



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

PROPAC

Plateforme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale

Regional Platform of Farmers' Organisations in Central Africa

Plataforma Regional das Organizações Paisanas da Africa Central

Plataforma Regional de Organizaciones Campesinas de África Central

C E E A C - C E M A C

32nd FAO AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

African CSOs consultation

From March 28 to 29, 2022

OPENING REMARKS FROM PROPAC PRESIDENT

Your Excellency Francisca Eneme Efua, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Environment of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and President of the 32nd FAO Africa Regional Conference,

Mr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel / Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Africa,

Ladies and gentlemen CSOs' representatives,

Distinguished guests in your ranks, grades and capacities,

I am honoured today to speak at the African CSOs Consultation within the framework of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa to be held in Malabo from April 11 to 14, 2022.

I would like once again to thank FAO for its support to African civil society organizations above all, and in particular for their involvement in the Regional Conferences through the CSO Consultations.

I would also like to sincerely thank the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea via the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and the Environment for agreeing to chair this

meeting of African civil societies. It is an indication of the importance and consideration that our African States give to CSOs when it comes to dealing with current problems on the continent.

To the representatives of CSOs, permit me convey to you greetings and recognition from the Regional Platform of Farmers' Organizations of Central Africa (PROPAC) and the Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO) for having attended this technical meeting. Your presence at this virtual consultation demonstrates your constantly renewed commitment to the cause we defend.

I welcome each and every one of you here today.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It should be recalled that FAO Regional Conferences are the highest forums and governing bodies of the Organization at this level, and take place once every biennium in years when the FAO Conference is not in session. For some years now, civil society has taken part in these conferences.

For a larger participation of CSOs, the consultation of CSOs which has become a tradition is held on the sidelines of regional conferences and focuses on the same agenda as the conferences themselves. However, for this year, the context of the covid-19 crisis has made things a little more complicated, making it impossible to hold in person. This is why the 2022 edition is being held in virtual mode. The objective of this consultation is to prepare civil society positions on the items on the Conference agenda and to discuss other issues of importance to CSO actors in the region.

Undeniably, the agenda of the 32nd FAO Regional Conference focuses on topics and phenomena that influence our lifestyle affect our existence and sometimes even threatens our survival, in particular the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on agro-food systems, agro-ecological issues, the African Continental Free Trade Area, the rights of peasants, youth and women, to name but a few. Faced with this situation, and as actors in the field, our point of view matters for the development of resilience actions.

I urge you therefore, during the deliberations, to give the best of yourselves so that we can achieve results that meet the expectations of all the organizations we represent here. And that the CSOs participation in the 32nd FAO Regional Conference is meaningful.

I thank you for your kind attention.