

Report: G8 plans for corporate-led investment threaten African food security
“Whose Alliance?”-report launch with African food producers’ organisations
Brussels, 4th June

[Whose Alliance?](#)

[The G8 and the Emergence of a Global Corporate Regime for Agriculture](#)

(Brussels, 3rd June, 2013) A new report, “[Whose Alliance?](#)”, sharply criticizes the G8’s “New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa” for ignoring human rights and the root causes of hunger and instead seeking solutions through a market orientation. The report, published by CIDSE, an international alliance of Catholic development agencies, and EAA, the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, will be launched at a panel discussion in Brussels on 4th June.

“We welcome that G8 leaders put food security high on their agenda, however, the New Alliance treats hunger as a matter of insufficient production while neglecting many of the root causes of the situation in Africa. Issues of access and distribution are largely ignored in this approach” remarks CIDSE Secretary General **Bernd Nilles** on the launch of the report.

The New Alliance initiative pushes African countries to change legislation, particularly on seeds and land rights, both are areas of a great interest to corporate investors.

According to the report, the G8 New Alliance focuses too much on the role of markets as a food security strategy. *“The vision espoused by the New Alliance largely ignores the critical role of small holder food producers in ensuring food security and environmental sustainability in Africa and is primarily interested in their participation only as far as their inclusion into markets is concerned,”* says CIDSE Food Policy Officer **Gisele Henriques**, who will chair the panel.

The report urges the G8 to serve food security through a focus on communities, not corporations.

“Small-scale family farming provides food for 80% of Africa’s peoples without any subsidies; investments must enable these small holders to continue to feed Africa in dignity without compromising the future capacity of the continent to feed itself” states Peter Prove, EAA Executive Director.

[The panel discussion](#) which will take place in Brussels will feature as key note speaker **Mamadou Goita** (IRPAD/ROPPA), as well as other representatives of African producers’ organizations who will share their thoughts on the New Alliance and offer recommendations for the kinds of agricultural investments really needed to ensure the eradication of hunger in the continent.

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Notes to the editors

- **CIDSE** is an international alliance of Catholic development agencies. Its members share a common strategy in their efforts to eradicate poverty and establish global justice.
www.cidse.org

- **CIDSE members:** Broederlijk Delen (Belgium), CAFOD (England and Wales), CCFD - Terre Solidaire (France), Center of Concern (USA), Cordaid (the Netherlands), Development & Peace (Canada), Entraide et Fraternité (Belgium), eRko (Slovakia), Fastenopfer (Switzerland), FEC (Portugal), FOCSIV (Italy), Fondation Bridderlech Deelen (Luxembourg), KOO (Austria), Manos Unidas (Spain), MISEREOR (Germany), SCIAF (Scotland), Trócaire (Ireland)

- **The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA)** is an international network of churches and church-related organizations committed to campaigning together on common concerns. Alliance members represent tens of millions of Christians from Roman Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical and Orthodox traditions who share the conviction that advocacy against unjust structures, practices and attitudes should not be a task we engage in when it is convenient, but must be a fundamental requirement of living out our faith.

- **EAA** includes large international organizations such as the Caritas Internationalis, World YWCA and The Lutheran World Federation, as well as large and small national organizations such as Madras Christian Council of Social Services (India), Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission, Tearfund (United Kingdom), Presbyterian World Service and Development (Canada). Full list: www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/about-us/members/

- [Whose Alliance? The G8 and the Emergence of a Global Corporate Regime for Agriculture, CIDSE and EAA recommendations](#), May 2013. Available in English, French and Spanish

CIDSE and EAA urge the G8 to uphold its commitments to Food and Nutrition Security by reorienting the focus from businesses to communities. Key recommendations toward that aim are detailed in the report and include:

- Ensuring that policies are firmly enshrined in the right to adequate food and securing coherent global governance, placing the UN Committee on World Food Security at its centre,
- Enabling the transition to real sustainable agriculture through support for agroecological models of production⁴ and supporting local markets as the principal pathway to economic development, and
- Targeting support at small-scale food producers – particularly women – and securing a) their empowerment, and b) their access to and control over productive resources.

[Read the full report...](#)

- The [panel](#) will take place on 4th June from 18:30 to 20:30 at Mundo B, Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050 Brussels (near Porte de Namur). This event is co-organised by CIDSE, Misereor and europAfrica. Interpretation will be provided from English to French.
- Light refreshments will be served. To register, please email: demeo@terranuova.org or accardo@terranuova.org