

Declaration of Dakar

For mutually supportive agricultural and trade policies

Gathered in Dakar from 19 to 21 May 2003, a few months before the crucial deadline of WTO negotiations in Cancun, the representatives of farmers organisations and agricultural producers from Africa, Americas, Asia and Europe publish the following declaration:

I. WTO vision: the world upside down

The "liberalisation" of agricultural trade and deregulation, promoted by the WTO, the IMF, the Free Trade Agreements, etc. are substantial causes of damage all over the world: hunger, unemployment, inequality, poverty, and degradation of natural resources are increasing in the rural world, particularly in the South. Farmers are forced into rural exodus and migration. Increasingly, large corporate agri-business is taking their place and taking up their lands.

The assumption on the basis of which the WTO subjects farmers to world prices, the assumption that the international market can produce valid results, uniform for all the countries, has been disproved by the facts. Agricultural prices are unstable, chronically depressed and tend to fall over time.

The WTO aims to ban import protection, an instrument available to all, including the poor countries. The WTO favours, on the contrary, protection instruments which are available only to rich countries (aids decoupled from production, placed in the WTO green box). This allows, among other things, the whitewashing of dumping.

The WTO's highest priority is to reduce agricultural prices, and it does it in two ways:

- ▶ At the level of internal markets, by lowering customs duties and dismantling market organisation instruments.
- ▶ Externally, through export-orientation, which depresses world prices paid to farmers.

WTO encourages extreme competition among producers: the producers are losers, and the consumers are not the winners. The decrease of the agricultural prices benefits mainly large corporate agri-business and retail sector.

WTO weakens the weakest and benefits the strongest.

II. For agricultural policies founded on rights

Agricultural policy must respond to the fundamental rights and needs of populations, in particular women:

- ▶ Right to (healthy, culturally adapted, ...) food
- ▶ Right to produce this food
- ▶ Access to resources (land, seed, water, credit, ...)
- ▶ Respect for environment (sustainable production modes, biodiversity)
- ▶ Equity (right to decent income),
- ▶

The market cannot ensure that these rights are respected. It is the responsibility of the public authorities, at the local level, at the scale of a country or a group of countries. These elements are the very basis of food sovereignty.

In order to ensure these rights, there is a need for instruments, particularly import protection and supply management. Agricultural prices must cover production costs, including a decent remuneration for the farmer.

Financial resources must be available in order to insure sufficient levels of infrastructure and services, in particular in the Southern countries.

The desire to export must not take precedence over fundamental rights, whether within a country or vis-à-vis other countries.

III. For mutually supportive international trade

Trade is indeed necessary, but it does not have prevalence over fundamental rights.

The most fundamental demand in terms of solidarity is that exports should not lead to the destabilisation of domestic markets in the other countries. Priority should be given to supplying the domestic market.

Market access should take place without deregulating the market of the importing country. The aim must be to eliminate all forms of dumping.

Agricultural subsidies are legitimate if they are granted on the basis of the populations' rights and expectations and are not used for promoting exports.

Trade rules must not prevent countries from encouraging sustainable production systems based on family farming.

There must be consultation and effort to manage supply on world markets. In particular, producer and consumer countries should work together to stabilise markets and ensure fair prices for products mainly destined for export (coffee, cocoa, etc.). Preferential import agreements may also play a positive role, notably for the small countries with a vulnerable economy.

Populations' legitimate choices, refusing for instance GMOs, hormones ..., must prevail over the trade companies' interests and be respected by the international trade rules.



Given the risks involved in the present WTO negotiations, and with a view to defending the choices stated above, farmers organisations and civil society organisations must urgently be mobilised on the largest possible scale.

Governments are urged to reject the current WTO vision and proposals and defend in Cancun the principle of food sovereignty.

During the Dakar seminar, the farmers and producers organisations of more than thirty countries have not only adopted the declaration. They have also decided to enhance exchanges and coordination of activities related to the trade negotiations of the WTO. A website in three languages (eng, sp, fr) has been created to facilitate the exchange of information between the organisations.

