

Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) for relations to the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
Towards the 45th plenary session of Committee on World Food Security

PRESS KIT



Note: This press kit contains information for reporters, media organizations and publishers that might be interested in covering and following CSM work, process, activities and issues. It introduces into the CSM, presents a brief overview of its activities during the upcoming CFS Plenary session (in Rome), y provides contact details.

What is CSM

The *Civil Society Mechanism* (CSM) is the largest international *space* of civil society organisations, Indigenous peoples and social movements with the purpose of facilitating small-scale food producers and civil society participation and articulation into the policy processes of the United Nations Committee on World Food Security¹ (CFS). Participation and inclusiveness have made the CFS a *unique experience* in the UN, particularly for organizations of small-scale producers. In fact, most processes and results of the CFS have shown that many of civil society concerns and proposals have been heard by the Member States and included into their decisions.

During the past years, several hundred national, regional or global organizations have participated in the CSM. Participating organizations and social movements belong to the following constituencies: smallholder and family farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolks, indigenous peoples, agricultural and food workers, landless, women, youth, consumers, urban food insecure and NGOs, all working to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition in the world.

CSM participating organizations, particularly those who organize small-scale food producers and consumers, have more than 380 millions affiliated members from all regions

¹ CFS is an inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to work on ensuring food security and nutrition for all. The Committee reports to the UN General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and to Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) Conference.

and continents. CSM recognizes its participating organizations and movements as the *rights-holders* and subjects of their own development, the most critical agents for change, in as much as they are the *most important contributors* to food security and nutrition worldwide.

As we move towards the *CFS 45th plenary session*, in Rome, Italy, Governments and UN are urged to implement their duties to promote, protect and fulfill human rights of all people, including the Right to Food as the founding vision and core principle of the CFS itself. The CFS is called upon to be responsive to the alarming situation and increase of food insecurity and malnutrition in the world. According to the latest Report on food insecurity and malnutrition (SOFI 2018), the absolute number of undernourished people, i.e. those facing chronic food deprivation, has **increased to nearly 821 million in 2017, from around 804 million in 2016.**

Why CSM work and positions are relevant for media

Plurality of voices and perspectives in journalism continues to be an important element that makes media work to be relevant and reliable. Reaching a diverse range of people from different spheres and places is not, however, always easy for the press. CSM is offering members of the press an easy access to a diversity of voices and experiences from a wide range of people, from various constituencies coming from all continents.

Although important the voices and perspectives of grassroots movements and other civil society organizations that work to secure food security and nutrition, mainstream media have not given much space to them. The relevance of including their perspectives and voices lies in the fact that they are the *rights-holders*, the *most affected* by food insecurity and are the *most important contributors* for food security and nutrition worldwide.

During the events in which CSM will be involved this October in Rome, Italy, (see below) an international delegation of more than 300 civil society representatives will be attending and ***available for press interviews*** from ***12 to 19 October***. The delegation will be composed by representatives from all CSM constituencies and all continents: smallholder and family farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolks, indigenous peoples, agricultural and food workers, landless, women, youth, consumers, urban food insecure and NGOs.

Key moments and activities in Rome (12 to 19 October)

12 Oct 2018:

Launch of the independent civil society monitoring report on the global situation of the right to food. In this occasion, CSM will also present its key messages to the CFS 45th Plenary Session to the public.

PRESS CONFERENCE

A **press release** on the report, the **full report** as well as the CSM messages to the CFS will be shared with the press during a **press conference** at **Sala San Bernardino inside Auditorium Antonianum**, on **Friday 12, from 11h30 to 12h30, Rome time.**

Address: Viale Manzoni 100185 – Roma

Tel/Fax +39.06.45582593

info@auditoriumantonianum.it

THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE **LIVESTREAMED**.

To follow it on livestream, please access the following links:

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGndOtuzDQA>

13 and 14 Oct 2018:

CSM Forum is the annual meeting of global civil society engaged with the CFS. Participants will a) discuss, analyze and link the global dimension of the struggles to the local dimension of the struggles towards the CFS; b) prioritize the political issues to be placed in the CSM agenda.

The opening session of the CSM Forum will be a public debate open to all participants of CFS (governments, UN agencies, private sector, academia) to which FAO Director General Graziano da Silva, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food Hilal Elver, CFS Chair Mario Arvelo and IFAD Vice-President Cornelia Richter have confirmed their attendance. They will discuss together with civil society fundamental and burning questions: how to address much more effectively the alarming situation of hunger and malnutrition on this planet? What role for the CFS as global governance body to face this challenge?

Relevant for media: interview wide range of civil society and grassroots movements from all regions and continents. Interviews can also be conducted by phone (see contact details below).

15 to 19 Oct 2018:

CFS Plenary Session. The Civil Society Mechanism will have a strong delegation at the CFS plenary session. The official timetable of the CFS can be found [here](#). One of the key moments of the first day of the plenary session will be the discussion on the official UN (FAO, IFAD, WFP, WHO) report on the State of Food Security and nutrition (SOFI) and the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA). While the 2018 SOFI is on how climate change influences food security and nutrition, the SOFA report will focus on how migration can influence food and agriculture, and be influenced by it at a global scale.

There will be various CSM side events throughout the week. The following events might be of special interest for the press:

- The 15 October, opening day of the CFS Plenary, marks the 10th anniversary of the International Day of Rural Women. The CSM side event in this day will focus on women agricultural workers. Speakers will include the Secretary General of the Gujarat Agriculture Labour Union, one of the biggest trade unions of agricultural and food workers in India and a representative from the newly born African Women Network of Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET). This is in line with the CFS commitment on women's rights, women's empowerment and gender

equality. The CSM women will present elements from their vision and will focus on the challenges and violations faced in particular by women agricultural workers.

- 16 October marks the World Food Day: CSM side events on this day will focus on:
 - o The upcoming global CFS policy negotiation process on nutrition and food systems guidelines, bringing perspectives and expectations of small-scale food producers, civil society and Indigenous Peoples.
 - o The impacts of gene drives and corporate concentration in agriculture and food regime;
 - o Food in the digital age, with the launch of the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch 2018 on “When Food becomes immaterial”

A full calendar of CSM side events can be accessed [here](#).

Relevant for media: Attend and cover various CSM side events. Interview wide range of civil society and grassroots movements from all regions and continents. Interviews can also be conducted by phone.

Contact details:

For media inquiries and (phone) interviews

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Social media pages for updates and livestream

[YouTube](#)

<https://twitter.com/CSM4CFS>

<http://www.csm4cfs.org/>