IMPRESSUM

Secretariat of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples’ Mechanism (CSM) for relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

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2019 was a year of trials and tribulations for global food governance. We witnessed unprecedented attacks on multi-lateral intergovernmental spaces, including the CFS, and new attempts of corporate capture of the United Nations. And yet, amidst a new world food crisis and collapsing ecosystems, the number of food insecure people across the world is growing. In 2018, the CSM expressed loud and clear that it was high time to recommit to the CFS and its vision. In 2019 the CSM asserted once again that the change of direction we recommitted to is vital. Transformational action cannot wait any longer!

The CSM Report 2019 sets out to be a shared tool that covers all the work carried out by the CSM Coordination Committee (CC) members and CSM participating organizations throughout 2019, as well as an exercise of accountability and reporting. Our intention in writing this document is also to express our gratitude and appreciation for the incredible work carried out by CSM participating organizations at local, regional and global levels, day in and day out, in the struggle for the right to food for all.

As in previous years, a draft of this report was presented and discussed at the CC meeting and CSM Forum of October 2019, and then further revised and completed. The first chapter summarizes the CSM key messages conveyed to the CFS Plenary 2019, and includes an outline of CSM engagement with CFS policy processes, then further developed throughout the second chapter. The third chapter provides an overview of the work done by the CC members and participating organizations to ‘bring Rome home’, and to bring the realities and struggles ‘from home to Rome’. It shows the efforts made at all levels to promote the use, application and monitoring of CFS policy outcomes, and to raise awareness on the CFS and its relevance for peoples’ struggles. It highlights the work done by local level actors to collect demands, requests and inputs, to then channel them to the CFS, through the space facilitated by the CSM. Additionally, in this report you will find: an overview of the key decisions taken by the CC; the CSM financial overview; and a summary of the outcomes from the CSM Southern Africa sub-regional meeting that took place in March 2019. The results of the CC renewal selection process that took place from February to September 2019 are equally included. The report ends with a financial report of 2019 and a brief workplan overview of 2020.

The new CC first came together in October 2019 and is composed of 41 members (24 women and 17 men). We would like to extend a special welcome to the 17 new CC members who just served their first term. And to conclude, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks once again to the CC members of the period October 2017 to October 2019 who put their heart, soul, knowledge, energy and hands into their facilitation and policy work in the CSM space. By bringing peoples’ voices to the CFS, they have made it more alive, more powerful and more dynamic.

Teresa Maisano
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CSM Secretariat
Chapter 1: CSM key messages to the CFS 46th Plenary Session

The results of the SOFI Report 2019 are shocking: Hunger is on the rise. Today, almost as many people are undernourished as ten years ago, when the CFS was reformed. Since 2015, the number of people going hungry is growing. The SOFI report confirms what we witness every day in our communities and countries: millions of people are left behind, struggling for their rights and livelihoods, and battling against discrimination, exclusion, land and natural resource-grabbing, market concentration and widening inequalities within and among countries.

The recent report of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) showed that land is under increasing pressure, and the current food system is a key driver of the climate crisis, severely impacting food security. We see unprecedented losses of biodiversity, persistent conflicts and food crises, increasing criminalization of human rights defenders, and violence against women, as poignantly pointed out in other reports. The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are heading straight for failure, especially SDG2. Acceleration is not the answer – we need to change tack. If a train is going the wrong way, speeding up is no solution. Policies need to take a new direction: They need to be people-centered and human rights-based, and they need to respond to today’s needs – that is, a profound agroecological transformation of food systems toward food sovereignty and the full realization of the right to adequate food.

The 2021 Food Systems Summit preparations are currently underway. The CSM believes that the CFS must play a central role in preparing this summit, by fully assuming its role as intergovernmental and international political platform in the global architecture of food security and nutrition governance. The CFS vision must be at the core of this summit, as well as the participation of all relevant actors, paying particular attention to the voice of the most affected by hunger and malnutrition. The upcoming CFS Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition must become a cornerstone of the summit. The Guidelines can be promoted through a strong commitment to their implementation.

The CFS Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition present a unique opportunity for member states and other CFS participants to engage in a frank discussion on the various challenges that exist across food systems. Through a holistic approach, linkages can be made with nutrition and other key dimensions of food security and nutrition in the context of the progressive realization of the right to food. The CSM hopes that the Guidelines – once adopted in October 2020 – will provide a clear roadmap toward a systemic transformation of food systems, to make them truly healthy, sustainable, just and responsive to the multiple public objectives and dimensions.

The CFS has developed and adopted policy instruments that can and should drive a shift toward more people- and community-centered public policies. Member states and UN agencies should take greater measures to use and apply CFS policy instruments, and ensure policy coherence and accountability, in close cooperation with peasant and smallholder family farmers, agricultural and food workers, Indigenous Peoples, pastoralists, fisherfolks, landless, consumers, women, youth, and the urban food insecure.

The CFS 46th Plenary Session on the International Day of Rural Women was central in promoting women’s rights, women’s autonomy and gender equality as a transversal priority for the CFS. It reaffirmed the goal to mainstream
this perspective in all CFS processes, as well as to prepare the ground for the upcoming CFS process towards Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for Food Security and Nutrition foreseen in the upcoming MYPoW 2020-2023. Our hope is that it will unfold in a participatory and inclusive way. This is a central prerequisite to ensure a comprehensive policy outcome with a robust and transversal dimension on women's rights. In this sense, member states and participants should be firm and clear in defending a perspective based on human rights and women's rights.

The CFS 46th Plenary Session on the UN Decade of Family Farming and the Monitoring Session of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Smallholders recalled that the CFS prioritizes the needs, rights and potentials of small-scale food producers in their diversity, including through the implementation of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and other People living in the Rural Areas.

CFS 46 adopted an ambitious and effective MYPoW for the period 2020-2023, which has the potential to significantly contribute to the needed change of direction in these times of crises. In this sense, the CSM welcomed the kick-off of the policy convergence process following the HLPE Report on Agroecology and Other Innovations, which shall lead to the adoption of policy recommendations at CFS 47. We are deeply worried by the attitudes of a small number of influential members aiming at obstructing or conditioning this process. The CFS process on this topic must be kept open, inclusive, participatory, transparent and fair. This entails that the search for consensus on substantial and broadly agreed policy agreements cannot be compromised by attempts to apply destructive veto-like measures. All members shall be treated with the same attention and respect, and we expect that the voices of those who have practiced agroecology for decades will be heard during the process.

We equally welcomed the proposal on youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems, although several critical elements will need more substantial attention during the process itself. The urgently needed change of direction includes a different kind of relation with young people. Youth agency, autonomy, diversity and intersectionality must be recognized and respected. Youth have the right to decent work, living wages and decent incomes. The right to land and other natural resources is essential for young food producers. In this sense, for young people to continue seeing small-scaling farming as a viable option, we need to identify the right public policies to support them. Moreover, when investing in youth and in their engagement in policy dialogue and decision-making, it is key to view them as agents in the progressive realization of human rights.

Last but not least, the workstream on “Reducing inequalities for food insecurity and nutrition” is central to the realization of the right to food. All the more so given how urgent this is at the global level. We firmly believe that the HLPE report for 2022 should be on inequalities and food security and nutrition.

The world is at a crossroads, and our future is at risk. We cannot afford to go the wrong way – what we need is a change in direction.
Chapter 2: CSM Engagement in CFS Policy Processes

The CSM has been actively engaged in CFS policy processes and activities throughout 2019. Several CSM Working Groups (WGs) have been involved in policy processes at different levels, paces and varying degrees of commitment. The WG coordination and facilitation teams have made great efforts to avoid fragmentation, as this could lead to isolated work tracks. CSM Working Groups generated a holistic and comprehensive strategic approach to their work, resulting in an efficient mix of capacity to 1. Intervene content-wise on specific topics, and 2. Keep the big picture in sight, in line with a broader analysis that informs CSM’s overall strategy. This work has been periodically overviewed and assessed by the entire Coordination Committee, in synergy with WG participants and Advisory Group members, thus contributing to shaping dynamic discussions and debates during the CSM Forum of October 2020, prior to CFS 46th Plenary Session.

This chapter provides a summary of the main processes at stake at the CFS in 2019. It briefly describes how each CSM Working Groups (WG) engaged with the CFS, overcame challenges and brought peoples’ voices to the CFS during the intersessional period and to the CFS 46th Plenary Session of October 2019.

Food Systems and Nutrition

The CSM Working Group (WG) on Food Systems and Nutrition was very active throughout 2019, both at the global and regional levels. The WG facilitated the participation of CSM organizations in both CFS open-ended working group meetings (OEWG) in Rome, and in CFS regional consultations on the zero draft of the Food Systems and Nutrition Guidelines, which took place in six regions between July and November 2019. CSM participation was substantial in all consultations. CSM delegates helped to shape the debate in what amounted to an intense process thanks to their diverse grounded experiences, aided by the able work of the WG coordination and facilitation team.

On March 7th 2019 the Working Group organized a public briefing (open to all CFS members and participants) to share CSM’s expectations of the CFS policy convergence process on the Guidelines. CSM members and participants reiterated – both during the briefing and throughout the CFS regional and Rome-based meetings and electronic consultations – that food is the expression of values, cultures, social relations and peoples’ self-determination, and that the act of feeding oneself and others embodies our sovereignty and autonomy. When nourishing ourselves and eating with our family, friends, and community, we reassert our cultural identities, interdependence with nature, control over our life course, and human dignity. Nutrition is foundational for personal development as well as for a harmonious collective relationship with nature. This understanding of nutrition supplies an overarching sense of unity to many of our struggles for food sovereignty, and for the well-being of humankind and nature. Comprehending the challenge posed by malnutrition in all its forms therefore requires a holistic and multi-
disciplinary analysis, one that combines political, cultural and technical perspectives. Above all, it requires recognizing the need for justice, the appreciation for diversity and the values of human dignity, equity, sustainability and sovereignty. In this sense, we can only overcome malnutrition if we mobilize our communities, and build a large movement across different spaces and levels with that purpose in mind.

In addition, the Food Systems and Nutrition WG recognizes that the current hegemonic food system and agro-industrial production model are not only unable to respond to existing malnutrition problems but have actually led to various forms of malnutrition, and to less diverse and poorer quality diets, not to mention the environmental destruction and climate crisis that we are witnessing.

