Thank you for giving us the floor.

The Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM) wishes to reiterate its commitment to the Food Systems and Nutrition process. As you know, we have participated in this process because it is important that the CFS generate voluntary guidelines that speak of nutrition not as something isolated, but rather in its connection to other dimensions of food systems. In this sense, in our opinion the CFS is the space that we have all made our own in order to address these issues, and it is at the CFS, an inclusive space, and not in other spaces, that these processes should take place.

For us, this process is not merely a workstream. The constituencies of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM) facilitate the representation of food producers, consumers, and the main actors in society who are involved in food systems, but who are also the most affected by hunger and malnutrition. We truly are the protagonists of food systems, and for this reason we believe that our voices are key in this process.

In this respect, as we often repeat, we believe that a human rights framework can guarantee inclusion and an adequate perspective for this space, a framework that also builds on the indivisibility of the right to food from other rights, such as women's rights, and peasants' rights. As you know, we have reiterated this throughout the process, and we are pleased to see that several member states have reaffirmed this during the recent regional consultations.

We all know that the planet is facing climate collapse; this can no longer be denied. This situation needs to be addressed by policy measures that take us in another direction entirely. This process must culminate in guidelines that can serve as a roadmap for developing policies on food systems that produce food and not mere edible products. These policies must also lead to models that protect the food systems of indigenous peoples; models that throughout history have fed the world based on ancestral knowledge, and that equally protect the right to live in rural areas with access to a livelihood for all. This is the only way that we can protect those models that cool the planet.

To this end, we need guidelines that take a holistic and systemic perspective not only in terms of content, but also in terms of structure. Civil society has insisted on the need to develop a structure that goes beyond consumers' behaviour, food environments and chain values. Some member states also made this point during the regional consultations. We propose that the structure explicitly reflect governance, the preservation of biodiversity and nature, health and wellbeing, and the cultural aspects and social dimensions of food systems.
Throughout this process, many have spoken of the need to educate consumers. Allow us to share with you that when a person eats food that is not good for their health, generally speaking they are not doing so due to a lack of education, rather, they do so because that is the food that they can 'legally' find on the market, backed by advertising and marketing that make them believe that there is no risk, or simply because they have no choice. There are, regrettfully, too many persons in the world who cannot choose what to eat on a day-to-day basis.

When we talk of over 800 million people suffering from hunger and many more suffering from malnutrition, we are talking about families, neighbours, and communities that are part of the constituencies represented by civil society; we are talking about our lives, our everyday reality that is largely determined by priorities that have been set by policies. When we talk of finding solutions, we cannot ignore those systems that have fed the world throughout history and that conserve the necessary knowledge and practices for real solutions.

In the face of a climate and food emergency, the CFS needs to show responsibility. Over the next year that is left in this process, we must not forget that being responsible entails inclusivity in all processes, and in the development of voluntary guidelines for policies that will help to transform the current food system, which today clearly does not meet the needs nor does it guarantee the rights of millions of peoples.