

Monday, 12 October 12:30- 14:00

Philippines Room

The right to water for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food-the role of the CFS

#14

ORGANIZERS

Civil Society Mechanism Water Working Group

(composed of 39 national, regional and global civil society organizations and networks)

Abstract: The side event would be a space for the CSM to present/share how we think water should be addressed in the CFS and what we consider to be priority issues and actions regarding water. These will of course include the HLPE report and the decision box, but also broader strategic issues of addressing water in other work areas and work streams related to livelihoods, food security and nutrition, including CFS products and future processes.

Central to the discussion will be the implementation of a human rights framework; the connection between water and land, including issues of preservation of the environment; access to clean water, including access for agricultural workers in the work place; gender, and the social function of resources across rural and urban areas.

KEYWORDS: Right to food, Right to water, The commons, Ecosystem functions, Extra territorial obligations

Languages: : EN, FR, SP

Refreshments

Summary: This event provided a space for the CSM to present a broader approach to the human right to water, and the priority issues related the discussion of the HLPE report, “Water for Food Security and Nutrition” that was held during CFS 42. Sofia Monsalve moderated the event, and shared with the audience the interlinkages between human rights, and the obligations on the right to water that reach beyond drinking water and sanitation- including water for food production. Human rights obligations are core to the work of the CFS, and must be fully integrated into all workstreams and products. The panel offered presentations on different key aspects of water issues for the CSM, and outlined key outcomes of the discussion as well. Isa Alvarez from the Basque country in Spain shared the importance of water as part of the commons. She discussed the need to restore water as a common good following: universality, sustainability, democratic management, and de-linked from the market, as well as holistic management. Jamal , from Palestine shared the importance of not using water as a tool for economic and social pressure, sharing with the audience his experience living under the Israeli occupation, and the way in which communities are deprived water for household and agriculture use as a means of discrimination, oppression and pressure to move. Paulomee from India shared the deplorable conditions that many agricultural workers must endure, and in particular the lack of access to clean drinking water; many workers are forced to consume and bathe in water that is contaminated with pesticides, runoff and other human, animal and industrial wastes. Anaru representing an indigenous community in New Zealand concluded the panel by sharing the territorial approach to understanding resources- the connection between land, water and communities, and the larger holistic way in which our environment sustains itself and the people who depend on it.