The Working Group’s starting point is that food systems serve and support multiple public objectives within all domains of sustainable development, from livelihoods to health, and from socio-cultural to ecological aspects. In this context, understanding the challenge of malnutrition in all its forms requires a holistic and multidisciplinary analysis; one that recognizes the need for justice, the appreciation for diversity and the values of human dignity, equity, sustainability and sovereignty. However, recent experience shines light on how urgent it has become to realign food systems with these multiple areas of life, if we are truly to pursue a pathway towards the full realization of the right to adequate food, and all its interconnected human rights and sustainable development domains.

In this respect, the CSM’s vision document is structured as follows: Firstly, it offers a definition of what healthy and sustainable diets are, followed by a number of guiding principles to reshape food systems in ways that are healthy, sustainable and just. Secondly, it offers a series of policy interventions in 5 key domains of food systems: governance; protection and regeneration of nature; health and wellbeing; modes of food production; exchange and employment; and culture, social relations and knowledge. Finally, it indicates a series of connected systems and policy domains, beyond food, which need changing if we are to achieve structural policy coherence: health; water and sanitation; climate and environment; finances; trade and investment; social protection.

Participants of the Food Systems and Nutrition WG vehemently stressed that the Guidelines be underpinned by human rights, and that the guiding principles need to therefore feature a more prominent human rights framework. The CSM firmly believes that the Guidelines should be developed based on a human rights framework, as this can guide the transition towards sustainable and healthy food systems. More specifically, the CSM proposes to include a reference to the right to adequate food and the indivisibility of human rights (given that the right to food cannot be realized in isolation from related rights) in the objective and principles of the guidelines. It is equally essential to make explicit reference to: the rights of women and girls; the right to health; the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas as per the recently adopted UN Declaration; and the rights of workers. The CSM emphasized that the main purpose of the guidelines is to address the variegated challenges posed by food systems to people, as they are ultimately the main agents within food systems. It is therefore key that the Guidelines and the process of developing, implementing, and monitoring them is people-centered.

As the Working Group prepares to embark on the negotiation process in 2020 (the Guidelines are expected to be adopted by October 2020), process challenges still remain high. For instance, during the CFS 46th Plenary Session,
the panel was designed without due consultation of the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau members, resulting in the absence of a CSM speaker in the plenary panel.

Finally, it seems clear since last October that this process is closely linked to the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit, and is therefore an opportunity for the CFS to take up a significant and substantial role in preparation of the Summit.

Agroecology and Other Innovations

The CFS policy convergence process on Agroecology and Other Innovations remains one of the most controversial policy issues at stake at the CFS. During the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau meetings of 2019, the CSM Working Group kept the process on track in terms of timeline and workplan, by ensuring that the content of the 2020-2023 MYPoW policy proposal remained faithful to the one approved in the 2018-2019 MYPoW. The US government’s strong opposition to the appointment of the Iranian candidate as the Rapporteur of the policy process slowed down the debate and generated tensions, raising geopolitical issues unknown to the CFS platform until now.

The Agroecology CSM Working Group worked to finalize its own vision, strategy and contribution to the process, all the while defending due process, participation, and transparency in CFS policy dialogue and decision-making in all meetings. The WG made interventions that demonstrated the interlinkages with the parallel policy process on Food Systems and Nutrition. They appealed to other participants to make the most of the interconnected nature of these two processes in such a way as to find synergies, and develop a methodology that would allow for discussions taking place in each workstream to mutually benefit from each other. However, as of today, this appeal has remained unheard.

On July 3rd, the HLPE Report on “Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition” was launched. An in-depth policy discussion on the report’s main recommendations and findings kicked off the policy process during the CFS 46th Plenary Session in October 2019.

The CSM Working Group prepared its contributions to the CFS Plenary Session through virtual meetings, and in a strategic debate that took place during the CSM Forum. The CSM Working Group reminded CFS members and participants attending the CFS 46th Plenary Session that small-scale food producers have been practicing agroecology for centuries, and that agroecology is embedded in their lives and livelihoods. They welcomed the fact that this fundamental topic was finally part of the policy agenda of the foremost inclusive space to address food security and nutrition issues in the UN architecture – the CFS.

The Working Group welcomed the HLPE report as a good basis for policy discussion. The HLPE shares evidence on the impacts of different models of production, providing a basis on which to assess the steps that are imperative for a real transformation of food systems. The HLPE report also reflects the conceptual framework on agroecology that social movements of small-scale farmers, pastoralists, artisanal fisherfolks, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples developed during the 2007 Nyéléni process1. The WG remarked that the CFS should not focus its debate on the agroecology framework itself, but rather on the definition of policies that will support a transition towards the agroecological transformation of food systems.

1 https://nyeleni.org
Agroecology is the only solution available to address the multiple crises we are facing. It presents us with a holistic vision that embeds agronomic practices, ecological principles, social, economic, cultural and human rights dimensions. Agroecology allows small-scale producers a dignified life, producing affordable, and healthy food in healthy conditions. It eliminates dependence on costly inputs and adopts practices which regenerate seeds and soils while mitigating and adapting to the effects of the climate crisis.

Agroecology has the capacity to overcome the traditional gender division of labor as it recognizes the strategic role of women in the daily practice of agroecology. By putting women’s rights at the core of this practice, agroecology promotes women as equal subjects in decision-making process at all levels, and builds upon their autonomy and self-determination.

The CSM Women’s Working Group contributed to the process by writing a paper on Feminism and Agroecology to better inform CSM positions and CFS debates (more information under the Women’s WG).

Industrial agriculture is one of the main causes of the ecological crisis which, for many, has become a fight for survival. It is also a major driver of poverty, hunger and malnutrition including through the grabbing of resources, the concentration of power, the homogenization of diets, and the expulsion of young people from rural areas. The last decade has seen a plethora of UN studies confirming these trends. The HLPE Report demonstrates that agroecology is the only transformational option to address all the structural changes needed in our food systems in a systemic and integrated way, and shows that sustainable intensification and climate smart agriculture can only provide a one-dimensional solution via incremental change. Agricultural innovation is essential as long as it does not lead to further concentration of knowledge and power.

The Working Group equally remarked that agroecology needs to be supported by public policies. Currently, the vast majority of funding and public support goes into the industrial production model or into incremental approaches to change. Our expectation is that this CFS process will redress the balance in order to bring about a radical transformation to end hunger and poverty, while preserving the ecosystem and the natural resources base for the next generations.

The Agroecology and Other Innovations CSM Working Group submitted written comments and its recommendations on the HLPE report as an input for the CFS policy convergence process in 2020.

Youth

The CSM Youth Working Group was extremely active and effective in presenting its demands to the CFS throughout 2019, in particular within the MYPoW context.

The general importance of a youth policy workstream within the MYPoW 2020-2023 was immediately recognized by all CFS members and participants. Originally, three different youth proposals were submitted for consideration, resulting in a merged one that was refined and finalized before the CFS Plenary Session of October. Nevertheless, the starting point, perspective and framing of the original proposal and subsequent drafts were different in nature, and it took the entire intersessional period to ensure a balanced and inclusive framing of the youth workstream. The CSM Youth WG struggled to make space for its demands within the proposed text, but thanks to their determination and commitment, they managed to insert several of their key demands. CSM Youth delegates joined the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau meetings and discussion throughout 2019.
Complementing this engagement, the CSM Youth Working Group also proposed a special event on youth to take place during the CFS 46th Plenary Session, with the aim to generate a CFS youth-led space to kick off the policy discussion on the workstream, allowing youth constituencies to share their expectations and demands. CSM and PSM youth were therefore tasked to design a format, a methodology and the content of the CFS special event that took place on 18th of October 2019, supported by the CFS Secretariat. The event focused on three main themes that youth participants had identified as crucial:

1. The first moment offered a space to share feedback and impressions about the CFS 46th Plenary Session and its contribution towards the achievement of SDG 2;

2. The second moment highlighted youth expectations towards the upcoming CFS policy workstream on youth included in the MYPoW 2020-2023, and endorsed by the CFS 46th Plenary Session; and,

3. The third session intended to stimulate a discussion with member states and RBAs in the room on how to facilitate and coordinate: a) youth engagement in policy-making at the country and regional levels; b) youth involvement in the work of RBAs; and c) exploring which role youth could have in fostering and monitoring the use and application of CFS policy outcomes at country level.

A summary was jointly produced by the Youth Constituencies that organized the event. The event was considered a success by CFS members and. The CFS, RBAs and member states were called upon to foster the generation of cooperation spaces where youth are put at the center of development and policy programs, in particular marginalized youth. Governments took the floor to welcome this space of debate with youth, recognizing their crucial role, and committing to ensure that CFS becomes an enabling environment for the voices of youth to be included and heard.

The CSM Youth Working Group also embarked on an internal collective reflection that resulted in a draft Youth Vision that will be finalized and adopted by the end of the first term of 2020. The draft Youth Vision was presented during the CSM Forum, which dedicated a part of its agenda to discuss youth demands and processes. One representative of the youth constituency also joined the opening public panel of the CSM Forum together with the CFS Chair and the FAO DG.

**EXTRACT FROM CSM YOUTH VISION**

We, the youth constituency of the CSM gathering smallholders and family farmers, Indigenous Peoples, fisherfolks, agricultural and food workers, women, landless, consumers, pastoralists and urban food insecure defend the explicit recognition of the different constituencies within youth.

As contributors to the economy and communities, youth entails a plurality of understanding, experiences, knowledge and expectations towards the future. We are political subjects and have the right, capacity, and agency to build spaces of solidarity, inclusion, and dignity. We learn from and exchange with different struggles, movements, institutions and alternative voices. Through practicing and sharing our diverse knowledges and cultures, including indigenous knowledges and practices, we build resilience against growing corporatization while co-creating life-affirming worlds and futures by building strong connections to the land, water, seeds, plants, and all living beings.

Through the inclusive spaces of the CSM and CFS, we want to lay down the basis for strong human rights-based policy dialogues acknowledging the participation and rights of youth as a cornerstone of public policies on food security and nutrition, and ensure an active and inclusive engagement of young women and men across all sectors through our traditional knowledge and livelihoods.

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 un-
preceded loss of biodiversity, and 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 these huge challenges any longer. 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?

