

**CSM YOUTH WORKING GROUP
OCTOBER 2020**

**YOUTH DEMANDS
FOR A RADICAL
TRANSFORMATION
OF OUR FOOD
SYSTEMS**

Protecting our rights and enabling our agency for the present and future of our health, societies, cultures, knowledges and ecosystems

Covid-19 and the responses of governments are having devastating impacts on young people and our communities around the globe. We are experiencing the combined impacts of an acute health crisis, a current and looming food crisis, and a climate crisis – all illustrative of wider systems crises. Covid-19 has shown that neoliberal food, economic, governance and development/production systems are not working. Not only are they part of the problem – creating the underlying hunger, poverty, environmental destruction and social exclusion that responses to Covid-19 have exacerbated – but they are unable to offer solutions to these unfolding crises.

In this time of multiple crises, Youth are facing several challenges. As markets fail, schools close, and jobs disappear, we see opportunities and our futures crumble away. However, we are not standing idly by. We, as a diverse community of Youth from around the globe, are active in developing solutions to the challenges facing our communities: we are organizing ourselves to continue providing food for our communities and caring for the elderly as well as our children; we are shortening the distance from producer to consumer; we are defending school feeding programs and local markets; we are rebuilding rural economies and territories, ensuring youth can stay and return in the countryside; we are caring for and healing the earth by growing nourishing food through agroecology; we are standing up to domestic violence against women and girls as well as racism, homophobia, xenophobia and the patriarchy; and, we are defending workers' and migrants' rights as well as the rights of rural people.

We are also imagining new ways to organize the world: envisioning healthy, sustainable and dignified food systems, and taking steps towards achieving them. In our own constituencies and territories, and now here at the CFS, we are elaborating public policy demands to ensure that radical transformations occur NOW, before it is too late.

Young people are often presented as beacons of hope for the future. The expectation is on us to imagine and enact solutions to the world's problems that we have inherited. We do have solutions, but to bring them forward, we need a seat at the table. Similarly, young people are often depicted as a monolith – with a singular set of interests and expectations. But we have a plurality of identities as well as understandings, experiences, knowledge and expectations towards the future. We need mechanisms to ensure our plurality is respected, and our meaningful participation in political discussions on issues that directly impact us and our futures is guaranteed. We are not only here to talk, but to work with governments in the CFS to advance the progressive realization of the human right to food and all interconnected and indivisible human rights. Further still, we are ready to lead, to present our vision, to create and take space, and to work together towards a better future.

This Declaration, prepared by the CSM Youth Working Group, is the outcome of a participatory process of sharing experiences, struggles, visions and solutions. The youths engaged in this process represent perspectives from all CSM constituencies: smallholder producers, urban food insecure, consumers, young women, men and non-binary youths, food and agriculture workers including migrant and seasonal workers, pastoralist youths, Indigenous Peoples, fisherfolk, hunters and gatherers, and students. They are based in India, Mozambique, Australia, Canada, Norway, the Netherlands, Brazil, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Argentina, Kenya, and the United States. In the Declaration, we share how we and our communities have been experiencing the recent months, how we have been responding, and what our demands to our governments and the international community are. These policy demands not only respond to Covid-19, but will put us on a path towards building healthy, sustainable, resilient and dignified food systems for all.

Part I: Pressures on Youth in this Moment of Multiple Crises

Acute Pressures Triggered by COVID-19

1) Loss of Jobs and Social Protection in Formal and Informal Sectors:

Youth have been impacted by jobs losses in the formal and so-called informal sectors, and in many cases, by the failure of states to provide adequate (or any) social protection. As countries have gone into lockdowns and as economies have stalled, many youth have lost their employment, and with it their income. Compounding this descent into precarity, many youth have lost access, do not have access to or have insufficient access to social protection schemes. Without employment and with inadequate or non-existing social protection, many youth do not have the means for ensuring basic needs like clean water, sanitation, food, shelter, and health care, leading to multiple human rights violations such as violations of the right to an adequate standard of living and the right to food. Further still, many of those who have continued to work, for example those working in meat processing, in grocery stores, and in the fields, as well as other food sellers (such as those working in delivery apps), are now doing so with increased exposure to the virus, without adequate protection, and/or in crowded conditions that do not permit the observance of social distancing guidelines. Women make up the majority of frontline healthcare workers and childcare workers outside of the home and are therefore at a much higher risk of exposure to the coronavirus.

