

Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM)

Plenary Statement @CFS47 | 8 February 2021

Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030

Nicole Yanes – International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) on behalf of the CSM Youth Working Group

Thank you, Mr. Chair,
Respectful greetings to all present today,

My name is Nicole Yanes. I am an Indigenous youth from Opata Nation, whose territories are in what is now known as Sonora Mexico and Arizona United States. I represent the International Indian Treaty Council, a long-standing Indigenous organization who first entered the doors of the UN in 1976. I am also a member of the Youth Working Group of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism.

As others in the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism have shared and made clear, Covid-19 and the responses of governments are having devastating impacts on young people and our communities around the globe.

The combined health and food crises have shown that neoliberal approaches to food, economic systems, governance and development 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.

It is time for our food systems to be transformed.

In October, we presented our Youth Demands for a Radical Transformation of our Food Systems - where we outlined our vision and steps towards building better futures for the coming generations. We will share a link to our youth policy declaration in the chat and we ask and urge you to read it. We will also present it at the **Developing effective policy responses to COVID-19** side event tomorrow.

We welcome the HLPE's Global Narrative Report as the first step towards this necessary transformation. The HLPE plays a crucial role in global food system governance - it is the only body in the UN system mandated and capable of providing scientific multidisciplinary expertise.

The report's emphasis on human rights, agency, sustainability and a food systems approach as well as its critique of current governance models offers pathways for rebuilding our broken food systems. The Report offers crucial guidance for States, and for the international community - this guidance should form the basis of policy.

The Report also comes at a crucial moment. Covid 19 is devastating populations and exacerbating already deeply entrenched inequities, putting food systems under intense international scrutiny. The CFS is the intergovernmental forum with the knowledge, expertise and mandate to coordinate a global policy response to the pandemic. However, initiatives like the Food systems summit threaten to undermine the role of the CFS in leading this response as they reinforce the same dynamics that are responsible for destroying the planet and pushing millions into food insecurity. Our final intervention as CSM will be on the FSS.

Yet the Global Narratives Report is about to be forgotten. We urge CFS member States to ensure this does not happen, and we have two proposals to ensure the utilisation of the report.

First, we ask that the CFS include in the MYPOW a commitment to continuing the workstream on COVID 19 as per the stemming from the recommendations in the HLPE Global Narratives and COVID 19 report. Not only is it absolutely urgent to transform our food systems - but the CFS is the right international intergovernmental body to take up this vital project. We ask the CFS to discuss in greater detail the recommendations from the Global Narrative report. We also ask that the Global Narratives Report inform the Agroecology policy process underway

Second, we recommend that the CFS use the Global Narratives Report as the basis of its submission to the Food systems summit and that it ask the FSS to use the Report as the basis of its collective work.

To conclude, when we speak about urgency and change, it is not just words, the urgency is a reality that needs to be addressed. Our communities are hurting and our rights keep being violated. As Youth we worry the world that we and generations to come are being left with. While we continue to create solutions and sustainable food systems in our communities, it is in your hands that a global transformation of the global food system takes place so that no one goes hungry or dies from malnutrition. It is in your hands. Thank you for your time and attention today.

EN <http://www.csm4cfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Youth-Covid-Report-final.pdf>

FR <http://www.csm4cfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Youth-Covid-Report-final-FR.pdf>

SP <http://www.csm4cfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Youth-Covid-Report-final-ES.pdf>