

Together for Equality: Leave No One Behind!
Call to Action:
Mobilisation for Global Justice

15 September – 20 October 2013

Join us, for one month – from International Democracy Day through to the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty -- as citizens from all corners of the world join together to demand change.

Real Change, the Transformative Change the World urgently needs.

INTRODUCTION

The resources and knowledge exist to eradicate poverty and re-distribute for more income equality.

The resources exist and yet on a daily basis all over the world women, men and children are denied access to their fundamental human right to education, health, water, sanitation and food security.

There are concrete solutions, yet an under-regulated private sector creates its own rules and policies, focusing on their corporate interests at the expense of people and the environment. Land grabs and mega mining projects that deny people their right to land and water continue with little transparency or accountability.

There are concrete solutions and yet climate change is impacting millions of people across the globe, particularly women who are losing their livelihoods and small farmers struggling to adapt to increasing temperatures, drought, floods and other 'natural' disasters.

As we face multiple crises, governments meet behind closed doors and make decisions that affect our livelihoods, without us.

Despite this, women, men and children across the world are standing up for their fundamental rights, the future of their children and the well-being of communities. Across Brazil, in Tahrir and Taksim squares, to name but a few, citizens are standing up and demanding change.

Global citizens are the real agents of change. Any effort to eradicate poverty and inequality must start by putting people at the heart of the process.

For one month Global Citizens will come together with proposals, ideas, solutions, energy and a strong and resounding call that says “Leave No One Behind.”

We believe that with genuine political will, we can meet and exceed the Millennium Development Goals and create an even more ambitious Post-2015 agenda to end poverty and inequality and ensure that No One is Left Behind.

What the world urgently needs now -- both for the planet and those of us who are its inhabitants - is a respect for people and planet. If we recognise planetary boundaries, if we honour those who came before us and those who will follow, if we ensure that No One is truly Left Behind, regardless of race, caste, gender, sexual orientation, class or any other category that can be used to exclude and marginalise, if we promote gender equality and uphold transparent and accountable governance, if WE STAND UP FOR OUR RIGHTS then we can achieve the real change, the transformative change that we, the citizens of this planet, urgently need. Join us, for one month -- starting on International Democracy Day and continuing

through the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty -- as citizens from all corners of the world join together to demand change.

MOBILISATION MONTH

The Mobilisation for Global Justice is organised by a wide range of civil society organizations who are working to hold governments and the United Nations to account for promises made in the Millennium Development Goals. We also demand that the Post-2015 Development Agenda provide the basis for the transformative change the world needs.

“We believe there is a need for a paradigm shift, a profound structural transformation that will overcome the obstacles to sustained prosperity.” That's not the observation of civil society activists, but rather of a high-level UN panel on Post-2015 appointed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

We agree.

The Mobilisation Month will bring people together who share this vision and who believe that inequality is the key obstacle to sustained prosperity for all.

The month of mobilisation begins on 15 September – International Democracy Day and ends on 20 October. Key political moments include 25 September, a UN Summit on the MDGs and Post-2015 and 17 October, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Actions can focus on a particular issue (such as Tax Justice, Income Inequality or Access to Water and Sanitation) or a range of issues with a focus on ending inequality and leaving no one behind. A global action linking people and continents is also being planned.

You are invited to participate in this exciting global Mobilisation Month and organize an event or series of events.

TAKING ACTION

Actions will take place under the slogan: Leave no one behind. They can be carried out by groups, organizations, movements and even by individuals.

They include :

- Leave No One Behind Dialogues, bringing citizens and governments together to discuss the Post-2015 development agenda. Socially excluded groups are key actors in these events.
- Marches and candlelight vigils outside Parliament and Ministerial offices
- Concerts, Film Screenings and Theatre on the theme 'Leave No One Behind'
- Photo exhibitions, mural paintings
- Radio and Television debates
- Dance Mobs
- Media Stunts
- Mass Youth Mobilisations and actions in schools

A global 'Leave No One Behind' action is also being planned. Details available soon.

