contemporary international law. Yet practically no week goes by without the media calling into question the principles solemnly and very wisely incorporated into it. Most often, this is done by omission or by ignorance and underestimation of the qualitative jump that the adoption of the Charter represented in the history of international relations and of the vast experience condensed into its words; probably, sometimes surreptitiously, this come about by playing on emotion and by a biased presentation of events, imprudently removed from their context.

Unknown, often travestied and cavalierly dismissed, these principles are all the same vital for the preservation of peace and an indispensable condition for the advancement of democracy in all societies and in international relations.

Militants and vastly experienced lawyers, lawyers and long standing militants, Monique and Roland Weyl are concerned. It is high time, it is urgent to "get international law out of the closet", they claim. In their view, the U.N. is par excellence an instrument of the peoples of the world. But these peoples must fight to take it back. Law is not exclusively a matter for lawyers, nor are international relations exclusively a matter for governments.

The authors call upon citizens to make their own the commitments proclaimed in the preamble of the Charter: "We, the peoples of the United Nations..." Their work, which is intended to teach and is addressed to all, is solidly argued. It allies enthusiasm for the momentum given to the emancipation of the peoples of the world by the adopting of the Charter and the creation of the United Nations with the wisdom of a view of history in the long term.

*Publication in French only*  
Price: CHF 10.- / 6 €, 144 pages, october 2008.  
PubliCetim N°32, ISBN: 978-2-88053-070-9.

## Produire de la richesse autrement

*Usines récupérées, coopératives, micro-finance, ... les révolutions silencieuses*

Joint publication

What do militants from the Circle of self-promotion for sustainable development in Benin have in common with *piqueteros* organizing roadblocks in Argentina, or with micro-finance activists from the social movements of *Nigera Kori* in Bangladesh or *Assefa* in India, or with the *socios* of MCC Mondragón in Basque Country in Spain, or factory workers from the matrixing factory *Mol Matric* in Catalunya, or *Longos* from the *Longo Maï* cooperatives...? They are all deeply involved in experiments in the solidarity-based economy, and as such have become genuine laboratories for social alternatives. Thousands of these exist. Often brought to life through the sheer necessity to survive, they exist and produce differently without necessarily having waited for a favorable political situation. They rarely appear in the front page of the media although they put forward positive and even subversive elements, that contribute to the construction of a just and mutually supportive world. This book tells the story of some of these experiences.

But also, beyond these presentations, what are the interactions of these experiments with passing time, globalization, the State and power in general? Are they capable of generating endogenous growth, and if so, how? What general teachings can they bring us? In what ways could state policies encourage the development of a solidarity-based economy?

This book outlines some answers that will no doubt interest people seeking alternatives and other means of production and consumption.

*Publication in French only*  
Price: CHF 10.- / 6 €, 176 pages, october 2008.  
PubliCetim N°31, ISBN: 978-2-88053-069-3.

## WHO ARE WE?

Through its publications and its work with the UN, the CETIM denounces the maldevelopment in general, ecological as much as economic and social, and promotes an exchange of critical views from both Southern and Northern societies. The CETIM is focuses in particular on respect for, implementation and promotion of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as issues related to the right to development.

