CSM statement to CFS Evaluation Session

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CSM Coordination Committee

The CSM has engaged with the CFS evaluation process throughout the past two years, and has provided many and substantial contributions to it, always with the aim to strengthen the CFS in the spirit of its reform and its vision to strive for a world without hunger where the right to adequate food is realized by all.

We want to express our gratitude to the two co-facilitators of the last year, Jiani Tian from China and Oliver Mellentin from Germany, for their efforts and leadership. It has not been easy to facilitate the consultation process in a complex and sometime controversial context.

With today’s adoption of the implementation of the response to the CFS evaluation report, the CFS enters into a new period. The intensive and rather inward-looking period of the CFS evaluation process can now be concluded and should be followed by a period in which all members and participants engage with new spirit and high energy.

Now, It’s time to recommit

We all know: The world is not on track to reach the Zero Hunger goal of the SDG. The SOFI figures on hunger and malnutrition show that we are on the wrong track. We believe that the CFS is a central space to hold the urgently needed in-depth discussions about the causes, obstacles and drivers that have led to this alarming situation.

Now is the time for all of us, especially governments and Rome-based Agencies, to revive the commitment to the CFS, its vision and roles, by providing renewed political and financial support to the policy processes and effective functioning of the CFS and to the comprehensive dissemination, use, application and monitoring of its policy outcomes.

To achieve SDG2 and related SDGs linked to achieving food security and nutrition, it is indispensable that governments and the UN express a new and full recommitment to the right to adequate food and meet their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights. Governments must not challenge but defend and support the human rights mandate of the United Nations.

We, the people, are the most critical agents for change. Our voices, our demands and proposals as women and youth, indigenous peoples and landless, small-scale and family farmers, artisanal fisherfolks and pastoralists, agricultural and food workers, urban food insecure and consumers must be heard more strongly in the future at the local, national, regional and global levels.

The Implementation report of the response to the CFS evaluation provides the basis to strengthen the CFS it strategic direction to face the enormous challenges of food insecurity and malnutrition today and in the near future.

Promoting the dissemination, use and application of CFS policy outcomes must be a priority of CFS members and participants during the upcoming years. We particularly invite governments and RBAs to discuss the enhanced use and application of CFS policy outcomes with civil society organizations on the national, regional and global level.

Tomorrow’s Global Thematic event to monitor the use and application of the Right to Food Guidelines is an opportunity to bring the right to food and human rights back to the center of CFS
debates. This approach should frame and guide the upcoming policy convergence processes on food systems and nutrition, and on agroecology and other innovative approaches in 2019 and 2020.

We start today the consultation process for the MYPOW 2020-2023. It is fundamental that this prioritization process be strongly linked to the CFS vision, its overall objective and strategic objectives, and puts in practice what was agreed during the CFS evaluation process discussions. In this context we want to highlight the agreement that gender equality, women’s and girls’ rights and women’s empowerment should be mainstreamed in all CFS processes and activities.

Let us work together for the fundamental and continued changes that put people first, and place their inclusion, participation, voices and rights at the center of policy convergence, coordination and coherence, especially when addressing hunger and malnutrition and their causes.

It’s time to recommit.