



Our World Is Not For Sale. Stop Corporate Globalization.

To:

Trade Ministers and Agriculture Ministers

Cc:

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General, United Nations

Jacque Diouf, Director General, FAO

Pascal Lamy, Director General, WTO

Robert Zoellick, President, World Bank

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

Angel Gurría, Secretary General, Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

The WTO's Doha Round Will Not Solve the Global Food Crisis – Time for Real Solutions

Dear Minister,

The global food system is in crisis. Millions of people can no longer afford or access the food they need, increasing global hunger and malnutrition. The world's governments need to act now. But the answer does not lie in deeper deregulation of food production and trade. We, concerned non-governmental organizations and social movements, urge you to reject the claims by the leaders of the World Trade Organization (WTO), World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), that concluding the Doha Round is a solution to the current crisis.¹

We believe the Doha Round as is currently envisioned will *intensify* the crisis by making food prices more volatile, increasing developing countries' dependence on imports, and strengthening the power of multinational agribusiness in food and agricultural markets. Developing countries are likely to lose further policy space in their agriculture sector, which would in turn limit their ability to deal with the current crisis and to strengthen the livelihoods of small producers.

The inability to manage the current food crisis is an illustration of the failure of three decades of market deregulation in agriculture. We need a new model for the trading system that puts development, employment and food security objectives at the centre. We are calling for real solutions that will stabilize food production and distribution to meet the global demand for healthy, adequate, and affordable food. Governments must start to take a long-term view of the challenges facing agriculture. The recent report of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development [IAASTD], endorsed by 57 countries, says, "Modern agriculture has brought significant increases in food production. But the benefits have been spread unevenly and have come at an increasingly intolerable price, paid by small-scale farmers, workers, rural communities and

the environment.” Support has to be directed at a different model of agriculture that can sustainably meet the needs of a growing population.

The WTO’s Doha Round and other bilateral and regional trade agreements currently under negotiation will not solve the food crisis, for the following reasons:

1. Existing WTO and bilateral and regional trade agreements push across the board liberalization, which worsens volatility of food prices. This leads to increased dependence on international markets and decreased investment in local food production. Trade liberalization has eroded the ability of a number of developing countries to feed themselves, for example, Mexico, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Mali. The removal of tariff barriers has resulted in dumping of heavily subsidized commodities in developing countries, such as Ghana, Kenya, the Philippines, Jamaica and Honduras, while undermining local food production.

Developing countries have turned from net exporters of food to net importers of food.² Two-thirds of developing countries are net food importers and are extremely vulnerable to volatile world food prices. The current proposals under the Doha Round will increase countries’ dependence on food imports while further eroding their ability to feed their own populations.

2. High food prices provide enormous benefits to transnational agribusinesses and commodity cartels that control the trade in food and agriculture. One of the largest global grain traders, Cargill, announced in April 2008 that its third quarter profits rose 86 percent to US\$1.03 billion, in the midst of the global food crisis.³ Bunge saw its profits in the last quarter of 2007 increase by 77 percent compared with the same period in 2006. Archer Daniel Midland’s (ADM’s) profits in 2007 rose by 65 percent.⁴ The Doha Round will strengthen the position of transnational companies in agricultural markets, who thrive on market deregulation.

3. The Doha negotiations do not tackle the major challenges facing the global food system, which include climate change, natural resource depletion, the quadrupling of oil prices, the lack of competition in world commodity markets, financial speculation and the rapid expansion of unsustainable agrofuels production.

We believe what is needed to solve the food crisis is the following:

1. Governments and communities need to have a range of tools at their disposal to build resilient food and agricultural systems that are ready for the challenges that lie ahead. This includes a greater emphasis on policies that increase food sovereignty, encourage local investment in local markets, support sustainable small-scale farming, safeguard local production from dumping, implement genuine agrarian reform, and allow trade instruments such as quotas and tariffs. Some of these instruments are being proposed

by a group of 46 developing countries—known as the G33—in the WTO’s negotiations on Special Products and Special Safeguard Mechanism.

2. The volatility of agricultural prices must be addressed through national policies and global actions to avert food crises and to ensure small producers a reliable and steady income. Well-managed public stocks need to be re-established. Such stocks provide an important buffer against price volatility and food insecurity. Speculation and extremely high prices forced upon consumers by traders and retailers must be controlled. At the WTO, the African group has a long-standing proposal on the need to allow commodity-producing countries to make agreements among themselves in order to stabilize prices. This proposal deserves further attention.

