

BRIEF ON CIVIL SOCIETY REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO 2012 FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES

In past years, since 1996, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have been progressively more active in their participation in FAO conferences and technical committees in a number of areas including policy dialogue at all levels (national, regional and global). Since then, regional Civil Society Consultations have been regularly organized in relation to the FAO regional conferences.

In 2012, for the first time, a minimum of three Civil Society spokespersons have been allowed to participate in the debates on an equal footing with member countries both at the senior officers and the ministerial section of the Regional Conferences.

The following are the main crosscutting points emerging from the Civil Society statements that were read at the ministerial segment of the Regional Conferences:

- The acknowledgement of and support for the inclusive approach of the reformed CFS and the appreciation of the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests as its first concrete result, to be followed up with immediate steps to ensure their full implementation at national level
- The concern for Land Grabbing practices, rising food prices and financial speculation on food commodities
- The concern for land uses related to the production of agro-fuels and genetically modified crops
- The need to focus on small-scale food producers (as opposed to industrial, large-scale agriculture) when developing agricultural policies and investment programmes
- The need to adopt and promote the concept of agroecology and refusal of the concept of "Green Economy"
- The refusal of market-based solutions to climate change

The statements were discussed and prepared during the regional Civil Society Consultations. The following is a summary of the main points that have been raised by the Civil Society in each region:

ASIA

Remarks:

- Inter-related nature of climate and food crises
- Profit-driven unsustainable development model
- Corporate agriculture and oligopolistic practices are a thread to food sovereignty
- Large-scale investments from corporations and states \rightarrow land grabbing
- Marginalized communities that depend on natural resources are displaced → further conflict
- Ecological and social injustice → worst impact felt by marginalized communities
- Lack of policy and support from the governments for agroecology
- Rio+20 Summit is an opportunity to seriously come up with alternatives to the current development model
- Green economy is a false solution to the crisis and does not reflect the interest of rural communities
- Reform of CFS is a crucial opportunities to improve coordination among stakeholders

Recommendations to member states:

- Implement genuine reforms on natural resources management
- Investigate cases of Land Grabbing as well as land and sea related human rights violations
- Implements agreements under ICARRD as well as the Voluntary Guidelines
- Strengthen processes of Free, prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
- Customary rights of ethnic minorities are inalienable and shouldn't be overridden by other national laws
- Commit 20% of the annual national budget to support small producers (as per IAASTD recommendations)

- Develop policies to support small producers, including institutional development, infrastructure support, research and development and capacity building
- Ensure regulation and monitoring of national and international corporations
- Stop free trade agreements
- Ensure gender responsive policies and women's control over productive resources
- Protect women's and children's health
- Promote community-centred seed conservation and farmer-led innovation
- Prohibit intellectual property rights on living organisms
- 50% of climate funds should be allocated to small producers, no donor conditionalities
- Regulate food commodity market speculation and stabilize food supply and prices
- Ensure decent living wages for agricultural workers, as well as social protection and safety nets
- Promote constructive dialogue and mechanisms to strengthen CSO participation and engagement in policy

Recommendations to FAO:

- Strengthen the engagement of national offices with civil society
- Involve small food producers in definition, implementation and monitoring of FAO-APRC workplan
- Call on members to develop policies curb food speculation support governments in strengthening food reserves to stabilize supply and prices of food staples
- Ensure that GSF contributes to the realization of the right to food, especially for the most vulnerable groups
- Ensure that GSF includes strong monitoring mechanisms to hold transnational companies accountable
- Initiate immediately a process of broad consultation on principles for responsible agricultural investment
- Ensure the participation of small producers and CSOs in all relevant committees
- Implement FAO Guidelines to the Right to Food, farmers' rights as stipulated in the ITPGRFA, Improve FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, implement agreements in the ICARRD
- Reconcile, monitor and report international regulatory frameworks on natural resources management
- Support broad participation of producers' organizations and CSOs in the processes to RIO+20
- Ensure greater participation of civil society in the CFS and other FAO processes + adequate resources
- Strengthen its work on gender, youth, sustainable agriculture, fisheries, forestry and indigenous peoples