2) Disrupted Learning:

During lockdowns, Youth and others have faced disrupted learning as schools have closed. This may have long term implications for Youth attempting to pursue their education, as well as for Youth whose children are now at home, impacting their care-givers ability to work. However, the impacts of school closures are not even, and are having a greater impact on some.

For example, COVID-19 has exacerbated the digital divide, and who can access and realize their right to education from home. Many without the technology such as computers or smartphones, or who lack access to the internet at home will be unable to continue their education. Youth whose parents are working may also not get the support they need to complete their lessons at home. Youth relying on school meals have had to go without, impacting their access to healthy and nutritious food and their right to food and nutrition. Women are assuming more of the childcare, as children are not in school. This may have lasting impacts on gender equality in the workforce as well as in the home. Now as societies and economies reopen, Youth are put at the front line of the pandemic, reentering schools that have not received adequate funding to keep them healthy and safe.

3) Increasing Demands on Parents and Care-Givers, in Particular Women:

Youth have experienced increased care-giving responsibilities during COVID-19. Youth, and in particular women, regularly serve in care-giving roles to their own children, their siblings, their parents and others. Indeed, before the pandemic, women around the world already bore a greater burden of care and domestic responsibilities in the home. The closing of schools, the lockdowns, and the other government responses to COVID-19, have increased the demands in the home and required Youth to make difficult decisions between their education, their livelihoods and their responsibilities to their families and communities. In this way, COVID-19 has exacerbated already-existing structural and systemic unequal burden on women and young women for meeting care responsibilities.

4) Limited Food Access, Availability, Adequacy of Food and Agency Over Food:

Government responses to COVID-19 have had impacted food accessibility, availability, and adequacy as well as the agency of consumers to make choices about what they consume and how it was produced. Closures of local and territorial markets where farmers sell their fresh produce has limited both access and availability of these nutritious local foods. Grocery stores and other food retailers closed or reduced hours,

making it particularly challenging for those still employed to access food. With quarantines, many have been unable to access fresh local produce, and instead have had to rely on processed, self-stable products. Students relying on school feeding programs have lost access to nutritious regular meals, which not only impacts their health, but the health of their care-givers who may bear the burden of limited access to food. Many who lost their jobs and have no or inadequate social protection have been unable to access food. Precarity in global supply chains have led to a lack of availability of many products. In some cases, these impacts and the failure of governments to address them have amounted to violations of the right to food.

5) Closing of Borders, Travel Restrictions and Precarity of Working Conditions for Migrant Workers:

Government responses to COVID-19 have impacted rights to movement and travel as borders have closed. Many youth rely on jobs abroad – and the ability to send remittances home – to meet their basic needs and care for their families and communities. As a result of COVID-19, many seasonal migrant agricultural workers have been unable to gain access to employment abroad. When migrant workers have made it abroad for work, they have often faced unimaginable working conditions. Migrant workers around the globe already work under precarious conditions – and these conditions have been exacerbated by COVID-19. Despite the deplorable conditions under which they labour, these migrant workers – many of who are young people – are essential workers in our economies and are fundamental to ensuring a continuity of food provisions. The right to food of some can never be achieved while the rights of those who labour in the food system are violated.

Exacerbated Pressures from Multiple Crises

6) Systemic Racism and Sexism:

In many parts of the world, states continue to discriminate against Black, brown, indigenous, and poor communities through mismanagement, neglect, and violence. In all countries, women continue to be subject to discrimination, subordination and violence.

COVID-19 has made visible the ongoing realities of systemic racism and sexism, as populations already marginalized are feeling the brunt of the health, economic and food crises at once and to a greater degree than others. It appears that police violence and domestic violence against women have also increased with the regulations responding to COVID-19. The stylization of COVID19 as a health crisis underlines how the risks, suffering and endangerment of some people – Black people, People of Color, Indigenous peoples, and women – continue to be normalised and neglected, while the risks, suffering and endangerment of people belonging to the white middle and upper classes of the Global North are immediately taken up as a crisis in need of serious political responses. Systemic racism and sexism impact the future of Youth, the possibilities available and the world they will inherit.

