



Den Haag, 13 maart 2009

**HERZIENE CONVOCATIE**  
i.v.m. wijziging tijdstip (was 16.00 – 17.00 uur)

Voortouwcommissie: **vaste commissie voor Buitenlandse Zaken**

Activiteit: **bijzondere procedure**  
Datum: donderdag 19 maart 2009  
Tijd: 17.00 - 18.00 uur  
Openbaar/besloten: besloten

Onderwerp: 7 directeuren van partnerorganisaties van Oxfam Novib

---

Het lid Voordewind ontvangt in het kader van de bijzondere procedure 7 directeuren van partnerorganisaties van Oxfam Novib.

Onderwerp van gesprek zal zijn de gevolgen van de financiële en economische crisis in ontwikkelingslanden.

Het lid Voordewind nodigt u van harte uit hierbij aanwezig te zijn.

Zie bijlage (pagina 2).

---

Griffier: R. Van der Kolk-Timmermans

Activiteitsnummer: 2009A00977

Zeven vrouwelijke leiders van nationale campagnes en coalities in ontwikkelingslanden, allen samenwerkingspartners van Oxfam International, zijn in de week van 16 maart in Nederland. Graag zou een delegatie van deze vrouwen in gesprek komen met Nederlandse kamerleden, om in gesprek te gaan over de gevolgen van de financiële en economische crisis in hun land en de manier waarop zij met hun werk ertoe bijdragen dat mensen in hun land de problemen waarmee zij te maken krijgen het hoofd kunnen bieden. Hieronder vindt u de namen van de vrouwen en een korte omschrijving van hun werk en positie.

Sandhya Venkateswaran works for the Indian coalition 'Don't Break Your Promises'. It has over 3,000 members and aims to monitor the progress of Indian government towards meeting its commitments to reduce poverty. Its 'nine is mine' campaign has mobilized over 400,000 children across India, putting pressure on the Indian government to increase government spending on healthcare and education. "Something as basic as giving birth to a child is incredibly risky for a large proportion of women, and although there has been a lot of talk about improving maternal health, many women just don't know whether they will survive childbirth."

Miranda Akhvlediani works for the Georgian coalition 'Future Without Poverty'. The coalition hopes to be a mechanism to voice the problems of the poor in Georgia. Due to their campaigning work, the government now recognizes the need for adequate regulation of privatized healthcare systems. "In Georgia, the lack of access to healthcare is one of the most pressing problems. There are the extremely poor who are eligible for certain benefits from the governments in terms of free health services, but this still leaves over half the population struggling to access any kind of healthcare service at all."

Rokeya Kabir is the convener of the My Rights campaign in Bangladesh: a national platform that puts pressure on the government to ensure primary education for all children. "In Bangladesh, education for all remains only a basic principle of the constitution, not a basic right of a citizen and a state responsibility. "We need at least one school per village and one teacher per 40 students."

Kadiatou Baby Maiga is the president of the Malian coalition Education for All. Kady sees a strong civil society as a major resource for the government – offering knowledge and experience in order to support the government to achieve its goals on education. "In my year at high school only two of the 80 pupils were girls. This made me realize that education was not as normal to other girls as it was to me. Education is the best means against poverty. I see it around me every day. Education is the basis of everything. It develops people. It is visible everywhere."

Doctor Jiraporn Limpananont from Thailand is a member of the Free Trade Agreement Watch coalition, protecting poor people against the negative impacts of bilateral and regional trade agreements. With a professional background in pharmacy, Dr. Jiraporn provides the group with knowledge about how intellectual property rules affect the prices and affordability of medicines, and limit poor people's access to urgently needed medicines. "If you want to make a big change in the society, especially for the underprivileged, they must stand up, group together, and claim their rights from the government."

Professor Leonor Magtolis Briones is the convener of Social Watch Philippines/ Alternative Budget Initiative. She is playing a major role in the access to health and medicines campaign in the Philippines. Using her extensive knowledge of public finance, she is helping put together an alternative budget for the government – one with more money spent on essential services. "For women and girls, specific issues on health and education are worse. If people in the Philippines have greater access to health, the development of the country will accelerate. If most Filipinos are healthy, the country does not have to spend much on curing the sick and burying those who die before their time."

Dorothy Ngoma is the Executive Director of the National Organization of Nurses and Midwives of Malawi. Dorothy has 32 years of experience working as a nurse, training nurses and advocating on behalf of nurses in Malawi. "We fight against any sort of diseases: TB, malaria, HIV/AIDS, cholera and dysentery - it's a sick community. And why is this so complicated? The richest countries have already been through all the killer diseases and poverty. We, the poorest countries, are living in your past. The rich countries have the ability to help us, so what is missing really is just political will. This is the real problem."