



**CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION
TO THE CFS POLICY CONVERGENCE ON
“Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition”**

Rome, 15 January 2024

As an Observer to the CFS, the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) took note of the call for input from CFS stakeholders for the development of Policy Recommendations on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition and recognizes the importance of this policy convergence process.

Having carefully reviewed Report No. 18 by the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) "Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition", IDLO has taken note of the key highlights and recommendations to address inequalities, and their drivers, within food systems at all levels, to accelerate progress on achieving food security and nutrition.

In line with IDLO's mandate, IDLO welcomes the reference to the importance of accountability ([Recommendation 1](#)) and the enhancement of the legal capacity of government staff and civil society organizations, working closely with marginalized groups, to uphold their right to adequate food ([Recommendation 2](#)).

We consider of critical importance the inclusion of recommendations that aim to tackle social and political drivers of inequality, including managing conflict of interest between powerful and less powerful groups and fighting corruption ([Recommendation 7](#)). In addition, IDLO considers also paramount the recommendation to strengthen national institutions to better understand and apply international Human Rights instruments and to provide redress mechanisms when injustices are identified ([Recommendation 8](#)).

IDLO stresses its interest in supporting collaborative action to strengthen the humanitarian-peace-development nexus to address multiple drivers and manifestation of food security and nutrition inequalities in fragile contexts ([Recommendation 9](#)).

We also welcome the inclusion of other recommendations, to bolster land and resource rights of women and other marginalized groups, to strengthen other related systems, such as health and social protection, as well as to enhance transparency in investment negotiations and data generation and protection.

IDLO'S SUGGESTED KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE CFS POLICY CONVERGENCE

These contributions are derived from a policy brief developed by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) titled [“Rule of Law for Food Systems Transformation”](#).

The policy brief underscores the transformative potential of the rule of law in advancing food security and nutrition. In alignment with the recommendations outlined in HLPE Report , the present contributions could be of substantial added value to the CFS policy convergence process.

As the only global intergovernmental organization exclusively devoted to promoting the rule of law to advance peace and sustainable development, IDLO envisions a world where every person lives with dignity and equality under the rule of law, championing people-centered justice to build more peaceful, inclusive and resilient societies.

To achieve a just food systems transformation, the following rule-of-law elements should be implemented:

- Empowering the most food insecure people to claim their rights;
- Strengthening food systems governance through sound legal and regulatory framework and effective institutions;
- Improving and safeguarding equitable access to land, water and other natural resources.

IDLO has identified seven key actions that can support this transition:

1. **Empower food insecure people and communities**, through legal empowerment and the protection of civic space to enable people to claim for the rights and to ensure inclusive policy making processes.
2. **Embrace a feminist approach to rule of law and food security** to fight gender-based forms of exclusion, marginalization or discrimination by empower women, integrated them in decision making, and guaranteeing their access and control of land and natural resources.
3. **Improve food systems governance by enforcing fair and effective laws** that also enable inclusive participation, and strengthening institutional capacities to make them more accountable and transparent and enhancing access to justice for food system actors, seeking to realize their human rights.
4. **Invest in rule of law solutions to root causes of food insecurity in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus**, in fragile contexts, by strengthening transparency and justice in food assistance to ensure non-discriminatory and effective targeting; accountability and oversight measures to avoid leakages and corruption in food assistance, or the integration of conflict sensitive analysis in programming, supporting localized peace activities, such as reconciliation and confidence building.
5. **Strengthen equitable land, water, and other natural resources governance**, by fostering tenure systems, protecting diverse forms of tenure, including the recognition of customary rights, and applying alternative dispute resolution through formal and informal justice systems.
6. **Deliver food systems transformation within planetary environmental boundaries** by fostering agroecological transitions, protecting biodiversity, or developing adaptation and loss and damage regulations.
7. **Champion the rule of law as an enabler of food systems transformation** by mobilizing partnerships and supporting cooperation through multilateral frameworks to foster an inclusive, coordinated intersectoral approach, grounded in the rule of law.

Addressing intersecting crises requires a whole-of-system approach, as highlighted in the HLPE report. Systemic rule of law interventions can address interconnecting inequalities and tackle mutually exacerbating crises, including the climate crisis and its effects on natural resources management and access. Concerted efforts at the intersection of SDG 2 and SDG 16 and interrelated SDGs such as SDG 3, 5, 10 and 13, are essential for the achievement of food security for all.

IDLO stresses its readiness to support the development of the Policy Recommendations on “*Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition*” as well as the specific rule of law-based recommendations for governments, international organizations, and other actors to address injustices and inequalities across food systems and in related systems.

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