

## **Conclusions from the Working Group of the CSO Forum to Prepare CSO Positions for the Round Table on Land Tenure and International Investment in Agriculture.**

**Rome, 10 October, 2010**

1. We ask the CFS to recall the importance of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD), and urge States to implement the commitments they made in the ICARRD final declaration in relation to secure access to and control over land and natural resources for small scale food producers/providers, genuine agrarian reform and sustainable rural development policies, all of which realise the rights of women, youth, peasants, small-scale family farmers, fishers, pastoralists and indigenous peoples. We further recommend to the CFS that the ICARRD declaration be developed into a framework for agrarian reform and rural development policies.
2. We call on the CFS to support the FAO Guidelines for land and natural resource tenure, with attention on the following:
  - reiterate the importance of basing the guidelines on existing binding instruments of international human rights law;
  - establish an open-ended inter-governmental working group, to review the zero draft of the guidelines which will be presented by FAO in early 2011 and to adequately build consensus on the text of the guidelines;
  - these guidelines are a crucial step in strengthening the existing regime for protecting the rights of local food producers and providers; other measures and initiatives should follow in the establishment of such a regime, for example, on regulating the operations of finance capital, regulating international trade, etc.
3. We call on the CFS to not endorse the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment that Respects Rights, Livelihoods and Resources (RAI): the RAI is not an adequate instrument to regulate private investment; moreover, RAI principles have been formulated through an exclusive process without the participation of communities and constituencies most affected by agricultural investments, especially private investments. What is needed instead are nationally and internationally enforceable laws and public regulations on all investments pertaining to land, including provisions on extra-territorial obligations of states to regulate and make private companies accountable for their operations abroad.
4. Given the urgency of the problems of dispossession, evictions and displacement arising from large-scale private investment, we ask the CFS to initiate urgent precautionary action to prevent the worsening of poverty and hunger: we call for a moratorium on large-scale land acquisitions (lease and purchase) by private companies, and on all private investments that result in the expropriation of land and natural resources from local communities and food producers/providers. We urge the CFS to adopt a resolution to this effect.
5. We ask the CFS to start an open and inclusive discussion on what types of agricultural investment are needed to support agro-ecological food and agricultural production with due attention to all different types of food producers (indigenous peoples, nomadic pastoralists, artisanal fisherfolk and peasants), particularly taking into consideration the needs of women and youth.