

CFS 47 POST-EVENT COMMUNICATIONS

CFS 47 –Side Event 5 – Ensuring the human right to adequate food for sustainable food systems: How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected its realization and what policy solutions can be brought to the table that can help accelerate progress towards the SDGs?

SUMMARY

Representatives from the government, private sector, academia and civil society joined their voices on their views on how responses to the COVID-19 crisis can achieve contribute to less vulnerable, more inclusive and sustainable food systems, so to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The side-event underlined universal linkages between the right to health and the right to food. Multilateral, multistakeholders and multisectoral coordination was a mean to success. The programme started with speeches by two representatives of the Friends of the Right to Food Group in Rome namely, The Netherlands, and Spain. Then a keynote speech by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. Finally, the side-event hosted a multi-cultural, gender- and geographically- balanced and sector-wide panel with government representatives and experts from Pakistan, Cabo Verde, the Netherlands and Brazil.

Each speaker shared innovative and inclusive practices that could help build back better in post-COVID-19 recovery plans through explicit promotion of human rights and related principles:

- Innovative and inclusive social protection measures through mobile-based monetary transfer schemes (Pakistan);
- Prevention and plant protection policies, helping mitigate negative effects of climate change (Cabo Verde);
- Explicit focus on the needs of small farmers and interests of consumers when building and promoting new technologies (Rabobank - PSM);
- And finally the importance of keeping levels of participation high by including social movements and local governments into the decision-making (University of Brasilia - CSM).

[234 words]

QUOTES

Mr. Hans Hoogeveen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

We need to engage in a transformative road towards more inclusive and sustainable food systems all over the world. We have to act, and we have to act now!

Mr. Gabriel Ferrero, Director General for Sustainable Development Cooperation Policies of Spain

The right to food has to be a compass to guide states to address the consequences of COVID19. (El derecho a la alimentación debe ser la brújula que oriente a los estados a la hora de abordar las consecuencias de COVID19).

Mr. Michael Fakhri, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

Things like Plant Health, genetic diversity, agroecology, and marine life matter as a human rights concern.

Dr. Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation of Pakistan

Food systems is a multi-sectoral agenda, as multi-sectoral as we can get, so we all have our different entry points in the discussion.

Ms. Elsa Simões, Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO, IFAD and WFP of Cabo Verde

Food security and nutrition have been high in our public policy agenda to which CFS products and I PPC standards have been precious instruments in support of our governments.

Mr. Hem Mulders, Global Head F&A Strategy and Policy for Rabobank, PSM Representative

Private sector can, should and will contribute, but cannot do it on its own.

Ms. Elisabetta Recine, Professor, FSN Observatory, University of Brasilia, CSM Representative

The effects of COVID-19 are different throughout society. Those who have always been in the most vulnerable situations have suffered and will suffer the most. But excellent initiatives have also emerged from this groups, which we call "solidarity between equals". (Las repercusiones de la Pandemia son distintas a lo largo de la sociedad. Los que siempre han estado en situaciones más vulnerables han sufrido y sufrirán más. Pero es también de estos grupos que surgen iniciativas ejemplares que llamamos "solidaridad entre iguales).

LINKS

Side event flyer, <http://www.fao.org/3/cb3303en/cb3303en.pdf>

Web news reporting about the outcomes of the event, <http://www.fao.org/right-to-food/news/news-detail/en/c/1373560/>

Web event announcement, <http://www.fao.org/right-to-food/news/news-detail/en/c/1372470/>

OPED signed by Mr. Juan Carlos García y Cebolla and Mr. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Office-in –charge, <https://elpais.com/planeta-futuro/2021-02-08/innovar-para-comer.html>

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PHOTOS

