

Organisational Issues: Suggestions from the Steering Group

Organisational aspects of the right to food campaign were discussed at a meeting of the steering group held on 6 April 2007 at the “Bodh Gaya Convention”. Note was taken of various concerns raised in a discussion note on these matters, prepared for the Convention. In response to these concerns, the following suggestions were made.

1. The present arrangement (spelt out in the March 2006 note on “organizational aspects of the right to food campaign”) will be extended for another year- until the next annual convention. This applies, in particular, to the agreed roles of the annual convention, the steering group and the secretariat.
2. An effort will be made to activate the “steering group”, which has been relatively inactive so far.
3. New Trade Union Initiative (NTUI) will be invited to join the steering group. The possibility of involving other national organizations/ networks will also be explored by initiating a dialogue with them.
4. The steering group will hold “open” meetings from time to time (at least twice a year), so that organizations involved in the campaign are able to participate in national decision-making processes.
5. The right to food campaign does not have “state units”. The formation of state-level networks is welcome, provided that such networks do not claim a monopoly of the campaign in a particular state, and leave room for other initiatives based on the general principles of the campaign.
6. Collective statements and joint activities of the “right to food campaign” should be endorsed by all members of the steering group. (As stated in the March 2006 note, the annual convention is expected to set the broad principles, policies, and priorities that guide the work of the campaign until the next convention.)
7. Local activities should be undertaken by constituent organizations under their own banners.
8. All organizations involved with the right to food campaign are expected to subscribe in good faith to (a) the campaign’s “foundation statement”; (b) the “Mumbai statement” expressing our commitment to social equity and secularism; and (c) the “Bodh Gaya statement” on transparency (see below).
9. Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti (BGVS) is requested to remain part of the steering group of the campaign until the next convention.
10. The steering group will draft a simple “charter” for the campaign by “merging” the foundation statement, the Mumbai statement, the March 2006 note, and this note.

Bodh Gaya statement on transparency

The right to food campaign is committed to the principles of transparency and accountability in all its activities. This includes open access to campaign documents and full transparency in financial matters. All constituent organizations and individuals are expected to subscribe to the same standards of transparency in their own activities carried out in the public domain.