3. Governments should establish safety nets and public distribution systems to prevent widespread hunger. Governments have to provide financial support for the poorest consumers to allow them to eat. Governments must use the maximum of available resources within the State and from the international community.

4. A reform of the food aid system to respond more rapidly and to allow greater flexibility in the delivery of food aid. Instead of dumping surplus agricultural production as “in kind” food aid, donors should provide cash to governments and aid agencies to buy local food.

5. Developing countries should not commit to financial services liberalization in the context of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) or bilateral and regional trade negotiations, as this can adversely impact farmers’ access to financial services such as insurance and credit.

We look forward to discussing these issues further with you, and to seeing real solutions to the global food crisis.

Sincerely,

International and Regional Networks

<i>Organization</i>		<i>Presence In</i>
1.	Action Aid International	International
2.	Africa Europe Faith & Justice Network (AEFJN)	Africa and Europe
3.	Africa Trade Network (ATN)	Africa

4.	Asian Peasant Coalition (APC)	Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka
5.	A SEED	Europe
6.	ATTAC	Argentina, Austria, Chile, France, Germany, Japan, Morocco, Norway, Spain, Poland, Flanders (Belgium), Hungary, Italy, Switzerland
7.	Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action	Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago
8.	Consejo de Investigaciones para el Desarrollo de Centroamérica (Council of Research for Development of Central America - CIDECA)	Central America
9.	Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Organizaciones del Campo (Latin American Coordination of Rural Organizations – CLOC)	Latin America
10.	East and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF)	Africa
11.	Economic Justice Network (EJN) of the Fellowship of Christian Councils	Southern Africa
12.	Friends of the Earth International	International
13.	Friends of the Earth	Europe
14.	Fundación América Latina	Latin America
15.	Focus on the Global South	Thailand
16.	Global Network Latin America	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru
17.	Grupo de Agricultura y Comercio de la Alianza Social Continental (Working Group on Trade and Agriculture of the Hemispheric Social Alliance)	Latin America
18.	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)	International
19.	International Gender and Trade Network	International

20.	International Metalworkers Federation	East and Southern Africa, South and Southeast Asia, Latin America and Caribbean
21.	International Union of Food Workers	International
22.	La Via Campesina	International
23.	Mesa de Coordinación Latinoamericana de Comercio Justo	Latin America
24.	Oxfam International	International
25.	Pesticide Action Network (PAN)	International
26.	Public Services International	Europe, Asia-Pacific, Inter-Americas, Africa & Arab countries
27.	Red de Acción en Plaguicidas de América Latina (Network on Pesticides, Latin America - RAPAL)	Latin America
28.	Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI)	Kenya, Zimbabwe, Uganda
29.	Third World Network	Malaysia, Africa, Geneva, China
30.	The World Alliance of Reformed Churches	International
31.	UBUNTU	International
32.	Young Womens Christian Alliance	International

National and Sub Regional Networks

<i>Organization</i>		<i>Presence In</i>
1.	Acción Ecológica	Ecuador
2.	ACSUR Las Segovias	Spain
3.	Advocates for Safe Parenthood	St. Lucia
4.	Africa Action	USA
5.	African Forum on Alternatives	Senegal
6.	Agricultural Missions, Inc.	USA
7.	Aitec	France

8.	Alianza Social Continental Capítulo	Peru
9.	Alianza por Litorales Manglares Aguas y Suelos (ALMAS)	Venezuela
10.	Anti Debt Coalition (KUA)	Indonesia
11.	Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL)	Philippines
12.	Nationale des Consommateurs et de l'Environnement du Togo	Togo
13.	Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development (APWLD)	Thailand
14.	Artisanal Fishers Association	South Africa
15.	Australia Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET)	Australia
16.	Bhartiya Krishak Samaj (National Farmers' Movement – BKS)	India
17.	Bios Iguana A.C. de Colima	Mexico
18.	Brot Fuer De Welt	Germany
19.	Campaign for the Reform of the World Bank (CRBM)	Italy
20.	Canadian Council for International Co-Operation	Canada
21.	Canadian National Farmers Union	Canada
22.	Center for Encounter and Active Non-Violence	Austria
23.	Centre for Civil Society Economic Justice Project (University of KwaZulu-Natal)	South Africa
24.	Center for Women's Studies, Catholic University of Our Lady of the Ascension	Paraguay
25.	Central Unica dos Trabalhadores (National Labor Federation – CUT)	Brazil
26.	Centre du Commerce International pour le Developpement (CECIDE)	Guinee
27.	Centre for Education and Communication (CEC)	India

