

THE ATTACK ON WORLD POVERTY

.....going back to basics

The two challenges of the 21st century

- * Management of climate change

(but will be it something for the rich only, and the poorer members of the world will be ignored?)

- World Poverty

(something that they have to solve on their own?)

Neither can be solved by one great brush of the pen but at least it would appear that climate change is being discussed more comprehensively

World poverty

- Is getting worse gradually, but the rate is accelerating; a disaster is round the corner
- Climate change is affecting/ will affect them more than us –and they have done little to cause it
- We will recover, they won't
- The solutions we have used in the past have not been adequate; therefore more of the same will not work

.... the perfect storm.

Some of the reasons

- **Physical constraints**

(deserts are advancing, decrease in water volumes, seasons are changing, increasing salinity of the land, pollution of the oceans, reduction in forest cover...)

- **Human constraints**

(arms sales, migration, population growth, feudal forces in traditional societies ethnic divisions, urbanisation, poor governance, corruption, health and poor nutrition,...)

- **The global framework**

(weakness of international institutions, unjust trade, the third world debt, contradictory international policies, global criminality, the war on terror, capital flight...)

The lack of understanding

- Increasing inequalities between and within nations
- The obsession with the nation state – the unreality of democracy
- The 4 different economic systems in the world
- Lack of holistic approach to development

LACK OF FOOD

- Climate change
- Population increase
- Difficulties in reaching local markets
- Urbanisation and rural exodus
- Good land used for export crops or bio-fuels
- Lack of good seeds or good tools
- Food used for animal feed
- Lack of security of land tenure
- Food dumped by the North/West
- Land being purchased by outsiders
- Traditional exporters of food have stopped
- Lack of access to capital

Aid

- Aid is seen as an extension of welfare, not a tool for development
- Decrease in aid for agricultural development
- Geared to the donors' requirements
- Goes to build governments, not societies
- Impossible requirements for transparency and accountability
- Too many contradictions of policies
- Obsession with civil society and human rights

The solutions

- Literacy for all
- Land tenure
- Planning for soil conservation, water management, forestry
- Enhance the status of women
- Rediscover social structures (co-operatives, mutual societies, etc)
- Local democracy and federations
- Compensation for loss of good people
- Government-to-government contracts
- More private enterprise
- More initiatives by NGOs