

Key Messages
INGO Statement for the Consultative Group Meeting
Vietnam, 3rd – 4th December 2009

First Draft

Kim Ninh

Ensuring Social Equality while Maintaining Economic Stability and Re-positioning the Economy for Growth after the Global Financial Crisis:

- Address the issue of reduced export in Vietnam by paying more importance to domestic market; Improve the quality of services and products available at the domestic market;
- Protect the interests of workers through better education and through increasing their awareness about workers' rights;
- Improve policies affecting poor people; Create policies for areas that are not covered; Clarify and provide clear instruction for the relevant existing policies;
- Use the experience from other countries -especially from those in the same region- in order to improve and increase protection of the environment;
- Revise tax policies in a way that they will favour poor people;
- Create a fair and competitive economic environment to allow private enterprise, in particular small to medium enterprises, to compete – fight against monopoly of specific sectors which currently hold monopoly in certain areas.

Steve Price-Thomas

Sustaining Poverty Reduction:

- Allow flexibility in targeting poverty funds; Consider long-term solutions as opposed to dealing with immediate needs of the poor; Improve social protection; Microfinance is a key issue; Target the most vulnerable who need long-term support rather than short-term crisis relief;
- Work on changing policies that make people poorer – such as taking away land from people or resettling people. Business should contribute to rebuilding livelihoods lost through people's resettlement. Promote investments that are driven by social impact – rather than those driven by economic growth; Make more vocational training available to the poor – currently they are insufficient and usually not timely;
- Build the capacity of commune leaders and increase transparency in information sharing; Re-prioritise government support to favour small scale farming over intensive farming and provide better education in small farming – to benefit poorer farmers;
- Support development of civil society and allow their voice to be heard; Cease blocking of access to information;
- Promote Corporate Social Responsibility through private sector, with government enterprises leading by example;
- Recognize and publicly acknowledge achievements in poverty reduction, which may have already been accomplished.
- Connect messages to strategies – DRM, CC AP, Food Security, Social Protection

Ngoc Van Phan

Strengthening Public Administration and Fighting Corruption:

- Establish the extent of corruption through better collection of data – e.g. research by Transparency International or similar independent organisation;
- Modernise and simplify public bureaucracy to reduce the opportunities for corrupt transactions; Conduct more bureaucratic operations via the Internet to reduce 'under the table' payments;
- Increase salaries in the public service and social sectors – including teachers and health professionals – so that these workers are less likely to look for other sources of income to supplement low wages. Such corruption affects the poor the most because they can't afford to pay for better services;
- Broaden government revenue to pay for higher salaries, but avoid privatisation of the social sectors;
- Encourage international NGOs to adhere to the cost norms recommended by the European Union;
- Publish the budgets and decentralise access information -for example online- on different levels of government down to the commune level so that they can be scrutinised by the public;
- Build the capacity of people's committees and mass organisations to understand government decrees and budgets, thus improving transparency.

Peter Newsum

Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Social Equality:

- Policies for use of Carbon Credit Finances should be locked into Climate Change activities, namely:
 - Increased education of people regarding Climate Change – particularly at the community level;
 - Incentives for enforcement of other Climate Change and SD policy;
 - Improved information management systems on Climate Change – for example developing open-source systems;
- Enforce the existing policies regarding Climate Change at the local level – local resources are needed
- Manage the increased demand for protein as the community becomes wealthier, but which results in more emissions of greenhouse gases.

Additional information received so far by the Climate Change Working Group suggests that the focus should be on the issues listed below. Please note that an additional input has been requested from the CCWG participants and will be provided shortly:

- Develop key policies for Climate Change Mitigation;
- Strengthen coordination between the Government and donors;
- Improve the management of external financial flows for funding of Climate Change responses.