

## **ActionAid organizes a meeting with CSOs to discuss the global food governance with the presence of FAO's Director General**

**Milan, 25<sup>th</sup> May**

More than 20 organizations from all over the world met this week in Milan to discuss global food governance and the ongoing FAO reform. The meeting was part of a consultative process towards the reform of the World Committee of Food Security. Mr. Jacques Diouf, Director General of FAO, opened the meeting proposing a renewed international commitment to eradicate hunger and said that he will invite all heads of state to come to Rome and commit to this objective. Mr. Diouf asked ActionAid and other organizations to participate in this process promoting campaigns at national and international levels.

The organizations invited by ActionAid, namely, Oxfam, IPC, Via Campesina, COPACOGCA, Coprofam, AFA – Asian Farmer's Association, Concord, East Africa Farmers Federation, FIAN, IFSN, IITC, Heifer International, Mijarc, Platforme des Organisations Paysannes de L'Afrique de L'ouest, Roppa, Sacau – Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions, WFFP – World Forum of Fisher Peoples, WFF – World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers, Winfa - Winward Islands Farmers Association agreed, amongst others, the following points:



Participants of the civil society meeting

- The present situation at FAO is critical since the organization (and its effectiveness) was systematically undermined externally and internally. FAO has a technical but also a political food security governance mandate and the latest needs to be urgently improved so that an International Partnership to eradicate hunger can be implemented effectively.
- In the future, particular attention should be given to the renewed Committee on Food Security (CFS) holding governments accountable for their commitments. The FAO Voluntary Guidelines should be used as a tool for establishing concrete food security monitoring benchmarks.
- The coordination between different ministries is very important and such effort should be led by the prime minister or the president of the country with the participation of national civil society networks.
- As a starting point for their possible joint action the organizations shared a common vision: the CFS should remain at FAO but has to include other UN agencies such as IFAD, WFP and eventually the CGIAR. Donors should contribute for this process at national and international levels.

