



## 3rd edition of the Grand Diplomatic North-South Conferences

« Translate the Millennium Development  
Goals into a poverty reduction law »

Palais des Congrès, Niamey, Niger  
From 15 to 18 June 2009

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## PROGRAM

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Co-organized with the National Assembly of Niger and the  
United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA

With the collaboration of the government of Niger and its partners

## Introduction

Poverty is increasing year after year in the countries of the South and women and children are the first victims, in spite of the Millennium Development Goals, the Monterrey process on financing for development, the Paris declaration and the poverty reduction strategy papers. According to a recent World Bank report, the financial, energy and food crises weigh even more on the living conditions of the already vulnerable populations, causing an unseen human development crisis. This crisis «may cause as many as 200,000 to 400,000 more infant deaths per year on average between 2009 and the MDG target year of 2015, which translates into 1.4 million to 2.8 million additional infant deaths during the period. In poor countries, education outcomes, such as school enrolment, also tend to deteriorate during economic crises—especially for girls. »

This deterioration of the living conditions and of human development calls for the adoption of legislative measures, especially in the poorest countries. That is how the campaign to «**Translate the MDGs into a poverty reduction law**» came into being.

The campaign project is intended to be participatory and inclusive. It mobilizes all development actors, women in particular. It proposes to initiate a process carried by national actors. The exercise consists of reformulating each MDG into a problem, identifying its causes, for which solutions can then be found, phrased in terms of obligations to be included in a poverty reduction model bill. From then onwards, each country can decide on a voluntary basis to adapt the model bill to the national context, before adoption by the national parliament.

## Expected conference results

1. Establish the relevance of legislative measures for the purpose of poverty reduction.
2. Identify the core principles of a model bill on poverty reduction.
3. Initiate a solidarity collective composed of civil societies – women’s movements in particular – parliamentary networks and institutions, supported by governments in favour of the initiative and by international organizations.
4. Elaborate an action plan for the poverty reduction bill campaign.
5. Identify the challenges and action priorities for the short and medium term.
6. Identify the pilot countries as well as the development partners supportive of the initiative.

## **Articulation of the conference parts**

The 3GDNSC program is composed of four main parts:

1. **Advocacy:** it is a meeting place with official public instances.
2. **Communication:** it opens up space for dialogue and exchange, testimonies, case studies on key issues, on the organization and approaches of poverty reduction.
3. **Workshops:** in parallel activities, the workshops offer an expression platform to the target groups (women, youth, MPs and grassroots people). The results of these workshops will reflect the points of view of potential beneficiaries of the poverty reduction bill.
4. **Closing session:** on the one hand, participants approve a model bill on poverty reduction; on the other hand they constitute a Collective to take forward the campaign to the national, regional and international level.

## **Work principles**

Each part takes on average 2 hours.

Each panelist's intervention is limited to 15-20 minutes.

30 minutes are spent on questions and answers, spread over two periods of 15 minutes each after every two inputs of the panellists.

30 minutes are reserved for a debate on certain core issues.

On top of the specific theme of each conference part and each workshop, the panellists will also make reference to the following texts:

- The Millennium Development Goals (2000) and the methodology proposed by the scientific committee in its preparatory meeting held in Niamey from 30 March to 2 April 2009.
- The Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the UN Pact on social, economic and cultural rights of 1966
- The Paris declaration (2005)

**Day one**  
**Monday 15 June 2009**

**18:30 – 19:30**  
**Official opening ceremony and speeches**

- Welcome address and general presentation of the program: the chairperson of the national organising committee– **HEM Falké Bacharou**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-speaker of the National Assembly.
  
- Contributors :
  - Speaker of the youth parliament of Niger
  - Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa
  - **Ms Mama Koïté Doumbia**, chairperson of the African Women's Development and Communication Network– FEMNET
  - Representative of the Parliament of Canada
  - Representative of the Government of Niger
  - Representative of the European Union
  
- Opening address : **HEM Mahamane Ousmane**, Speaker of the National Assembly of Niger, Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament

**19:30 – 21:30** Supper offered by HEM Laraba Tandja, First Lady of Niger.  
**A mobilization opportunity for women in favour of development policies by and for women**

**Day two**  
**Tuesday 16 June 2009**

**9:30 – 11:00**

**Part 1 : Beyond the MDGs, what are the fundamental principles of a poverty reduction bill ?**

Goals of this part: to analyze the causes of poverty and the impoverishing mechanisms, and to establish the relevance of legislative measures aiming at poverty reduction.

