

## SE10: The power of the right to food for collective action: Global governance, policy and legislation to realize the right to adequate food

Organized by: Brazil and Germany in their capacity of Co-Chairs of the Friends of the Right to Food Group; Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism – CSIPM; UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food; FAO; German Institute for Human Rights; and Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

### Summary of the side event

Opening the event, **Taina Hedman – International Indian Treaty Council, CSIPM** recited a poem by a peasant author of the Landless Movement of Brazil honoring Mother Earth and our connection with the land, vital to realizing the right to adequate food for all (RTF).

Discussions were moderated by **Perla Alvarez – Conamuri/ CLOC, CSIPM, Paraguay.**

**His Excellency Andreas von Brandt, Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the UN Organizations in Rome** highlighted RTF as a cornerstone of Germany's political commitment. The country's Food and Nutrition Strategy – *Good Food for Germany* lays down around 90 food policy measures. At European Union level, Germany works on coherent food policy regulations, including measures to protect the environment. Germany funds FAO's projects on RTF monitoring and legislation and promote the uptake at country level of CFS policy products. He emphasized that the CFS is the nucleus of the human rights-based approach to food security.

**Mariana Santarelli – Representative of FIAN Brazil in the National Council of Food and Nutrition Security (CONSEA)** showcased CONSEA's cross-sectoral and multi-actor composition highlighting the essential role played by civil society organizations and social movements and reflected on the

challenges of participatory global governance. In Brazil, the national food and nutrition security plan outlines objectives, indicators and associated budget allocations. Policies aimed at guaranteeing the RTF are associated with monitoring systems to strengthen transparency in relation to public investment choices.

**Charlotte Dreger, FIAN International – Co-Facilitator of the Global Food Governance Working Group, CSIPM** stressed the importance of meaningful CSO engagement, advocating for democratic multilateral governance spaces and the prioritization of the voices of those most affected. Notably, FAO has no formal mechanism in place for CSO participation in its governing bodies. Improved monitoring systems meaningfully involving local and conflict-affected communities, effective global frameworks to ensure corporate accountability, and transparent mechanisms for private sector engagement with organizations like FAO were highlighted as important priorities.

**Honorable Françoise Uwumukiza – Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)** highlighted EALA's work with FAO to ensure the RTF, aligning with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. Sound legal frameworks and purposeful, coordinated parliamentary action are necessary to clarify and strengthen RTF implementation, ensure effective oversight and democratic representation, promote food safety and ensure governments' accountability.

**Juan Echanove, FAO RTF Team Leader** identified structural barriers to the realization of the RTF, including unequal power relations, increasing market concentration and conflicts, urging for greater international collaboration, including between Rome-based agencies. Priorities for action for FAO include strengthened RTF monitoring, capacity development, for a variety of actors including enforcement agencies and the judiciary, social accountability, obligations in conflicts, and market concentration impacts on RTF. RTF needs to be integrated in development activities.

**Michael Fakhri, UN Special Rapporteur on RTF** advocated for multilateralism based on sovereignty and human rights, insisting that the RTF is a dynamic concept – always in the hands of the people. Amidst the debt and food crisis, rising costs of living, and increased risks of famine and malnutrition, he insisted on CFS's critical role, particularly its collaborative governance workstream.

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