

## OXFAM View 'Time to deliver on commitments'



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In the last few months, representatives from NGOs and CSOs around the world have been working together to develop a global campaign. The aim of the campaign is to mobilize people around the world to encourage their governments to eradicate hunger and malnutrition by 2025.

We are motivated by a common anger at the failure of governments to deliver on the promises that they have repeatedly made in past Summits and Declarations. Individuals interested in the campaign participate in a Yahoo discussion group (see below) where we share ideas on our proposals. Here are a couple of quotes from two participants in the group which illustrate the frustration at the lack of progress being made in communities around the world:

*When do all the efforts reach a grandmother in rural Machakos district south eastern Kenya whose 3 acre farm has not produced 2 bags of maize in the last 5 years? (Walter Mwasaa, Kenya)*

*Agreed Walter. There is a similar situation in India... but when will all the 'action' begin? (Ananya S Guha, India)*

We are failing to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by half the proportion of hungry people in the world. Worse! The number has increased by 150 million in the last two years!

A promise of US\$20 billion to promote food security was made at the G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy. But history shows that global promises are quickly forgotten and hundreds of millions continue to go to bed with an empty stomach every day of their shortened lives.

If we are being honest, civil society must accept our share of the blame for failing to hold governments to account for their broken promises. Let's not allow history to repeat itself! Let's not let the World Summit on Food Security in November be another massive waste of words and money! Let's join together in a worldwide campaign to ensure that promises are kept and enable the grandmother in rural Kenya and millions of people like her around the world to feed themselves.

Let's urge national governments to:

- **Make a voluntary 9-point national Declaration of Commitment to End Hunger and Malnutrition by 2025.**
- **Deposit their Declaration in an International Public Register of Commitments, hosted by an appropriate UN body.**
- **Prepare and deposit in the Register an Action Plan which explains how they will reach the goal and help other countries to do likewise.**

If you would like to participate in the development of the campaign, follow the link and click on "Join this group" [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Anti-hunger\\_commitment/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Anti-hunger_commitment/)