Panlists :

- **Mr. Olivier De Schutter**, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food
- **Mr. Yao Assogba**, professor at the « Université de l'Outaouais » – Quebec – Canada (on Guaranteed Minimum Human Development)
- **Ms. Viviane Labrie**, Collective for a Quebec free of poverty – Quebec, Canada (on impoverishing mechanisms of vulnerable persons)
- ILO Expert (on employment and the right to work)
- Expert of the « Institut de l'Énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie », Quebec-Canada (on the environmental and energetic potential of Africa)
- Ms Ngone Diop, Economic Commission for Africa (which legislative measures are needed for growth and retention of natural resources?)
- **Mr. Sanou Mbaye**, Consultant (on the impact of financial fluxes on Africa)

Facilitator :

- Hon. Saran Séréné Séré – MP of Burkina Faso and chairperson of the commission on Agriculture, Environment, Water resources and Rural Development in the ECOWAS Parliament

Rapporteurs :

- Hon. Amissétou Affo Djobo, Benin.
- Ms. Aicha Tamboura, FEMNET, Nairobi - Kenya
- Mr. Laoual Sallaoul, RODDADH, Niger

**11:00 – 11:20 Tea break**

**11:20 – 12:30 Exchange and debate**

**12:30 – 14:00**

**Lunch**

**14:00 – 16:00**

**Part 2 : Mobilisation, Human rights and development policies in Africa**

**Goal:** For an effective organisation of the fight against poverty, it is necessary to refer to national and international texts, focusing on human rights, and related to the current development policies. This session offers an opportunity to share expertise and experiences.

Panelists :

- Chairperson of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF)
- M. Saidou Sidibé, Minister of Finance – Niger
- Representative of the « Institut national des Statistiques et de la démographie » – Burkina Faso
- M. Najim Elhadj Mohamed, Coordinator of the poverty reduction strategy in Niger.
- Representative of FECONG – Mali
- Representative of the National Commission on Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties, Niger
- Representative of the network CIVICUS
- Minister of employment, Benin
- Hon. Gado Boureima, Consultant, former MP, Niger, or Prof. Hamidou Arouna Sidiku, IRSH (Institut de recherche en sciences humaines).

Facilitator :

- Ms Simone Ovar, UNIFEM, Italy

Rapporteurs :

- Representative of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council, Niger
- M. Djibril Abarchi, Niamey University, Niger
- Ivan Godfroid, Quebec - Canada

**16:00 – 16:30**

**Tea break**

**16:30- 17:30 Network consultation in view of the creation of a PRL Campaign Collective**

Facilitators :

- Mr. Ahmadou Guisset, Mauritania
- Mr. Aurélien Atidegla, Benin.

**Day three**

**Wednesday 17 June 2009**

**Five parallel workshops: 9:30-12:30**

**Youth workshop: poverty reduction actions undertaken by youth**

**Goals** of this workshop: tomorrow's decision makers and potential beneficiaries of the PRL, representatives of the young generation provide input into the model bill process. They make their voices heard, who say "No to misery" (6 July 2005) and plead in favour of binding measures to reduce poverty. Youth are sensitized and determined to support the campaign in their respective countries.

Panelists :

- Representative of the Obota Africa Centre, Cotonou – Benin
- Youth Parliament of Niger
- Representative of the youth of Francophonie international
- Representative of the Malibougou Youth Association for development in Sahel, Bamako - Mali
- Representative of the International Action for human rights and development - Cameroun
- United Nations Youth Representative - Burundi
- Representative of Sustainable Alternatives for Development – Cameroun

Facilitator :

- Représentant de l'AELIES – Université Laval – Québec

Rapporteurs :

- M. Guy Aho Tete Bénissan – REPAOC – Senegal
- Representative of the Niger National Youth Council
- Hon. Alassane Ali, in charge of the Niger Youth Parliament.

## Two simultaneous parallel workshops of grassroots people: the case of Birni N’Gaouré; the case of Tillaberi

9:30 – 12:30

### The priorities of a poverty reduction model bill, according to potential beneficiaries.

**Goals:** “What you do for us without us, is against us”: these workshops offer an expression platform to grassroots people, and are at the same time a training and information opportunity. They are necessary to avoid errors from the past. Grassroots people express their needs, are well informed about their rights, the duties and responsibilities of all actors. Hence they contribute to the PRL.

