



Speech for the activity "Advancing Regional Recommendations on Post-2015: A Dialogue between Civil Society, Governments and UN Representatives"

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the video of the speech and the final report are available at: <http://e.eita.org.br/fv>

Thanks for the invitation and congratulations for this excellent UN initiative carried out by the Non Governmental Liaison Service doing such a serious and consistent consultation to civil society networks and social movements. This inspires more hope about the resulting development agenda post 2015.

I'll address some recommendations in two axis, complementing the analyses and recommendations already expressed by Roberto and Tonya Haynes.

The **first** has to do with indicators to measure poverty, inequality and development.

We can only eradicate extreme poverty if we eradicate extreme richness. Concentration of wealth (in finances, land or properties) must be considered as what it is: an obstacle to development.

We thus recommend that the fundamental pillar of the MDGs post-2015 becomes "Achieving Equality in Diversity".

US\$ 1,25 or any other monetary income value is insufficient to measure poverty. So are the actual indicators of development still repeated in the high level reports. They are so distorted that the indiscriminate extractivism and monocultural grain production that are destroying communities, cultures, quality of life and natural resources in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa, are considered positive development factors.

There are several **non-monetary** aspects that account for a healthy society, like self-consumption, care work, community bonds, collective task forces, local seeds preservation, sharing, respectful and lively diversity of gender, culture and race, access to clean environment, water, land, livelihood and public health and education, among others.

Some of the indigenous nations in Latin America propose an integrated view of development that take these factors into account, called *BUEN VIVIR* (which could roughly be translated to English as "living well"). In Asia there is the concept of *Gross National Happiness Index*. These frameworks offer a set of qualitative and quantitative indicators that successfully address the evaluation of development and health of a nation. We have rich examples of public policies and constitutional laws in different countries in Latin America based on this premises. We recommend that these indicators be considered as the reference to evaluate poverty, inequality and development in the MDGs.

The **second axis** is to shift the economic paradigm. From a for-profit, market oriented and competitive economy to a **Fair, Social and Solidarity Economy**.

There are hundreds of thousands of economic initiatives in Latin America, but also in all other continents, based on associative collective work and life reproduction, which are **intrinsically**: Inclusive; Rooted in the community; Do generate active citizenship by its members; Promote women economic emancipation and gender equality, diversity, preservation of indigenous and traditional cultures.

All this **while doing economy**: Production of goods and services; Trading; Local circuits of value aggregation; Consumers organisation; Financial services; Natural resources management, among many other expressions.

In rural areas, myriads of **agroecology** initiatives successfully guarantee the so needed **right for food sovereignty in the territories** (as defined by Via Campesina), besides decent associative work and the strong reduction of agro-chemicals and transgenics.

We'd like to highlight some of our recommendations for transitioning to a Fair, Social and Solidarity Economy. They are backed by existing public policies in latinamerican countries. We recommend:

* Clear goals and indicators to positively value the creation of a favourable environment for Social Solidarity Economy, Agroecology and Peasant Agriculture to flourish, in terms of public financing policies, privileged taxes, social and ecologic criteria for public procurements, adequate legal frameworks among others.

* Extend the proposal of accountability and transparency of Corporations to goals of direct accountability of investors for the ecologic and social impacts derived from the activities of enterprises or projects they invest in.

* That International and National Funds aimed at economic development be operated by the local initiatives of solidarity economy finances, like community banks (owned and managed by the community), rotatory funds and local credit cooperatives, since they are the best actors to finance local development.

* Clearly state that universal access to commons and basic services means **public assets for all citizens** which therefore can not by any means be commoditized or privatized.

A traditional saying from Africa, probably Senegal, states that

It's easy to hear a tree falling down.

But it's far more difficult to hear, understand and acknowledge a full and diverse forest GROW.

Dear governors. Dear UN Officers. It's in your hands to change your mindset to be able to perceive and support this beautiful growing forest, because it is showing us, by practical experience, concrete ways to overcome the civilizational crisis which threatens the future of human life on Earth.

Thank you.