

# STUDENT'S HANDOUT

## MAKE POVERTY *History!*



### Background Information

Poverty affects the majority of the world's population. According to the United Nations, 1.2 billion people live in conditions of extreme poverty. Furthermore, more than 50,000 people die everyday of poverty-related causes and the majority of them are women.

### Instructions

First, carefully read the following text. Then, as a young citizen of the world, write an opinion letter demanding that our leaders keep their promises to reduce world poverty.

### *Make Poverty History!*

In 2005, more than fifty countries participated in a political lobbying campaign called "Make Poverty History". The campaign demands that the leaders of the world do more to fulfill their promises concerning poverty elimination.

In 2000, during a meeting of world leaders, a series of goals known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were agreed upon. These engagements focus primarily on reducing world poverty by half before 2015. The leaders promised to halve the number of people living on less than \$1 per day (which represents a third of humanity), as well as to reduce the proportion of populations suffering from hunger.

Now, more than five years later, the situation with respect to world poverty has unfortunately not improved; on the contrary, it has worsened.

It is therefore important to remind our Canadian political leaders of the obligations that they undertook in 2000:

- substantially increase international aid;
- totally cancel the debts of poor countries;
- establish fairer rules of commerce (fair trade for example);
- insure that basic needs are met through proper social protection measures (here and abroad).

### Did you know that?

- Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), supports numerous projects around the world in the fight against poverty? Imagine how much more the country could do if more money was dedicated to international aid...
- CIDA offers youth the opportunity to work abroad within various programs such as the International Youth Internship Program (IYIP). To learn more about international cooperation projects, do not hesitate to consult the Canadian International Development Agency website at: [www.acdi-cida.ca](http://www.acdi-cida.ca)

AN INITIATIVE OF THE  
In-Terre-Actif Network of the Comité de Solidarité/Trois-Rivières



PRODUCED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA  
THROUGH THE



Canadian  
International  
Development  
Agency