

We are currently living in food systems dominated by corporations. These corporate food systems are producing violence and not food, causing the decline of biodiversity, large emissions of greenhouse gases, and the displacement of people from their land.

More broadly, where we are today is to be working within a UN system that has failed the world. It failed to adequately respond to COVID-19, which is why food price inflation and national debt is high today. We cannot discuss investment without talking about debt relief.

The UN is also failing to stop the largest case of starvation in modern history, which is in Sudan today.

And the UN has not just failed – but the UN died in Gaza.

You have done nothing while Israel conducts the fastest starvation campaign in modern history in Gaza. You have witnessed a genocide unfold in real time over the last two years.

I will tell you the exact dates in which the UN as we know it died – the UN collapsed when Mahmoud Fattouh (فتوح) died at the age of 2 months on February 24, 2024 and when 10-year-old Yazan Al Kafarneh (الكفارنة) died on March 4, 2024.

These were the first children to have reportedly been killed by malnutrition, dehydration, and hunger during Israel's recent starvation campaign in Gaza.

When a parent is helplessly holding their starving child in their arms, looking into their child's eyes who is dying from hunger, it indicates an entire society is under attack and that famine is taking hold.

Every time a child dies from hunger, dehydration, and malnutrition, the world slips more into the abyss.

Starvation is not just an issue that arises from conflict. It is the result of a structural problems that starts within food systems.

The recent ceasefire in Gaza has not stopped Israel from bombing Gaza. Moreover, Israel's starvation, genocide, occupation and nakba in Palestine has not ended.

Most acutely, humanitarian aid and food system reconstruction remains severely restricted in Gaza.

Gaza is not only in rubble. The UN itself has collapsed into rubble.

I look at you now, the CFS, and I see one of the few parts of the UN that we can salvage and do something.

I don't think there's a great need to negotiate new policy tools.

The CFS has two incredibly powerful tools that you should use to set the global agenda –

First, you should focus on land as much as possible. Since the VGGT was adopted in 2012, 71 countries have undertaken some form of land reform, 38 percent of those countries explicitly referenced the VGGT to varying extents

Only if people have secure tenure and equitable access to land, can the right to food be realized. I therefore encourage all of you to actively participate in ICAARD in Colombia.

Second, you should promote the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises to guide the agenda at every UN COP and platform. The CFS FFA provides a wholistic way to think about conflict, occupation, climate change, and biodiversity degradation.

You have the policy tools. You have the CSIPM holding you accountable. You have the PSM providing a business perspective. You have the HLPE providing you the best knowledge and science. The last two CFS chairs have done an incredible job connecting the CFS to other platforms, and most importantly connecting the CFS to New York.

The fate of the world is in your hands. It is time for you to roll up your sleeves and get to work.