



MANIFESTO

FROM DEVELOPMENT NGO SPANISH NATIONAL PLATFORM MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITMENTS

PEOPLE FIRST
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & FINANCIAL CRISIS

The global financial crisis has specific and known offenders. And the measures to make them liable for their actions are still pending. Decisions that allow the transformation of the financial market and the current development model into a more fair, sustainable and human system, and that prevent the same offenders to act with impunity, are also pending.

Meanwhile, this crisis is already claiming victims. Not symbolic, but real life victims: **over 1,020 million people from amongst the world's most vulnerable populations**, mostly in places very distant from the stock market and the headquarters of large banks and financial institutions. Also in our streets, but always hitting the most vulnerable harder.

It is unacceptable, and morally reprehensible, due to principles and coherence, that the measures taken to tackle the financial crisis are set against Human Development and the Millennium Development Goals. Due to principles like social justice, defense of human rights and solidarity with the weakest. Due to coherence with all the commitments, international, national and local, signed by our rulers and lawmakers, beginning with the Millennium Declaration, followed by the National Pact against Poverty, and ending with regional and local Government Pacts. Non-compliance with commitments signed on behalf of citizens represents a breach of contract with society, not the best selling point for a politician.

Official Development Aid is not a luxury for prosperous times, nor a handout when the Treasury is full. Rather, it is a vital necessity for millions of people, a moral imperative responding to criteria of justice, as well as a signed commitment which decision-makers must honor. There are neither statistics nor percentages behind... There are towns, communities, societies, persons, nourishment, wells, schools, medicines, health centers...

Spanish society has repeatedly made known its genuine commitment to the most needy, and that evident desire must be respected. And, significantly, it has expressed its rejection to cutting aid to the poorest countries.

We ask our decision-makers to become aware. Aware of their actions and their consequences. We ask that they do not act from a short-term demand of markets. Rather, from the moral responsibility of having the fate of hundreds of thousands of persons in their hands. Although these people will not be able to vote for them in the next elections, millions of Spanish citizens will, and they will also demand principles and coherence.

The organizations and citizens signing below make a call to all Government leaders and decision-makers to:

- 1** Push measures against the crisis that target primarily those responsible for it by the creation of a tax on financial transactions, tax measures that fall on the wealthiest and do not decrease social spending and hit the productive economy.
- 2** Reiterate their commitment to the fight against poverty, with Human Development and the Millennium Development Goals, by maintaining your commitments to Official Development Aid both at the national as well as at the regional and local levels, where the participation and link of civil society and international development is still closer and more direct.
- 3** And we ask the Government leaders and decision-makers –at the national, regional and local levels- that have announced cutbacks in this respect, to become aware of their actions and their consequences. And to rectify.