



October 29, 2007



Dear GCAP national coalitions

Congratulations on the fantastic success of *Stand Up and Speak Out 2007*. The fact that we recorded 43.7 million people standing up in 127 countries and broke the Guinness World Record by a massive margin, nearly doubling last year's number, testifies to the growing movement of people worldwide that want to see an end to poverty and inequality and achieve and hopefully exceed the MDGs. The scale of this mobilization puts beyond doubt the validity of the Montevideo decision of GCAP to continue the campaign until 2015. Equally important, the quality of this year's mobilization was even better, with sharper political messages and a wide variety of activities including rallies and human chains, students' actions, seminars, delegation to politicians, media debates, banners, Poverty Requiems, Women's Tribunals against Poverty, prayer services in different faiths and many other manifestations.

We are very aware that many of you have already taken several steps to ensure that the messages from Stand Up and Speak Out reach the policy makers directly and or through the media. In order for Stand Up 2007 to derive maximum policy impact and that the political leadership in each country at the highest level is held to account for meeting the policy demands of the national coalitions, we are proposing that national coalitions (in the South and in the North) send an Open Letter to their Head of State. Each letter obviously has to be tailored by the national coalition according to your local needs and signed by the collective leadership of the national coalition. We are attaching two sample letters, one for the North, and another one for the South, which you should adapt and finalise (Translations of these letters in Spanish, Portuguese, French and Arabic will be available soon on www.whiteband.org). We believe that this Open Letter can also be very useful to get more visibility for the demand to eradicate poverty and inequality and for the national coalition and GCAP by offering it to national newspapers for publications.

Please do send us a copy of the final letter that you sent to your Head of State and an update on any meetings that you had or media coverage that you secured to (standup2007@standagainstopoverty.org and Irfan.mufti@civicus.org). To have an impact, it is advisable that this letter goes out before the end of October, so we would appreciate it very much if you move quickly on this.

Once again, thank you for the amazing mobilization and all the hard work that went into it. We go into 2008 more energized and resolute in our common fight against poverty and inequality.

Best wishes,

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