28.	Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO)	The Netherlands
29.	CENTINELA	Venezuela
30.	Centro Cultural Pachakamak Ayni	Ecuador
31.	Centro de Formación Guayana	Venezuela
32.	Centro de Políticas Publicas para el Socialismo (CEPPAS)	Argentina
33.	Centro de Estudios Sobre Tecnologías Apropriadas (Center for the Study of Appropriate Technology)	Argentina
34.	Center for Fair and Alternative Trade Studies	USA
35.	Centre National de Coopération au Développement (CNCD-11.11.11)	Belgium
36.	Christians for Justice and Peace	Colombia
37.	CIDSE	Belgium
38.	French Committee for International Solidarity (CFSI)	France
39.	Central Geral dos Trabalhadores do Brasil (National Workers' Federation – CGTB)	Brazil
40.	Centro de Investigación y Promoción Franciscano y Ecológico (Center for Franciscan and Ecological Investigation and Promotion – CIPFE)	Uruguay
41.	Center of Concern	USA
42.	Citizen for Social Justice and Development	Pakistan
43.	Ciudadanos Por La Integracion	Peru
44.	Coecoceiba-FOE	Costa Rica
45.	Colectivo de Lesbianas Feministas Josefa Camejo	Venezuela
46.	Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires	Belgium

47.	Colectivo Rebelión	Mexico
48.	Comhlamh	Ireland
49.	Comitè de Solidaritat amb els Pobles Indígenes dZ Amèrica	Spain
50.	Committee for Asian Women (CAW)	Thailand
51.	Commission for Filipino Migrant Workers (CFMW)	The Netherlands
52.	Common Frontiers	Canada
53.	Confederation of Labor and Allied Social Services (CLASS)	Philippines
54.	Consumers Association of Penang	Malaysia
55.	Coordinador Consumidores por el Desarrollo	Peru
56.	Coordination Sud, French Platform of Development NGOs	France
57.	Coordination Andhra Pradesh Vyavasaya Vruthidarula Union (APVVU)	India
58.	Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)	The Netherlands
59.	Daughters of Mumbi Global Resource Center	Kenya
60.	DECA Equipo Pueblo	Mexico
61.	Departamento de Pastoral Social Diócesis de San Carlos de Bariloche	Argentina
62.	Ecologistas en Acción	Spain
63.	Earth Spirituality	USA
64.	Economic Justice Network	South Africa
65.	Economic Justice and Development Organization (EJAD)	Pakistan
66.	Ecoportal.Net	Argentina
67.	El Movimiento Popular y Social Organizado de El Salvador en las Comunidades de Fe y Vida COFEVI y su Pastoral Ecumenica	El Salvador
68.	Enda Tiers Monde	Senegal

69.	Espacio DESC	Mexico
70.	Enginyeria Sense Fronteres-Catalunya	Spain
71.	El Grupo Por Una Agricultura Alternativa Y de Alerta Ante La Transgenesis (Alternative Agriculture and GMO Alert Group - AGALAT)	Panama
72.	Ethical Development Action (EDA) of Cork	Ireland
73.	Fair	Italy
74.	Family Farm Defenders	USA
75.	Farmer Solidarity Project	USA
76.	Federación de Obreros Universitarios	Venezuela
77.	Federación de Sindicato de Profesores Universitarios (FENASINPRES)	Venezuela
78.	Federación de Trabajadores de la Harina (FETRAHARINA)	Venezuela
79.	Federación de Trabajadores de la Industria Gráfica (FETRAIG)	Venezuela
80.	Federación de Trabajadores de Telecomunicaciones (FETRATELECOMUNICACIONES)	Venezuela
81.	Federación de Trabajadores del Sector Eléctrico (FETRAELEC)	Venezuela
82.	Federación de Trabajadores Universitarios (FETRAUVE)	Venezuela
83.	Federación Nacional de Sindicatos de Trabajadores de la Salud (FENASIRTRASALUD)	Venezuela
84.	Federación Nacional de Trabajadores del Sector Público (FENTRASEP)	Venezuela
85.	Federación Regional Única de Trabajadores Campesinos del Altiplano Sur FRUTCAS de Uyuni	Bolivia
86.	Federación Unitaria de Trabajadores de Petróleo y Gas (FUTEP)	Venezuela
87.	Farmer and Nature Net (FNN)	Cambodia