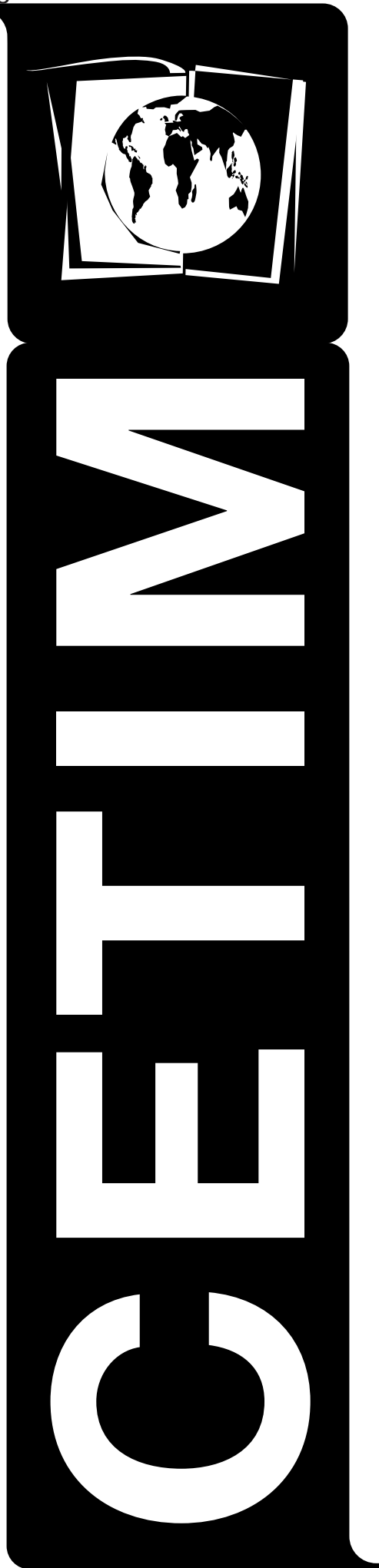
August 2008

Bulletin  
32

www.cetim.ch  
cetim@bluewin.ch  
CCP: 12-19850-1  
CCP: (Euro) 91-13687-6,  
PofichBe, Postfinance, Berne

6, rue Amat,  
1202 Geneva/Switzerland  
Tél.: +41(0)22 731 59 63  
Fax: +41(0)22 731 91 52

Europe - Third World Centre  
Centre Europe - Tiers Monde  
Centro Europa - Tercer Mundo



## EDITORIAL

Energy crisis, environmental crisis, food crisis, financial crisis, etc. The list is long. These crises have one thing in common, they are, directly or indirectly, the fruits of the hegemonic neoliberal development model.

With regard to the food crisis dealt with in this bulletin, numerous explanations were brought to bear. What is certain is that this crisis is neither a production crisis, as the offer for food actually exists though at an unaffordable price for hundreds of millions of people, nor strictly speaking an economic crisis due to environmental factors or the energy crisis, even though both may have had an impact on its gravity.

Its causes are firstly economic and social. The CETIM, along with others, has denounced them time and time again: intensive productions and monocultures, concentration of fertile lands in the hands of a minority (latifundia, food-processing business), imposition to South countries of agricultural policies solely aimed at sustaining foreign demand and reduction of customs barriers, giving up of food sovereignty, financial speculations on food products, diversion of food-producing cultures for the manufacture of agrofuels...

There is an urgent need to question the policies of international financial and trade institutions and, in particular, of the G8. The interests of agribusiness transnational corporations and of large exporting countries should no longer prevail over people's food needs. The failure of the latest Doha round of negotiations gives us a break and the opportunity to rethink our relationship to food, to recognize the essential role of family farming in feeding the world and to actually make happen the right to food and to food sovereignty.

On May 22 this year an special session of the Human Rights Council was held on the incidence of the food crisis on the right to food. This bulletin presents extracts of declarations made by the CETIM at that occasion and proposes guidelines for future thinking.

You will also find on page 5 and following the "Appeal for alternative international cooperation" co-written by the CETIM and different organizations following our symposium last December as well as the minutes of our conference at the United Nations on Afghanistan and the impact of depleted uranium on health.

## Food crisis or crisis in today's system of production and consumption?

CETIM has struggled for many years for recognition by states of the right to food and its corollary, food sovereignty, as priorities. Many of our publications deal with issues related to food, small farmers, access to land and food sovereignty.

Recognized in many international, regional and national legal instruments such as the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), this human right applies to each individual and should be protected by states in the same way as other rights.

Nevertheless, according to FAO, 852 million people are seriously and permanently under-nourished in the world (of which 815 million in developing countries). Of these, 50% are small farmers, 20% rural, landless people, 10% are pastoral nomads or small scale fishermen and 10% are urban poor.

The "food riots" which exploded at the beginning of the year in more than 40 countries including Egypt, Morocco, Indonesia, Haiti (where there were 5 deaths and the president resigned), Nigeria, Cameroon and Burkina Faso, denouncing the steep increases in the price of basic food stuffs, especially for citizens who have seen their purchasing power decline by half, are only the tip of the iceberg. According to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a UN Agency, for each 1% increase in the price of basic foodstuffs, 16 million more people are plunged into food insecurity. Bearing in mind that the increase in the price of wheat in one year, was more than 130%, more than 80% for rice, more than 87% for soya and more than 35% for maize, we get some idea of the dimensions of the catastrophe which is playing out before our eyes.

