**3rd Open Working Group Challenged to Adopt Food Sovereignty**

**Campaign for People’s Goals for Sustainable Development**

The Campaign for Peoples Goals for Sustainable Development would like to submit that the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) should build on the experiences from and limitations of MDGs amidst the increasing global financial and political crises and associated social disorder. The People’s Goals Campaign further emphasizes that the SDGs setting processes, primarily the goals on sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition, land degradation, should reflect the root causes of worsening hunger, poverty, food crises, famine, marginalization of millions of farmers, fisherfolks, indigenous peoples and other rural communities worldwide.

**KEY ISSUES ON FOOD SECURITY, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, LAND DEGRADATION, WATER:**

**Global food production and persisting poverty:** Agriculture provides livelihoods for more than 2.5 billion people, most of them poor farmers, and as such is crucial to end poverty and inequality. However, 925 million people do not have enough food and 98% percent of them live in developing countries. The UN FAO also claims that 1.02 billion people worldwide are food insecure. More than 70% of the Earth’s 4 billion people continue to live with hunger while there is overproduction of food which is enough to feed almost 11 billion people. The MDGs seems to serve goals for certain groups, but certainly not for the millions of farmers, women, farm workers, fisherfolks etc, who toiled hard for food.

**Neoliberal policies and their impact on agriculture:** The People’s Goals Campaign emphasizes that the SDGs on agriculture and food security should be sensitive to the alarming impacts of neoliberal policies on agriculture and on peoples’ food sovereignty. The neoliberal framework which emphasizes the reduction of social rights in favor of market liberalization and corporate freedoms led to an increasingly industrialized and globalized agri-food production system. This has resulted in a few multi-national corporations’ controlling food production and different supply chains. With trade liberalization and withdrawal of various forms of agricultural support, the majority of small-scale farmers find themselves being squeezed between high-input costs and low prices for their produce in the developing countries.

The current financial and trading system failed to prioritize small-scale food producers and their needs and undermined the sustainability of traditional agricultural production. The subsequent market-based agriculture now determines what food is produced and who should produce it. The resulting control over entire food systems has created a dramatic effect on nutrition. Food commonly consumed 50 years ago has now disappeared and variety of foods is decreasing rapidly. Food sovereignty as an all encompassing concept will enable farmers and other rural communities to control the means and patterns of food production based on their needs and aspirations and in line with eco-systems. It will also ensure affordable, culturally sensitive supplies of food to domestic markets. The SDGs should adopt food sovereignty within their framework.

**Land grabbing:** Land grabbing is a serious phenomenon in developing countries affecting rural communities. It results in landlessness and massive displacement of local communities with subsequent socio-economic impacts primarily on women and children. A study by the International Land Coalition reported that the land for negotiation for land grabbing in the year 2009 alone was 80 million hectares, 64% in Africa. In 2010 up to 123.5 million acres of African land, double the size of Britain, has been grabbed or under negotiation by governments or wealthy investors. Land grabbing has worsened food insecurity as food production on taken lands is for export and rural communities are forced to depend on imported food; it has also led to famine in many parts of Africa. Land grabbing has been used as a means of ethnic cleansing, has destroyed ecosystems due to monoculture, fueled a culture of corruption and intensified human right violations in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Asia is no exception to land grabbing, primarily in Indonesia, Mongolia, Cambodia, Laos, India, Philippines etc. Communities throughout Indonesia are losing land to companies seeking profits from booming palm oil industry . In Latin American, peasants and indigenous peoples in Colombia are displaced in land grabbing for biofuel.

**Industrial agriculture:** Industrial agri-businesses and industrial fisheries, increasingly promoted by developed nations and their corporations through neoliberal policies have created havoc in developing countries and led to unsustainable environmental exploitation of resources, thus worsening poverty and food insecurity among farmers, fisherfolks, women etc. These businesses are grabbing land and resources to meet demand for export products while displacing local small-scale food producers and exploiting local labor forces. Multinationals companies push for agriculture production based on large amounts of chemical inputs, harmful genetically modified crops and food conditioned by the market and selling them at the price dictated by the intermediaries. Hundreds of farmers are committing suicide in India when they are not able to produce enough from their land after it was damaged by the indiscriminate use of chemicals and burdened by high debts promoted by the ‘green revolution’.

