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<b>Side Event #:</b>
083
<b>Side Event Title:</b>
The future of food and the visions of the youth. “We don't inherit land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children” (Native American Saying).
<b>Key speakers/presenters:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Hilal Elver</b>, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Luis Fernando Ceciliano</b>, Alternate Permanent Representative of Costa Rica</li> <li>• <b>Mr. David Suttie</b>, IFAD</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Chaturika Sewwandi</b>, Vikalpani National Women’s Federation, Sri Lanka</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Jessie MacInnis</b>, National Farmers Union, Canada</li> <li>• <b>Moderated by Ms. Nzira Deus</b>, World March of Women, Mozambique</li> </ul>
<b>Main themes/issues discussed (Max 200 words)</b>
The world is at a crossroads. The number of food insecure and malnourished is rising, the current food systems are broken, communities and the planet ecosystems are facing unprecedented loss of biodiversity and the climate change has become a crisis, dramatically changing communities’ relation with natural resources and territories, forcing millions to leave their homes and families. We cannot ignore longer these huge challenges. What will be left for us as youth and future generations? And what is our active role in reversing this dramatic trend, also in the CFS?
<b>Summary of key points (Max 200 words)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Climate crisis is also a food systems crisis and the small-scale food producers, particularly the youth, are at the forefront of this challenge.</li> <li>• The Decade of Family Farming offers a unique opportunity to boost rural youth participation and act locally. The Decade’s Action Plan recognizes youth as one of the main key pillars towards an inclusive rural development.</li> <li>• It is fundamental to ensure youth are connected to markets, have access and control over land, water, seeds and natural resources as a crucial prerequisite to retain them and foster their presence and protagonism in rural areas. Grassroot education is also a fundamental aspect.</li> </ul>

- Youth needs to mobilize in different ways to pressure governments to change direction. We need a radical shift of the dominant production and consumption paradigm if we want youth to have really a future starting from today.
- It is important to also focus on young agricultural and food workers to ensure their workers' rights are protected.
- Inequalities are impacting youth capacities to self-determine themselves and their development path.
- Private interests and corporate grabbing of natural resources are strongly impacting youth's right to food and often force them to migrate and leave their communities and rural areas.
- CSM also presented its [youth vision](#) spelling out the expectations and demands of millions of youth all over the world.

**Key take away messages (Max 200 words)**

- Youth is an autonomous and plural actor. They are embedded in their communities and their agency needs to be respected, recognized and valued by all actors in society.
- Youth should have access to the policy decision-making spaces at local, national, regional and global level.
- Youth are not only the future, they are also the present. In this sense governments should put in place policies and incentives focusing on education and youth engagement at local level, including in participatory monitoring exercises.
- Local and grassroots initiatives and approaches led by youth should be valued and supported by public policies such as Agroecology.
- We need a systemic change. Human rights-based approaches should inform all policies on food security and nutrition, including those related to youth.
- There is a huge expectation towards the upcoming CFS dedicated workstream on youth. Nevertheless, youth perspectives should also be embedded into other workstreams such as the one on Agroecology and other innovations, gender and inequalities.