This requires the adoption of coherent public policies conducive to the self-determination of youth, and to our full inclusion in the governance of our families, communities and organizations. Appropriate public policies are needed to ensure a sustainable integration of youth in policy decision making processes at all levels – local, national, regional and global. In this sense, we need to constantly recognize and defend the key role that youth play as economic, social and cultural actors in the inclusive development of local communities, as well as their leadership, agency, autonomy and diversity in food security and nutrition-related process.

We cannot view young people only as employees of the labor force. We are proud to live in the countryside and produce and generate our own income, and contribute to the economy by being job providers as well as job seekers. A change in perception is urgently required if youth are to take pride and make a decent living from fishing, gathering, hunting, farming and pastoralism, thereby contributing to the economy, lowering the forced migration, and contributing to the eradication of hunger in the world. To achieve this, we all need to work together to assure dignified remunerative livelihoods at home, decent work, and favorable working conditions that respond to the needs, rights and demands of our diverse youth constituencies, all the while promoting their embeddedness in social relations in their families and communities.

Women

The CSM Women’s Working Group was intensely engaged in the CFS MYPoW process to ensure a strong cross-cutting gender perspective in all workstream proposals. The WG particularly contributed to the framing of the proposal for Voluntary Guidelines on Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition, which was originally jointly submitted by the Government of Spain and the RBAs.

The WG viewed the original framing of the proposal in a positive light – it was considered to be suitable and ambitious, as it put women’s rights and the root causes of women’s rights violations at the center of debate. In this respect, when attempts were made by some member states to dilute the text and to merge the proposal with a proposal on inequalities to limit the scope and content of both gender and inequalities, the WG actively defended its position. It is worth adding that the CSM Women’s Vision that had been launched in 2018 became a useful tool with which to frame CSM demands, which were included in the final version of the policy text of the MYPoW related to this process.

In the context of the CFS, and of food security and nutrition more generally, the Guidelines on Women’s Empowerment and Gender equality will prioritize the following pertinent themes: a) underlying causes of gender inequality, lack of fulfillment and protection of women’s rights, women’s disempowerment, and their impact on food security and nutrition; b) women’s participation in decision-making and leadership; c) access to and control over natural and productive resources, and access to productive
services; d) access to decent work and markets; e) recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care work; f) women’s role in food production, utilization, commercialization, and consumption; f) mechanisms for the elimination of violence and discrimination against women and girls; g) enabling policies and institutional environments.

The Guidelines will not be informed by an HLPE Report as CFS membership concluded that many in-depth reports have already been produced on this subject in the past years. The process is expected to start in November 2020 and the Guidelines are expected to be adopted in 2022.

In the context of the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau, the CSM WG advocated a session to commemorate the International Day of Rural Women in the CFS 46th Plenary Session’s agenda. For a second year in a row, the CFS Bureau agreed, and the CSM Women WG delivered a powerful message on the occasion of the plenary session on International Day of Rural Women.

The CSM Women’s WG, in synergy with the Youth WG, reminded the CFS 46th Plenary Session that the current global food system builds on and perpetuates gender-based discrimination and the violation of women’s rights. In order to achieve a fair and equal society where women can fully enjoy their rights, the transformation of our food systems needs to be underpinned by alternative models of consumption and production that ensure women’s rights, that recognize the key role they play, and that it are founded on the guiding paradigms of agroecology and food sovereignty. Demands for land rights remain at the heart of the struggle for women and young women’s rights, but they also demand access to and control over all reproductive resources, and control over markets. The current fight over resources is having a huge impact on the lives of women and girls who face continuous physical, economic and political violence. Patriarchy continues to have a huge role in controlling the lives of women, especially young women.

During the CFS Plenary Session in October, the CSM Women’s Working Group organized a side event on extractivism and the impact it has on women’s rights to food. They generated a new space of in-depth analysis from a feminist perspective, where women could share their experiences on the negative impacts that the extractive industry has on their right to food.

Finally, the CSM Women’s Working Group collectively wrote a paper on Feminism and Agroecology, aiming to inform CSM positions during the CFS process on agroecology and other innovations. The paper was presented to the CSM Forum in October 2019. Interestingly, the paper was adapted and published as a short article in the 2019 issue of the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch titled “Women’s Power in Food Struggles”.

“Patriarchal, feudal (particularly in Asian context) and capitalist relations of power, along with the entrenched gendered divisions of labor and “gender blind” agricultural policies (that fail to support the intergenerational role of women in building resilient local food and nutrition systems and fostering healthy families and communities), are among the root causes of gender inequalities, discrimination and the marginalization of women, especially in rural areas. The recognition, realization and protection of women’s human rights, through the implementation of international legal instruments, is a key element in the deconstruction of these asymmetric power relations. Women are largely invisible in agriculture, and their work is seen merely as an aid to male work or as a ‘female obligation’. The traditional and indigenous knowledge of women is disregarded in commercial and industrial agriculture. Women are among the most vulnerable groups impacted by land, ocean and resource-grabbing at the hands of investors and private interests and by the use of pesticides and chemical agents. They are also all too often the subject of criminalization in their attempt to defend their communities, natural resources and bodies. Together, these everyday and systemic experiences of discrimination and violence against women intensify and deepen women’s inequality and marginalization. Food sovereignty and agroecology
offer powerful alternatives to the unequal and
gendered power relations in rural and urban
communities and are themselves tools and
pathways to overcoming the oppressive struc-
tures in which women are embedded (involv-
ing race, class, gender, sexuality, age, ethnicity
and (dis)ability). Indeed, the struggle against
the oppression and exploitation of women is
fundamental to the peasant struggle for food
sovereignty while, the struggle for food sov-
ereignty is crucial to achieve women’s auton-
omy, self- determination equality and human
rights more broadly.

From a feminist perspective, agroecology is
and must be a political proposal that recog-
nizes and promotes the historical and social
practices of women: from the domestication of
agriculture and the production of healthy and
quality food to the eradication of hunger, food
insecurity and malnutrition. It is urgent to rec-
ognize that women are building agroecology
in their everyday practices: resisting the pred-
atory model of agrarian capitalism; preserv-
ing and multiplying native seeds; producing
healthy, diversified food without agrochem-
icals; raising local and indigenous livestock
breeds; promoting the preservation of local
biodiversity; and carrying out artisanal fishing
while protecting rivers, lakes and seas”. With-
out feminism there is no agroecology!

“Without Feminism there is no Agroecology”
Fragment of the CSM Women WG

CFS Monitoring Mechanism, in 2019 the CFS
performed for the first time a monitoring ex-
ercise on the use and application of three sets
of smallholder-oriented policy recommen-
dations. As a pilot exercise, the CFS focused
on the policy recommendations Investing in
Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security and
Nutrition (2013), Connecting Smallholders to
Markets (2016) and Sustainable Agricultural
Development for Food Security and Nutrition:

Although no specific CFS meeting on Monitor-
ing took place in the intersessional period, the
CSM Working Groups were actively involved
in a dynamic monitoring activity in prepara-
tion of the first stocktaking event to be held at
the CFS 46th Plenary Session. The Monitoring
session at CFS 46 focused on how smallhold-
ers have benefited, or are expected to bene-
fit, from these CFS policy recommendations.
Bearing in mind that they have only recently
been adopted and are still in the course of be-
ing applied, CFS actors were invited to reflect
on the possible benefits of utilizing these CFS
policy outcomes, for example, in the context
of the UN Decade on Family Farming. The ob-
jective of the session was to generate lessons
learnt and suggestions for further use and ap-
plication of these policy recommendations.

The CSM Monitoring Working Group in syn-
ergy with the CSM Working Groups on Liv-
estock, Investing in Smallholders’ Agriculture
and Connecting smallholders to markets

Monitoring

With the recent adoption of the UN Declara-
tion on the Rights of Peasants and Other Peo-
ple Working in Rural Areas and the launch of
the UN International Decade on Family Farm-
ing, 2019 was an important year for setting a
clear agenda advocating public policies that
support small-scale food producers. The mon-
itoring exercise that took place within the CFS
was an important contribution to this agenda,
creating the possibility to reflect on the chal-
lenges, as well as the necessary public poli-
cies that support small-scale food producers
and the right to food.

As part of the incremental development of the
strongly engaged in the process by contributing to the CFS consultation, and by launching its own on-line consultation that, together with the outcomes of a vis-à-vis meeting that took place in May in Rome, fed into the drafting of the CSM independent monitoring report. The report was then successfully presented during the CFS Plenary Session of October.

The report begins by highlighting the progress made in the use and application of the CFS smallholder policy recommendations. Within the CFS, these policy processes have contributed to a common understanding and language on the importance of respecting, protecting and fulfilling women’s rights in the context of food security and nutrition. Civil society groups across the globe have used the recommendations in their advocacy efforts, for example in influencing policies that support local family farm production for local markets in West Africa and challenging one-size-fits-all food safety regulatory regimes in Australia. Governments like Portugal, which adopted the National Statutes for Family Farming in 2018, have also used the recommendations to shape national legislation. Overall, although the policy recommendations have been adopted at painfully inadequate rates, their use and application demonstrate both their potential to redirect global policy away from productivist solutions and their importance to improving smallholders’ capacity to make fundamental contributions to food security and nutrition as well as to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

The monitoring report then moves on to describe where the CFS smallholder recommendations and their adoption have fallen short. The report notes that there continues to be a deep lack of recognition of the vital role of smallholders in feeding the world. Despite some success in adoption, very few governments have adopted the CFS policies and they are not well-known outside Rome. Even where policies have been adopted, challenges remain due to failures to fully implement, deep levels of policy incoherence and a lack of commitment to monitor policies through participatory processes. The priorities identified by smallholders themselves, such as peasant agroecology, remains underfunded and under-supported. Instead, states funnel public funding towards large-scale production without recognizing the important role of agroecology and territorial markets in mitigating and adapting to climate change and in supporting local production and community development. Furthermore, the participation rights of smallholders continue to be violated. As a result, smallholders remain invisible and their rights unrecognized and unrealized.

The future of our food systems is more than ever at stake. According to recent figures, rates of hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity are on the rise, spurred by unsustainable levels of inequality within and among countries. The reality on the ground is that day by day smallholders’ livelihoods continue to be destroyed and their small-scale food production is under attack in all countries and territories. It is time to sound the alarm, and to use and apply the policy outcomes that have been negotiated and agreed in the CFS to challenge the dominant narrative and inform smallholder-oriented public policies at all levels.