88.	Fondazione Neno Zanchetta	Italy
89.	Food & Water Watch	USA, Europe
90.	FoodSPAN	Ghana
91.	Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy	USA
92.	Foro "Corriente de Opinion Ciudadana"	Argentina
93.	Frente Democrático Campesino (FDC)	Mexico
94.	Friends of the Earth	Malaysia
95.	Friends of the Earth	England, Wales and Northern Ireland
96.	Fundación de Estudios, Acción, y Participación Social de Ecuador	Ecuador
97.	Fundación Solon	Bolivia
98.	FUNDAMAYA	Guatemala
99.	Galway One World Centre	Ireland
100.	Ghana Trade and Livelihoods Coalition (GTLC)	Ghana
101.	Global Compliance Research Project	Canada
102.	Global Exchange	USA
103.	Global Youth Network for Economic Justice (GLOYONEJ)	Indonesia
104.	Globalization Watch Hiroshima	Japan
105.	Gret	France
106.	Grassroots International	USA
107.	GroundWork, Friends of the Earth	South Africa
108.	Grupo Red de Economía Solidaria del Perú (GRESPE)	Peru
109.	Grupo de Estudios Ambientales	Mexico
110.	Hecho en Buenos Aires	Argentina
111.	IBON Foundation, Inc.	Philippines
112.	ILSA	Colombia

113.	Indian Society For Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Development	India
114.	Informationsgruppe Lateinamerika (IGLA)	Austria
115.	Initiative Colibri	Germany
116.	Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)	USA
117.	Institute for Global Justice (IGJ)	Indonesia
118.	Instituto de Regeneración Ecológica	Ecuador
119.	International Forum on Globalization	USA
120.	International Grail Justice in Trade Network	Australia
121.	Japan Family Farmers Movement (NOUMINREN)	Japan
122.	Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ	USA
123.	KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives	Canada
124.	Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean	USA
125.	Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP)	Philippines
126.	La Coordinadora Simón Bolívar	Venezuela
127.	La Unidad Ecológica Salvadoreña (UNES)	El Salvador
128.	La Articulación Nacional Campesina	Dominican Republic
129.	Labour, Health, and Human Rights Development Centre	Nigeria
130.	La'o Hamutuk (Timor-Leste Institute for Development Monitoring and Analysis)	Timor-Leste
131.	Latin American Solidarity Centre	Ireland
132.	Legal Defense and Education for Women "Vereda Themis"	Mexico
133.	Llamado Mundial a la Acción contra la Pobreza	Peru

134.	Malawi Health Equity Network	Malawi
135.	MASIPAG	Philippines
136.	Marcha Mundial de Mujeres	Argentina
137.	Marcha Mundial de las Mujeres	Peru
138.	Mesa Global de Guatemala	Guatemala
139.	Mennonite Central Committee	Canada
140.	Movement for Land and Agricultural Reform (MONLAR)	Sri Lanka
141.	Movimiento De Trabajadores Alfredo Maneiro	Venezuela
142.	Movimiento Por La Autonomia Sindical	Venezuela
143.	Mujeres Trabajando	Argentina
144.	Mujeres para el Diálogo (MpD)	Mexico
145.	Marcha Mundial de las Mujeres (MMM)	Mexico
146.	National Agricultural Workers Forum (NAWF)	India
147.	National Alliance of People's Movements	India
148.	National Network of Agrarian Reform Advocates	Philippines
149.	OEBV-Via Campesina	Austria
150.	Movimiento de Agricultura Orgánica Costarricense (Costa Rican Organic Agricultural Movement – MAOCO)	Costa Rica
151.	Poverty Elimination and Community Education Foundation (PEACE FOUNDATION)	Bangladesh
152.	Peoples' Network against Liberalization of Agriculture (PUMALAG)	Philippines
153.	Planeta Paz	Colombia
154.	Plataforma Argentina del GCAP	Argentina
155.	Plataforma de Solidaridad con Chiapas, Oaxaca y Guatemala de Madrid	Spain

156.	Platform Aarde Boer Consument (Earth Farmer Consumer)	The Netherlands
157.	Polaris Institute	Canada
158.	Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch	USA
159.	Presentation Justice Network	Ireland
160.	RALLT	Ecuador
161.	Red de Organizaciones Sociales	Paraguay
162.	Red de Semillas “Resembrando e Intercambiando”	Spain
163.	Red Mexicana de Accion frente al Libre Comercio (Mexican Action Network on Free Trade - RMALC)	Mexico
164.	Red Peruana de Comercio Justo y Consumo Ético (Peruvian Network of Fair Trade and Ethical Consumption)	Peru
165.	Red Sinti Techan	El Salvador
166.	Rede Social de Justiça e Direitos Humanos	Brazil
167.	Red Nacional Género y Economía (REDGE)	Mexico
168.	Resistance and Solidarity against Agrochem TNCs (RESIST)	Philippines
169.	Rural Women’s NGO	Kyrgyzstan
170.	Sandigan Samahang Magsasaka (SASAMAG)	Philippines
171.	SETEM	Spain
172.	Social Enterprise Development Foundation of West Africa (SEND)	Ghana
173.	Sindicato Nacional Fuerza Unitaria Magisterial (SINAFUM)	Venezuela
174.	Sindicato Unitario De La Construcción (SUTAC)	Venezuela
175.	Social Development Network	Kenya
176.	SOS Faim – Agir avec le Sud	Belgium
177.	SOS Faim - Action for Development	Luxembourg