LATIN AMERICA

Remarks:

- Solidarity to Argentineans on their demand for memory, truth and justice 36 years after the dictatorship started, to Haitians for the difficult situation they are facing, to Guatemalan on peasants struggle for an agrarian reform and against violent evictions, with Hondurans for land conflicts, and to all those who are imprisoned for their struggles worldwide
- Refusal of a production and consumption model which generates hunger and poverty, exploits workers, threatens artisanal fishing, allows processes of land grabbing, unsustainable agribusiness and extractive activities, concentrates, natural resources in the hand of corporations, generates unprecedented climate and biodiversity crises, allows food speculation and causes rising food prices, represses the dissent violently
- Refusal of market-based solution to climate changes and of the so-called Green Economy
- Need to choose between promoting a model based on agribusiness and export-oriented large-scale production, and promoting agroecology and artisanal fishing for sustainable food production
- Land and oceans are sources of life, not commodities. Access to them is an inalienable human right.
- CFS reform is an important step towards food sovereignty, need to strengthen participation mechanisms
- Voluntary Guidelines are a first great achievement, will contribute to strengthen CSOs in their struggle
- FAO-ALC's definition of Land Grabbing is limited and reductive \rightarrow underestimation of the phenomenon
- FAO-ALC should urgently revise this approach, because people are being evicted from their territories
- Refusal of FAO definition of "Forests" which equates large-scale monocultures to bio-diverse forests

- Traditional food production systems are a human right
- Need to promote family farming and artisanal fishing, promote agroecology is the only viable solution
- Recognition of the great progress made with the adoption of the FAO POLICY on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, however urgent need to fully implement it, allocating adequate resources for implementation
- Refusal of production and use of agrofuels, refusal of genetically modified organisms (GMOs)
- Refusal of green economy, seen as commercialization of air, sea, lands, territories and natural resources
- Thanks to the Government of Argentina and FAO Regional Office for making the consultation possible

Recommendations to member states:

- Stop the criminalization of social movements, stop the militarization of territories
- Immediate ratification of ILO Convention 184 and of International Convention on the rights of migrants
- Take urgent measures to reestablish Haiti's national food systems
- Stop and condemn Land Grabbing and grabbing of other natural resources, implement the VG
- Stick to the commitments taken in the CIRADR Declaration, adopt integral and radical agrarian reforms
- Recognize the strategic role of the youth and allocate resources to programs for rural youth
- Take concrete political measures to strengthen the message of 2014 as the year of family farming
- Keep guaranteeing the full and active participation of Civil Society within the UN
- Guarantee e broad and meaningful debate with Civil Society on CFS procedures and mandate
- Ensure the inclusion of Civil Society points of view in multisectoral consultations, particularly the GSF
- Promote in Rio+20 a truly sustainable development model based on family farming and small food production, not a "Green Economy" based on free trade and international markets

Recommendations to FAO:

- Make sure that in the FAO reform process gender considerations will be a primary concern
- Revise FAO definition of "Forests", together with farmers and indigenous peoples living in these ecosystems
- Develop a department or a unit dedicated to the implementation of FAO POLICY on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, with presence in all states of Latin America and the Caribbean

EUROPE

Remarks:

- Hunger is increasing, and its root causes are agricultural policies not supportive of small-scale producers
- Agricultural production is linked to the international financial institutions, international trade, speculation
- Waged agricultural workers are pushed into poverty and hunger and are excluded from social protection
- Decrease in land available for local food production. Water must remain a common good and be protected
- Family farmers need access to markets, large-scale agribusiness are pushing them out of the market
- Diets are changing and becoming less nutritious and less healthy, need to raise awareness of consumers
- Traditional seed breeding should be prioritized over hybrid or GMO crops, biodiversity must be preserved
- The dimension of food sovereignty within the GFS needs to be strengthened to achieve this
- Huge lack of fair, adequate and secure access to natural resources undermines livelihoods
- Insufficient responsible governance of land, water, fisheries, forests and other natural resources
- Lack of active participation of CSOs in decision-making processes affecting their livelihoods
- Fisheries suffer pollution from industrial agriculture and extractive industries which threatens fish stocks
- Traditional knowledge of fishermen is constantly overlooked, management systems should always be created in close co-operation between fishermen and scientists
- Environmentally friendly fishing-gear and low energy-consuming vessels should be rewarded
- Current fishing practices are a blind alley, need for a the path to a sustainable harvest of the oceans
- CSO actors should be empowered to promote local sustainable food nets based on agro-ecology