7) Inequality:

The dominant neoliberal food, economic, governance, and development/production systems produce, entrench and exacerbate inequalities, with wide reaching effects on youth. The intersectional hierarchies produced by these systems and models severely oppress women, LGBTTQI+ individuals and communities, the disabled, poor people, rural peoples, indigenous, and others. In addition, too often, proposed innovations further concentrate the control of corporate actors over food systems exacerbating furthermore already existing inequalities. As detailed throughout this Declaration, COVID-19 and the steps taken by states will further stratify our societies and deepen inequality, impacting the prospects for youth and opportunities available.

8) Weakening Democracies and Increased Repression:

In many countries, democratic structures are being challenged and dismantled by the increasing power of the far-right, whose racist, exclusionary and violent politics are leaving the most marginalized parts of society vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19 and the multiple crises currently happening. COVID-19 lockdowns and social distancing rules have also limited how, when and where people can exercise their rights of freedom of speech and assemble to protest government action and inaction.

9) Climate and Environmental Crises:

Youth smallholders, fisherfolks and pastoralists are responding to the hardship related to COVID19 and governments' responses to it, while at the same time already under accelerating pressures of global warming and environmental degradation, caused by global industrial capitalism. This acceleration drastically pressures the adaptation space/time for the populations and nature itself, fundamental pillars for agricultural production.

10) The Capitalist Industrial Food System:

Economies and governments worldwide are still prioritizing an industrial, capitalist model of food production and consumption. While corporate food industry executives get richer, their workers struggle to feed themselves, pay their medical bills, care for their families and communities, and survive. This is because our current food system places a higher value on profits and corporate control than on human health, dignity, and the right to be nourished by and connected to land, culture, and community. Thus, responses to COVID-19 have similarly favored large-scale producers and left smallholder producers with little support. In some countries, marketing opportunities for smallholders have been strongly affected: Farmers' markets were shut down and street vendors criminalized.

Part II: Youth Are Responding to the Multiple Crises

The challenges before us are many – we have inherited an unjust, unsustainable and untenable world. But we are not standing idly by. As COVID-19 spreads and governments respond with plans that fail to address system and underlying issues, we are talking action:

1) We are organizing ourselves to produce and distribute food for our communities.

We are caring for the elderly as well as our children. We are taking care of the most marginalized people, running soup kitchens and public canteens. In these ways, we are

practicing the values of a solidarity economy, and have followed a feminist perspective that puts care at the center of our society.

2) We are shortening the distance from producer to consumer.

Striving for food systems that realize agroecology, we are re-integrating food into its territories of production. We are re-establishing connections between consumers and producers of food, re-establishing understanding and appreciation on both sides. We are helping consumers re-connect to the land, ecosystem and labor that feeds them daily, and support producers' struggles against the pressures of the global food market.

3) We are defending school feeding programs and local markets.

We are supporting school feeding programs that are inclusive and holistic, that procure food from local family farmers, that follow a human rights approach and that provide healthy, agroecologically produced food from within our territories.

4) We are caring for and healing the earth.

Healthy diets for healthy people require a healthy planet as a basis for food production. By practicing agroecology, we are growing nourishing food while respecting, protecting and restoring the natural ecosystems on which we depend.

5) We are standing up to domestic violence against women and girls as well as racism, homophobia, xenophobia and the patriarchy.

As young women, as young Black, Indigenous and People of Color, as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Youth, as young migrants, and young refugees, we have been experiencing violence and discrimination. We, together with our Youth Allies, have been defending our rights.

6) We are defending workers' and migrants' rights.

We are fighting for the realization of the rights of all workers, including the rights of migrant

workers, the right to union representation, and the rights to collective bargaining and to living wages. We are demanding fair, safe and healthy working environments that are free from any form of discrimination, violence, and/or harassment.

7) We are educating ourselves, family members, and community members.

As Youth, are fighting for our right to education, and are educating ourselves and our communities about our food system, food sovereignty and agroecology. We are sharing practices and knowledges within and between our communities, engaging in horizontal exchanges of knowledge, such as peasant-to-peasant, fisher-to-fisher, pastoralist-to-pastoralist, consumer-and-producer knowledge exchanges, as well as intergenerational exchanges.

8) We are protesting government repression and the weakening of democratic institutions.

We are exercising our rights to political speech and peaceful assembly.

9) We are taking leadership roles in social movements.

As movement leaders, we are strengthening the grassroots work and power of indigenous communities and civil society. Youth are bringing hope for a more just world, a world with equality. We will continue to strengthen ourselves with the support of our communities. We work with the children who are the ones who will continue our struggles. The youth have always been the motor of the struggles because we are the present and the future. As youth, we continue to form ourselves from the CSM, we will continue to form ourselves to take responsibility in the states and to bring the voices from the depths of the countryside.

