

**WORLD BANK/IMF**  
**50**  
**YEARS IS**  
**ENOUGH**

**US CAMPAIGN**

THE DEVELOPMENT GAP °  
 ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND °  
 FRIENDS OF THE EARTH U.S. °  
 GLOBAL EXCHANGE °  
 INTERNATIONAL RIVERS  
 NETWORK °  
 OXFAM AMERICA °  
 CENTER FOR DEMOCRATIC  
 EDUCATION °  
 CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF  
 INTERNATIONAL LAW  
 COLUMBAN JUSTICE AND PEACE  
 OFFICE  
 DISCIPLES OF CHRIST/UNITED  
 CHURCH OF CHRIST (JOINT  
 MINISTRY IN AFRICA)  
 GREENPEACE USA °  
 INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND  
 TRADE POLICY  
 INSTITUTE FOR FOOD AND  
 DEVELOPMENT POLICY (FOOD  
 FIRST)  
 INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES  
 MARYKNOLL FATHERS AND  
 BROTHERS JUSTICE AND PEACE  
 OFFICE  
 MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST.  
 COLUMBAN, CAMPAIGN ON  
 DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT  
 ALTERNATIVES °  
 PARTNERS IN HEALTH  
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 BOARD FOR WORLD MINISTRIES  
 (GLOBAL EDUCATION AND  
 ADVOCACY OFFICE)  
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,  
 GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH  
 AND SOCIETY  
 WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA  
 WITNESS FOR PEACE  
 WORLD HUNGER YEAR  
 WORLD SUSTAINABLE  
 AGRICULTURE ASSOCIATION

° Steering Committee Member

**1994** marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), institutions that have come under increasing criticism for their role in financing and promoting development overseas that is inequitable, environmentally damaging and non-participatory. After a dozen years of effort by environment and development organizations lobbying the U.S. government and negotiating with the Bank and IMF for reforms on behalf of Southern NGO partners, a diverse group of U.S. organizations have established the "50 Years Is Enough" coalition in order to raise awareness across the United States about the disastrous social, environmental and economic record of these institutions. Given the continued resistance of the World Bank and IMF to fundamental and meaningful change, the aim of the coalition is to limit the power of these institutions and to promote a public exploration of possibilities of creating new structures, or modifying existing ones, that could deliver more relevant and appropriate assistance.

"50 Years Is Enough" was chosen as a campaign slogan to express the strongly held belief by growing numbers of people around the globe that the type of development that the World Bank and IMF have been promoting, being inimical both to the interests of the poor and that of the natural environments of the Third World and Eastern Europe, cannot be allowed to continue. It is meant to imply neither a reformist nor an abolitionist approach, but rather to state that fundamental, structural changes in these institutions are necessary. Due to the overwhelming influence of the United States in financing and setting policy for the World Bank and IMF, U.S. groups feel a special responsibility to ensure that every effort is made to change these institutions and promote alternatives – both institutional and economic – developed in conjunction with citizens' organizations in affected countries. Towards this end, the coalition is establishing links with other 50th anniversary efforts in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, and Latin America.

Because fundamental change in the operations and policies of these institutions will only come about through sustained and persistent pressure from the outside, the demands of the "50 Years Is Enough" coalition are directed primarily at external actors, including the media, the public, the U.S. Congress and the Clinton Administration. Accordingly, participating organizations are working on three different fronts: encouraging the U.S. media to present the true record of the World Bank and IMF; raising public awareness about the impact of these institutions on people's lives and natural environments worldwide; and advocating with the U.S. Congress and Clinton Administration on the need for far-reaching changes in these institutions.

The focus of the collective NGO effort in 1994 will be on the media, and for that purpose a Media Coordinator will direct and coordinate a high-profile media campaign and link up with the media work of partner organizations in other countries, especially around the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings in Madrid in September. A nine-member steering committee and three-member executive committee have been formed to oversee the work of the Coordinator and coordinate the work of the coalition. Four thematic action groups have also been created to develop specific coalition positions, determine strategies and

tactics, and coordinate the output of the participating organizations. The four groups cover the environment, structural adjustment and economic justice, multilateral debt, and the restructuring of and alternatives to the IMF and World Bank. Each action group will incorporate women's analysis and priorities into its strategies and positions.

The coalition is advocating for more open and accountable institutions that promote socially and environmentally responsible development. Specifically, coalition members are pushing for changes such as: far-reaching reforms in current World Bank energy, agriculture, forestry and water sector lending and the cessation of Bank support for environmentally destructive projects; the elimination of current World Bank and IMF "structural adjustment" lending in favor of more limited economic-policy-reform programs that are derived through participatory processes and that support equitable, sustainable and more self-reliant development; a total revision of the information policies of these institutions in favor of full and timely disclosure and the establishment of total independence for the World Bank's new inspection panel from Bank management and Executive Directors; removing the International Development Association (the World Bank's soft-loan window) from Bank management and the immediate de-linking of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) from the Bank; a public exploration of alternative funding mechanisms to the World Bank and IMF; a narrowing of the role of the IMF; an international moratorium on additional money for the World Bank's hard-loan window and the IMF; and relief from debt owed to the World Bank and IMF, not dependent upon current structural adjustment conditionality.

The "50 Years Is Enough" coalition encourages other organizations in the United States to become involved. For more information, contact the members of the Executive Committee, or the heads of the action groups listed below.

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