

Thank you Madame Chair,

We greatly appreciate that the work stream already emphasizes the centrality of human rights, the need to address key data gaps, the importance of collaborative territorial-based policy approaches to rural-urban linkages, and that the direct participation of those most affected by hunger and malnutrition in developing these policies is paramount.

The CFS has the mandate to address food insecurity and malnutrition in a holistic way, which requires in-depth analysis. We are concerned that instead of examining the causes of urbanization, in this workstream they are accepted as inevitable, as is the continued emptying of rural areas to meet increased urban demand for space and consumption. Additionally, there should be a clear analysis of the consequences of shrinking rural spaces on territorial or local food systems.

Rural areas stewarded by peasants, pastoralists and small scale fishers, as well as indigenous territories, have been main providers of culturally appropriate food to the world, as well as the sources of agricultural biodiversity, and the centers of knowledge related to local ecosystems.

The great historical shift, called “rural transformation” by this work stream, is the result of many factors including displacement due to climate change or conflicts, appropriation of territories for enlargement of cities, land grabbing, the limitation of access to traditional markets, and international market pressure for the production of cheap products. These factors result in the loss of biodiversity and traditional knowledge, and of people’s livelihoods. They contribute enormously to food insecurity and malnutrition. This must be considered in the CFS discussions and decisions on this issue.

The CSM believes that the CFS can best add value to this work stream by taking a systems approach, rather than conceiving of rural areas only as a source of labor and spatial setting for industrialized and unsustainable food supply chains for cities. Within this approach, we ask the CFS to look at:

- Challenges of access to safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food in the process of rapid urbanization and rural transformation which are issues related to changing diets, health and diseases, poverty and food habits;
- Public policy that places States’ obligations to respect human rights at the center of the policy development process; and focuses on leveraging rural-urban linkages in support of local and territorial development and participatory governance, as fundamental elements of ensuring territorial food systems and food sovereignty and nutrition for all;
- How to empower local and subnational governments to implement CFS policies, and promote participatory policy making for Right to Food and Nutrition at all levels of government;
- The importance of rural landscapes remaining in the stewardship of local populations, particularly Indigenous peoples, as part of addressing climate change; and how to best address the lived

experience and fundamental importance of peasant small food producers to achieving food security and nutrition- which would include analysis of the Tenure Guidelines;

- Recognition of the rights and value of youth as drivers of positive rural and agricultural regeneration;
- The social conditions and rights of labor across the food supply chain; and
- Agroecology as a sustainable food production and consumption system.

We believe that by taking these points into account this work stream has a possibility to develop an outcome which could contribute to the regeneration of rural areas and bring us towards territorial, sub-national policies that guarantee the Right to Food and Nutrition across rural and urban spaces.