

## Notes - causes of hunger

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- In 1996, in Rome, governments and the United Nations committed themselves to end hunger in the world
- From that year on hunger increased, today more than 850 million people go to bed with empty stomachs
- However, the world has been producing a lot of food
- Food has become a commodity or a commercial product and is no longer a basic right
- Food is being produced by private companies whose main interest is to target global markets
- The WTO and the bilateral commercial agreements are responsible for the distribution of food in the world
- Food aid is used for the by rich countries to distribute food to the hungry
- Hence the main cause of hunger are the neoliberal policies produced by the Bretton Woods institutions and sold to poor countries
- Hunger was caused by the Structural Adjustment Programs, the PRSP, Liberalization of trade
- All these are human made policies and programs. Those who make them are aware of the devastating effects they can produce to small farmers
- The commitments taken of ending hunger by 2005 does not mean that they will be enough food for the hungry, it means, in my view, that those who are hungry today will not survive and will be dead by then, if we consider that the implemented policies increase hunger and do not reduce it,
- This may not happen if farmers, fisherfolks, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, women unite to fight against such policies: its institutions, WB, IMF, WTO, G8, the multinational corporations and governments that promotes them,
- People, institution, organizations in the world are increasingly defending and proposing food sovereignty as an alternative model for rural development and the right strategy to fight hunger. Food sovereignty is based on 4 pillar. 1. Access and control over natural resources by farmers, pastoralists, indigenous people, women (land, grazing land, water, seed, forests), 2. Proper Public Policies to support small scale farmers (subsidies, rural extension services, small irrigation systems, tertiary roads), 3. Trade and commercialization, the right to protect local markets against dumping of import of cheap food through food and or trade agreements, 4. Peasant based and sustainable agricultural, environmentally sound with no use of chemical products
- I urge the participants to follow up on the Nyéléni Declaration which is a result of days of discussion of people from the different parts of the world who agreed on principle an action plan of how to implement food sovereignty in the world
- The Governments and United Nations under the control of neoliberal policies are failing to end hunger in the world.
- It is not the role international institutions and government to end hunger, this is a role that should be played by farmers and producers. Farmers should take back this role, as they have been doing for thousands of years of history.