

## GLOBAL RULE OF LAW

All these reforms and policies should ineluctably be accompanied by **international strengthening of democratic rule** and measures to prevent impunity at the international level in criminal, civil, economic, social and environmental law. To this end, we should **advance towards ensuring global rule of law**, ensuring compliance with current international treaties, strengthening existing international legal institutions and establishing those necessary in other areas, and providing all these tools with the appropriate and necessary executive mechanisms.

**The system of international institutions must also urgently begin taking measures to establish a framework guaranteeing plurality of information in the world.**

**Finally, we should stress that only if gender equality impregnates all these proposals can we advance towards another possible world.**

London, 1 April 2004

*This declaration brings together a series of proposals developed over the last two years as part of the **World Campaign for In-Depth Reform of the System of International Institutions**, public presentations of the campaign and consultations within world civil society, as well as contacts with other movements working towards similar aims, such as the Montreal International Forum, the International Facilitating Group on Financing for Development, the Global Progressive Forum, the World Governance Project, etc. This is not intended to be a closed proposal, but a starting-point for debate and the dissemination of proposals to reform the system of international institutions and which enjoys the initial support of:*

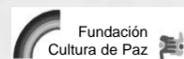
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For more information about the World Campaign, please visit the [www.reformcampaign.net](http://www.reformcampaign.net) site, where you can read the "Manifesto for In-Depth Reform of the System of International Institutions", which spearheads the campaign. This website enables supporters of the campaign to sign both the manifesto and this declaration so that the proposals contained in them can, in the future, be submitted for consideration by the United Nations General Assembly. Tel. +34 93 413 77 73 / Fax +34 93 413 77 77 UBUNTU - UPC - Jordi Girona 29, Nexus II 08034 Barcelona - Spain

# REFORMS OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO MAKE ANOTHER WORLD POSSIBLE

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Reform of International Institutions

World Campaign for In-Depth Reform of the System of International Institutions



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## LONDON DECLARATION

1 APRIL 2004

On the occasion of the presentation in London<sup>1</sup> of the "World Campaign for In-Depth Reform of the System of International Institutions", we call on all the citizens of the world, all its peoples and, particularly, its political leaders, to give their full support to promoting a process of in-depth reform of the system of international institutions in order to establish a framework for fair, democratic global governance that can safeguard present and future generations from war, poverty, injustice, the tendency towards cultural uniformisation and environmental degradation.

## LONDON DECLARATION

1 APRIL 2004

### BACKGROUND

The globalisation process increases both the interdependent nature of the problems facing the world and the gap between rich and poor. Markets are more and more global, but the influence of the political institutions necessary to ensure that these operate in a democratic, equitable and efficient way diminishes day by day. Global economic institutions increasingly apply policies that favour the market and the large corporations to the detriment of policies promoting sustainable human development approved at the 1990s and the Millennium UN summits.

The weakening and marginalisation of the system of international institutions over peace and security issues has led to unilateral use of force in recent conflicts (Iraq...). Rather than promoting conflict resolution through processes and rules established by the UN, the interests of the main superpower are imposed through military superiority, sowing the seeds of further violence throughout the world.

The present system of international institutions, established over 50 years ago in what was an important step forward in the history of humanity, suffers from considerable shortcomings leaving it ill-equipped to resolve the grave problems that face the world today. **For this reason, it is necessary to reform the international institutions so that they can, once more, help to build a fairer, more equitable, diverse, sustainable, free and peaceful world and ensure that new policies are implemented to pursue the great objectives of global democracy and the promotion of human rights, peace and security throughout the world, sustainable human development and cultural diversity, as well as the consolidation of a the global rule of law.**

### GLOBAL DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**Democratisation** is a key priority in the reform process of international institutions. The international institutions should act in accordance with the different interests and needs and aspirations of all the world's citizens, and this requires a more equitable redistribution of power between the North and South countries, as well as providing increased possibilities for citizens, civil society, different levels of government, etc., to effectively be represented and participate in international institutions and forums. Transparency, public accountability, the decentralisation of power and the principle of subsidiarity should be basic characteristics of this democratisation process. But democratisation not only concerns procedural questions; it also requires respect for and defence of the fundamental rights of citizens as enshrined in the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** and its development.

