

## PROPOSALS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY TO THE WORLD BANANA FORUM

### *Summary of proposals from COLSIBA, UROCAL, IFA, UGAP and Banana Link*

- The Forum recognises the importance of large-scale retailers in the supply chain and encourages them to participate fully in the multi-stakeholder dialogue.
- The Forum recognises that it is plantation workers who have borne the socio-economic brunt of changes in the banana industry over the last decade or so. A particular focus should also be placed on vulnerable groups in the workforce: undocumented migrants, children, indigenous groups and women.
- The Forum recognises explicitly the right of workers to form or join independent trade unions and engage in free collective bargaining, as laid out in ILO conventions.
- That the industry, with support from producer and consumer country governments, makes an explicit priority of reducing agrochemical use (and communicates this orientation to the international chemical industry).
- The Forum promotes the immediate creation of a strong international agrochemical reduction programme through exchange of information, research and field experiences, and develops new partnerships with the participation of trade unions.
- The Forum develops both industry-wide and country-specific Occupational Health, Safety and Environment programmes involving banana producers, workers and other relevant governmental and civil society organisations. These programmes must recognise the specific needs of women workers.
- That employers recognises the need to ensure both equal access to employment and equal treatment for women workers.
- That employers provide for the specific needs of women in the workplace (reproductive health rights, protection of pregnancy, breast-feeding and childcare facilities etc) and eliminate discriminatory hiring practices.
- That employers increase the availability of appropriate workplace training for women and men they employ.
- The Forum should develop an international road-map for a 'sustainable banana system' that involves small- and medium-scale producers.
- National banana fora could be established in producing/exporting countries, feeding into the World Forum. These fora could develop national road-maps.
- The Forum systematises the experiences of alternative banana production and marketing practices.
- The Forum meets the need to leverage and/or manage coordinated services such as finance, infrastructure, certifications, brands, storage, transport, training and advice for producers, especially small- and medium-scale producers involved in organic and/or Fairtrade markets.
- That the Forum creates a Fund that supports sustainable banana programmes and actions.
- That national governments establish legislative frameworks in support of a sustainable banana economy.
  
- That a National Occupational Health, Safety and Environment Programme in Ecuador – and other countries - be established, involving trade unions, small producers, banana companies and other stakeholders.
- That the Ecuadorian industry – and other national industries - actively support social dialogue that leads to national collective bargaining agreements.
- That companies operating in Ecuador commit to make rapid improvements in aerial spraying and waste management practices.
  
- That the Forum recognises the need to move beyond an industry model that promotes competition based on social and environmental dumping and generates conflict between national industries.
- That the Forum explores a new model of concertation between stakeholders in producer and consumer countries to ensure that living wages and fair prices are paid along the chain.
- That the Forum promotes awareness-raising amongst consumers of new industry-wide efforts to internalise costs (pay living wages, fair prices and proper environmental management).