But this is not a crisis for everyone. The profits of the eight largest agrofood multinationals have skyrocketed. Cargill, the world leader in seed trade, saw its profits increase by 86% in the first three months of the year. Bunge, another food multinational, saw its profits increase by 67% in 2007<sup>1</sup>... There are many other examples.

It is in this context, that on the initiative of Cuba (in the name of the non-aligned movement), and supported by 40 States, a Special Session of the Human Rights Council was held in Geneva on 22 May 2008 on the implications of the food crisis for the Right to Food. CETIM co-presented four declarations which examined the conditions leading to the current situation and proposed themes for reflection and future solutions.

If traditional, family farmers are to be protected and their right to good guaranteed, agriculture must be removed from international trade agreements. States (in cooperation with peasants' representatives) must be able to decide freely on the kind of agricultural production they want in order to feed their populations. This is the full meaning and strength of the concept of food sovereignty.

We present below some extracts from these declarations.

<sup>1</sup> See the GRAIN report, "Making a killing from Hunger", April 2008.



"I am hungry" "I can no longer buy anything" "So just sell!"  
Copyright Chappatte in [www.globecartoon.com](http://www.globecartoon.com)

### To promote and strengthen the agricultural local and national economies: only effective way to fight against prices escalation of agricultural products and their shortage

"The current crisis of agricultural raw materials severely affects the poorest peoples of our planet. [...] This crisis has not one single cause. This current food crisis is the result of many years of deregulation of agricultural markets, the privatization of state regulatory bodies and the dumping of agricultural products on the markets (particularly markets of developing countries). The commercial development of agrofuels does not help in this case. This production has got a heavy pressure on arable land and aquifer reserves. On top of this in many southern countries hundreds of thousands of hectares are converted from agricultural uses in an uncontrolled way for so-called economic development zones, urbanization and infrastructure. The ongoing land grabbing by Transnational Companies (TNCs) and other speculators will expel millions more peasants who will end up in the mega cities where they will be added to the ranks of the hungry and poor in the slums. Besides this, we may expect especially in Africa and South Asia more severe droughts and floods caused by global climate change. These are severe threats for the rural as well as for the urban areas.



## CETIM CONFERENCE "HUMANITARIAN TRAGEDY IN AFGHANISTAN »

In collaboration with the International Educational Development and the Association of Humanitarian Lawyers and on the newspaper *Current Concerns'* initiative, the CETIM organized a conference entitled: "The Humanitarian Tragedy in Afghanistan. Human Rights violations and Health Effects", which took place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June on the occasion of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council.

The speakers on the panel were the Afghan political scientist and Middle East expert, Professor Mohamed Daud Miraki, the pulmonologist and specialist for internal medicine, Dr Daniel Güntert from Switzerland and the Professor at the Geneva School of Diplomacy Dr Alfred de Zayas. The summary presented below is excerpt from an article published in *Current Concerns*, n°6 (2008).

### Seven years of war

Daud Miraki informed about the present shocking situation in Afghanistan. Miraki, who had just returned from a visit to Afghanistan, drew a disillusioning picture: After seven years of war, the country is in a desolate condition. Despite all assertions by the military exponents, no successful reconstruction work has been done.

The Karzai government that Miraki described as a puppet regime dancing to America's whistle is not rooted in the population and the majority disdain this government. Its influence does not reach beyond the borders of Kabul and it is oriented towards the US and their allies; its influence is waning, however.

### Horrifying pictures

Professor Miraki also mentioned another severe problem, i.e. the contamination of the environment by the use of new and unknown weapons, especially depleted uranium (DU) bombs. Due to constant bombing, whole areas have become uninhabitable, as happened in Iraq. People in these areas are suffering from terrible diseases, especially from cancer and genetic deformations. The incidence of cancer deaths and malformations in newborns has risen dramatically. Miraki documented his statements with numerous pictures and statistics.