The fisheries sector continues to be neglected in plans to combat hunger and poverty despite the fact that this sector provides vital 15% of protein intake for more than half the global population. The People’s Goals Campaign further underscores that the aggressive introduction of unsustainable development in developing countries and the over exploitation of natural resources by mining, logging, mega-dams, and exploration of petroleum, including in indigenous peoples’ territories seriously undermines food sovereignty by destroying food sources. There should be no SDGs which consolidate such processes and trends of exploitation of people’s land and resources.

**Climate change and its impacts on agriculture:** Rural communities are most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change – caused by excessive emissions of green house gases by Northern Countries. Climate change is affecting the productivity of the land and harvests and threatens future food security. Despite the urgency of genuinely addressing climate change in agriculture, international institutions and governments continue to debate mitigation strategies in agriculture hinged on making profits. There has been increased loss of land and forests due to the aggressive promotion of bio-fuels, large-scale plantations and other impositions of false solutions to climate change. The continued promotion of false solutions in climate change policies cannot be the premise for progressive and encompassing SDGs.

**Water and agriculture**: The concentration of water resources in the hands of foreign-controlled export-based agriculture which is propagated by global agribusiness has denied access to water for smallholder agriculture. This inequality in access to agricultural resources is a driver of rural poverty. The increasing pressure from international financial institutions through policy conditionalities promoting privatization has secured corporate control over water resources and appropriated communities’ rights over, and access to, water. The heavy use of chemicals and pesticides in industrial agriculture has also led to widespread pollution and contamination of water sources which local agricultural communities also depend upon. The destruction of forests for intensive farming and construction of mega-dams, mining, and oil exploration has also led to contamination of water sources. The intrinsic and inalienable rights of rural communities over their water should be recognized and protected in the SDGs.

**TOWARDS A PEOPLE AND NATURE ORIENTED SDGS:**

**Peoples’ SDG goals, not corporate goals:** The People’s Goals Campaign insists that the new SDGs should be based on peoples’ goals, needs, wishes and aspirations and that it will not reinforce a corporate agenda and neoliberal economic policies. The People’s Goals Campaign believes that new global development goals should aim to stop privatization and expropriation of peoples’ land, forests, waters and farmland by multinational corporations. We also expect that the new SDGs will lead to emancipation of marginalized communities affected by imperialist globalization and liberate them from their socio-economic woes. The People’s Goals Campaign further believes that the world requires a fundamental and drastic change in setting priorities and decision-making processes. This will only be possible if there is strong political will and clear and sound democratic processes which include the genuine participation of all communities.

**Participation in decision making:** The People’s Goals Campaign would like to stress the importance and right of rural communities, farmers and fisherfolk to participate in all decision-making processes in formulating SDGs. States should likewise provide support to them for their participation in setting SDG goals on agriculture, food security, nutrition etc. The process of developing SDGs on agriculture, food security, nutrition etc must be based on substantive and true consultation and participation of rural communities and other stakeholders. Support for southern movements, and their inclusion as leaders in SDGs formation process should be ensured as most of the processes which will affect southern countries are taking place in Northern countries.

**Self-determination over land and resources:** The formulation of SDGs should involve a process of recognizing peoples’ self-determined development over their land and resources and to own, control and manage their traditional lands and territories, waters and other resources. Indigenous peoples’ right to determine and establish priorities and strategies for self-development and for the use of our lands, territories and other resources should be recognized. Free, prior and informed consent must be the principle of approving or rejecting any plan, project or activity affecting their lands and territories. Sustainable development should involve reduction in resource consumption levels, especially in highly industrialized counties; the importance of supporting and restoring local economies and food systems. States should also recognize right to decent employment, fair wages for farm workers, the submission and approval of laws to protect family farmers against land grabbing etc.

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND DEMANDS**

People’s Goals Campaign calls for a mode of sustainable development discourse, policy and practice moving away from the neoliberal growth model and to ensure that States play a central role in promoting development and are accountable to the people.

