

Global Partnership on Food and Agriculture:

Recommendations of International Solidarity NGOs

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In July 2008, the G8 nations came to an agreement on setting up a « Global Partnership on Food and Agriculture», following the debates during the Rome FAO Summit in June 2008. In its basic form as proposed by France, the World Partnership is organized around three pillars: 1) an international coordination allowing more coherent policies; 2) an international network of experts given the task of optimizing existing knowledge for decision making; and 3) a financial facility to canalize the means for carrying out projects on the ground.

This initiative then continued in close collaboration with the United Nations High Level Task Force of the Global Food Security Crisis (hereinafter HLTF), which in April 2008 drew up a Global Action Framework with the aim of improving the coordination of the UN agencies and other actors on the ground at national level, towards countries most affected by the food crisis. **The Global Partnership, which targets more coherent policies at world level, thus complements the Global Action Framework, which aims at a better operational coordination in countries in the throes of crises.**

One of the objectives of the Madrid High Level Meeting « Food Security for All » organized under the aegis of the Secretary General of the United Nations on 26-27 January 2009 consists of launching the official construction process of this Global Partnership on Food and Agriculture.

The added value of the Global Partnership lies in the fact that it should bring together most of the actors concerned by food, agriculture, and the fight against hunger, that is, the HLTF, the international community, and also, in a totally new way, practically involve civil society actors, (Producer Organizations and NGOs), private investors and foundations.

We, French NGOs of international solidarity, wish to put forth the following recommendations regarding the objectives and the governance of the Global Partnership on Food and Agriculture:

1. The Partnership should be a place for a census and analysis of the existing mechanisms and policies, especially using the expertise of the second pillar, in order to **define clear orientations regarding policies** on the fight against hunger and poverty. It will thus seek to improve and optimize the action of the various actors and the current tools. To guarantee its effectiveness in this direction and its legitimacy, the Global Partnership should receive a **firm and specific mandate** for coordination and supervision of the existing conditions.
2. The Partnership should result in a global strategy, and firm and explicit orientations based on the census of existing conditions and multidisciplinary expertise and research. These orientations should result in **more coherent policies and involve all the stakeholders** to fight against hunger and poverty. This must particularly concern trade policies, international market regulation, the fight against speculation in agricultural commodities, access to land and resources, as well as social protection of the poorest...
3. These orientations should **serve to adopt operational measures** in terms of national policies, especially in the Global Action Framework set up by the HLTF, and international policies of the beneficiary countries as well as the donating countries.

4. The Partnership should adopt governance based on the **geographical representativeness of the various actors** concerned and the **transparency** of the reflection and decision-making processes. The **participation of civil society actors** (POs and NGOs) must be effective and real, in all the areas (the 3 pillars) and at every stage of reflection and decision-making. The voices of victims of food insecurity, or of those who fight against hunger and poverty, must at last be heard and taken into account in the recommendations.
5. The Partnership should take care to see that existing funds are better mobilized, **call for additional long term and foreseeable fund raising**, needed for the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty, respecting the priorities defined by the beneficiary countries. It should take care to follow up the **financial commitments** of States and multilateral institutions.
6. The **effectiveness of Human Rights**, especially the right to food, must be the explicit background of the World Partnership for Food and Agriculture.

Recommendations on 19 January 2009

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