In the second speech, the pulmonologist Dr Daniel Güntert described the effects of uranium weapons on the human organism. He pointed out how radioactive nano-particles, resulting from the use of depleted uranium (DU) weapons, are incorporated in the body and destroy cellular structures there with devastating effects on the human organism.

### Medical datas regarding contamination

The effect on human health depends on the dosage, the frequency and the duration of DU exposition. A high dosage contributes to an acute deficiency of the human airways and to death within a few days. Lower dosages cause unspecific symptoms (fatigue, loss of hair, diarrhoea, etc.), a deficiency of the immune system, different inflammatory responses (kidney failure, chronic respiratory infections), chromosomal damage (leads to malformations in newborns) and different forms of cancer (lung cancer, liver cancer, skin cancer, leukaemia, lymphoma etc.).

### Increasing cancer rates

Various epidemiological studies on Uranium miners and workers in the nuclear industry have been performed. These studies have shown an excess relative risk of lung cancer and lung fibrosis associated with the exposure to uranium. An increase in different types of cancers (lymphopoeitic, brain, kidney, etc.) among uranium process workers could be observed. Investigations from Lauren Moret of Gulf War veterans, who were exposed to DU, showed that they suffered from brain tumours and different brain malfunctions. The assessment of the carcinogenic risk from DU is complicated by the dual toxicity of uranium, radiological as well as chemical. DU has been shown to induce transformation of different human cells to a carcinogenic phenotype and chromosomal aberrations or genetic damage in blood samples among Gulf War veterans.

### A war leading to a genocide

The last lecture was held by Prof. Alfred de Zayas. He focused on the international law aspects of the Afghanistan tragedy. He called to mind that the UN had been created in order to establish and maintain peace, not to wage war.

The function of the Security Council is to facilitate peace-making, not to impose peace by massive bombing, resulting in the peace of the graveyard. According to article 2.3 of the UN Charter all 192 member States of the UN are obliged to settle disputes through peaceful means. Trying to impose "unconditional surrender" on the Taliban raises the spectre of genocide. We must pause and ask why, for the past seven years, the UN have been waging war in Afghanistan. 'Is such behaviour consistent with the UN charter? Is it for or against the people of Afghanistan?' asked Prof. de Zayas.

**GET YOUR FRIENDS  
TO JOIN CETIM!**

## Towards a Convention on the Peasants Rights!

CETIM supports the initiative of *Vía Campesina* (the international peasants' movement), for an international Convention on the Peasants Rights. We have assisted representatives of this movement for many years in their approaches to the UN. During the first session of the Advisory Committee in August 2008, we co-organized a press conference and a public debate to present the initiative. The Convention is certainly one solution for the protection and reinforcement of traditional, family farming and the guarantee of food sovereignty for all. Below are extracts from the oral intervention presented at the Advisory Committee by *Vía Campesina* under the name of CETIM:

"After seven years of intense discussions on the content and strategies, our spirits are high and full of confidence that we will achieve a UN Convention on Peasant Rights. This convention will be one cornerstone to sustainable life for all human beings in our planet. We peasants, women and men, landless people, agricultural workers, small and medium scale farmers, indigenous people and rural youth, represent almost half of the world population and are the backbone of the food systems. The food crisis shows us the massive and systematic violations of peasant rights.

We are being increasingly and violently expelled from our lands and alienated from our sources of livelihoods. Mega development projects such as big plantations for agro-fuels, large dams, infrastructure projects, industrial expansion, extractive industry and tourism have forcibly displaced our communities, and destroyed our lives. [...] We can not earn an income which allows us to live in dignity. A mix of national policies and international framework conditions are responsible for driving us to extinction. [...] A future Convention on Peasant Rights will contain the values of the rights of peasants – and should particularly strengthen the rights of women peasants – which will have to be respected, protected and fulfilled by governments and international institutions.

For that purpose, we commit ourselves to develop a multi-level strategy working simultaneously at the national, regional and international level for raising awareness, mobilizing support and building alliances with not only peasants, but rural workers, migrant workers, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, fisher folks, environmentalists, women, legal experts, human rights, youth, faith-based, urban and consumers organizations as well.

We will also seek the support of governments, parliaments and human rights institutions for developing the convention on Peasant Rights. [...]