**Adopt food sovereignty as a policy framework towards adequate, safe, nutritious food for all, including policies and investments to support small-scale farmers and women producers**

* Prioritize developing local agricultural and food production using local resources
* Ensure trade policies facilitate developing countries domestic agricultural production and safeguard domestic producers from unfair trade policies and competition.
* End land grabbing with forced displacement of rural communities as a result of industrial agriculture and large-scale production of bio-fuels and other false solutions to combat climate change, such as mega hydro-electric dams.
* Subsidies, incentives and price-support measures should be geared towards supporting sustainable farming and processing.
* Recognize indigenous peoples diversified and eco-friendly and low energy mode of agriculture production as key to sustainable development
* Funding for public research and development should be increased. Research and development should be reoriented to allow farmers and communities to determine research priorities and encourage grassroots initiatives.
* Ensure access and greater market power of farmers to produce and market their products collectively, support the creation of additional value to production, invest in strengthening the capacity of farmers to improve the interaction of local, regional, national and sub-national.

**States should carry out agrarian reform and secure workers’, farmers’, and rural peoples access to land, water resources and seeds as well as to finance and infrastructure**

* Land should be redistributed to the landless and guarantee security of tenure to smallholders, land re-distribution should be gender-sensitive and realize women’s access and ownership of land. Indigenous peoples’ rights to ancestral domain and self-determination should also be guaranteed.
* Governments should protect the knowledge and rights of farmers to save seed by banning patents and intellectual property rights laws and regimes.
* Investment in rural and social infrastructure, extension services and access to resources and credit should be ramped up, with priority given to small farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples. Investment should be gender-sensitive and support women farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk.

**Reform trade relations to promote equality among trade partners, uphold special and differential treatment of developing countries**

* All trade agreements and relations must be pro-poor and development-oriented and subject to a human rights based assessment. Trade disciplines or trade agreements altogether that unduly restrict poor country policy space must be revisited.
* Unfair trade barriers to poor countries including rich country farm subsidies must be eliminated.
* Subject corporations and banks to human rights, transparency and accountability standards.

**The Northern governments should stop subsidizing corporations based in their countries, and ensure sustainable development is no longer top-down and led by Northern governments.**

* The post-HLP processes, including the Open Working Group and inter-state consensus-building phase from September 2013 must be based on co-determination and social partnership;
* It must redistribute power, wealth and resources between and within countries, between rich and poor, and between men and women;
* Dismantle the current exploitative development paradigm and pursue socio-economic transformation rather than relentless pursuit of profit.
* Implement democratic and pro-developing country reforms of the international financial and monetary system and increase the voting power of developing countries in IFIs in particular IMF and World Bank.

**Regulate corporations’ environmental impacts**

* Corporate accountability must be a cornerstone of sustainable development. Corporations and international financial elites must be held accountable for their dangerous and fickle actions that have affected many poor families as exposed in the recent global financial crisis.
* Strong regulatory frameworks for large corporations with mandatory reporting requirements and accountability mechanisms should be adopted rather than voluntary commitments.
* The UN should intervene to end the trend of land grabbing cases in developing world and include civil society and independent bodies in their interventions.
* States should be held accountable and face justice for facilitating corporate irresponsibility

**Adopt human rights based approaches in the Sustainable Development Goals**

* Gender issues must be mainstreamed in all the SDGs
* Recognize that all policies and measures adopted to advance sustainable development must be firmly grounded in, and respectful of, all internationally agreed human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.
* Rural communities and indigenous communities have rights to self-determination over their land and resources and to own, control and manage their traditional lands and resources.
* Member States should resolve to consider the equal rights of all persons, as integral to creating an effective institutional framework for sustainable development .

**Ensure participation in decision making processes to form Sustainable Development Goals**

* Ensure rightful participation of all rural communities, farmers, fisherfolks, and indigenous peoples in all decision making processes in formulating SDGs including in upcoming OWGs sessions.
* The post-2015 agenda and development of sustainable development goals must be based on substantive and true consultation with the people.
* Special mechanism with adequate and equitable resource allocations should be created to ensure equal participation of both men and women among the smallholder farmers, fisherfolks, indigenous peoples and other rural communities in the process of creating SDGs.
* There should be an open, transparent and inclusive mechanism for monitoring progress and evaluating efficiency