



Environnement et développement du Tiers-monde - • Environmental Development Action in the Third World -
Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo en el Tercer Mundo • الثالث العالم في التنمية والبيئة

Enda T-m International Network Declaration

Global pandemic of Corona virus disease

A CHALLENGE FOR MANKIND: STANDING UP TOGETHER AND REBUILDING THE WORLD

The pandemic which is caused by the Corona virus (or COVID-19) continues to spread to all continents, and almost to all countries. It shows how human beings are fragile when faced with natural or industrial biological threats. The pandemic is also an illustration of how poorly prepared health systems can be, even in the most powerful countries. The privatization of public goods and services, the weakness of food systems and the “financialization” of economies increase social gaps and inequalities in the face of diseases and epidemics.

Moreover, the speed at which the virus is spreading and the death rate (from 0 to 6%) in most countries have led people to believe that the way the pandemic is developing will have a lasting impact all over the world, as well as huge **health-related, and also ecological, social, economic, political, geopolitical, cultural and symbolic consequences**. Indeed, this pandemic is showing, on the one hand, how strongly flows of people, goods, and disease carriers are interconnected, and, on the other hand, how value chains are structured at global level in a way that gives us the impression of **a world-economy in which each one of us depends on the other**.

On the other hand, we understand that measures like confining or quarantining people are public health sanitary measures necessary to prevent or cure a disease, but the reactions of some people

result from individualism, a loss of a sense of togetherness and sheer egotism, and represent barriers to a joint management of the pandemic for the benefit of all humanity.

The configuration of the epidemic and its management at the international level represent an extension of the multilateralism crisis and of inequalities within and between countries. It is a challenge to our systems of production, consumption and exchange, as well as to the way we see the future of our common planet and the resources it provides.

Under these circumstances, Enda is renewing **its call for a more united world and for taking into account the most vulnerable people, in the fight against this epidemic**, whose main characteristic is to threaten old people, the malnourished and those already weakened by other illnesses or social exclusion. As far as the poorest countries are concerned, the lack of water, or means to buy basic products such as soap, endanger the lives of people. **The fight against the Coronavirus will require a community approach and means of prevention consistent with, and adapted to, the means of the populations.** Basic hygienic measures such as hand washing and social distancing must be coupled with social cohesion and a spirit of sharing, thanks to organizations, NGOs, religious and traditional leaders, youth organizations, etc..

In these exceptional times of crisis, anxiety, fears and questions, equity, freedom and brotherhood, values dear to the Enda Tiers Monde network, are ever more audible. We are saying NO to all forms of social exclusion, since they help weaken those values.

The Enda network, with all its human and technical resources, is **fully mobilized in order to be as close as possible to the concerns of the populations and communities, without breaking the rules regarding health security.**

Already, the 22 member organizations of the Enda Network, in all the countries where our organization is represented, are working alongside youths, women, vulnerable groups, etc., from grassroots communities. They are focusing on **sensitization and information on preventive measures** (water, washing kits, masks, gels, soaps, disinfectant products, etc.) in houses, public places and workplaces; they are upholding their initiatives and strengthening them (for example, in Senegal: the public transport system with sensitization and regulatory numbers of passengers for non-conventional public transport, etc.); **they are promoting the role of opinion leaders in various neighborhoods, targeting community spaces as a priority**: weekly markets, bus stations, bus stops, restaurants, etc., in close cooperation with public authorities, proposing in

particular concrete measures on vital issues relating, for example, to water, public transport, markets, etc..

It is also important **to support grassroots partners and socio-professional categories of the informal, social and solidarity economy to anticipate on the collateral impacts analysis and the effects of the current crisis on their social, economic life, etc. and the most appropriate mitigation options**; the local authorities partners of Enda have been contacted to enable them to effectively take their responsibility, particularly in the field of health which is a transferred competence.

In the same vein, we are insisting on the use of national languages in audio-visual sensitization messages.

In the medium term, the focus will also be on the following:

- The need **to promote national screening capacities** in dealing with such epidemics,
- Producing and disseminating messages on **the protection, by parents and communities, of children in times of crisis.**
- Restraining the impact of school closings on children, **by promoting online education programs,**
- Showing that **health-related investments are vital**, and backing it up with documents in our advocacy, plus general monitoring,
- Looking ahead, not wait till strongly impacted: **building anticipation capacities and conducting regular monitoring of impacts on vulnerable groups**; consequently, documenting long-term community resilience indicators;

We are extending our **deep sympathy to all those people who have been affected by this disease, and are paying a heartfelt tribute to all those health, security and hygiene workers, to those volunteers and sponsors who have dedicated themselves to saving lives.** We are quite appreciative of the active solidarity of countries such as China, Cuba, etc., who did not hesitate to help other hard-hit countries by supplying qualified human resources, some equipment, etc., without taking into consideration any ideological, geographic, cultural, etc., differences.

Our thoughts go out to **the helpful members of the African and Southern Diasporas** who have made an outstanding contribution to the sustainable development of our countries, while we are

advising them to protect both themselves and their families, by fully complying with the health security instructions issued by the relevant authorities.

For those who still ignored it, this crisis shows that we definitely have **a common destiny** on Earth, and that we do have the means to eradicate poverty, hunger, violence, and end the destruction of the environment, *if we really want to do so...* Therefore, we should learn all the lessons concerning this crisis and, as citizens, communities and institutions, act in a resolute and responsible manner to change the face of this planet for the better.

Dakar, March 22nd, 2020

Enda TM