After the powerful CSM intervention in the CFS 46th Plenary Session, the CSM Working Group on Monitoring took advantage of the physical presence of many CSM participating organizations in Rome in October 2019 and held a first CSM monitoring consultation to kick off the process towards the next CFS Monitoring Global Thematic Event on the use and applica-
tion of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA) foreseen to take place in October 2020 during the CFS 47th Plenary Session.

**Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs)**

In July 2018, the HLPE released its Report “Multi-stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs) to Finance and Improve Food Security and Nutrition in the Framework of the 2030 Agenda”, in all UN languages, which was then discussed at the CFS 45. The CFS Advisory and Bureau meetings were tasked with defining a follow-up process for the report. During the first half of 2019, an option paper on possible ways forward was presented to the Advisory Group and Bureau. However, there was no political will among CFS members to substantially follow up on the report’s outcomes, nor to engage in further policy convergence work, deciding instead to conclude the topic with a Plenary Session event at CFS 46.

The event’s format and methodology presented critical gaps in terms of inclusiveness and transparency. Bureau members were not properly consulted on the design of the Plenary event, and CSM contributions and suggestions on how the panel and session could have been framed were largely ignored.

During CFS and Advisory Group meetings in 2019, the CSM stressed that the CFS, given its added value, could play a key role in providing member states with clear advice on how to establish MSPs that are conducive to fostering food security and nutrition and advance the realization of the right to food. A qualified and critical follow-up process of the HLPE findings – rooted in the mandate and vision of the CFS – would have been needed.

The CSM proposed to focus on two major challenges that were highlighted in the HLPE Report:

- The need to pursue analytical work, especially due to the lack of independent evidence that MSPs are relevant and effective in ensuring FSN and realizing the right to food, as compared to other ways of achieving this.

- The need to establish a policy framework that clearly defines the principles and conditions for an MSP to be considered a legitimate tool for ensuring FSN and the right to food, including through:
  - Defending public interest (as opposed to the collective or individual interests of MSPs partners) and the public goods for the right to food, food security and nutrition and sustainable food systems;
- Respecting the human rights framework and principles, including by adopting a human rights-based approach to accountability as adopted in the GSF;

- Addressing the power imbalances and potential conflicts of interest.

In this respect, it was clear to the CSM that the goal of the CFS process should have been to establish policy guidance on the basis of agreed principles and conditions that are coherent with the CFS vision. Knowledge and lesson sharing should be functional in light of this goal. The expected outcomes could have helped to raise awareness about the challenges and limitations of MSPs, to identify if and under which conditions MSPs can effectively contribute to FSN and the right to food, and hence develop policy guidance for establishing the required policy framework for MSPs to ensure food security and nutrition and the right to food by addressing the challenges identified.

The CSM conveyed these points to the CFS 46th Plenary Session event, both from the panel and from the floor. During our interventions on the panel, we also highlighted the lack of accountability and independent monitoring of MSPs. CFS members and participants were asked to reflect on the following questions before engaging with MSPs: Are there adequate safeguards in place to stop undue corporate access and influence on public food and nutrition policies? Under which conditions can MSPs speed up or slow down the progressive realization of the right to adequate food? Will MSPs make it easier or more difficult to promote strategies that address the root causes of malnutrition, such as unequal power, poverty, land grabbing and harmful marketing, just to mention some? The CSM also presented to the plenary a request from more than 300 civil society organizations addressed to the UN Secretary General to undo the recently-signed strategic partnership agreement with the World Economic Forum. Political influence of the corporate sector in the UN has increased over the past years, generating deep concerns over the risk of conflict of interest, given the UN’s mandate to uphold public interests. The UN, in line with its Charter, norms and procedures, needs to establish and strengthen regulation of the private and corporate sectors to bring them in line with public interests, and to prevent any attempt of corporate capture.

### Forestry

In October 2017, the CFS Plenary Session adopted the policy recommendations on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition. The adoption of the policy outcome was linked to the realization of an intersessional event on the impact of commercial tree plantations on food security and nutrition, as the plenary assessed that this aspect was not properly addressed in the context of the policy convergence process.

Several member states and the CSM were instrumental in making sure that the plenary agreement of 2017 was implemented. The event finally took place on 17th September 2019, almost two years after the plenary decision. Nevertheless, due to the opposition of one-member state, the CFS Bureau agreed to significantly lower the ambition of the event by foreseeing a half-day meeting only, with no budget nor interpretation, and with no official summary. Despite this and in line with our initial expectations, the CSM working group actively engaged throughout the year in preparing the event by making suggestions for its format, content and methodology.

On 17th September, to the great surprise of CFS members and participants, without prior consultation of CFS Bureau members, the CFS Chair decided to apply Chatham House Rule², and banned the admission of press to the event, generating tension both before and after the event.

During the event, the CSM delivered the points gathered by the Forestry Working Group, bringing once again the realities and voices of the communities on the ground to the CFS. On the one hand, the CSM recognized that CFS policy recommendations had made

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² [https://www.chathamhouse.org/chatham-house-rule](https://www.chathamhouse.org/chatham-house-rule)
some important progress, especially in the recognition that forests include peoples, and that peoples are at the center of the relations between forests and food security and nutrition, and that these relations might be of spiritual, social, cultural, political and economic nature. It also reaffirmed women’s rights and FPIC as central pillars of the right to food. On the other hand, CSM spokespersons also highlighted how the indiscriminate expansion of industrial plantations deeply threatens this important recognition.

The overall impact of industrial monoculture plantations on local communities and indigenous peoples is characterized by conflict, land and forest-grabbing, and the destruction of food sovereignty. Industrial ( monoculture) tree plantations share the same patterns as industrial agriculture and have similar impacts on people and the environment, namely: extensive use of agrotoxins and chemical fertilizers; soil and water pollution; deforestation and destruction of other biomes such as grasslands and savannas; land grabbing and resource grabbing; depletion of water sources due to intensive water use; harassment and sexual violence towards women; and unfulfilled promises related to job creation. They are a threat to diversity in species, crops, foods, identities and cultures that are so vital to ensuring the right to food and nutrition in the future.

Land conflicts and human rights violations are common because companies prefer the fertile agricultural lands used by communities. Forest peoples cannot grow, gather, fish or hunt in an industrial pine, acacia, rubber, teak or eucalyptus monoculture plantation, both for physical and biological reasons and due to restrictions on access, once the commons are replaced by private property. In Brazil therefore they call these plantations ‘green deserts’. Another extremely concerning trend is the promotion of genetically engineered, transgenic trees. For example, in 2015 in Brazil a deregulated transgenic eucalyptus tree contaminated the pollen and honey of thousands of Brazilian beekeepers, with unknown risks for people’s health. Communities (that are self-organized in the CSM constituencies) have been producing and using oil palm, rubber, and timber for hundreds of years, but their models of production and control are integrated into forest and local food production systems, and target local consumption. All current evidence, including from the latest IPCC and IPBES reports, confirms that industrial monoculture plantations are unsustainable as they continue to extract natural resources mainly from the Global South to feed unsustainable levels of consumption in rich countries. The expansion of this model will increase the risk of desertification, land degradation, food insecurity and unsustainable development.

An important aspect of the problem is how plantations are conceptualized by institutions and governments. Despite decades of documented negative impacts and conflicts from communities, FAO still describes plantations as a category of ‘forests’. According to the FAO definition, forests are nothing more than an abstract collection of trees with certain physical characteristics. Obviously, trees are indeed crucial elements of a forest, but what this conception leaves out is that forests are also composed of plants, insects, birds and animals, as well as forest and forest-dependent peoples and communities. Definitions are not
about technical issues.

Categorizing forests and just trees without recognizing and including ecosystems facilitates an extractivist view of forests with dangerous results: a) It masks deforestation and allows primary forest to be replaced by plantations with no net forest loss; b) It commodifies the forest as trees with just carbon – so that now industrial plantations can be categorized as ‘forest restoration’ or ‘reforestation’ with millions of hectares being planted under climate targets. This is doubly dangerous since climate change is one of the biggest threats to FSN, and industrial plantations are a false solution to climate change. They can at best store carbon temporarily and scientific evidence is increasingly showing that they are extremely poor carbon stores if compared with forests.

Evidence is also clear that the best way to manage and protect forest ecosystems is forest-dependent communities taking care of their forests, of their territories, through practices of community-controlled forest management (CFM) and agroecology which includes protecting collective rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including access to and control of their own commons and livelihoods. This also has a direct bearing on food security and nutrition – 70% of the world is fed by small-scale food producers which includes all forest communities.

As well as being highly beneficial for forest-dependent local communities and Indigenous Peoples, CFM under control of communities is an effective and economically viable system that offers a win-win solution to biodiversity loss and climate change, while ensuring the right to food. Several studies have shown that such systems improve community wellbeing and the management of resources and reduce deforestation even more than protected areas.

Despite the substantial debate that ensued on the occasion of the intersessional event of September, the CFS 46th Plenary Session did not take note of any of the event’s reports. Notwithstanding, the CSM and other CFS members and participants encouraged the CFS, COFO, and other pertinent fora such as the FAO (in the framework of its Biodiversity Strategy), and forestry research institutions to continue the dialogue on this crucial topic.

Urbanization and Rural Transformation

Since November 2018, the CFS has carried out further exploratory work on this workstream through two intersessional events, aiming to determine the feasibility of working towards a policy convergence process to support governments and other stakeholders at the national and local levels in addressing food security and nutrition within the context of changing rural-urban dynamics. The first intersessional event took place in November 2018 and focused on “the food security and nutrition impacts of urbanization and rural transformation on lower income groups and how to address them and their root causes”. The second one took place in February 2019 and focused on “promoting youth and women engagement and employment in food systems across the rural-urban continuum, including linking producers to markets”. Delegates from CSM constituencies were active on both occasions and conveyed, specifically on the occasion of the second event, the Urbanization and Rural
Transformation Working Group’s perspectives, in synergy with the CSM Women and Youth working groups. The CFS second intersessional event was prepared jointly by the CSM and PSM in collaboration with the CFS secretariat.