10) We are, and will continue to, imagine alternatives.

As Youth, we have been providing new perspectives on long-standing problems. We have refused to choose from the few options offered to us in the present. We continue to imagine alternative worlds - plural worlds - worlds that go far beyond business-as-usual, worlds in which our ways of doing the economy,

of producing and consuming food, of caring for each other, of living with and as part of nature, are radically transformed. 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 resist growing corporatization while co-creating life-affirming worlds and futures by building strong connections to the land, water, seeds, plants, and all living beings.

Part III: Policy Youth Recommendations

We, as Youth, are the future custodians of our food systems and territories. In order to respond to COVID-19 and the other numerous ongoing crises, as well as to realize our human rights, **we must radically transform our food systems**, including reconfiguring whose rights are prioritized by our governance models and whose voices lead the way. Youth must be the cornerstone of any public policy on food security and nutrition, agriculture or the food system more broadly. In the following paragraphs, we set out our policy proposals. **This is not a comprehensive list, but the start of a conversation:**

1) We demand an end to food systems organized around capital accumulation, extraction and subordination, and instead demand food systems organized and governed around the principles of food sovereignty and the right to food.

This will only be achieved if:

- **States and international institutions** shift policies, economic decisions and investments away from supporting the current capitalist food system – and instead work toward transforming our food systems, by supporting policies and economies based on care, equity and the protection of our ecosystems, putting human rights over profits.

- **States** respect, protect and fulfill all human rights, both individual and collective, while acknowledging our self determination and autonomy. These human rights include, but is not limited to, those rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) and Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- **States** recognize that the human rights of those protected by these instruments trump all other legal instruments and private rights recognized in domestic law or international law. Where laws and policies conflict with these human rights, they must be altered and made into compliance.
- **International Institutions and UN Bodies, including the RBAs**, develop policy and international legal instruments that incorporate a rights-based approach and work towards the realization of these human rights.
- **States** and international institutions recognize the right to food sovereignty, i.e. the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems as articulated in the Declaration of Nyéléni. This includes recognizing and ensuring collective and individual agency to determine the structure of food systems, as well as what to eat and how to produce, as defined in the HLPE Report Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative Towards 2030. This will require transforming governance structures and the values that underlie them.
- **States** remove agriculture from the jurisdiction of the World Trade Organization and find new means for establishing a trade system centered on human rights.
- **We all collectively work** to reimagine and reposition food not as a commodity, but as a public good and human right.

2) We demand an end to food systems organized around capital accumulation, extraction and subordination, and instead demand food systems organized and governed around the principles of food sovereignty and the right to food.

This will only be achieved if:

- **States and international institutions** recognize that current food systems geared at industrial production, place profits over people and the earth, and promote diets that damage our health, as well as our ecosystem.
- **States and international institutions** prioritize agroecology as (1) the most robust pathway to achieving food systems that are equitable and sustainable/resilient, (2) the pathway for transforming our food systems to ensure that food systems can synergistically address the health of our planet and the health of our people and (3) the driving force for food sovereignty. States should follow the 10 elements of Agroecology approved by the FAO Council as guidance for the transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems as well as to the Declaration of the International Forum for Agroecology.
- **States and international institutions** immediately stop supporting industrial food production, including by ending subsidies, research funding and other state supports for industrial food production, and instead redirect and increase public resources towards supporting agroecological practices (including supporting farmers engaged in agroecological production already and those wishing to transition) and research. Public policy and legislation incentives should also be redirected to support agroecology.
- **States and international institutions** recognize that agroecology does not mean everything and anything, and that only certain practices qualify as agroecological. In determining what constitutes agroecology – and what conversely does not – **States and international institutions** should consider those practices that strengthen the rights

and livelihoods of smallholder farmers/food producers (in terms of their resilience, their ecological foundations, their cultural heritage, among others) and support sustainable local food systems, including consumers' involvement in co-production, local direct food chains, and farmers' connection to territorial markets. **States and international institutions** should look to the Declaration of the International Forum for Agroecology as well as work with local populations and rights holders when defining agroecology.

