

Raising Global Awareness and Action on Accountability



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The International Alliance Against Hunger (IAAH) was created on World Food Day 2003 as a result of the proposal made by the former President of Germany, Johannes Rau who called for a global partnership against hunger, on the occasion of World Food Summit: *five years later* (2002). Historically, one of the four pillars of the International Alliance has been Accountability; together with Advocacy, Coordination and Resource Mobilization.

Originally the International Alliance proposed that Accountability relates to the time-committed “ending hunger pledges” made by its members National Alliances. However the IAAH progressively realized that the only way to eradicate hunger is for governments to take lead responsibility and to make stronger efforts towards filling the gap between intent and action.

Since World Food Summits 1996 and 2002, world leaders at various levels repeatedly committed to alleviate hunger and malnutrition, yet the number of hungry and malnourished people has increased dramatically. This has been exacerbated in recent years because of soaring fuel and food prices in 2007 and the ongoing global economic crisis. Currently almost 1 billion people are considered to be chronically hungry and food insecure in our world. The food crisis has helped to raise the level of public concern and opinion on the need for extra emphasis and committed seriousness to the issue of fighting and eradicating hunger. There is a greater expectation for governments to be more transparent and accountable in their commitments and programs aimed at eradicating hunger and malnutrition at the national and global levels. However, fighting hunger cannot be left only to governments. Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, donor agencies and international organizations and platforms all have a role in this, and accountability is essential in all these domains.

Partnership and coordination across all parties are vital. Public awareness plays a key role in making governments deliver on their commitments. The International Alliance against Hunger provides the appropriate neutral space for the various stakeholders to debate on the most appropriate accountability mechanisms and proposes a framework that governments and national alliances could adapt to their own national contexts.

I welcome the initiative taken by a group of NGOs/CSOs to present a proposal of “National declaration of commitment to eradicate hunger and malnutrition” and hope that it will trigger further global awareness and action on this issue of accountability, as a way of getting real progress in the war against hunger in the world. It is anticipated that a global campaign would be launched soon after the World summit on Food security to be held at FAO in Rome from 16 to 18 November.

The IAAH looks forward to supporting efforts in this direction.