

## **A STATEMENT FROM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS OF THE VIA CAMPESINA IN PARAGUAY**

The organisations of CONAMURI, MCNOC, OLT and MCP form part of the Via Campesina in Paraguay. We have issued this statement to all other members of the Via Campesina International, to all national and international social organisations, and to the general public in order to state our total REJECTION of the inclusion of the names of our organisations within the Sustainable Soya Campaign (previously known as the Responsible Soya Campaign) whose members include the Headquarters of COPEP (Organisation of Rural Ecological Producers) in Paraguay, NGOs from the World Wildlife Fund, Solidaridad, Guyra Paraguay, and IDEA. These organisations collaborate with multinational corporations such as Unilever, Grupo Andre Maggi, with banks such as the ABN-AMBRO, and with Associations such as CAPECO, CAP and AAPRESID.

WE WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR that we are not collaborators in the Campaign for Responsible Soya, and that some of our organisations have taken part in a number of debates and forums to state our position AGAINST the expansion of genetically modified soya in Paraguay. In spite of these actions, the names of our organisations have been linked to this campaign without any consultation or approval on our part.

WE CONSIDER that this action is a violation of the rights and freedoms of our organisations and WE DEMAND the immediate removal of the names of our organisations from the initiative.

We want to remind our colleagues that in 2006 we organised a conference in Paraguay jointly with various organisations. The conference was entitled THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SECOND GLOBAL CONFERENCE FOR 'RESPONSIBLE SOYA.' We have also organised a number of actions to raise awareness and denounce the violations to human rights suffered by campesinos due to the expansion of GM soya and the use of toxic agrochemicals. These practices have resulted in fatalities, the forced eviction of rural workers and inhabitants, and the destruction of the environment.

Faced with the above situation we wish to clarify that our campaign against the agro-export model will continue to grow and strengthen and we will remain vigilant so the names of our organisations are not used without our knowledge and consent.

Asuncion, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

**GLOBALISE OUR CAMPAIGN, GLOBALISE HOPE**