- **States and international institutions** introduce policies and legal frameworks that require industrial food producers to pay for the externalities of their production methods, like the environmental costs, while reward agroecological production for its social, environmental and economic benefits.
- **States and international institutions** recognize that Youth, through our local knowledge and capacity, are already able to produce food that respects planetary boundaries, protecting soil, water and biodiversity.
- **States and International Institutions** support Youth, small-scale food producers, Indigenous peoples, landless, pastoralists, fisherfolks, and agricultural workers, as stewards of our ecosystems. Our livelihoods and food production are already being dramatically affected by the climatic crisis, and the next generations will be even more so if we do not move to a different path. The time is now to ensure that the inequalities exacerbated by the environmental emergency are overcome!
- **The UN CFS, RBAs and Other Institutions** prioritize agroecology and youth in their policy and law making.

Together these steps will encourage youth to return to and/or stay in agriculture as a source of meaningful, economically viable and sustainable employment.

3) We demand an end to structural discrimination against Indigenous peoples, black people, people of colour, women, migrants, rural people, LGBTTQI+ and Disabled People, and the full realization of

all peoples' right, including by remedying inequalities and introducing redistributive policies.

This will only be achieved if:

- **States** respect, protect and fulfil the rights of women, LGBTTQI+, Indigenous Peoples, Black people and people of colour, and disabled people, including sexual and reproductive rights to end structural and intersectional discriminations. States should look to CEDAW, UNDROP, UNDRIP and CEDAW General Recommendation No. 34 in addressing systemic discrimination. Our Youth's diversity can only be expressed if today's structural racism, patriarchy and heteronormativity is recognized and dismantled across institutions (political, economic, health, education).
- **International institutions, states and decision-makers at all levels** recognize current power imbalances, increasing inequalities and patriarchal norms as the systemic drivers of the failing of our food systems. The strengthening of the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations is, therefore, fundamental.
- **We collectively work** together to dismantle the racist and patriarchal structures present in today's political, economic institutions and societies.

4) We demand living wages and access to benefits for all workers, including status for migrant workers, and rights-based social protection schemes that ensure an end to poverty, social exclusion and structural violence.

This will only be achieved if:

- **States** ensure living wages, recognition of the status of migrant workers, decent work and job protections for everyone, in particular young women workers, consistent with the ICESCR and UNDROP.
- **States** ensure social protection floors and social protection as a human right, consistent with the ICESCR and UNDROP.
- **States** ensure a right to healthcare, including universal health care consistent

with the ICESCR.

- **States** ensure unemployment benefits and universal basic incomes to workers in all sectors, including informal sectors and agricultural sectors.
- **States** address public health concerns in employment, including those related to the pandemic, and create (and/or continue) supports for frontline workers (from medical staff, to grocery store clerks, to agricultural workers).
- **States** ensure that migrant workers are granted all rights contained in domestic law and international human rights instruments, including status on arrival and non-discrimination on the basis of national origin and immigration of status.

5) We demand a redistribution and a revaluation of the social reproductive and care work carried out predominantly by women due to the gender assigned roles in our patriarchal society.

This will only be achieved if:

- **States** adopt robust parental leave policies that ensure parents – regardless of whether they are employed and are in the formal or informal sector – are supported and that women are not penalized in the workforce for having children.
- **States** adopt universal child care policies, that provide access to quality child care before they enter primary school, and in the mornings and afternoons before classes, to ensure caregivers in the workforce are not negatively impacted by having children.
- **States** adopt curriculum for schools that teach children about the gender divide as a means to eliminate it.
- **States** adopt robust care policies, to assist family members in the care they provide to their family members and communities.
- **States** engage in labour and employment law reform to better account for care giving responsibilities, and to encourage equal distribution of those duties.
- **States** adopt and enforce pay equity legislation to end the pay gap between men and women.

6) We demand our right and the rights of our children and community to an education

and that this right be realized in a way that prioritizes health.

This will only be achieved if:

- **States** address the digital divide that impacts access to learning during the pandemic and develop public policies that support the learning of all students regardless of their home circumstances.
- **States** invest in education as well as educational infrastructure when schools reopen, to ensure student and teacher safety.
- **States** introduce units and educational programs on food systems, nutrition, preparing food and human rights into curriculum.
- **States** adopt school feeding and nutrition programs that ensure students have access to proper nutrition to meet their nutritional and learning needs.

7) We demand our human rights to productive resources like land, water, seeds, biodiversity and knowledge consistent with the UNDROP, as well territorial markets and solidarity economies.