The CSM WG concluded that while several international processes and organizations address urbanization and rural transformation, they show a strong urban bias and focus mainly on urban development, thus tackling problems arising from rapid urbanization. This stems from the underlying assumption that urbanization is inevitable, and that the current migration from rural areas is the natural result of socio-economic development. Further to this urban bias, the topics of urbanization and rural transformation are generally addressed in silos, and are driven by centralized, industry-focused policies. In addition, the underlying narrative on how food and nutrition security should be addressed in the context of urbanization and rural transformation applies the faulty logic that rural transformation means more technology; that modernization is the panacea for rural poverty; and that urbanization is the only way to create employment. The needs of rural communities, and of most at risk groups, including (and especially) women and youth are almost always sidelined in policy making, along with the long-term food security constraints connected to the rural-urban dichotomy.

According to the CSM Working Group’s perspective, the CFS workstream on Urbanization, Rural Transformation and implications for food security and nutrition provided a unique policy platform to fill the gaps, and to look into the possibilities of building sustainable food systems. This workstream could have provided recommendations on how to overcome rural-urban dichotomies, and how to achieve more coherent rural-urban policies. It was a missed opportunity for overcoming the silo-thinking, for adopting a human rights-based approach, and overall for creating resilient rural spaces that achieve food security for all, and address the root causes of food and nutrition insecurity in the context of urbanization and rural transformation. This workstream was also considered cross-cutting to other workstreams, such as Agroecology, and Food Systems and Nutrition, and was therefore well positioned to address urbanization and rural transformation from a holistic perspective, and to overcome simplified technical solutions. It offered a chance to return to the issues of governance of tenure, smallholders’ access to markets, social protection, and gender perspectives, generating policy spaces to follow up on CFS existing policy outcomes.

Unfortunately, after the second intersessional event, besides positive feedbacks of CFS members and participants, it seems that there was no political will in the aftermath to continue with this workstream. In conjunction with the process of definition of a new MYPoW for 2020-2023, some key aspects raised in the second intersessional event related to youth were included in the MYPoW workstream on Youth. Therefore, after 4 years of intersessional and plenary events, the workstream was concluded without any policy outcome. The Chair of this process, Ambassador Hoogeveen, reported to the CFS 46th Plenary in a brief session on the outcomes of the two intersessional events, officially concluding the workstream.

“The current model of urbanization is not something inevitable, but is driven by concrete policies, which often violate Human Rights and deepen inequalities and thus lead to deprivation and grabbing of the agricultural land, biodiversity loss and unviable economic conditions for small scale producers, including, and especially, women and youth, in spite of the fact that the need to preserve green belt agricultural land is critical to feeding cities.”

Fragment of CSM Plenary Statement at CFS 46.
Multi-Year Program of Work (MYPoW) 2020-2023

After concluding its response to the evaluation and its related implementation action plan in 2018, the CFS engaged in 2019 in a new process for the definition of its first quadrennial Multi-Year Program of Work (MYPoW) for the years 2020-2023. The process started in November and December 2018 through an online consultation open to CFS members, participants and observers.

The new MYPoW process states that “all activities in the MYPoW are designed, planned and implemented to promote: resilience of livelihoods; attention to the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition; a multi-sectoral inclusive and participatory approach; evidence-based decision-making; environmental, economic and social sustainability; gender equality, women’s and girls’ rights and women’s empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition.”

Moreover CFS policy work and activity in the MYPoW are informed by three strategic objectives: 1) Leverage the convening power of CFS as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to discuss the global FSN situation and seek to coordinate collective action at all levels; 2) Develop voluntary global policy guidance for policy convergence and coherence to achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote the progressive realization of the right to adequate food; 3) Foster the uptake, follow-up and review, and sharing of experiences and best practices on the use and application of CFS products at all levels.

The CSM submitted a joint proposal with Indonesia, South Africa and Hungary on Inequalities. Additionally, the CSM supported the proposals on Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality, Water, Conflicts and Migration, and Youth. Unfortunately, the proposal on Conflicts and Migration, besides the initial support obtained by several CFS member states and participants in the first rounds of CFS open meetings, was rejected as it was considered not to be pertinent to the CFS mandate. Nevertheless, the CSM pushed to ensure that migration issues were addressed in the context of other workstreams such as the one on Youth. The thematic proposal on water was also considered too controversial and was finally included under strategic objective three, resulting in a monitoring exercise of the CFS policy recommendations on water and climate change.

The CSM joint proposal on reducing inequalities was largely supported and the CSM was invited to merge it with a similar proposal submitted by IFAD. The CFS is the most appropriate forum to address social and economic inequalities as the root causes of hunger and malnutrition, and to propose policies to reduce inequalities towards the progressive realization of the right to food, with a focus on the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition. No other UN Forum can claim to have such added value on this relation between FSN and inequalities with a comparable degree of inclusiveness and legitimacy. There is no doubt that inequalities within and among countries are among the most important structural causes of hunger and malnutrition. If not tackled in a serious manner, this growing problem is likely to contribute to increased hunger and malnutrition. The CFS should not shy away from this urgent topic, and should instead recognize that many countries and UN agencies have decided to effectively take this challenge.

On a similar vein, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation with the support of the US Government, proposed a workstream on data analysis. Initially, most CFS members and participants, including the CSM, recognized the importance of the topic but believed that it
was not appropriate for a policy convergence workstream. Instead, the issue of quantitative and qualitative data collection and data analysis could have been included as a transversal approach in all CFS workstreams and could have been the subject of a stand-alone event. However, the proposal was finally included in the MYPoW after a rather controversial debate in the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau meetings. The CSM supported the comments submitted by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Hilal Elver, which stated that the proposal should “provide insights into how to ensure data collection and its utilization give voice to the people most affected by policies stemming from that data, including farmers and other food producers, and protect people’s and communities’ ownership of data concerning them and their right to determine how this data should be utilized”.

The CFS MYPoW 2020-2023 was finally approved by the CFS 46th Plenary Session with the following structure:

**Under Strategic Objective One which does not foresee policy outcomes but only policy dialogue:**
- A plenary session debate is foreseen in October 2020, on the findings of the HLPE Report “Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030”

**Under Strategic Objective Two which implies policy convergence processes leading to CFS policy outcomes:**
- Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (inherited from the last MYPoW and expected to be approved by October 2020).
- Policy Recommendations on Agroecological Approaches and other Innovations (inherited from the last MYPoW and expected to be approved by October 2020).
- Policy Recommendations on Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems (November 2020 – October 2021)
- Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition (sequence to be decided)
- Data Collection and Analysis Tools (Sequence to be decided)

**Under Strategic Objective Three which aims to monitoring the use and application of CFS policy outcomes as well as fostering their uptake:**
- Forum - Dialogue and uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food systems and nutrition (2021)
- Forum - Dialogue and Uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender equality and women’s empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition (2023)
- Global Thematic Events on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (2020)
- Global Thematic Events on RAI (2022)
The sequence of the two policy convergence processes on Inequalities and Data remained unclear partly due to some inconsistencies in the MYPOW document. Certainly, a majority of CFS members and participants would like to address first the issue of inequalities, which is considered urgent and a logical consequence to the policy work previously foreseen on women and youth. Yet a small but influential group of CFS members and participants would like to address first the topic of data analysis and tools, and push the inequalities workstream to the end of the current MYPOW, exposing it to the risk of being pushed onto the next four-year MYPOW.

In order to solve this issue, the Plenary agreed that two intersessional events would be taking place during 2020 to better inform CFS members and participants on the potential of the proposals, fostering the capacity to take a responsible decision on the sequence of both workstreams, and leading to the submission of an HLPE Report for 2022 on one of the two topics. The request to the HLPE shall be submitted before the CFS 47th Plenary Session.

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

The SDGs Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) only convened once in 2019, during the month of March, with the objective of finalizing the CFS contributions to the High Level Political Forum session of July and SDG Summit of September. A new OEWG Chair was appointed, Sid Ahmed M. Alamain Hamid from Sudan.

During the meeting, the CSM SDGs Working Group supported the continued engagement of the CFS in the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda offers critical opportunities to establish a stronger role for the CFS in the governance architecture, under the aegis of the United Nations, which is necessary to truly advance the agenda for sustainable development in all its dimensions, and to strive for systemic policy coherence beyond the silos that have artificially separated the indivisible dimensions of life and its ecology. In this respect, the CSM encouraged a CFS discussion on how to attract key policy dialogues and initiatives in the context of the CFS Plenary Session and its intersessional program of work, in addition to strengthening the CFS contribution to the New York-based process.

The CFS submission to the HLPF emphasized the role of smallholder farmers, rural women, Indigenous Peoples, rural youth and family farmers as key agents of change, as well as the important role of the right to adequate food, based on previous CFS policy recommendations. However, the impact of the CFS on the ministerial declaration and the HLPF was minimal. The CSM and the CFS ought to reflect on our strategies to get the CFS message to New York, and on how to make our message more effective.

A dedicated session on SDGs took place during the CFS 46th Plenary Session with the aim of engaging in a reflection on ‘good practices’ in SDG implementation, and of exploring how CFS could better address the systemic determinants that slow down progress in successfully achieving the 2030 Agenda. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Hilal Elver, opened the session with a keynote speech, highlighting the main finding of her report ‘Realizing the Right to Food in the time of the SDGs’. Thereafter, CSM participated in
the panel contributing with its perspectives and also made interventions from the floor. It was made clear that with regard to SDG2, we are not only falling short, we are actually going in the wrong direction. Hunger is on the rise, ecosystems are collapsing, we are witnessing a significant loss of biodiversity, human rights defenders are criminalized, and women’s rights are strongly undermined by gender violence. A radical change is needed in global food governance. Food security and nutrition cannot be separated from a broader food systems analysis which involves a holistic, systemic and cross-cutting approach that takes into account all SDGs.

Systemic barriers still exist, such as neoliberal economic and trade policies that benefit the private sector interests rather than public interests and rights holders. Of particular concern is the recent UN trend to shift towards privatized forms of food governance, in which multi-stakeholder partnerships replace multilateral governance. These types of partnerships lack accountability and make space for potential conflicts of interest. This is also the case for the worrying partnership signed between the UN and the World Economic Forum in September, which is now instrumental in shaping the process towards the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit in 2021.

Everyone acknowledges that the world is off track in attaining SDG 2. A radical transformation is needed, and solutions are at hand. These solutions can be found in the hands of small-scale food producers and Indigenous Peoples, in agroecology as a way to transform our food systems and respond to the climate crisis, and in alternative economy approaches such as circular and solidarity economies.

