

The Collaborating Institutions

THE POPULAR COALITION TO ERADICATE HUNGER AND POVERTY

The Popular Coalition is a global consortium of intergovernmental, civil-society and bilateral organizations committed to the empowerment of the rural poor. It believes that empowerment can best be achieved through increasing the access of the poor to productive assets, especially land, water and common-property resources, and direct participation in decision-making processes at local, national, regional and international levels. The Popular Coalition aims to build strategic alliances among diverse development organizations, placing particular emphasis on the role of civil society in overcoming hunger and poverty.

Seven civil-society organizations plus five intergovernmental organizations comprise the 12-member Popular Coalition Steering Committee. The seven civil-society representatives are selected by their regional peers to achieve balance from South and South-East Asia and the Pacific; West and Central Africa; East and Southern Africa; North Africa and the Near East; Central and Latin America, the Caribbean; the OECD and northern partners. The five intergovernmental organizations are the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the World Bank and the European Commission. While the global focal point is located at IFAD in Rome, the programme of work is undertaken by geographical nodes, which provide the decentralized means for participation and grassroots operation.

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THE UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (UNRISD)

UNRISD is an autonomous agency engaging in multidisciplinary research on the social dimensions of contemporary problems affecting development. Its work is guided by the conviction that, for effective development policies to be formulated,

an understanding of the social and political context is crucial. The Institute attempts to provide governments, development agencies, grassroots organizations and scholars with a better understanding of how development policies and processes of economic, social and environmental change affect different social groups. Working through an extensive network of national research centres, UNRISD aims to promote original research and strengthen research capacity in developing countries. Current research programmes include: Civil Society and Social Movements; Democracy and Human Rights; Identities, Conflict and Cohesion; Social Policy and Development; and Technology, Business and Society.

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