**Globalize the struggle, Globalize the hope!"**

## CETIM ADVISES YOU

Territoires, développement et mondialisation

Joint publication Vol. XV (2008), n°1

The fifty-year hegemony of the ideology of growth as the guiding light of development has resulted in glaring social failures and environmental dead-ends. Supported at first by nationalist rhetoric conferring a major role on governments and national territories, then by "global" rhetoric exhorting integration into the "borderless" space of the world market, "globalization" in the South has not kept its promises. If, in the past fifteen years, it has advocated a renewed emphasis on the local dimension, concomitant with the weakening of central government, this has been in favor of "good governance" norms supportive of unbridled commercialization and the interests of global stake holders. In the concrete reality of daily life, local development dynamics take on myriad forms, at once complex and contradictory. Globalization, far from homogenizing all domains, grafts itself onto the interaction of spatial hierarchies inherited from the past. The adaptive strategies of both urban and rural populations, which have broken with the image of their being "passive victims" of failed development attempts, prompts one to explore anew the relationship between the satisfaction of vital needs and the production drawn from the land, between identity and social relations. Beyond that, it questions the dimensions of a "reterritorialization" of the conditions of peoples' development and their welfare.

Price: CHF 22.50 / 15 €, 196 pages, ISBN: 978-2-84950-16-10, CETRI (Belgium) and Syllepse (France), 2008, can be ordered from CETIM. Publication in French only.



Copyright Chappatte in [www.globecartoon.com](http://www.globecartoon.com)



## FINAL DECLARATION OF THE CETIM SYMPOSIUM 7-8-9 DECEMBER 2007

We, the undersigned associations, organizations, parties and social movements, gathered on the occasion of the symposium "International Cooperation, Development Aid... Just What Are We Talking About?", 7-9 December 2007, in Geneva,

*Noting:*

- that the policies of trade liberalization and privatization imposed in the course of the last decades have created ever greater inequalities, within each country and between countries, affecting first and foremost women and children;

- that in spite of the possibilities offered by the prodigious advances in scientific knowledge and technological progress, the scourge of hunger is only increasing throughout the world and that, paradoxically, farmers are among the primary victims;

- that "globalization" such as it has been understood and practiced by the dominant powers has not kept the promises of its promoters;

*Are convinced* that the various commitments made during the U.N. summits held in New York in 2000 and in 2005, whatever appraisal might be made of them, will not suffice to change fundamentally an orientation to a form of worldwide apartheid;

*Note also* that these policies, and the mode of production and consumption that they support, have already led to irreversible environmental degradation and that, if they are pursued, will lead humanity, especially its most vulnerable strata, to disasters of immeasurable magnitude;

*Believe* that the sudden awareness of the environmental crisis – alas, belated! – cannot deal with the real problem, which is one of the dominant model of "economic growth", and will, on the contrary, only serve to open up new areas for profit-making; in this regard, the example of biofuels, the promotion of which has already done much harm to food production and small-scale agriculture, as well as the expansion of CO2 markets, granting the right to pollute in return for the "transfer" of technology, show the limits of such "solutions";

*Note:*

- that the debt burden – not to mention the environmental debt – being paid off worldwide and very often unnecessarily continues to crush most of the peoples of the Third World;

- that the cosmetic measures adopted for most indebted poor countries are grossly insufficient, often ineffective and, on the contrary, full of conditions that violate the principles of self-determination and of the equality of peoples and nations;

- that the fiscal policies of several countries of the North as well as of the South, sap the development capacities of the poorest countries and that the only international fiscal policy really in force is that of tax reduction ad infinitum;

*Consider also:*

- that the right to intellectual property – this human right according to which the benefit of an invention or a creation should be acknowledged as belonging to its creator, whether individual or collective – has been completely perverted from its objectives in the service of commercial profit, thus privatizing collective knowledge and monopolizing knowledge and technology;

- that discriminatory migration policies encourage a brain drain from the poor countries to the industrialized and "developed" countries, to the detriment of the interests of the "developing" countries and in contempt of the efforts that these countries have made;

*Note finally that*, in violation of international law acquired at great cost through murderous world wars, the unilateralism of great powers and the greed of great transnational corporations create or stoke armed conflicts almost everywhere in the South, producing countless victims, displacing entire populations, destroying infrastructure and ruining in short order all that has been accomplished in development, results obtained only over a long period of time.

