



6th August 2015

Invitation GCAP Global Assembly 2015, September 27 and 28

Dear GCAP National Coalitions, Constituency Groups, Supporters and Fellow travelers,

We write to you at a critical juncture of history when the United Nations and national Governments are making important choices and taking critical decisions affecting the future of people and the planet. What is at stake today is the quality of life of people and our collective care for Mother Earth. The recent negotiations on Financing for Development and the Sustainable Development Goals were challenging and the results are not a guarantee for the kind of peace and security that people need especially in the face of various crises that affect humanity today and for the decades to come.

This is a critical moment for the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP). As a campaign, committed to eradicating poverty and working towards a just, equitable and sustainable future for people and the planet, GCAP stands at crossroads. The campaign needs to take critical decisions about its future role, relevance, agenda, structures and ways of working in a very dynamic and ever changing context so that it can meet its call and mandate. GCAP's mandate is to amplify the voices of the vulnerable and ensure that they are central to global development discussions. Our mandate also obliges us to advocate that the world pays attention to the billions of people who are invisible, vulnerable and discriminated for centuries and suffer from impoverishment.

In 2015, GCAP will complete ten years of its existence. This ten year journey has been one full of successes, failures, learnings and insights for those committed to this global civil society movement. You may recall that GCAP was launched in 2005 at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre and by Nelson Mandela in his famous speech at Trafalgar Square as a call to diverse actors across the globe to join hands for a common struggle against structural causes of poverty, impoverishment and injustice. This open and ambitious call was backed by individuals, organizations, networks and Unions including civil society groups, faith based groups, trade unions and youth groups. It has been an incredible journey of working together with the most passionate and dedicated individuals and organizations committed to the cause of eradicating poverty and injustice.

However, sadly, the primary agenda of eradicating poverty and injustice still exists. In fact, many would argue that globally the conditions have worsened since 2005 in terms of growing inequality and insecurity in the world and greater threats to the survival and life as we know it here on Mother Earth. In this context, it becomes imperative for us to evaluate and assess our work over the last ten years and decide our future course of action.

The global civil society space has also undergone serious transformation. We have witnessed the evolution of several new global networks and alliances working with largely overlapping missions and often overlapping membership. This has led to greater impact at times but also often to division of



energies, and the dilution of efforts. An assessment and analysis of this space leading to serious dialogue about the possibilities of weaving together a winning combination is of utmost importance.

The large scale global fuel, food and financial crisis over the last ten years along with deepening climate crisis, have led to direct and severe blows to common, impoverished and ordinary people around the world. The dignity and survival of all peoples, especially those who suffer marginalization is at stake. Importantly, amidst these challenges, people have not lost hope. In fact, they have been building a new narrative of anger and aspirations which has seen multiple expressions including; Arab resistance, Occupy Movement, Anti-Corruption Movement in India and around the world, the struggle against interventionism, fighting vulture funds, or in Latin America and the Caribbean the creation of CELAC, to stand for people's rights.

The challenge for GCAP is to tap into this ever-present energy and reality of people and not be distracted by diversionary gimmicks of international processes and institutions. With due humility, we need to recognize our limitations and the fact that the real battles are being fought every day by the "poorest of the poor" across the world. We need to find our path of adding to the power of people, to be effective and strategic in our walk with the impoverished. These are serious challenges and we need to collectively find answers to these big questions.

The journey of GCAP is incomplete without the recognition of your contributions and also would be inadequate in future without the benefit of your ideas, inputs and insights in designing the future course of action. In light of this critical moment, please do join us in the Global Assembly of GCAP to be held in New York on September 27 (whole day) and September 28 (only afternoon). We shall send out a logistical note soon. Please contact ingo.ritz@whiteband.org if you have proposals or questions.

Unfortunately, GCAP does not have all the required resources to sponsor everyone's participation. We are therefore looking to all of you to try as much as you can to find resources to come to New York. We shall offer whatever support can aid the process of fundraising.

We look forward to seeing many of you in New York and we hope you will be able to get there.

In solidarity,

Marta Benavides

Richard Ssewariryanga

Amitabh Behar