



More and Better

An International Campaign
for Food, Agriculture and Rural
Development Aid to eradicate
Hunger and Poverty

To the Government of Spain, other governments, agencies and CSO's involved in the High level meeting on food security for all, 26-27 January 2009

The More and Better campaign would like to respond to the "Document for Consultation prepared by the Government of Spain" about "Madrid Process toward an Inclusive Global Partnership on Agriculture and Food Security (GPAFS)"

There is a strong need for actions to fulfill the right to food and food security for all. It is totally unacceptable that almost one billion people are starving and that more than 30 000 people die every day of hunger or hunger-related causes. We therefore appreciate the engagement of the Spanish Government, other governments, agencies and CSO's to end this terrible situation.

Reflections on previous initiatives and failures

The hunger situation has dramatically worsened the last year, but the number of hungry has been more than 800 millions for decades, and increased every year from the mid 1990's, despite that governments and international institutions have taken a lot of actions and initiatives related to hunger and food security. In 1974 the World Food Council was established, and it was in function, at least formally, until 1996. The World Food Summit in 1996 and the follow-up in 2002 made plans of actions, and the International Alliance Against Hunger was established a few years ago. The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development is another initiative and structure which has been working with food security issues. Some reflections of these initiatives, programs and the failures are therefore needed.

Bottom-up approach and civil society involvement

More and Better is very pleased with the underlining in the document for consultation of the need for involvement of civil society and bottom up approach. However, the preparation of the high-level meeting in Madrid 26-27 January and the proposed next steps are examples of the total opposite. There has not been any involvement of farmers' and fisherfolks' organizations, other organizations of food producers or other major CSO's working with the right to food and food security issues. We received the document for consultation only few days before the meeting in Madrid. It is impossible for the More and Better campaign to get the viewpoints on the document from the organizations taking part in the campaign in such a short time. Organizations in about 50 countries are taking part in More and Better as well as regional and global organizations, many of them organizing farmers at the grassroots level. Involvement of these organizations takes a lot of time. This respond to the document for consultation is therefore written by the international coordinator of More and Better without any possibilities for consultation. However, the respond is based on previous discussions within More and Better on similar issues and processes.

The need for serious processes and time to involve social movements and other CSO's has to be taken into consideration for any following up process after the Madrid-meeting. One example of a totally unacceptable process is "*Completion of a vision statement or paper (1-2 months) including GPAFS process work program.*" Bottom up- process and involvement of social movements in such a short time is not possible.

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Governments and especially governments in developing countries, also need time for preparation of new initiatives and to discuss new processes. The preparations for the Madrid-meeting has not given countries possibilities to proper preparations and involvement.

The basic documents

The document for consultation states that the base for GPAFS is the Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) developed by the UN High Level Task Force (UN-HLTF). The CFA is developed without any real consultation with the organizations of the food producers, other social movements and main CSOs working with the right to food, food security and food sovereignty. Many of the recommendations within the CFA are very controversial. To state that the CFA is the base of the work of GPAFS is therefore the opposite of bottom-up and inclusiveness. The CFA should only be one of many documents taken into consideration in the work, if GPAFS will be established.

The International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) is not mentioned in the document for consultation. The IAASTD should be one of the key documents in all work linked to food security.

Social movements and CSO's have for many years been developing, promoting and fighting for food sovereignty. Statements and reports from organizations of food producers, other social movements and CSO's have to be included as key documents for further work with hunger and food security, also for GPAFS if it will be established.

More and Better will in cooperation with social movement and other CSO's develop a people's proposal for a framework for action to eradicate hunger.

Reform of the UN-system for food and agriculture – not another institution now.

The reform of FAO on the base of the external evaluation is going on. Also IFAD, WFP and CGIAR have had / are undergoing evaluations and reform processes. Many CSO's have proposed and pushed for a process for strengthening the cooperation between these food and agriculture institutions, and for a process to merge them. Very concrete steps have been proposed; a common mega evaluation of all the institutions based on the evaluation of each of them, a common meeting of the governing bodies in these institutions to discuss the mega-evaluation and steps forward, and that the FAO regional conferences in 2010 should be organized together with the other UN-institutions for food and agriculture.

Food security and the fight against hunger are within the mandate of FAO. It's obvious that FAO has not fulfilled the mandate, but it is important to improve the work of FAO to fulfill its mandate. That is the responsibility of the member countries. The FAO Committee on the World Food Security (CFS) is and should still be the institution for following up the initiatives by governments and institutions in the work for food security and to fulfill the right to food for all. The meeting in CFS in May should be the right place for the following-up of the Madrid-meeting.

There is a strong need to strengthen the role of the organizations of food producers, other social movements and CSO's within the UN-system for food and agriculture. Some progress has been achieved and the work is going on.

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Any new institution or initiative like the *Global Partnership on Agriculture and Food Security (GPAFS)* should not be established unless it is a part of and included in the reform process of all the UN-institutions for food and agriculture, and unless real bottom-up and involvement of social movements and other CSO's are implemented.

More and Better involvement

The More and Better campaign very much appreciate that we have been invited to the Madrid conference and that we have got the document for consultation. It is now up to the governments to decide the further process. More and Better will have consultations within the campaign/network on how we want to be involved.

Oslo, Norway January 22nd 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aksel Naerstad". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Aksel Naerstad

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