**It is necessary for the world's citizens to be directly represented in the international institutions<sup>1</sup>, and not only the states members of the United Nations General Assembly. The UN General Assembly should evolve, gradually unifying other general assemblies and conferences, to play a central role in the system with authority to adopt binding resolutions and to exercise effective control over the other bodies, agencies and programmes forming part of the system.**

**All actors on the world scene should be empowered to effectively participate in the international institutions<sup>2</sup>, and different forms of representation should be provided for each.**

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<sup>1</sup> In line with a widely-supported proposal, work could move towards creating a **parliamentary assembly**, which could play a role in establishing international law, put forward recommendations and exercise control over the other institutions forming part of the system.

<sup>2</sup> Following the example of the one of the oldest multilateral institutions -the International Labour Organisation- specific assemblies could be established to guarantee participation by different government levels and actors from civil society, in the broadest sense of the term, within the appropriate institutions.

### PEACE AND SECURITY

The international institutions must substantially improve their capacity to prevent conflicts and keep the peace. To this end, it is essential to work towards a collective system for human security that can achieve gradual demilitarisation and use of legal and arbitration processes, etc., to resolve conflicts. Bodies engaged in peace and security issues should take into account the views of all in a balanced way, and should be empowered to enforce their decisions.

**To this end, the present Security Council should be reformed and placed under effective UN General Assembly control, with a composition representative of all the world's regions. The right to use the veto must be restricted to certain issues whilst steps are taken towards its eventual abolition, and votes over the most important issues should be according to a system of qualified majorities.**

**Such reform should make it possible to effectively resolve all conflicts, to develop effective conflict prevention mechanisms <sup>¾</sup>with the participation of regional organisations<sup>¾</sup> and to establish an effective world peacekeeping force. All this should be accompanied by a global disarmament process <sup>¾</sup>focusing, particularly, on non-conventional weapons, whilst not forgetting all other types<sup>¾</sup> restoring a climate of confidence amongst all the world's countries.**

### SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The international institutions' capacity for global macroeconomic management should also be enhanced through **financial, economic, trade, social and environmental policies** that take the interests of all into account, particularly those of the weakest. In order to resolve the world's grave problems of poverty and inequality, all these policies should be implemented in an integral and coordinated way, and should be subordinate to the primacy of human rights. It is essential to establish a hierarchy in international legislation to promote coherence between economic policies and social rights and environmental issues.

**All this requires the implementation of mechanisms to coordinate global financial, economic, social and environmental policies. A proposal currently enjoying broad support from different sectors is that of reforming ECOSOC (the Economic and Social Council) to transform it into an Economic, Social and Environmental Security Council with effective authority over UN agencies, funds and programmes, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organisation. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank should return to their original mandates (IMF: world monetary and macroeconomic balance, WB: reconstruction and development), establish democratic decision-making processes and become effectively integrated within the UN system. The World Trade Organisation should be refounded within the UN and, in cooperation with UNC-TAD, draft world trade policies consistent with human rights and world social and environmental standards. At the same time, the UN should, furthermore, take urgent steps to establish a framework to regulate world financial flows.**

**Such reform should make it possible to finally resolve the problem of foreign debt, eradicate tax havens, establish world tax cooperation mechanisms and global taxes and promote increases in Official Development Aid provisions. All this should enable the operation of the international institutions to be co-financed, and world cohesion funds for development to be established. Only in this way can we ensure that the Millennium Development Goals are met, and promote true sustainable human development to conserve the planet's environmental and cultural heritage and diversity.**