#### Facilitators:

- Representative of the Niger Ministry of social reform and populations
- Representative of the Niger Ministry for Promotion of Women and Child Protection
- Councillors of the special program on rural development rural
- Representative of Nigerien Women’s organisations (CONGAFEM, KASAI, Peasant platform, a.s.o.)
- Canton heads; representatives of local organisations

9:30 – 12:30

### Parliamentarians’ workshop: Definition, scope, fields and provisions of a poverty reduction model bill

**Goals:** Speakers of national parliaments, chairpersons of commissions inside regional and international parliamentary bodies and other parliamentarians discuss the structure and the adoption strategy of the PRL. They put to value the exchanges and debates with other participants and enrich the draft PRL.

#### Panelists :

- **Hon. Mahama Sawadogo**, chairperson of the Commission on Cooperation and Development of the APF and MP in Burkina Faso.
- Hon. Representative of the African-Arab Forum
- **Hon. Mongella Gertrude**, Speaker of the Pan-African Parliament
- **Hon. Valentin Haditi Houdé**, Benin National Assembly
- **Hon. Bazoum Mohamed**, Niger National Assembly
- **Hon. Magaji Dada**, Niger National Assembly
- **Hon. Pie Ntavyohanyuma**, Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union and Speaker of the National Assembly of Burundi.

### Facilitator :

- **Hon. Maïdadjì Alambeye**

### Rapporteurs :

- **Hon. Alioune Souare**, Parliament of Senegal
- **Hon. Responsable** for the Population Network - Benin
- **Hon. Saleh Abdel-Aziz Damane**, Chad National Assembly

9:30 – 12:30

### **Women workshop: against feminization of poverty**

**Goals:** besides offering a meeting space, this workshop is also an information, training and sensitization opportunity for and by women from diverse horizons. They discuss advocacy strategies to be conducted at different levels against feminization of poverty. The workshop is being organized with the support of the women's organizations and networks.

### Panelists :

- Representative of the Association of Women Ministers and Parliamentarians
- **Ms. Aminata Touré**, UNFPA
- **Ms. Amsatou Sow Sidibé**, Dakar – Senegal
- **Ms. Michèle Asselin**, Collective for a Quebec free of poverty – Quebec, Canada (on impoverishing mechanisms of vulnerable persons)
- **Ms. Micheline Ravalolonarisoa**, Chief of the Africa section at UNIFEM
- **Ms. Geneviève Bobo Nadjo**, Judge and coordinator of WiLDAF-Benin

### Facilitator :

- **Ms. Alassane Mariama**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-speaker, Niger National Assembly

### Rapporteurs :

- **Ms. Justine Dikko**, Cameroun-Yaounde
- **Ms. Huguette AKPLOGAN DOSSA**, Coordinator of Social Watch Benin
- **Ms. Fatou Keïta – Guido**, UNESCO, Mali

**12:30 – 14:00**

**Lunch**

**14:00 – 16:00 Plenary session**

**Pooling of conclusions**

Panelists :

- Rapporteur 1
- Rapporteur 2
- Rapporteur 3
- Representative of the youth workshop
- Representatives of the grassroots people's workshops
- Representative of the Parliamentarians' workshop
- Representative of the women's workshop

Facilitator :

- Ms. Mama Koité, FEMNET

Rapporteur :

- Hon. Mahama Sawadogo, Burkina Faso MP and chairperson of the APF Commission on Cooperation and Development

**16h00 - 18h00 Formulation of the model bill**

A proposal formulated by the scientific committee and enriched by the conference debates is analyzed, amended and finalized. An editing team is put to work to integrate the accepted amendments into the final version of the model bill.

**18h30: Supper followed by a cultural show**

**Day four**  
**Thursday 18 June 2009 : Concluding day**

**9:30 – 11:00 Part 4 - Action plan and model bill**

Plenary session to discuss the next campaign steps and come up with an action plan including deadlines, clear responsibilities and strategies for resource mobilization. Each and every actor when leaving Niamey must be fully aware of what to do after reaching back home.

**Goals:** The PRL Campaign Collective adopts a short and medium term action plan. Certain strategic partners commit support to the Collective.

**11:30 Presentation of the model bill**

- The Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament presents the poverty reduction model bill, end result of the conference, in presence of diplomatic representatives, national, regional and international personalities, representatives of civil society and governments.
- Words of thanks

THE END