

**Hellen Wangusa:** My name is Hellen Wangusa, I work in Kenya, but I'm Ugandan. The advantage I have is poverty has been defined by a speaker from Mozambique; causes of poverty have been hunted by Dot Keet from South Africa, she even given us the mega, the big resolutions in what shall we do -get through the IMF and WB-; that has been done. And then we have been moved by Elisabeth, and we joining a song of solidarity; that song reminds me I'm in Italy, where Pavarotti comes from; it would be interesting to hear how Pavarotti will sing poverty, what he can sing about poverty, what he understands of poverty. As I seated there, I look at my watch: we have been speaking for the last about forty minutes, and it reminds me that – for those who are very obsess by statistics- every minute a woman is dieing in child related causes. So, forty women have died as we started speaking here. And we keep talking, and we talk... I learnt the Italian style of talking, I learnt the francophone style of talking, and the Anglophone and all kinds of stiles. We go to a point we were specialized in taking and producing papers on poverty, some of us are experts on poverty, we have built structures and institutions on poverty: some of us has privatized poverty and nothing is happening on the ground, which is good, except women dieing every minute of poverty related illnesses. So, I ask my self "Why I'm still talking about poverty, as I was doing it many years ago, when I was younger? And I'm still talking so many years after. And I don't seem to see and touch the results of getting out and talking about poverty. Life expectancy in mean time is dropping, in my country is lower then 45. In Africa, on average, is 46. I'm living on bonus time, bonus years. But I'm asking myself how many women in Africa can live on bonus time, because they have been giving the benefit of the outcomes of a conversation on poverty? Can we reduce poverty? Can we eliminate it? What we asking is not total elimination; who probably have poverty, in one form or the other. But extreme poverty, abject poverty, dehumanizing poverty, that invest your soul, and your body and your being, and expose it to the vicious powers of this world and of the existing global power, defined for us. This is what we are talking about, and that is achievable. If we look at what we are talking about, even if it means looking at the 0,7% that we are asking for the rich countries, the question is: can their afford it? Yes. They can afford it. It is 7 cents of 10 dollars... 7! And it's not even 1% of their income, surely they can afford it. How do we know that? Because they can wipe up money in a minute for Iraq, they can wipe up money in a minute for missiles... billions of money! We only are asking for 1% of their income. I'm saddened when I have to think about how life and aid that is given to us in Africa and what its equivalent is. For Germany, for example: Germany spends on aid to one person in Africa, what is the equivalent of a cheeseburger. So, the life of a person they are helping in Africa is equivalent to the cost of a cheeseburger. When you look at that, when you begin to compare that, then you realize is obscene for us to continue talking. Let' do something about it: my life is not the equivalent of a cheeseburger: surely is more than that. Therefore in an action, we say what can we do? We must begin to compare those things, look at the interventions, analyse the interventions, coming from the North, compare it to the supporting supposed to make and the change supposed to make and simply say "my life is not the cost of a cheeseburger, is more than a cheeseburger". And tell Germans that! The other thing that I keep worrying about is the time we waste, creating structures and creating interventions. Some of them are good, but we don't need more structures, we don't need to create resorts, with resorts research institutions, we don't need to create analytical skills, beyond what the poor tell us. Let's work with the communities, let's work with the knowledge on the ground, let's work with those most affected, because they have the modules, they have the skills, they can do analyses and they have interventions. How do you think they have been coping? Those coping the mechanism and all the alternatives must lighted. So when we moved from here, that's what we need to do: go back to the communities and moved away from these elitist structures and see what communities can hard in terms of value and concrete interventions. The other one is to look at the just opposition between the rich and the poor: we keep talking to the poor, and we keep highlighting the poor. One day I want to be able to stand up and be asked to talk about wealth and let me talk about how to redistributed it, talk about how to create it, with ethics, with moral fibre in it. But we never challenge the rich. It's very uncomfortable, it's very unpopular, but we have met poverty, so fashionable, it's loosing meaning. There was a time women were so fashionable, when you did a proposal, it was decorated with women, especially women and the money came. To deal with a graining the danger of doing that, you get a proposal, you decorate it with poverty and it brings money. Let's stop making poverty fashionable, it's painful, it kills us and it's something that is so degrading that we must stop thinking that something we want engaging, but something you want to ride off. The last thing I want to share is the interventions that we have highlighted; some of them will be get

ridden WB, IMF, WTO, but one thing we have to do at home: is to understand the budgeting process. If we don't know how resources are coming, and how they are located, there is no way to going to track, where the money goes and where it comes from. We have to do that, as civil society, whether we like it or not. We have to be able to engage with our governments, identify the main line Ministries which is working on health, which is working on poverty, which is working on what. Who has told here there is not a Minister of Development here, and we have told maybe it would be there after maybe in a month time next to regime, but most of us don't know where to go at home, we don't know which Ministries to talk to, we don't know who in the Ministries to talk to. Is it the Minister? Is it the Commissioner? Is the Private Secretary? Let's lead a quite knowledge, to lobby the right people, and we target the right people. The other one is to think about our strength, most of us have not reduced to how much we had achieve. We have been told here that by the first speaker that is some achievements in Mozambique, in Uganda on HIV-AIDS, let's retrace and interrogate these achievements, so that if they are credible, we use them as leverage to lobby the WB and the North and say: "We have done this, what have you done? The 0,7% was promised 35 years ago, so many years ago. It isn't been achieved. Policies change is important, debt cancellation is important, eradicate extreme poverty isn't an act of charity; nobody is doing us charity by helping us eradicate poverty. It's not an act of charity. It's an act of justice. It's an act that ensures that we enjoy our fundamentals rights. Let's stop making this campaign elitist, and let's make it a campaign for the people, who have done the knowledge, the issues and the interventions. We need to act closely with the legislators. How empty are politicians? who come in campaign and when they are campaigning, they are with us, when they are in Parliament, they don't know us. We have to make sure we hold accountable too, and lastly before the G8, there was Darfur in the Sudan, there was the tsunami before that, before the UN summit, there is Katrina: it's very interesting that we humanized typhoons, hurricanes, but we dehumanize poverty, we give those natural disasters names, and they being on credence, and we begin to work around them; you check CNN, it's full of Katrina, I'm actually beginning to think to a woman when I think about that phenomenon. But we don't look at the same about poverty. The question I'm asking is between now and Honk Kong, what are we going to have? Is it a Tsunami, combined with Darfur, combined with the typhoon, combined with the hurricane? Are we waiting another disaster? Or can we simply say "Poverty is enough!". I've been speaking for another 7 minutes, and 7 more women are died. We should stop it.