CFS promotes policy coherence on food security and nutrition policies with the explicit mandate to advance the right to food. The legitimacy of CFS is derived from its participatory and inclusive nature, which foresees and recognizes the voices, the roles, the expertise and knowledge of social movements, Indigenous Peoples and civil society organizations who are the most affected by the current food and climate crises. These voices, together with other relevant actors of food governance in the CFS, should be at the center of the 2030 Agenda and of the Food Systems Summit.
Chapter 3: Other CSM activities

Summary of CSM Coordination
Committee (CC) members’ activities at local, regional and global level in 2019 - Promoting the dissemination, use, application and monitoring of CFS Policy Outcomes

CC members are involved in a wide range of activities that involve civil society, Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and social movements from each constituency or sub-region in the work of the CSM and the CFS. These interconnections demonstrate the complementary and holistic approach applied by CSM participating organizations to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition.

The CSM/CFS topics are of utmost relevance for policy dialogue at local, national and regional levels, but also within constituencies and sub-regions. In this sense, in the reporting period covered by this annual report, CC members were involved in the organization of or participation in various workshops and forums disseminating CFS policy outcomes and ongoing processes, and took a central role in policy negotiations with government departments, local councils and NGOs for their use and application. The VGGT and policy recommendations on Connecting smallholders to markets have been further disseminated among CSM constituencies, in particular within consumers and fisherfolks, as well as related networks in West Europe, West Africa and Southern cone of Latin America. Through participation in different forums, conferences and seminars, peasant and family farmer networks and NGOs from West Africa, West Europe and Latin America highlighted CSM and CFS policy processes and the inclusive model of governance they are embedded in.

Small-scale food producers, civil society and Indigenous Peoples also maintained relations with FAO, IFAD, EU, AU etc. at country and regional level, fostering the linkages with CFS policy outcomes and processes. The constituency of agricultural and food workers organized a workshop on Right to Food and Food Security and Nutrition for banana workers in Ghana with the aim to train the workers on how to use CFS policy outcomes as a tool in their negotiations, which resulted in improved wage conditions for the workers. In the West Asia sub-region, a joint Regional Multi-Actor Meeting on Addressing the Implications of Protracted Crises on Food Security and Nutrition in
the Arab World in Lebanon and a Multi-actor Workshop on Addressing the Implications of Protracted Crises on Food Security and Nutrition in Jordan were held with active participation of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty and the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature. The primary objectives of those forums were to raise awareness on the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) and promote its dissemination and implementation by discussing best principles and policies to address food insecurity in conflicts. Outreach activities of CC members included participation in the State Congress of the Spanish Society of Ecological Agriculture, the Assembly of the Spanish Observatory for the Right to Food, the World Forum of Transforming Economies, The First General Assembly of the African Women Fish processors and Traders Network (AW-FISHNET), regional consultations on trade and multilateral trade agreements, etc.

The sub-regions and constituencies lead and coordinate advocacy activities on diverse workstreams and policy processes. Indigenous Peoples have been working on the topic of food sovereignty, traditional knowledge and human rights. The constituency of landless prioritized the issues of women, food security and food sovereignty, food systems and corporate control in agriculture, agroecology and the peasant’s rights to land, sustainable agricultural development and SDGs. The NGOs constituency connected its work with the activities of the Community of Portuguese Lan-

Participation in CSM Working Groups is linked to ongoing CFS policy convergence processes, e.g. the elaboration of the Zero Draft of the HLPE report on Agroecology and Other Innovations, the report on Food Systems and Nutrition, the subsequent negotiation process, and regional consultations. What follows is a summary of CC members’ activities: many participated in their respective working groups; facilitated the CSM’s collective interventions; submitted independent comments to the reports; and partook in policy dialogues and meetings, as well as in the drafting of CSM vision documents. The Monitoring WG also
saw a surge in participation following the call for Monitoring the Use and Application of the three sets of CFS Policy Recommendations related to smallholders. It is also worth mentioning that the Youth WG drafted their own vision document; the Women’s WG held an internal consultation process to feed into their vision document and paper about Agroecology and Feminism; the newly formed WG on Facilitation developed new ways of facilitation within the CSM; the WG on Connecting smallholders to markets followed up with further dissemination of related policy recommendations at regional, national and local levels; and the Protracted Crises WG related to the monitoring process of the CFS-FFA became active again and informed the upcoming CFS Global Thematic Event of 2020. The WGs on Forestry and Global Food Governance, SDGs, and the WG on Communication (related to the CFS Plenary and the CFS Evaluation) also proved to be dynamic working spaces for mobilizing CSM constituencies and sub-regions. The engagement in different working groups required the attendance of CC members in CC and AG meetings, preparatory sessions, special events, bilateral meetings with governments, RBAs and other organizations, as well as the CSM Forum and CFS Plenary session.

CFS policy outcomes are embraced by CSM constituencies and sub-regions. They are used as a tool to achieve the right to food at the national level by advocating for national and regional policies and normative frameworks to be developed or revised. This is specifically highlighted in the CC members’ reports of agricultural and food workers, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, fisherfolks and the sub-regions of Central and West Africa, Central America and Caribbean, Southern cone of Latin America and West Europe. Trainings, workshops and pilot phases of data gathering on territorial markets at national and continental were carried out in Africa and Latin America. Indigenous Peoples and fisherfolks placed the spotlight on women and land rights. The issue of land received particular attention in Latin America as well as other parts of the world, as renewed efforts were made to transform the VGGT into a useful tool that can be applied to conflicts at the level of territories. The NGOs constituency developed a consultation on the use and application of CFS policy recommendations.

Another example worth highlighting is the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), where the CFS policy recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets inspired a process of drafting community-wide guidelines on family farming explicitly for the CPLP. At the national level, efforts are being made in each CPLP country to approve national statutes or policies specifically on family farming. In Portugal, for instance, the national Statute for Family Farming was approved in 2018, and includes references to some of the CFS policy recommendations on access to markets, namely, short food supply chains that enable smallholders to obtain a better income from their production, and an acknowledgement of the key role smallholders provide in the sustainable use and management of natu-
Still in the CPLP, actions are being taken to guarantee women’s rights, particularly rural women’s rights. One example is the ‘Rede das Margaridas’ (Network of Daisies), which provides a regional space for women to articulate and mobilize for rural women’s rights, consolidate their regional role, and link their national and sub-national efforts. Another example can be seen in the references to women’s rights in Chapter 5 of the CPLP community-wide guidelines on family farming including: access to markets, credit, technical assistance, rural extension services, and access to infrastructure. The West European sub-region contributed to the monitoring of the CFS recommendations on smallholders by applying them to an analysis of the impacts of the European agricultural and trade policies on West Africa’s local milk production and livelihoods of pastoralists. European and West African civil society organizations (of small-scale dairy and farmers producers, women, processors, NGOs, and academics) highlighted the incoherence of dairy policies that are favoring European dairies and European investments in West Africa at the expense of the local livelihoods and territorial markets.

Moving on to the CC renewal process, new CC members received capacity-building that provided guidance and information on current and foreseen political processes. Discussions were held about the roles and responsibilities of CC members, drawing attention to the question of how they can improve the work of the CSM in the sub-regions and constituencies. The training and learning sessions were both of a political and thematic nature. The first session was on global food governance and on how to establish political coordination among the different constituencies in the current context. The second session focused on specific issues such as: cooperatives and organization building; management of public policies for family agriculture; credit systems; organization of production; access to markets; foreign trade agreements; food and nutritional security and sovereignty; sustainable rural development; popular education in the countryside; innovative farming practices and safe food practices for small-scale producers; the VGGT and territorial markets (in Latin America and Africa); reclaiming land in the South Asian context; political training of young leaders about UN governance; treaty bodies and ways for advocating women’s rights; training on feminism, women’s rights and gender as part of a holistic understanding of inequalities; and a specific training on agroecology for the youth constituency. These initiatives were led by different networks or training institutions such as COPROFAM, AWFISHNET, Latin American and Caribbean Agroecological School, World March of Women, ROPPA, APWLD and others.

In terms of internal communication, different means were employed to disseminate CSM regular updates, reports, results, actions and outcomes of policy convergence processes. The constituency and sub-region networks are reached through newsletters from the organi-
organizations, websites, social media, e-mail lists and WhatsApp groups. Face-to-face meetings, workshops, dedicated discussions and presentations are also used to share information about CSM/CFS among local groups, schools and academia. Invaluable summaries are provided by regular CSM email updates, and by the CSM website, which brings everyone up to speed on the current political processes in the CSM and CFS, and on the CSM coordination committee (CC) and Advisory Group (AG) meetings. Additionally, if the need arises, specific communication channels can be activated e.g. calls for financial support, online consultation processes like the ones launched by the CFS and/or the HLPE for Voluntary Guidelines for Food Systems and Nutrition, the Report on Agroecology and Other Innovations, etc. Conference calls are also made to improve the coordination of information-sharing and actions in sub-regions or constituencies.

Notwithstanding regular flows of communication, CSM CC members identified a series of challenges that hinder their facilitation of CSOs and Indigenous Peoples’ organizations’ participation to the best of their abilities. For example, they highlighted the challenges posed by the unstable political situation of some countries, limiting the possibilities to meet and share CFS political outcomes, which means less knowledge and information about CFS/CSM products at local, national and regional levels. They also pointed out that the low quality of internet connection in some regions hampers political discussions, engagement and information sharing. The CC members are committed to address these problems with strategic actions of information sharing, raising awareness on CFS products and disseminating the political work done in Rome at local, national and regional levels, all the while engaging and mobilizing the active participation of the sectors and sub-regions through various communication channels.

Follow-up to CSM evaluation 2018

During the CC meeting in May 2019, a transversal approach to use the CSM Evaluation of 2018 was adopted by mainstreaming the relevant issues and recommendations identified last October throughout the three-day meeting agenda of May. This methodological approach enabled participants to link the implementation of the evaluation response with the strategic reflections carried out in the policy context and with internal processes of the CSM. As an outcome of the strategic collective analysis, the following areas of follow-up to the CSM Evaluation were prioritized:

- **Strategic Orientation**: most of the CC meetings in May and October 2019 were dedicated to political analysis and strategy development, covering the broader aspects of the situation of the CFS in the global context, 10 years after its reform, as well as the more specific issues of CFS workstreams, as suggested by the CSM evaluation.