Recommendations to member states

- Take immediate action to improve land, water, fisheries and forests tenure and governance, especially through the effective implementation oat national level of the Voluntary Guidelines
- Ensure the adoption during the 38th session of CFS of a consistent approach for the implementation of VG
- Take immediate actions to stop the short-term land-water-fisheries-forests-grabbing practices
- National moratoria on investments involving large-scale transfers of legitimate tenure rights
- Support Community Land Trusts
- Ensure the upcoming consultation on principles of responsible investments in agriculture take into consideration how these investments can best support food sovereignty and small-scale production
- Adopt coherent approaches in engaging the Rio+20 Summit, avoiding the "Green Economy" concept
- Pay specific attention to closing the gender gap in agriculture
- ECA countries should look to countries such as Ecuador, Bolivia or Brazil for inspiration in their constitutional promotion of food sovereignty, solidarity economy and sustainable local food webs
- Regional and local authorities should guarantee privileged access to small-scale producers to land, local markets public procurement of food, and consider them as key actors to build global governance systems
- Regional governments and Local Authorities should support Local Food Councils

AFRICA

Remarks:

- More than 40% of African population suffers Food insecurity, of which 65% are peasants
- Inconsistency in policies, programmes and projects at different levels
- Tendency to finance African agriculture with external cooperation resources
- Tendency to favor industrial agriculture and the public-private approach (inadequate)
- Despite the hope created by CAADAP programme, implementation is not inclusive
- There is a deficit in the communication between actors involved in food security
- Marginalized groups are often used to mobilize financial resources that are then used for other purposes
- Strong opposition to land-grabbing
- Agricultural policies developed through participatory processes are precondition to national agricultural investment plans and programmes
- Recognition of the importance of the reformed CFS, this approach must be used at all levels
- Support to FAO decentralization process, which should be inclusive and transparent
- Need for greater coordination and consistency in policies at regional and subregional level

Recommendations to FAO and member states:

- Adopt consistent agricultural policies taking into account climate change, agroecology and food sovereignty
- Need for a monitoring and evaluation organ within the CSM based on a human rights approach
- Voluntary Guidelines should be harmonized with the land policies of the African Union
- Governments need to implement the voluntary guidelines with an inclusive approach
- VG implementation should be monitored through a formal multi-stakeholder platform
- Adopt a moratorium on agrofuels production
- Ensure accountability with respect to agricultural investments
- Reorient agricultural investments towards small-scale producers
- Reconsider Public-Private Partnerships, which are not appropriate tool as they stand
- Strengthen active participation of private sector and civil society within CAADP as in the CFS
- Agricultural research should be funded by the public sector and inspired by local knowledge
- Create TCP to support capacity strengthening and multi-stakeholder platforms
- Support the preparation for the international year of family farming in 2014

Provide CSOs with appropriate means and resources for communication activities at all level

NEAR EAST

<u>Remarks</u>:

- Current crises affecting the international community and the Arab community in particular as a result of wars, misuse of natural resources, increasing poverty and hunger
- Arab integration requires developing a joint strategy to realize pan-Arab food security limiting reliance on imports

Recommendations to member states:

- Increase joint investments in agriculture and food production
- Develop a law on unified Arab agricultural investment
- Increase scientific research funding on food security
- Create a unified mechanism to regulate imports
- Build joint strategic food reserves
- Activate a common Arab market without custom tariffs
- Make strategic and fair agreements with countries owning water resources to ensure access and availability
- Develop a unified development strategy based on the concept of sustainable development
- Arab league should foster all forms of Arab integration
- Oppose any decision to impose food or medicine blockade on any country
- Need to direct Arab investments towards less developed Arab countries
- Promote in-country trading
- Ensure tenure security and market access for small farmers
- Implement and monitor the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines
- Create a fund to finance small and medium farmers, including interest-free loans and advances
- Promote communication for development to spread information and raise awareness among farmers
- Empower small farmers to organize their unions and societies
- Incorporate in the constitutions and legislations the principle of the right to food and food sovereignty
- Eliminate all kinds of discrimination (ethnical, gender, age, religious, sectorial)
- Concerning the Global Strategic Framework: make food sovereignty a core principle, eliminate
 recommendations for the application of trade liberalization agreements, promote agricultural diversity VS
 monoculture, avoid the concept of "Green Economy", state clearly that wars and crises are the major
 causes of food insecurity, ensure impartiality and justice in dealing with crises, engage specialized CSOs in
 developing priorities and criteria, refraining from setting humiliating terms and conditions in development
 aid under blockades and wars, separate between natural disasters and those created by humans,
 incorporate an article that calls for a search of the root causes of wars and conflict

Recommendation to Arab CSOs:

- Need to strengthen the role of Civil Society
- Support the establishment of the Arab Food Sovereignty Network as a civil society mechanism
- Promote all forms of cooperation and constructive dialogue with other sectors of civil society

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FAO has been increasingly moving towards newer approaches for more inclusive governance systems, as a result of experience gained over the years and recent trends being followed by many Organizations. In the 2012 Regional Conferences, a proposal was put forward for the first time to invite a minimum of three civil society spokespersons to fully participate and interact in the discussions and debates during the senior officers and ministerial segments of the Regional Conferences. This step up from "observer" status, allowing civil society to partake in discussions and debates on equal footing as member states, as opposed to speaking at the end of the sessions after all member states had spoken, has been piloted in the 2012 Regional Conferences with positive results. This in no way represented a diminution of the decision-making authority of FAO Members during the debates, but rather enhanced such authority by ensuring that their decisions were taken in cognizance of the views of civil society stakeholders in their regions. Similarly, the contributions made by the spokespersons enriched the technical discussions during the senior officers meetings.

Based on the 2012 experiences, the participation from Civil Society in the Regional Conferences can be of two types:

- 1. As Civil Society spokespersons, participating in the debates during the Regional Conference and reading the statement from the Civil Society Consultation. This applies to those NGOs/CSOs selected by the regional NGOs/CSOs during the civil society consultation prior to the Regional conferences.
- 2. As observers, intervening after the member states, time permitting, and framing their intervention as outlined in the FAO basic texts. This applies to International NGOs (INGOs) holding formal status with FAO.

CIVIL SOCIETY SPOKESPERSONS at FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES 2012

Regional Conference for ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (APRC) 31st Session - 12-16 March 2012 (Hanoi, Vietnam) 12 spokespersons (rotating, 3 at a time, depending on the agenda item under consideration) Nguyen Xuan Dinh (VNFU, Vietnam) Vu Le Y Voan (VNFU, Vietnam) Pham Van Thanh (CIFPEN, Vietnam) Truong Quoc Can (SRD, Vietnam) Vu Trung Kien (CCRC, Vietnam) Gilbert M. Sape (PAN-AP, Philippines) Sylvia Flores Mallari (Asian Peasants Coalition, Philippines) Zainal Arifin Fuat (La Via Campesina, Indonesia) Arze Glipo (APNFS, Philippines) Aftab Khan Alam (ActionAid International, Pakistan) Francisco G. Pascual (APNFS, Philippines) Maria Dolores Bernabe (Oxfam International, Philippines)

Regional Conference for LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (LARC) 32nd Session - 26-30 March 2012 (Buenos Aires, Argentina) Number and names of spokespersons to be confirmed

Regional Conference for EUROPE (ERC) 28th Session - 17-20 April 2012 (Baku, Azerbaijan) Number and names of spokespersons to be confirmed