THE ISSUES

Income inequality

Incomes inequality is on the increase. While unemployment is at staggering levels and over three billion

people live on less than US\$2.50 a day, 0.5 % of the global population holds over 35% of the wealth and the top 10 billionaires added US\$240 billion to their wealth in 2012. To eradicate poverty, it is essential to address the causes of growing income inequality.

Many people all over the world work under inhumane and unsafe conditions, while earning wages well below a minimum standard of living. There must be an international commitment to and national implementation of the Decent Work Agenda - creating jobs; guaranteeing rights at work; extending social protection and promoting social dialogue.

Social Protection is an internationally-acknowledged human right which national governments have an obligation to fulfil. Research has shown that national social protection schemes are economically feasible and effective in addressing inequality.

Private Sector Regulation, Trade and Tax Justice

Inequalities are exacerbated by numerous 'poison threads' - destructive corporate practices like land grabs, mega-mining and the privatisation of social services like education, health, sanitation and water. There must be greater regulation of the private sector, including regulation that protects communities from the poison threads alongside mechanisms for redress that require companies to clean up and pay for their messes.

Trade relations must be reformed to promote equality among trade partners, and uphold the special and differential treatment of developing countries.

Some US\$160 billion that could be spent on eradicating poverty is lost each year due to Tax evasion by multinational companies and wealthy individuals. Governments must implement progressive tax systems (in reality and not on paper only) and promote greater financial transparency to end the impunity enjoyed by tax evaders.

Reform of International Financial Architecture

Economically powerful countries dominate international forums and platforms and maintain systems and structures which ensure global wealth accrues to them. Democratic and pro-developing country reforms are urgently needed including: improved regulation of banks, financial flows and financial activities such as derivatives trading, a greater developing country voice in the Bretton Woods Institutions and establishing a mechanism for sovereign debt renegotiation.

Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Global warming increases inequalities: it now affects the lives of millions of people all over the world in particular small farmers struggling to adapt to increasing temperatures, unpredictable drought and floods. Based on latest scientific research, we are headed for a world where temperatures are on average 4 – 6 degrees higher. There must be a change in consumption and production patterns to ensure equitable and sustainable access to resources that enable everybody to live within the boundaries our planet has given us. We urgently need mechanisms for eco-system based sustainable development that is equitable, participatory, accountable and transparent.

Violence and Discrimination against Women

Women make up the majority of those living in poverty and violence against women creates and perpetuates inequality. In addition the vast majority of gains in gender equality have been experienced by women in the upper echelons in society. We must turn our focus to those women who have not been reached by past gender equality programs and put in place policies that ensure equal access and opportunities for ALL women in employment, land tenure, education, health, governance and sexual and reproductive health services.

Peace and Human Security

Instead of spending on people, Governments spend billions on defence and war. Consistently it is those living in extreme poverty who suffer most from armed conflict. To eliminate inequality, military expenditure must be re-channelled to social expenditure and those living in poverty must have a voice in decisions related to war-making and defence.

Human Rights are for all

Increasingly Governments are making decisions without the citizens. Lack of participation, inequality and poverty are a vicious circle. We demand people's participation in decision-making, access to information, access to justice and remedies for human rights violations, including both economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political ones.

Additional Resources

For more details on the issues, please see

- [The People's Goals Campaign](#) and
- [the Red Flag Statement for the Post 2015 High Level Panel.](#)

Other data referenced in this document can be found in

- [“The Cost of Inequality: how wealth and income extremes hurt us all,”](#) (Oxfam, 18 January 2013)
- [Trace the Tax campaign](#) (ChristianAid)

For further information please contact: Fionuala Cregan, Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), Mobilisation Task Force Coordinator, fcregan@whiteband.org

More details and an online resource space will be available soon. Please disseminate this all widely across your contacts and networks!

About the Mobilisation Task Force

The Mobilisation Task Force (MTF) is composed of civil society organisations from across the globe who are committed to hold governments and the United Nations to account for promises made in the Millennium Declaration and to demand a Post-2015 Development Agenda that provides the basis for the transformative change the world needs. The MTF is facilitated by the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP).

About GCAP

The Global Call to Action Against Poverty, one of the world's largest civil society networks, challenges the structures, institutions and processes that perpetuate poverty and inequality. More information at www.whiteband.org.