<http://www.dakar-cancun.org>

List of participants of farmers organisations Workshop on "mutually-supportive agricultural and trade policies ". Dakar May, 19-21, 2003

(The organisations present in Dakar are indicated with an *)

Western Africa

WEST AFRICAN NETWORK OF FARMERS' ORGANISATIONS (ROPPA)

- ▷ Association des Organisations Professionnelles Paysannes (AOPP), Coordination Nationales des Organisations Paysannes du Mali, Ibrahima COULIBALY *
- ▷ AREN, Coordination Nationale de la Plate-forme Paysanne du Niger, Djibo BAGNA *
- ▷ ANOPACI, Désiré PORQUET *, Côte d'Ivoire
- ▷ Fédération Nationale des Femmes Rurales du Burkina (FENAFERB), Confédération Paysanne du Burkina Faso (CPF), Françoise BANGRE *
- ▷ Fédération des Paysans du Fouta Djallon, Alpha Oumar DIALLO *, Guinée
- ▷ Association of Farmers, Educators and Traders (AFET), Manlafi GASSAMA *, Gambia
- ▷ Conseil National de Concertation et de Coopération des Ruraux (CNCR), Samba GUEYE *, Bara GOUDIABY *, Sénégal
- ▷ Asprodeb, Awa DIALLO *, Ousmane NDIAYE *, Sénégal
- ▷ Président du ROPPA, Ndiougou FALL *, Afrique de l'Ouest

Eastern Africa

EAST AFRICAN FARMERS UNION (E.A.F.U.)

- ▷ Uganda National Farmers Federation, E.A.F.U., Henry Mutebi KITYO*, Chebet Maikut *, Uganda - Afrique de l'Est
- ▷ National Network of Farmers' groups Tanzania (Mwiwata), Mwadini MYANZA*, Tanzania
- ▷ Sydip, Mivimba PALUKU *, RD Congo
- ▷ Urugaga Imbaraga, Sebastien BITANUZIRE *, Rwanda
- ▷ Kenya Federation of Agricultural Producers (KENFAP), Mercy Karanja*, Philip Kiriro*, Kenya

Central Africa (voir aussi les membres de l'EAFU ci-dessus)

- ▷ Concertation Nationale des Organisations Paysannes du Cameroun (CNOPC), Abbo FODOUE *, Cameroun

Southern Africa

- ▷ União Nacional de Camponeses (UNAC), Renaldo CHINGORE JOAO *, Amade SUCA*, Mozambique
- ▷ Coalition Paysanne de Madagascar, Jean Chrysostôme RAZAFIMANDIMBY *, Madagascar

Europe

- ▷ Fédération Wallonne de l'Agriculture (FWA), Pierre Ska *, Yves Someville *, Belgique
- ▷ Jordberga, Confédération Internationale des Betteraviers Européens (CIBE), Otto von Arnold *, Suède
- ▷ Coordination Paysanne Européenne (CPE), membre de Via Campesina, Gérard Choplin *, Belgique - Europe
- ▷ Uniterre/CPE, Gérard Vuffray *, Suisse
- ▷ Sindicato Labrego Galego/CPE, Xosé Ramon *, Espagne
- ▷ Confédération Paysanne/CPE, Christian Boisgontier*, France
- ▷ EHNE/CPE/Via Campesina, Paul Nicholson *, Espagne
- ▷ Confédération des Betteraviers Belges, Jean-François Sneessens *, Belgique
- ▷ Jeunes Agriculteurs Français, Jérôme Despey, France
- ▷ Front Uni des Jeunes Agriculteurs, membre CPE, Xavier Delwarte, Belgique
- ▷ Mouvement d'Action Paysanne, Jacques Bossuyt, Belgique
- ▷ Coordinadora de Organizaciones de Agricultores y Ganadores del Estado Español COAG - Via Campesina, Javier Sanchez Anzo, Espagne
- ▷ Coordination Rurale Union Nationale, François Vienne, France

North America

- ▷ National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC), Mme Dena Hoff *, USA
- ▷ UNORCA, Ernesto LADRON DE GUEVARA *, Mexico
- ▷ American Corn Growers association, Keith J. Dittrich, USA