Regional Conference for AFRICA (ARC) 27th Session - 23-27 April 2012 (Brazzaville, Congo) <u>6 spokespersons</u>

Elisabeth Atangana (PROPAC/PAFO, Cameroun) Djibo Bagna (ROPPA, Niger) Mamadou Cissokho (CNCR, Senegal) Rehema Namaganda (WFF, Uganda) Ntady Séraphin Médard (CNOP, Congo) Mackita Jean Pierre Rufins (CONADEC, Congo)

Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC) 31st Session - 14-18 May 2012 (Rome, Italy)

<u>3 spokespersons</u> Razan Zuayter (Arab Group for the protecton of Nature, Jordan) Karim Akrout (Tunisian farmers Syndicate, Tunisia) Abla Mahdy Abdelmoniem Ahmed (Hawa organization, Sudan)

CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATIONS 2012

ASIA – Hanoi, Vietnam, 10-11 March 2012

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Center (CCRC) Strategy for agriculture and Rural Development Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP) AsiaDHRRA Coalition of Agricultural Workers International (CAWI) International Food Security and Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism Pesticide Action Nework Asia and the Pacific Kobe National University Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) Consumers Korea IPC/IMSE/FSNSA Research Center for Gender Department of Social Affairs JaDHRRA Sor Kor Por Economic Department Kendrio Krishok Moitree Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE) Embassy of Republic of Korea Korean Advanced Farmers' Federation (KAFF) SPI Family and Environment in Sustainable Development	APNFS	Food Security and Poverty Elimination Network	Strategy for agriculture and		Farmers' Federation
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Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) Gender Department of Social Affairs Economic Department JaDHRRA Sor Kor Por Kendrio Krishok Moitree Economic Department Kendrio Krishok Moitree Korea Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE) Embassy of Republic of Korea Korean Advanced Farmers' Federation (KAFF) SPI Family and Environment in Sustainable Development	AsiaDHRRA	Workers International	and Nutrition Civil Society		Kobe National University
Affairs Economic Department Kendrio Krishok Moitree Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE) Embassy of Republic of Korean Advanced Farmers' SPI Korea Faderation (KAFF) Family and Environment in Sustainable Development	Agrarian Reform and Rural	Consumers Korea	IPC/IMSE/FSNSA		
Economic Department Kendrio Krishok Moitree Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE) Embassy of Republic of Korea Korean Advanced Farmers' Federation (KAFF) SPI Family and Environment in Sustainable Development			Jadhrra	Sor Kor Por	
Korea Federation (KAFF) Family and Environment in Sustainable Development			Kendrio Krishok Moitree	Initiatives for Community	
				SPI	

LATIN AMERICA – Buenos Aires, Argentina, 22-25 March 2012

Amigos de la Tierra	Comunidades Afrodescendientes	HEIFER	RALLT
Andina - CSA	CONAPACH	Indígenas - CIP	RAPAL
Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Productoras Agroindustriales Rurales	CONFEPESCA	Indígenas - CSA	Red de Coordinación en Biodiversidad de Costa Rica
Biodiversidad	Cono Sur - CSA	Jubileo Sur - Américas	Red de organizaciones Indígenas de Mesoamérica
Campesinos - CIP	Cono Sur Sustentable	MAELA	Red Manglar
CAOI	COPROFAM	Marcha Mundial de Mujeres	REDCASSAN
Cátedra Libre de Soberanía Alimentaria de la Facultad de Agronomía de Bs. Aires	Dialogo Rural	MST – CSA	Tierra de Futuro
Cátedra Libre de Soberanía Alimentaria Universidad Nacional de La Plata	Enlace Continental Mujeres Indígenas	Mujeres - CIP	UITA
Centroamérica - CSA	FETRAPESCA	ONGs - CIP	UITA – CSA
СІТІ	Foro Pescadores	Pescadores - CIP	Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira
CLOC-VIA	Fundación Boell	Radio Mundo Rural	ONGs – CSA

