

Presentation at the CFS Side event on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines for Food Systems and Nutrition

Good afternoon everyone.

Thank you to the FAO and CFS for organizing this event. I am participating here as a member of the Civil Society and Indigenous People's Mechanism (CSM).

About the CSM

The Civil Society and Indigenous People's Mechanism (CSM) brings into the CFS the voices of small-scale food producers, agricultural and food workers, Indigenous Peoples, landless, the urban food insecure, consumers, women and youth.

The CSM was founded in 2010, and is an essential and autonomous part of the reformed **CFS**. Its purpose is to facilitate civil society participation and articulation into the policy processes of the CFS.

The CSM is an open and inclusive space where civil society organization that work on food security and nutrition can participate; since its founding, several hundred national, regional or global organizations have participated in the CSM.

Participation in the CSM is structured through 11 constituencies and 17 Subregions.

CSM Constituencies: Smallholders Farmers, Pastoralists/Herders, Fisherfolks, Indigenous Peoples, Consumers, Urban Food Insecure, Agricultural and Food Workers, Women, Youth, Landless, NGOs

CSM 17 sub-regions are the following: North America, Central America and Caribbean, Andean Region, Southern Cone, West Europe, East Europe, North Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, West Africa, South Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, West Asia, Australasia and Pacific

CSM involvement in the Guidelines

1. The issue of food systems is of vital importance to us:

- Our 11 constituencies include actors central to food systems across the world; they are the most important contributors to food security and nutrition worldwide, but yet, are most at risk of hunger and malnutrition;
 - We believe that these actors should be the primary beneficiaries of the guidelines.
2. Therefore, we have been actively and collectively engaged in this workstream over the past four years, developing our vision, position and analyses to back them up.
3. We intend to use the Guidelines in a number of ways:
- Information/knowledge tool to build awareness among key national-regional actors and the public about importance of understanding and viewing food and nutrition through a holistic, food systems approach.
 - Work with government actors at sub-national, national and regional levels to formulate and enact policies that support local, resilient food systems, sustainable and healthy diets, and which protect, respect and fulfill the rights of key food system actors as represented in our constituencies.
 - Work with inter-governmental organisations to ensure coherence between the Guidelines, and the policy and programmes they initiate/support with governments.
 - Advocate for regular monitoring by governments, inter-governmental organisations and civil society of how the Guidelines are being used—in spirit and letter; and how these Guidelines complement previous importance CFS policy products such as the Guidelines on the Right to Food, Sustainable Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forest, Framework for Action for Food Security and Action in Protracted Crises, etc.

The way we use the Guidelines will depend on the extent to which our priorities are incorporated into the Guidelines.

CSM's key priorities in the negotiations

1. **Framing of Food Systems:** We call for a **holistic food systems lens** that is concerned with how their different processes interact with one another, and **how the ecological, social, political and economic context constantly shape and re-shape food systems**, whilst **recognizing the particular role of**

power, gender and generational relationships. Food systems need to be recognized for the multiple public objectives they can serve.

- 2. Framing of the Human Rights approach:** The objective of the Guidelines should be the **progressive realization of the right to adequate food and nutrition in the Human Rights Framework**. The right to adequate food and nutrition needs to be **recognized as closely interconnected with other human rights** such as the human right to water, to health, to a healthy environment, **the rights of women, the rights of children, the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, the rights of workers and the rights of indigenous peoples**.
- 3. Food systems' interactions with and incorporation in political and legal systems. Different actors, different roles:** States should **adopt policy frameworks that clearly distinguish between and ensure appropriate roles for different actors in public policy making and programme implementation**. They should adopt **robust safeguards to protect against conflicts of interest resulting from inappropriate relationships with and influence of the corporate sector**. States are to ensure **transparency** in their actions and put into place clear frameworks and mechanisms through which they can be held **accountable** by their people for decisions and actions taken in relation to food systems. At the same time, they should establish **clear regulations and accountability frameworks** for holding private actors, including corporations, accountable for actions that undermine **human rights, in accordance with domestic and international law**.
- 4. Understanding of diets:** The strong nexus between **food, ecology, health and culture** is at the heart of the food systems approach, which links the well-being of the planet to the well-being of people through **sustainable and healthy diets**.
- 5. Importance of local and resilient food systems:** Localized food systems that are based on the recognition and **fulfilment of the human right to adequate food and nutrition and the recognition of the positive contribution of small-scale food producers and food and agriculture workers**. They are the ones that **preserve and regenerate the environment, protect and increase biodiversity, strengthen sustainable**

smallholder food production and preserve traditional knowledge. Thus, sustainability not only refers to the **environmental dimension, but also to culturally appropriateness, equity and livelihood enhancement.** The support for **agroecology, as practice, knowledge and movement are fundamental** as it plays a major role in ensuring the resilience of local food systems.

In closing, I wish everyone good health and look forward to working with many of you on collectively developing Guidelines that reflect and respond to our respective contexts, and implementing them effectively.