178.	South Asian Network for Social and Agricultural Development (SANSAD)	India
179.	Southeast Asian Council For Food Security and Fair Trade (SEACON)	South Asia
180.	Spire, the Development Fund Youth Group	Norway
181.	St. Lucia National Organization of Women	St. Lucia
182.	Sugar Workers Solidarity Network	Philippines
183.	Taller Ecologista	Argentina
184.	Tanggol Magsasaka	Philippines
185.	The Cornucopia Institute	USA
186.	The Development Fund	Norway
187.	The National Confederation Of Officers Associations (NCOA)	India
188.	The National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP)	Philippines
189.	The Oakland Institute	USA
190.	The Trade Collective	South Africa
191.	Tierra Viva	Bolivia
192.	Trade Watch	Italy
193.	Transnational Institute	The Netherlands
194.	Trócaire	Ireland
195.	Union De Comunidades Indigenas De La Zonanorte Del Istmo (Community Union of Indigenous of the Northern Zone of the Isthmus – Ucizoni)	Mexico
196.	Veterinarios Sin Fronteras	Spain
197.	Voice	Bangladesh
198.	Vredeseilanden	Belgium
199.	Washington Biotechnology Action Council	USA
200.	War on Want	United Kingdom

201.	Welfare Association for the Rights of Bangladeshi Emigrants (WARBE)	Bangladesh
202.	Womyn's Agenda for Change (WAC)	Cambodia
203.	World Development Movement	United Kingdom
204.	World View	The Gambia
205.	X minus Y Solidarity Fund	The Netherlands

Notes

¹ At the WTO's General Council and Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC), the Director-General, Pascal Lamy, said "we have all witnessed the financial turbulence we are in and the hikes in energy and food prices that are affecting severely many of your countries. At a time when the world economy is in rough waters, concluding the Doha Round can provide a strong anchor." Mr. Lamy has argued that the continuous expansion of multilateral trade is an insurance policy against market instabilities and financial turbulences. The President of the World Bank and former U.S. Trade Representative, Robert Zoellick, argued in a speech at the Center for Global Development, that a key solution to the food crisis "is to break the Doha Development Agenda impasse." He said, "A fairer and more open global trading system for agriculture will give more opportunities – and confidence – to African and other developing country farmers to expand production." Similarly, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Managing Director of the IMF, wrote in an opinion in the Financial Times, "no one should forget that all countries rely on open trade to feed their populations. [...] Completing the Doha round would play a critically helpful role in this regard, as it would reduce trade barriers and distortions and encourage agricultural trade." Finally, the Secretary General of the OECD, Angel Gurría, wrote in an opinion piece in the International Herald Tribune, "Governments around the world face weakening economies and soaring food prices. Amid the hand-wringing, an important and immediate step they can take to help would be to agree on a new multilateral trade deal."

See

- http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news08_e/gc_chair_tnc_7may08_e.htm
- http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news08_e/tnc_17apr08_e.htm
- http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/sppl_e/sppl88_e.htm
- http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/sppl_e/sppl85_e.htm
- <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21711307~pagePK:34370~piPK:42770~theSitePK:4607,00.html>
- Financial Times, COMMENT: A global approach is required to tackle high food prices, By Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Apr 21, 2008
- International Herald Tribune, Trade Agreement Needed Now, By Angel Gurría, April 25, 2008

² A food trade surplus of US\$1.9 billion in the 1970's was transformed into a US\$17.6 billion deficit in 2000 and a US\$9.3 billion deficit in 2004. Excluding Brazil, the figures are even more drastic: A food trade surplus of US\$1.6 billion was transformed into a deficit of US\$26.1 billion by 2004. The cereal import bill for low-income food deficit countries in 2007 reached over US\$38 billion. According to FAO projections, by the year 2030, the net food trade deficit of developing countries is expected to swell to more than US\$50 billion.

³ Cited in The Star Tribune.

⁴ Making a Killing from Hunger, Grain, April 2008.