Central America

- ▷ ATC, Eduardo Vallecillo *, Nicaragua

Latin America

- ▷ COPROFAM, Silvio Mazaroli *, Uruguay - Mercosur
- ▷ CONTAG, Alberto Broch *, Brasil
- ▷ Confederación Campesina del Perú, Victor Torres *, Pérou
- ▷ Fetraf-Sul/Cut, Volmir Santolim *, Brasil

Caribbean Islands

- ▷ Winfa, Renwick Rose *, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Asia

- ▷ FSPI, Indra Lubis *, Indonésie
- ▷ South Asian Peasants Coalition, Biblap Halim *, Inde
- ▷ Korean Farmers League, Jung Hyeon Chan *, Corée du Sud
- ▷ Bangladesh Krishok Federation, Badrul Alam, Bangladesh

List of adherents to the declaration of Dakar

- ▷ AEFJN (Africa-Europe Faith and Justice Network), Maru Bastarreche, Belgium
- ▷ Afrique Verte Burkina Faso, KI Philippe de Kassan, Burkina Faso
- ▷ Afrique Verte, Caroline Bah, France
- ▷ Agir Ici, Céline Trublin, France
- ▷ Asociacion Ambientalista GUERREROS VERDES A.C., Elena Kahn, Mexico
- ▷ Centre National d'Actions et d'Accompagnement Communautaire (CNAC) Olivier Bakali Kosumba, République Démocratique du Congo
- ▷ Centre National de Coopération au Développement 11-11-11, Gérard Karlshausen, Belgique
- ▷ CIEPAC, Jacques Berthomé, France
- ▷ Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires (CSA), Belgique *
- ▷ Comité de Bienvenida a Cancun, Juan Carlos Núñez Fernández, Mexico
- ▷ Cooperacció, Tono Albareda, Espana
- ▷ Coordinadora de Organizaciones de Agricultores y Ganaderos del estado español (COAG), Sanchez Anso, España
- ▷ Coordination SUD, Henry Rouille d'Orfeuille, France
- ▷ Ecologistas en Acción de Calatayud, Ismael Callejero Guillen, España
- ▷ Ecologistas en Acción de Majadahonda, Consuelo Sanz, España
- ▷ Ecologistas en Accion, Tom Kucharz, Espana
- ▷ Fédération Artisans du Monde, Laurent Levard, France
- ▷ FIAN Belgium, Marie Teller-Peron, Belgique
- ▷ Fondation René Dumont, Marie-Hélène Aubert, France *
- ▷ GEYSER, Philippe Pouchin, France
- ▷ Groupe de Recherche et d'Echanges Technologiques (GRET), Pascal Bergeret, France
- ▷ IATP (Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy), Steve Suppan, USA *
- ▷ Institut de recherches et d'applications des méthodes de développement (Iram), Jean-Bernard Spinat, François Doligez, France
- ▷ Les Amis de la Terre, Ben Lefetey, France
- ▷ Oxfam-Solidarité, Thierry Kesteloot, Belgique *
- ▷ Pesticide Action Network Belgium, Barbara Decupere, Belgique
- ▷ Plataforma Rural, Jeronimo Aguado, España
- ▷ Plate-forme Souveraineté Alimentaire, Belgique
- ▷ Réseau d'Agriculture Urbaine de Kinshasa, Ir. Pierre Ongala, République Démocratique du Congo
- ▷ Solidarité Socialiste, Pascale Bodinaux, Belgique
- ▷ SOS Faim, Freddy Destrait, Belgique *
- ▷ Terra Nuova - Centro per il volontariato, Caterina Imbastari, Italia
- ▷ Terra Nuova, Nora McKeon Italie *
- ▷ The Development Fund, Alice Ennals, Norvège *
- ▷ Centre de Promotion des Valeurs Africaines (CEPROVA), Victor Youmbi, Cameroun

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■ Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires (CSA) - Tél: (32)2 412 06 61 / Email: csa@csa-be.org

► Possibility to sign on to the declaration can be done through the website