We call for support and promotion of the following appeal through its joint publication or separately from the present declaration.

**Signatory organizations are:**

Alliance Sud, Switzerland - Asociación Nueva Utopia, Switzerland - Association internationale des techniciens, experts et chercheurs (AITEC), France - Association pour la transaction des transactions et pour l'aide aux citoyens (ATTAC), Switzerland - Association Survie, France - Centrale sanitaire Suisse romande (CSSR), Switzerland - Centre de recherche et d'information pour le développement (CRID), France - Centre Europe - Tiers Monde (CETIM), Switzerland - Comité pour l'annulation de la dette du Tiers Monde (CADTM), Belgium - Comité pour l'annulation de la dette du Tiers Monde (CADTM), Switzerland - Commission Tiers Monde de l'Eglise catholique (COTMEC), Switzerland - Développement et Civilisations - Lebrét-Irled, France - Enfants du Malawi, France - Fondation Frantz Fanon, France - Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN), Switzerland - Forum africain des alternatives, Senegal - Forum du Tiers Monde (FTM), Senegal - France Libertés Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, France - MediCuba, Switzerland - Mouvement pour la coopération internationale (MCI), Switzerland - Plateforme pour une agriculture socialement durable, Switzerland.

## Appeal for Alternative International Cooperation

*We, the undersigned associations, parties and social movements, concerned by the current course of globalization, call for pressure on our respective governments and on the international forum that is the United Nations, so that governments:*

*- support the demand for food sovereignty of the world's peoples and for the concept of local agriculture and small-scale farming;*

*- support the carrying out of national and international audits on the Third World debt so that its settlement, with a view to its cancellation, may be based on the principles of equity and justice;*

*- combat the destructive race to the bottom for non-taxation, fight resolutely against the various forms of fiscal and legal paradises and against fiscal competition, bring pressure to remove bank secrecy where it exists and to repatriate the ill gotten wealth;*

*- place the progress derived from knowledge, science and technology, which are the common work of communities, at the service of all humanity and consider the defense of the common heritage of humanity as a priority;*

*- promote a policy of emancipation for women and a policy for youth, based on a spirit of planetary and international solidarity;*

*- ratify promptly the United Nations Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, which entered into force in July 2003;*

*- accord primacy in their national and international policies, in accordance with the Declaration of Vienna that they have approved unanimously, to human rights for all, including economic, social and cultural rights above all other considerations such as trade, the acquisition of markets and of power;*

*- consider the right to development as a human right indissociable from all other human rights, civil and political, economic, social and cultural, implying the full realization of each person and of all;*

*- take up again and make their own the definition of "development" as it was formulated by the Declaration on the Right to Development so that it may be a global economic, social, cultural and political process, aiming to improve continuously the well being of all of the world's population and of all individuals;*

*- place the human being and the peoples of the earth at the center of development;*

*- reaffirm the necessity of respecting absolutely, in international relations, the principle of the equality of nations and of peoples and their inalienable sovereign control of their natural resources and wealth and make sure that these resources are not exploited or consumed to the detriment of other nations and peoples;*

*- abstain, at the international level, from supporting any policy whose results could be contrary to these objective, abandoning the logic of competition in the interest of international cooperation;*

*- promote participative democracy, effective international solidarity, renounce the arms trade and militate for general disarmament with a view to the improvement of the well being of all, on an egalitarian basis;*

*- attain (for those countries with a high GDP) without delay the minimum level of 0.7% of GDP devoted to public aid to development, while adopting coherent national economic policies that take into account that aid to development is only one mechanism for change among many;*

*- draw inspiration from alternative economic initiatives such as the Bolivarian Alternative for the People of Our America (ALBA) or the Bank of the South; if they are pursuing their declared goals of financial autonomy and cooperation based on solidarity and complementarity, they deserve praise.*

*For this, we also call upon governments to put into practice the Declaration on the Right to Development that was adopted 6 December 1986 par the United Nations General Assembly by an overwhelming majority of countries representing 85% of the world's population, to stop opposing it with delaying stratagems and to acknowledge the rightness and pertinence of its basic principles and concepts. The Declaration, the fruit of some 30 years of effort by the countries of the South in the aftermath of decolonization and by the Non-Aligned Movement, is a source of inspiration that is more relevant than ever if we are to prevent the world from sinking yet deeper into irreversible impasses.*