EUROPE – Baku, Arzebaijan, 16-17 April 2012

Action Aid	СОРА	Ganja agribusiness association	Oxfam Solidarity
Agric. Workers union of Kyrgyzstan	CRA	HEKS-EPER	Professional Women
Agro info innov centre	CSA	ICCO	Public health care service
Agro-industrial workers union	CSM	Information Center Green Dossier	Slow Food
Association for famers rights defense	Eco Ruralis	Int. Foundation LEA and network of different ethnic minority women/girls	support ciftisen
Association of conscious consumers	ECVC	IUF	UMID
Baltic Foundation	EKO-renessanse	Kand Gida Is	Via Campesina
Biozo	Farmers house of Georgia	Khoremz Rural adv. Support service	WFF
CACAARI	Foundation Caucasus Environment	Kyrgyz Breeders org	Young Medical Network
CACAARI	Friends of the Earth	Mijarc	Urgenci
Çiftçi-sen	Fugea	NHE	

AFRICA – Brazzaville, Congo, 21-22 April 2012

ACORD	Cooperative pour l'assainissement des villes du Congo	INADES	Réseay Espace Créateur	Coopérative Agricole de la Ferme	APBVD
ActionAid. IFSN	COPACO	Indigenous Peoples Development Organization	ROPPA	ONVD	CAT
ADECOR	COSADER	IUF	SACAU	ADHUC	RFP
ADEL	CS-CAFE	Kenya Small Scale Farmers Association	SaferRwanda	Groupe de réflexion Bleu Desugn CREEN PROTECT BDGP	CRPDM
ADHUC	CSM	Kenya Small Scale Farmers Organization	Seychelles Farmers Association	Promotion de l agence sans frontieres ASFDC	APE
Association Congolaise des Minorites Autochtones	ESAFF	Light Africa International	SWAGEN	CIRAD	ADERIGAS
Association Congolaise pour le Developpement Agricole	FAWU	Madagascar Farmers Association	UMAGRI	Alliance Contre la Faime	CCPN
Association pour la conservation des écosystèmes	FECAPAM	More and Better	Via Campesina	COPACO	COPACO- BANDUNDU
CEPAC-CODECO	FENEC	MVIWATTA	WFF	ASV	CELAM
CESCT	FENEC	Oxfam	WRF-FRM	ADFM	FCOPACO
CJJ	FIAN	PAFO	PROPAC	COPALO	UA-CEPM
CNOP	FJE	PCFS	AGRIDEV	ASA	UJAAMA
CONADEC	Gabon Environnement	Plate forme développement rurale et Agricole	ATV	UCOOPAKIN	RAPDA
CONGAD	GAJ	Plate forme Droit Humains et groupe vulnérable	ADECOR	CADECOV	IBON International
Conseil des ONG de Développement CCOD	GAWU	REPOAC	GRET	JCOPACO	FIPADECA

NEAR EAST – Beirut, Lebanon, 4-5 May 2012

AFREC	Association for the Development for Rural Capacities	FAO- OCEP	Lebanese Environment Party	The Arab Network for Food Security	فىچىرلاا تارىخل ئىينواعتىلا ئىغرىلار ئىنانبىللا
Agricultural Cooperative	AUB Professor :Land and Water Resources	FAO Regional office for the Near East	Oman Environmental Society	The Fishermen's Cooperative in Alhadi Harbour 'Ozai'	ناسرع يف مان غالا ييبدر ةينواعت
Agriculture Cooperative Union	Cedars for Care Association/Operation Big Blue Association	FOE	Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees	The National Federation for the Protection of the environment in Algeria	ءانبىلا داەج ئىي عمج
APN	Chairman of the Assembly	Green Line Association	Right to Water Forum in the Arab Region	The Tunisian Agricultural	Iraqi Organization for Rehabilitating Society and Environment
Arab Group for the Protection of Nature	Democratic Youth Organization	HAWA Organization	Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon	The Union of Agricultural Work Committees	
Association for the Development for Rural Capacities	Economic and Social Development Department/FAO	Housing and Land Rights Network	Syndicate (Synagri)	Union For Jordanian Woman	