

STATEMENT OF THE CAMPAIGN

“THE RIGHT TO FOOD. URGENT”

Action Aid Spain, Cáritas Spain, Engineering without Frontiers and Prosalus have set up in agreement to work on the achievement of the right to food, state that:

- Over one billion people in the World live in a state of undernourishment, among which 70% live in rural areas, 56% are women and 36% are their sons and daughters. Over the last years, minor improvements have been hindered by the effects of food price increase and the unsuccessful agricultural investments and policies of the past 30 years. This outcome sets us far behind the compromise manifested by the international community in the Development Objectives of the Millennium and the World Food Summit Meeting.
- The right to food is not acknowledged by the majority of the States as a fundamental right and therefore, those individuals who asses its infringement cannot claim protection and guarantee to the State.
- The national and official food, agriculture and rural development aid investment have been greatly reduced over the last three decades and meanwhile agricultural policies with interest of diverging impact on the betterment of people food supply have been promoted.
- The impoverished people themselves and groups, as well as several cooperation organizations, have developed means of reaching food safety, have carried out multiple experiments and innovative projects which, under the scope of social and supportive economy prove the feasibility of producing, distributing, consuming and saving in an alternative way.

CONSEQUENTLY, WE CONSIDER THAT:

1. the right to food is a fundamental basic right for human dignity, and that the States should respect it, protect it and guarantee it for all its citizens as well as third parties;
2. any strategy geared towards fighting hunger should based upon the effective recognition of the right to food within the framework of food sovereignty politics;
3. the policies or subscribed agreements by the international community, both in agriculture and other matters, specially related to commerce, should respect the enjoyment and exercise of the right to food and never hinder it;

4. the agricultural and rural development policies should not be exclusively based upon productivity parameters, but instead they should additionally focus on food sovereignty and the respect for the environment that would allow people to exercise the right to define their own sustainable production, distribution and food consumption strategies and would promote the multifunctional features of agriculture;
5. in the process of defining and implementing international policies and strategies to fight hunger and any other which may affect food sovereignty (commercial, agricultural, etc.) the participation of the Southern countries, specifically those organizations which represent the impoverished groups, should be included and facilitated;
6. the public power players should review their policies and should funnel resources needed for the effective acknowledgement of the right to food so that it truly becomes universal, inviolable and inalienable.