- **Rome-home**: foster use, application and monitoring: A proposal on strengthening the use and application was discussed at the CC meeting in May 2019. As a follow-up, this work area shall be included as a priority in the CSM long-term strategy and in the workplan 2020. The main monitoring effort in 2019 was on the CFS smallholder policy recommendations, in preparation of CFS 46. In 2020, the monitoring focus will be on the use and application of the Framework for Action on Protracted Crises.

- **Facilitation**: As an outcome of this collective reflection, at the CC meeting of October the CC decided to establish a working group on Facilitation. With the aim of supporting CSM strategies, actions and engagement with CFS, facilitation was recognized as a key element that needed further assessing and exploring. With the Coordination Committee meeting of October 2019 in mind, the Working Group was mandated to fulfil two tasks: a) developing a common understanding of facilitation (in principle and practice) to provide an overarching framework for CSM activities and b) defining roles and responsibilities of sub-regional and constituency facilitations in the CC. The meeting in October 2019 was used as a space to deepen
and share the Facilitation Working Group’s preliminary findings. As a result, the WG’s mandate was renewed, in order to finalize and approve a common understanding on facilitation, and to offer modalities for its full operationalization. In this respect, a draft paper on roles and responsibilities of sub-regional and constituency facilitators will be shared in October 2020, and finalized based on the feedback.

- **Youth**: upon request of the CSM Youth Constituency coordinators, the CC committed to support the youth constituency and to improve their engagement. For instance, they decided to nominate more youth focal points within constituencies and sub-regions during the renewal process. The CC also agreed to mainstream youth perspectives and support their engagement throughout its work and activities, especially in the MYPOW process. A CSM Youth Working Group was fully established and a draft youth vision was presented to the CC members in October, and shared during the subsequent CSM Forum.

- **Capacity-building**: capacity-building was covered in the CC meeting in May as a cross-cutting question in a more specific session of the Facilitation Working Group. Several measures were identified and agreed, especially to ensure an effective transfer of knowledge and smooth handover to the new CC members. A specific training was incorporated into the CC agenda of October 2019.

### CSM Side events to CFS 2019

In May 2019, the Coordination Committee meeting identified 5 side event proposals through a collective and participatory process. The themes were selected based on collectively agreed criteria. According to these criteria, CSM side events should contribute to: a) strengthening the ongoing policy processes by highlighting the crucial points from a CSM perspective that are sometimes more difficult to bring into the CFS plenary; b) strengthening the right to food and the human rights-based approach, in connection with food sovereignty; c) strengthening the bottom-up monitoring, experiences, use and application processes and perspectives; d) strengthening voices from the territories and ensuring visibility of those most vulnerable and at risk. Additionally, the 5 side events should e) take into account a systemic perspective, so that they are not stand-alone issues addressed in silos; f) be relevant to CSM strategies and priorities; g) highlight CSM priorities in the MYPOW; h) help raise awareness for CSM concerns and priorities among governments.

In addition to the above, the following crosscutting perspectives were identified: a) Women and youth perspectives should be ensured in all proposals; b) Criminalization; c) Climate Change; d) Right to food and human rights-based approach. Please find below the final list of requested side event submitted by the CSM:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Side Event Title</th>
<th>CSM Focal Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fighting hunger between rights and inequalities: Too many left behind! How can Human Rights be used to reduce inequalities and overcome discrimination for achieving food security and nutrition for all?</td>
<td>Global Food Governance WG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realities of Living in Protracted Crises and Operationalizing the CFS-FFA. Enhancing the use, application, and monitoring of the CFS-FFA</td>
<td>Monitoring and Protracted Crisis WGs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-thinking and Re-shaping Food Systems through Agroecology: CFS policy convergence on Agroecology and Food Systems &amp; Nutrition as the key opportunity to chart the transition to a truly sustainable future</td>
<td>Agroecology WG and Food Systems and Nutrition WG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The impact of extractivism on women’s right to food and the struggle for a just transition: Addressing root causes of violence against women and the way ahead for concrete solutions towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda</td>
<td>Women WG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The future of food and the visions of the youth: “We don’t inherit land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children”</td>
<td>Youth WG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unfortunately, only 4 of the 5 CSM side events were approved by the CFS; the proposal of a side event on protracted crises was not approved. It was decided that the CSM should hold an autonomous consultation meeting during the CFS Plenary in the Malaysia room instead. Upon suggestion of the CFS Secretariat to organize an additional side event jointly with the Private Sector Mechanism on the issue of Nutrition and Food Systems, the CSM and PSM jointly organized a side event on: Food Systems & Nutrition Guidelines: Proposed Pathways by the Private Sector and Civil Society: Perspectives and proposals by civil society and the private sector on how to reshape food systems to ensure sustainable and healthy diets. Summaries of all side events are available on the CSM website.

The CSM is based on 11 constituencies

Smallholders and Family farmers
Fisherfolks
Pastoralists
Indigenous Peoples
Agricultural and Food Workers
Women
Consumers
Landless
Youth
Urban Food Insecure
NGOs

And 17 sub-regional units for organisations from all sub-regions

Composition of the Coordination Committee (CC) 2019-2021

The Coordination Committee (CC) is the governing body of the CSM; this means that most major political decisions within the CSM, on internal and external issues, are taken by the CC. Coordination Committee members are tasked with facilitating the voices of the 11 global constituencies and the 17 sub-regions into the CSM governance and political work. Coordination Committee members are therefore focal points who facilitate an ongoing bi-directional communication flow from Rome to home and back.

The CC is renewed every two years, for a total term of 4 years. From February to August 2019 the Coordination Committee engaged in the renewal process, and a new CC inaugurated its mandate last autumn at its first meeting in Rome on 9-11 October 2019. 17 new CC members were appointed while three sub-regions and one constituency requested an extension to the CC to conclude their renewal processes after October 2019.

During their last meeting in May 2019, outgoing CC members, noted the need to continue making efforts towards the improvement of gender balance in the sub-regions. While there was overall gender balance of the CC, this was not the case in the sub-regions. Moreover, youth coordinators requested that CC members foster the nomination and engagement of youth across the constituencies and sub-regions. In this regard, we are happy to announce that by the end of 2019 gender balance of sub-regions was significantly improved in the new CC, resulting in an overall membership of 24 women and 17 men. Also, youth engagement and leadership have significantly grown within CSM policy work and activities.
During the Coordination Committee of May 2019 new ideas and reflections were shared on how to improve the handover process from outgoing to incoming CC members. Members identified several tools for newcomers and decided to put in place a capacity-building session for October 2019. They highlighted how important it is to make use of the memory we have in the space, and to encourage the continued involvement of outgoing CC members. In this sense, the CSM Global Food Governance Working Group plays an essential role as it is an internal space for policy analysis and strategic thinking that brings together a wide range of former and new CC members with working group facilitation and coordination teams.

Please find hereby the composition of the new Coordination Committee for the biennium October 2019 - October 2021:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ramana Domicicciu</td>
<td>Smallholder and Family Farmers</td>
<td>La Via Campesina (LVC)</td>
<td>Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kannayan Subramaniam</td>
<td></td>
<td>La Via Campesina (LVC)</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberto Broch</td>
<td></td>
<td>Confederación de organizaciones de productores familiares del Mercosur Ampliado (COPROFAMI)</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rony Joseph</td>
<td></td>
<td>International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movement (IFMARC)</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verdiana Camilla Merandi</td>
<td>Pastoralists</td>
<td>World Alliance of Mobile and Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP)</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khalid Khawalodeh</td>
<td></td>
<td>World Alliance of Mobile and Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP)</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ali Ali Shatau</td>
<td>Indigenous Peoples</td>
<td>Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seul Vicente</td>
<td></td>
<td>International Indian Treaty Council (BITC)</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chersina Losea</td>
<td>Fisherfolk</td>
<td>World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairo Laguna</td>
<td></td>
<td>World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)</td>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seepal Narine</td>
<td>Agricultural and Food Workers</td>
<td>International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers’ Association (IUFTWA)</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elmirah Mabembova</td>
<td></td>
<td>International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers’ Association (IUFTWA)</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margarita Gomez</td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>La Via Campesina (LVC)</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitia Deus</td>
<td></td>
<td>Women's World March of Women (WMW)</td>
<td>Mozambique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hidrian Selbert</td>
<td></td>
<td>La Via Campesina (LVC)</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arja Sayed</td>
<td></td>
<td>International Women's Alliance (IWA)</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatima Burnad</td>
<td>Landless</td>
<td>Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC)</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samah Jaber</td>
<td></td>
<td>Union of Agricultural Workers Committee (UAWC)</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andre Luzzi</td>
<td>Urban Food Insecure</td>
<td>Habitat International Coalition (HIC)</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sadia Hassan Ali-Salhy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Habitat International Coalition (HIC)</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Miranda</td>
<td>Consumers</td>
<td>Urgency</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel Muñoz</td>
<td></td>
<td>Consumers International</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joana Dias</td>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Action/Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CLP)</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martín Dragó</td>
<td></td>
<td>Friends of the Earth (FoE)</td>
<td>Uruguay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please find hereby the composition of the new Coordination Committee for the biennium October 2019 - October 2021:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sub-region</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alda Jamarulova</td>
<td>Central Asia</td>
<td>Agency of Development Initiatives</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahmed Sourani</td>
<td>West Asia</td>
<td>Gaza Urban Agriculture Platform (GUPAP)</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaturka Seewandi</td>
<td>South Asia (Temporary Member)</td>
<td>Vikalmani National Women's Federation in Sri Lanka</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvia Mallari</td>
<td>South-East Asia</td>
<td>People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS)</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Said Khairullah</td>
<td>North Africa</td>
<td>Fédération nationale du secteur agricole (FNSA)</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seraphin Ntadi Mijar</td>
<td>Central Africa</td>
<td>Plateforme régionale des organisations paysannes d'Afrique Centrale (PROPAC)</td>
<td>Congo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usad Randle</td>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
<td>Easterns and Southern African Pastoralists Network (ESAEN)</td>
<td>Namibia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justus Lwi Mwilo</td>
<td>East Africa</td>
<td>Kenya Small Scale Farmers Forum (KSSF)</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musahlowe</td>
<td>West Africa</td>
<td>Réseau des organisations paysannes et producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA)</td>
<td>Gambia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nettie Wiebe</td>
<td>North America</td>
<td>National Farmers Union (NFU)</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabriella Cruz</td>
<td>Andean Region</td>
<td>Federación nacional de cooperativas pesqueras del Ecuador (FENACDEPEC)</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonio Gonzalez</td>
<td>Central America and Caribbean</td>
<td>Movimiento Agroecológico de America Latina y el Caribe (MAELA)</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodolfo Gonzalez-Grez</td>
<td>Southern Cone</td>
<td>Coordinadora Latinoamericana de organizaciones del campo (CLOC)</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vikko Heinze</td>
<td>West Europe</td>
<td>Solidarische Landwirtschaft (SOLUWI)</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olena Borodina</td>
<td>East Europe</td>
<td>Ukrainian Rural Development Network (URDN)</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emeline Stalé Toipahia</td>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>Pacific Island Association of NGOs (PIANGO)</td>
<td>Tonga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Gaha-Morris</td>
<td>Australasia</td>
<td>Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance (AFSA)</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Report from the sub-regional meeting of the CSM Southern Africa

From 11 to 15 March 2019, the CSM Southern African regional meeting took place in Johannesburg, South Africa. More than 21 organizations (global, regional, and national), took part in the meeting, with delegates originating from almost all countries of the region, namely: Mozambique, Eswatini, Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Botswana.

