

Declaration for Collective Action

We have gathered in Santa Cruz this week to expand our knowledge and understanding of the relationship between land and poverty reduction, and renew our collective commitment to finding ways to increase secure land access by poor men and women and marginalized groups. Based on our exchange over the past four days, and on our interaction with representatives of the Bolivian government, civil society groups including farmers and indigenous peoples' associations, private sector and social movements, several priority themes have emerged.



First, land is a point around which there are many complex social, economic, cultural and political relations. The same territorial space can have very different meanings to different people and groups. Indeed, the theme of this assembly - *La Tierra Es Vida* (Land is Life) - reflects the idea that land is more than simply a productive asset or locus for investment, just as there is more to life than economic production.

Second, access to land and control over natural resources by itself cannot eradicate poverty. From just an economic perspective, we generally acknowledged that land is only one of many assets needed for production, and must be accompanied by access to credit, fairly priced inputs, training and extension services, and markets. These are prerequisites for land reforms to yield results and for land resources to be used equitably, efficiently and sustainably.

Poverty, however, is the manifestation of more than just a lack of economic assets. It is also linked closely to exclusion from political processes, basic services such as health and education, and the marginalization of one's culture and own identity. Land reform must therefore go hand-in-hand with improvements in these other basic sectors, as well as changes to power structures within societies and between nations.

Third, eradicating rural poverty must account for the relationships that rural people have with urban areas. Where land access does not exist, migration to cities increases urban poverty and can even exacerbate urban violence. This flow of "landless refugees" now extends across national borders. Stronger links between rural areas, on the other hand, can contribute to regional development and complement improved access to land by rural households.