

# Declaration on the occasion of the International Women's Day, 2009

Friday 6 March 2009, by [Via Campesina \(Women's International Committee\)](#) (Date first published: 8 March 2009).

We, women farmers from the five continents gathered in Seoul, South Korea, in the framework of Via Campesina's Women's International Committee meeting, declare:

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, the International Women's Day, we reaffirm our willingness to take actions to change the capitalist and patriarchal world that gives priority to the market's interests instead of the rights of people.

As women farmers, we demand the respect of all our rights. We demand a life with dignity and without violence, and the respect of our sexual and reproductive rights. We struggle to achieve food sovereignty and to defend family farming, the only alternative to the current food and climate crises. We want a real agrarian reform and respect for biodiversity.

We launched the international campaign against violence towards women in Maputo, Mozambique, during Via Campesina's 5<sup>th</sup> Conference - October 2008.

At this meeting in Korea, we reconfirm our will:

- To strengthen the organization at all levels and the struggle of women for their emancipation
- To move forward in the equity of the sexes and women's participation in all areas of decision making
- To implement parity in our organisations
- To end all forms of violence towards women, and to break the culture of silence
- To build a global society that is just and equal.

We call women and men who struggle for peace and justice to take part in the immediate implementation of measures to eradicate all forms of physical, sexual, economic, environmental, verbal, psychological violence. We demand an end to the violence of war.

We support our farmer sisters in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Palestine as well as all the women in all the countries that suffer wars and conflicts.

We denounce the destructive practices of transnational companies that destroy biodiversity, steal land, create environmental disasters, force massive migrations and cause the disappearance of family farming. We commit ourselves to struggle against unjust corporate power.

All forms of inequality must be eliminated as soon as possible, whether they are social, cultural, ethnic, class or gender based.

We will struggle until we build a society that values the worth and the rights of each human being and a society that affirms that women's rights are human rights.

**GLOBALIZE STRUGGLE**