The purpose of the Southern Africa CSM sub-regional meeting was to reactivate the sub-regional facilitation work towards the CSM/CFS, and to inform and deepen the knowledge of the organizations represented there about the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples’ Mechanism (CSM), its organization, principles, structure and priorities, as well as the function, mandate and outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

On a methodological level, efforts were made to contact regional networks that have previously taken part in CSM activities in Rome, with the goal of ensuring a satisfactory representation of the various constituencies and key regional and national organizations (southern Africa).

In the spirit of horizontal learning and the fostering of a participatory space, sessions were delivered using a variety of methodologies, including information sessions, plenary discussions and group work exercises. The moderation of the sessions was also shared among participants, who took part in the daily methodology meetings aimed at preparing the program and agenda for the following day of work.

The two-day meeting started with introductions of the participants and their organization’s priorities in relation to food sovereignty, food security and nutrition and the right to food. The first part of the meeting contextualized and gave space to the local struggles carried out in the region by the participating organizations. The analysis that came out from the different contributions highlighted the following key points:

- In the last 10/15 years, ground was lost in many fronts of the struggle for food sovereignty in the African context;
- African public institutions, media and private sector are increasingly captured by foreign interests;
- Lack of transparency and public access to decision-making are key traits of most governments in the region;
- This has contributed to the shrinking spaces of civil society in the framework of institutional settings;
- A human rights-based approach is fundamental, but repression and criminalization are a reality on the ground that impacts human rights defenders;
- Particular mention was given to the mining industry and the extractivism model which is strongly impacting fishing communities and women’s right to food, many times protected by the states themselves;
- Participants expressed the expectation that the CSM could be an additional space for negotiation and policy dialogue, that could strengthen territorial demands.

Subsequently to this first round of introduction and contextualization, the meeting focused on a comprehensive introduction to CSM principles, structure and processes, an overview of the current situation of the policy processes at stake in the CFS, the political challenges of the current global food governance conjuncture and its impacts on CFS potential, as well as the achievements obtained so far. All these agenda items were addressed by referring to and...
linking them with reflections of the first part of the meeting dedicated to local and territorial struggles in the sub-region, in order to ensure a bottom-up capacity building approach.

Working groups were used to identify the political priorities of the sub-region and its expectation towards the global policy level. Participatory plenary sessions also contributed to identify the organization and structure features and elements of the southern African sub-region, as well as agreeing on a timeline and process to select a focal point for the CSM Coordination Committee. By April 2019, the sub-region selected a Coordination Committee member and established a core facilitation group to support his work.

The Southern African sub-regional meeting also delivered a set of concrete proposals to the CSM Coordination Committee, among them: the possibility to organize a side event during CFS 46th Plenary Session on extractivism and its impacts on women’s right to food; the proposal to start an internal reflection within the CSM Coordination Committee on LGBTQI rights; to solicit the support in engaging with regional and continental actors such as the African Union (AU), Southern African Development Community (SADC), and African Commission on Human Rights (ACHR); to continue developing strategies that will support the use, application and monitoring of CFS policy outcomes in national contexts and legislation, while promoting a popular dissemination at grassroots level.

**CSM and CFS priorities for Southern Africa sub-region**

Seeing the many parallels between the priorities of the organizations in the room and those of the CSM, the following were agreed on as key priorities of the sub-region to the CSM: a) Avoiding corporate capture of policy-making spaces in order to balance power; b) Denouncing the impacts of big infrastructure and mining projects on the livelihoods of communities; c) Fostering participation, in particular of women and youth, in public policy developments and dialogue as well as in decision-making spaces; d) Building solidarity between movements and organizations and the exchange of knowledge and capacities on agroecology; e) Protecting activists and human rights defenders against repression and criminalization of community; f) The need to challenge the proliferation of voluntary policies: States should take binding commitments to address the urgent challenges of global food systems – the use, application and monitoring of existing policy outcomes and normative frameworks is fundamental; g) Access to local markets and “solidarity economy”; h) Ensuring the enforcement of human rights, with particular focus on the right to land, food and nutrition, agricultural biodiversity, women and LGBTQI persons, access to information and knowledge, food sovereignty, agricultural systems that benefit small-scale food producers; i) Working jointly towards the institutionalization of the food sovereignty agenda at national and regional levels; j) Making efforts to ensure translation of significant and relevant policy documents and outcomes into local languages.

**Financial overview 2019 and workplan overview 2020**

**Financial Overview 2019**

The CSM Secretariat was taken aback when, in July 2019, IFAD belatedly communicated its decision to withdraw its biennial (2019-2020) contribution to the CSM. The 2019-2020 budget and plan of activities took a blow, leaving the CSM in a very difficult situation. For this reason, only 82% of the planned budget for 2019 was covered. IFAD had issued grants to the CSM in 2017 (250,000USD) and 2018 (250,000USD), and was one of the most important donors.

IFAD explained that they were unable to approve the grant in 2019, because the IFAD President had decided to redirect resources from its grant program for global initiatives to cover urgent gaps in the debt relief program, thus negatively impacting several regular recipients, including CGIAR, FAO, and the CSM.

In response to this unexpected lack of funding, the CSM had to immediately put in place some emergency measures such as savings, cuts in activities, reduced participation of funded par-
Participants in planned meetings, reallocations of resources, and calls to NGOs to mobilize financial support to address the funding gap so as to ensure the basic participation of civil society constituencies and Indigenous Peoples. Nevertheless, the following activities particularly suffered from financial constraints:

1. The sub-regional and constituency consultations. Only, the Southern Africa sub-regional consultation was organized. No other consultation was organized, as originally foreseen in the budget and plan of activities.

2. Participation to the CFS 46th Plenary and the prior CSM CC meeting and CSM Forum was impacted. But here CSM participating organizations reacted immediately and offered some support, helping to ensure at least the attendance of the CSM CC members. The FAO and the CFS also helped with small but much needed contributions. Lastly, the CSM would not have been able to ensure the participation of some of its members, had it not been for the spirit of activism of our dear team of interpreters who accepted to work with a reduced interpretation fee and in a smaller team, thus absorbing the largest part of the funding gap that the CSM faced.

3. Finally, the Secretariat and CSO participants to the CFS and CSM meetings, helped, where possible, by helping to interpret and translate so as to reduce the cost of official interpreting and translation due to financial constraints.
CSM 2020 financial Overview

Our predictions for the year 2020 is that the situation will remain critical, given the fact that IFAD is no longer one of the CSM’s major contributors. Today, the funding gap that needs to be covered to ensure the CSM 2020 plan of activities amounts to approximately 186,000€ (26% of the total budget). Like last year, the activities that will most be impacted by the funding constraints are: the sub-regional and constituency consultations, and the participation to the CFS 47 Plenary.
Workplan Overview for 2020

Although we have gained overall clarity on what our main areas of attention are for the CFS agenda, more elements were evaluated during the strategy discussions in the upcoming meetings of the CSM Coordination Committee and the CSM Forum 2019.

In 2020, the CSM will focus its efforts on engaging with the CFS on the following areas:

- The Policy Convergence process on Food Systems and Nutrition, leading to the adoption of CFS Policy Guidelines at CFS 47
- The Policy Convergence Process on Agroecology and Other Innovations, leading to the adoption of CFS policy recommendations at CFS 47
- The Monitoring Exercise on the use and application of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises
- The future policy processes on Women’s Empowerment, Women’s Rights and Gender Equality
- The future policy process on Youth Engagement and Employment in Food Systems
- The UN Food Systems Summit announced for 2021 will also require some strategic preparation in the coming year

The CSM strives to continue contributing to all these policy processes, as they are of high interest to many of the participating social movements, Indigenous Peoples and civil society organizations.

We note that the ongoing strategy discussions may lead us beyond these policy processes and towards the adoption of a more long-term strategy that paves the way to the much needed transformation of food systems, underpinned by agroecology, and within a global food governance architecture that is truly committed and accountable to human rights. New narratives and new methodologies are emerging and taking shape, as we have already witnessed in CSM discussions and contributions to global processes within and outside the CFS. The discussions before, during and after CFS 46 helped to connect people, generate joint analyses, and create visions which inspire and guide the way for 2020.

The indivisibility of human rights is reflected in the intersectionality of peoples’ struggles

Isabel Álvarez Vispo (October 2019)
Acronyms

AG // Advisory Group
APWLD//Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
AU//African Union
AWFISHNET//African Women Fish Processors and Traders Networks
CC//Coordination Committee (of the CSM)
CFM//Community Forest Management
CFS//Committee on World Food Security
COFO//Committee on Forestry (of FAO)
CPLP//Community of Portuguese Language Countries
CSM//Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism
EU//European Union
FAO//Food and Agriculture Organization
FFA//Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises
FPIC//Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FSN//Food Security and Nutrition
GTE//Global Thematic Event
GSF//Global Strategic Framework
HLPE//High Level Panel of Experts
HLPF//High Level Political Forum
HR//Human Rights
IFAD//International Fund for Agricultural Development
IPBES//Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services
IPCC//Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MSP//Multi-Stakeholder Partnership
MYPOW//Multi-Year Program of Work
NGO//Non-Governmental Organization
OEWG//Open-Ended Working Group
RBA//Rome-Based Agency
SDG//Sustainable Development Goals
SOFI//State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World
UN//United Nations
VGGT//Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security
WG//Working Group