This will only be achieved if:

- States guarantee and protect human rights to land, water, seeds, biodiversity and knowledge as human rights consistent with UNDROP and other human rights instruments.
- States adopt comprehensive agrarian reform that respects and protects our rights to our territories and provides youth vital access to land. Without comprehensive agrarian reform and rights to productive resources youth will be unable to stay in or return to agriculture.
- States support agroecology as a practice, knowledge and movement, through the protection of customary tenure systems and through land restitution and redistribution.
- States guarantee tenures rights consistent with human rights principles in UNDROP and the provisions in the CFS's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.
- States support the many existing initiatives (such as community supported agriculture,

food baskets, local and territorial markets) that have been reducing the distance between consumers and producers, and create enabling conditions for more of such initiatives.

- States protect longstanding and encourage the creation of new territorial and local markets that have been providing and could provide healthy, fresh and regional food to communities around the world.
- States procure food for public institutions, including schools and universities, from the communities and small-scale food producers and family farms within the respective territories.
- States adopt the principles laid out in the CFS's Connecting Smallholders to Markets, such as the recommendations that:
 - States invest more in infrastructure for local and territorial markets, such as roads, public spaces to host these markets;
 - States revise food safety regulations so that they do not adopt a "one size fits all" or "blanket approach" for risk assessment and are suitable for agroecological small-scale producers and cooperatives and can address the actual risks of short-circuit chains; and
 - States enable smallholders' access to useful, timely and transparent market and price information through Information and Communication Technologies to enable informed decision making on what, when and where to produce and sell. We, as Youth particularly demand the provision of open-source, demand-driven technologies to make sure that technologies support smallholders' autonomy rather than creating new dependencies. We similarly demand that states address the digital divide which is one of the core reasons for lacking access to market information.

8) We demand an end to anti-democratic governance processes including those that silence our voices and co-opt our narratives, experiences and visions for the future. We need seats at the table, and opportunities to lead.

This will only be achieved if:

- **States** recommit to democratic practices.
- **States and international institutions** enable youth to actively engage and participate in democratic and inclusive political spaces and policy making across all sectors. This engagement should allow and recognize our traditional knowledge and livelihoods, in order to protect and respect our families, our future generations and ourselves.
- Youth's individual and collective capacities to shape food systems, inherited from our families and communities' knowledge, are supported by **states and international institutions** through the recognition of our agency.

9) We demand public policies and initiatives that recognize Youth's plural identities, including as small-scale producers, and that support youth-led, agroecological initiatives as well as programmes that enable youth empowerment and do not silence youth.

To achieve this, **states and international institutions** must stop employing the narrative that youth are only interested in entrepreneurship and the newest technologies – and only funding initiatives in these areas.

In particular, we demand from states and international institutions:

- Long-term support for agroecology training schools, organized by our social movements, in order to equip youth with the skills, knowledge, and social relationships needed to scale regenerative food production within our territories;
- Public investment and infrastructure for small scale producers;
- Comprehensive agrarian reform, including redistribution of land and productive resources, to youth;
- Education in schools on food systems, healthy diets, food preparation and health and nutrition;
- Universal child care, including after school care;
- Universal school feeding programs;
- Universal health care;
- Rights-based social protection schemes;
- Seed banks and systems for seed exchanges, including supports for Indigenous seed saving and crop

production; and

- Support for community supported agriculture, and other initiatives that reduce the distance from consumer to producer.

10) We demand a bigger role at the CFS and that the CFS develop a set of rules of practice to ensure meaningful Youth participation and engagement.

This will only be achieved if:

- The **CSM** and **PSM** encourage and elevate Youth voices, including making space for Youth to take leadership roles and ensuring Youth are speaking for themselves at all CSF events.
- The **CFS** creates space for Youth to participate in CFS sessions, selects Youth side events, ensures Youth are not viewed as a single voice, promotes youth events during the CFS plenary and intersessional periods, and does not preference PSM Youth over CSM Youth, including in the selection of side-events.
- **States** promote youth from their delegations as active participants in the CFS.
- The **CFS and states** properly fund and resource the Youth policy process, as well as youth engagement in the CFS more broadly.
- The **CFS** engage Youth in a broader and ongoing discussion on how to improve Youth participation at the CFS and ensure a Youth led policy convergence process, including by organizing a meeting to discuss the issue.

Civil Society and Indig
for relations with the UN C