

## The Italian Development Cooperation at Expo Milano 2015

### *Land grabbing and denied access to natural resources in Africa: the impact on food security and gender equality*

October, 22<sup>nd</sup>

14.30 - 17.30

Expo

Cascina Triulza

Sala Workshop

#### Concept note

*The event is organized in the framework of the project “Improvement of food security for poorest rural communities in the west of Maroodijeh Region (Somaliland)”, implemented by ActionAid thanks to the financial support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.*

*The project aims to contribute to the improvement of the living condition of the target group through the enhancement of **agricultural production**, the development of **new commercialization channels** and the promotion of **women’s entrepreneurship**.*

*A key issue the project deals with is access to **improved water sources**: it is in fact estimated that only 7% of the rural population in Somaliland has access to such sources due to the semi-arid climate and water contamination. This has clear consequences on the health and the food security of rural communities.*

*But access to natural resource is an issue affecting rural communities across the African continent, especially women. Several factors contribute to this challenge, both at the national and the global level.*

*The event is therefore a chance both to present ActionAid **project activities and results achieved so far** and to discuss more broadly the **current challenges** affecting the access of the poor communities of Africa to natural resources, with a particular focus on the **gender dimension of the problem**.*

*The event foresees **two panels**: the first one aims both at giving an **overview of global drivers** affecting the right of the poor communities of Africa, and at analyzing how **gender inequalities** have an impact on women’s possibility to access natural resource in the **specific context of Somaliland**.*

*The second panel will focus on the **Italian cooperation in Somaliland** by presenting the Italian government priorities and strategies to promote food security and access to natural resources in the country and on the presentation of ActionAid project.*

*Between the two panels there will be a reading by Igiaba Scego, Somali-Italian writer.*

*ActionAid chose EXPO Milano as the ideal setting for promoting such a debate because the core theme of the exhibition is world nutrition.*

# AGENDA

## Panel 1:

- 14.30/14.40 **Introduction**  
Cristiano Maggipinto, Expo coordinator, Directorate General for Development Cooperation / Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- 14.40/15.00 **Global drivers affecting access to land: the challenges ahead**  
Roberto Sensi, Policy Officer, Right to food programme, ActionAid Italy
- 15.00/15.20 **The impact of gender inequalities on women's access to natural resources in Somaliland**  
Sadia Abdi - Country Director, ActionAid Somaliland
- 15.20/15.40 **Q&A**
- 15.40/16.00 **Coffee break**
- 16.00/16.15 **Reading by Igiaba Scego** - Somali-Italian writer

## Panel 2:

- 16.15/16.20 **Introduction by moderator**  
Luca De Fraia, Deputy Secretary General, ActionAid Italy
- 16.20/16.40 **The Italian cooperation in Somaliland: strategies and priorities**  
Guglielmo Giordano, Italian Development Cooperation / Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- 16.40/17.00 **ActionAid project "Improvement of food security for poorest rural communities in the west of Marrodijeh Region, Somaliland"**  
Giulio Litta - Official Funding Officer, ActionAid Italy
- 17.00/17.15 **Q&A**
- 17.15/17.30 **Conclusions by moderator**  
Luca De Fraia, Deputy Secretary General, ActionAid Italy