

Thank you Chair.

I am not speaking on behalf of OHCHR, but on behalf of the Working Group on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas.

The Working Group is part of the UN Special Procedures, mandated with implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas – UNDROP.

My name is Shalmali Guttal, I am the Chair Rapporteur of the UNDROP Working Group.

We believe that the CFS is a unique, much needed space for building convergence on policies, and sharing experiences and knowledge of how to make the right to food security and nutrition a reality for millions of people in the world who are face hunger as a result of historical and contemporary structural conditions.

The rights holders protected by UNDROP – peasants and rural workers—are central to food production all over the world and in ensuring the right to food and nutrition. Paradoxically, they are also most vulnerable to hunger and poverty.

Many CFS policy products, starting from the Right to Food Guidelines and Tenure Guidelines to more recent ones such as the Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment, offer important guidance for securing the support needed from governments to strengthen diverse, healthy and grounded food systems that ensure the right to food and nutrition.

But to be effective, CFS policy products need to be implemented at national, sub-national and regional levels, as well as through the programmes of key UN agencies, especially the FAO, IFAD and WFP.

We emphasize that the development and implementation of CFS policy products must be embedded in the human rights framework.

We urge member states in the CFS to take the necessary steps forward in this regard.

The UNDROP Working Group commits to engaging proactively in the CFS space, and building a bridge between the human rights processes in Geneva, and right to food and nutrition policies here