

Statement by Mrinal Kanti Tripura on behalf of the CSM

Agenda Item III CFS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: LESSONS LEARNED.

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Thanks all the panelists and special thanks for the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food for mentioning inequality, Non-recognition of the IPs by most countries in VNR and not keeping the Human Rights outside of Geneva!

I. Raising concern on progress towards implementing SDGs at national & regional levels

- We, the Civil Society Mechanism, are deeply concerned with the status of SDG implementation.
- Regarding SDG2, evidence shows that we are nowhere near attaining zero hunger, because we have taken the wrong approach.
- We have learned from the CFS that food security cannot be separated from broader food systems analysis which involves a holistic and cross-cutting approach that takes into account all of the SDGs. Thus work to achieve SDG2 must be integrated within the broader 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
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To do this, we should draw on the CFS' existing body of work, including policy recommendations and voluntary guidelines such as the Guidelines on Responsible Governance on Tenure of Land, Fisheries & Forests, and Guidelines on the Right to Food. These policy instruments support the effective development of strategies and frameworks for action to achieve the SDGs including SDG2.

II. Raising concerns about corporate influence

- Unfortunately, systemic barriers still exist such as neoliberal economic and trade policies that lead to the homogenization of agriculture and influence of transnational corporations over public policy, research, and markets. This benefits private sector interests rather than public interests. It stands in the way of solutions such as agroecology, social solidarity economy and small-scale community-led cooperatives;

One key concern we must collectively address is the climate crisis and the biodiversity collapse, which are being driven by corporate interests. Small-scale peasant agroecological farming can contribute significantly to mitigating the climate crises.

- We are concerned about recent trends in the UN to shift towards privatized forms of food governance, in which multi-stakeholder partnerships replace multilateral governance. These

types of partnerships lack accountability and open up potential for conflict of interest, privileging private interests over public good.

- We also express our concern with the UN partnership with the World Economic Forum, which ignores the broad analysis of food systems and excludes meaningful participation from civil society and Indigenous Peoples.

III. Effective implementation:

- The CFS brings policy coherence on food security & nutrition policy within a broad food systems approach and with the explicit mandate to advance the RtF. The legitimacy of the CFS is derived from its participatory and inclusive nature, which allows for sharing of tremendous knowledge and experience from social movements, civil society and Indigenous peoples who are most directly affected by current/converging food, climate crises.
- For these reasons, in the upcoming Food Systems Summit 21, the CFS must remain as the primary UN decision-making body as it is best situated to take the lead in this work.
- The CFS can significantly strengthen the national voluntary reviews that take place within the HLPF by providing mechanisms for monitoring progress towards the SDGs, drawing on the evidence and experiences from the local up to national and regional levels.
- Now more than ever, the CFS should take bolder steps and more serious actions ensuring holistic, systemic, and rights-based approach to transformation of food security and nutrition. There is an urgent need to strengthen adoption and implementation of CFS guiding frameworks. The CFS should exact political will among the FAO Member Nations in the adoption and implementation of these guides. We need to support the localization of CFS policies and SDG implementation at the national level in an inclusive, partnership processes.
- We welcome discussion at global level and continuing this work towards achieving the SDGs and food system transformation through the CFS.

Thanks for you kind attention.