*Finally, we call upon all the citizens, the individuals, the associations, the movements and parties dedicated to justice in the world and international progress to mobilize, to organize and to act in the field, in the street as well as in the voting booth and in institutions to attain these goals.*



## For the sustainable fulfilment of the right to food and to food sovereignty for all in order to prevent a food crisis

"Twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the liberal economic system, generally considered by a majority of people to be the only system capable of providing for humanity's wellbeing has reached its limits.[...]"

The dominant economic theories and practices have integrated the production and the commercialization of food goods into the classic cycles of maximized profits: thus intensive and extensive monocultures have been privileged. The strict application of the supply and demand model in the price setting of these goods have led, on one hand, to the hijacking of production towards solvent markets and, on the other hand, to the exclusion of a large growing number of consumers who don't have the means to pay the fixed prices. A side effect of this concentration on the supply side has been the emergence of speculation on this market.[...]"

In the framework of international relations, it is always in good taste to say that the question of human rights is only one factor, among many others, to which one attributes more or less attention depending on the specific cases. Nevertheless, as the right to food is intimately linked to the right to life, under no circumstances should it become an object of bargaining. The food crisis that has led to 'riots brought on by famine' forces us to make a critical reappraisal of development models, the criterion that determine aide for development and in the final analysis, the rules that govern commercial exchanges.[...]"

This fine ideal can only be implemented by specifically aimed policies, stemming from strong political will that requires coherency on the part of each nation, both inside its borders and in its international relations. [...]"

The deep internal contradictions that are present within the international community represent the chief obstacle to the fulfilment of the right to food.

On one hand, the UN organizations such as the FAO, the PNUD and UNICEF stress the importance of social justice and human rights [...] whereas, on the other hand, institutions such as Bretton Woods and the WTO refuse even to acknowledge the existence of the right to food and force upon the most vulnerable nations the Washington Consensus that privileges liberalization, deregulation privatization and the reduction of national budgets. This is the model that has given birth to even greater inequalities. The member states of the board of directors of the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the member states of the WHO must re-evaluate those policies that have contributed to the present day food crisis."

These declarations are available on the website of CETIM [www.cetim.ch](http://www.cetim.ch).

Rebuilding national food economies will require immediate and long-term political commitments from governments. An absolute priority has to be given to domestic food production in order to decrease dependency on the international market. Peasants and small farmers should be encouraged through better prices for their farm products and stable markets to produce food for themselves and their communities. [...]"

Countries need to set up intervention mechanisms aimed at stabilizing market prices. In order to achieve this, import controls with taxes and quotas are needed to avoid low-priced imports which undermine domestic production. National buffer stocks managed by the state have to be built up to stabilize domestic markets: in times of surplus, cereals can be taken from the market to build up the reserve stocks and in case of shortages, cereals can be released.

At the international level, stabilization measures also have to be undertaken. International buffer stocks have to be built up and an intervention mechanism put in place to stabilize prices on international markets at a reasonable level. Exporting countries have to accept international rules to control the quantities they can bring to the market, in order to stop dumping. The right to implement import controls, set up programs to support the poorest consumers, implement agrarian reform and invest in domestic, farmer peasant-based food production has to be fully respected and supported at the international level.

In this context, the development of ethanol throughout the world as a solution to the depletion of fossil resources is a chimera because it is not, in its present form, a real and viable alternative to fossil fuels and will not help to reduce global warming. [...]"

The promotion of GMO farming is another false solution to the food crisis, since they do not respect the principle of precaution and that the first studies on this issue indicate the danger of irreversible negative impact on nature (on biodiversity in particular) and that this farming is not even reliable on the economic level. [...]"

In this context, the FAO, on the basis of its mandate, must take the initiative to create the political environment for a fundamental change on the level of policies on agriculture and food.

As for Council on Human Rights, it could recommend to the UN General Assembly to decree a moratorium, of at least five years, on GMO crops as well as the manufacture of agrofuels to work out an assessment."