

CSM Plenary Statement on MYPoW 2020-2023

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The CFS implementation plan has agreed 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.”

The CSM is analyzing critical and emerging issues from the perspective of what is critical for those who are most marginalized in our broken food system- small scale food producers, indigenous peoples, workers, women, youth, and marginalized urban people. This is an ongoing process within CSM, building on a common analysis of the future of who will feed the world and how.

The global food system continues to fail us and we are not fully implementing the standards and commitments made here in this space and in UN system more broadly.

So we have to ask ourselves the most critical questions which relate to the future of our food systems: Do we want us, peasants, fisherfolks, pastoralists and the many small scale food producers, to continue to feed the world? Do we want the right to adequate food to all? Will we be able to protect our territories and resources in the face of land and resource grabbing, and the impacts of climate change? Who, eventually, will decide over the future of our food systems?

The CFS needs both to address the causal factors and to provide the building blocks for sustainable and equitable food systems.

It’s urgent to change the perspective that the future of the food system is a given scenario.. The MYPoW must contribute to the construction of a future in line with the CFS vision.

The CSM is guided by two main elements.

The central feature to the MYPoW 2020-2023 is to look at the realisation of human rights. The right to food cannot be realized if other rights are being violated. MYPoW should give specific attention to :

- the rights of women, youth and children..

- the criminalization of the defenders of human rights and the territories, protecting their policy space
- the impacts on food security and nutrition and the Right to Food of large scale investments and international market rules
- the increasing inequalities, concentration of corporate power and resulting conflicts of interest within food systems. We cannot be afraid to address such difficult issues.

The second central element for the CSM is the transformation of our food systems. Food sovereignty is central in the transformation of our food systems to guarantee human rights and secure access to land, territories, biodiversity, traditional knowledges, and climate justice.

In this perspective the MYPOW should address the following critical issues:

- Access to and control over natural resources and territories for small scale food producers, indigenous peoples, women and youth
- Conservation of biodiversity and genetic resources, their sustainable use, taking into account the traditional knowledges, and the inclusive processes of technology assessment, because these are essential to strengthen resilience of ecosystems and peoples livelihoods.
- Climate change because the current industrial food system is contributing to it with a critical impact on food security and nutrition.

So the key question remains: Who will decide over the future of our food systems? The inclusive MYPoW process should lead to strengthen public policies and the role of States, as it's must account for their political and legal responsibilities for the realisation of the right to food. The next MYPoW must be embedded in the recommitment of States to the vision of the reformed CFS.