

Presentation of the CSM Report on the Use and implementation of the Right to Food Guidelines during the CFS Global Thematic Event - 18 October 2018
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We first want to start off by congratulating CFS actors for the amount of participation that went into this monitoring process, and offer a special congratulations to member states for taking up the call to conduct monitoring exercises at sub-national, national, regional, and global levels. Through these exercises, we can better understand the successes and challenges in implementing the right to food guidelines, and reaffirm the importance of ensuring space for monitoring and accountability at the CFS.

My name is Ramona and I am a peasant, a seed saver from Romania, in the Eastern part of Europe and a member of La Vía Campesina.

This week – at CFS 45 – we have come together to discuss policy solutions for the rampant violations of the right to food occurring **everyday** in **every** country across the globe.

All actors in this room have expressed concerns about the devastating and rising number of food insecure people

Yet food insecurity and violations of the right to food are not a given.

We know that the realization of the right to food is fundamental for achieving food security, women’s rights, poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods, peace and security, economic growth, and the 2030 agenda.

We must take action. And we have the tools to do so. The Right to Food Guidelines – negotiated and unanimously adopted by all FAO member states in 2004 – provide critical guidance on how to implement and realize the right to food. It is an historic moment that we are here today – for the first time engaging in a collective effort to monitor their implementation.

This monitoring event lies at the heart of the reformed CFS and is an important moment in our CFS monitoring processes. We should use it to make visible the challenges we face, and to assess how we move forward.

As a contribution to this important and timely event, the CSM has prepared its own report monitoring the use and implementation of the right to food guidelines.

Over the last year, we have come together through a deeply participatory process engaging social movements, indigenous peoples, and CSOs from over 60 countries- using global and regional consultations, as well as interviews, and questionnaires- to produce a comprehensive

view of the challenges impeding our rights and the solutions to ensure the right to food is realized for all.

In the process, we have identified many important steps taken by states to recognize their right to food obligations – for example many countries have adopted constitutional and legal protection of the right to food – while others have passed rights based policies and built regional instruments to ensure policy coherence and accountability. But there remains an enormous gap between right to food recognition and right to food realization.

Through our participatory consultation process, we identified some of the key challenges and struggles to achieving the right to food. These include:

- 1) Ensuring accountability, policy coherence, democratic food system governance and real, meaningful and robust participation of rights holders in all decision making that affect them
- 2) Realizing rights to resources necessary for small holders, fishers, and pastoralists to produce and harvest food – this includes rights to land, water, seeds, and biodiversity, as well as access to markets and infrastructure
- 3) Protecting human rights defenders, and ensuring freedom of association and speech
- 4) connecting agricultural policies and nutrition policies through supporting agroecology in order to ensure sustainable food systems, healthy and diverse diets and an end to rural poverty
- 5) ending protracted crises, conflicts and climate crises by addressing their root causes – and ensuring human rights even during these situations
- 6) ensuring human rights based social protection schemes
- 7) protecting the rights of indigenous people, including rights to resources and free, prior and informed consent
- 8) and addressing worker’s rights across the food system

In particular, our report details the ways in which women specifically face chronic right to food violations, including widespread violence against women, discrimination and subjugation. For these reason, we both mainstream women’s rights, women’s empowerment and gender equality within the report, as well as address it as an independent issue.

The SDGs alone are not enough to remedy these violations. We must continue to put right to food at the center of our work.

The Right to Food Guidelines remain a crucial tool for ensuring full realization of the right to food for all. In the years since their adoption, the international community has negotiated many new frameworks which further enrich our understanding of what states can and must do to realize the right to food. With the many policy outputs we have negotiated here together, the CFS has provided critical contributions in building this enriched normative framework. Other bodies have also contributed policy guidance and norms to support the implementation of the right to food and to elevate the rights of the most marginalized peoples – these include

CEDAW, with General Recommendation 34 on the Rights of Rural Women, the UN Human Rights Council, with the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, and the UN Special Rapporteurs.

Our report outlines concrete steps for a path forward – with a series of specific recommendations to the CFS, the RBAs and Member States.

These recommendations detail steps in three directions:

- 1) Ensuring that human rights – including women’s rights – remain at the center of policy discussions at the CFS, regional and national level
- 2) Supporting the development of public policy at the national level for right to food realization and
- 3) Addressing accountability, democratic decision making and full and meaningful participation of those most affected by hunger and malnutrition

We need to use these tools – we need to use our knowledge – we need to ensure accountability - and we need to ensure right to food is at the center of our efforts to

- Eradicate hunger and malnutrition
- Ensure human dignity
- And Mitigate climate change

The findings of our report show us that we are not working for achieving for ZERO HUNGER, we are actually working TO INCREASE HUNGER. As we all stand here, in full knowledge of the importance of the Right to Food, and fully aware of the pathway we need to follow, encouraging and congratulating each other – patting each other on the back -- in isolated conference rooms far away from the reality in the ground, the hungry people increase by millions, every year, every day, right this second.

At this point we are well beyond words of encouragement. Let’s just act, and act together.

I would like to end with a poem written by our friend from the Kuna Yala indigenous community, I will read in Spanish

La mujer sin rostro	Lleva tatuado su nombre en los caños de sus manos, está desnuda cubierta de semilla rojas negras, amarillas y blancas. No le interesa las ODS, el CSA o cientos de siglas.	Mujer sin tierra pintada de colores, ella es bambú humo de hojarasca, ella es nube, agua, Mujer árbol, mujer planta mujer de fuego.
Hay una mujer campesina sin rostro, sin nombre que alimenta al mundo. Que renace cada mañana en Uganda, Myanmar Colombia o Palestina.		

La mujer sin rostro
es asesinada mil veces
en México, Argentina
Nigeria y toda europa,
pero renace en Brasil, en
Honduras
o en Sierra Leona.
Tiene mil alientos
es campesina, pescadora,
urbana, arcoíris,
alimenta al mundo de
frijoles,
maíz, arroz, yuca.
Ella lucha por la tierra
el agua, por la vida y el
territorio.
La mujer sin rostro
tiene rostro y tiene
nombre.

La femme sans visage

Il existe une femme
paysanne
sans visage, sans nom,
qui nourrit le monde.
Elle renaît chaque matin
en Ouganda, au Myanmar,
en Colombie ou en
Palestine.
Son nom est tatoué
dans les callosités de ses
mains,
elle est nue,
enveloppée de graines
rouges,
noires, jaunes et blanches.

Elle n'a que faire des ODD,
du CSA
ou de certaines
d'acronymes.
Femme sans terre,
peinte en couleurs,
elle est bambou,
fumée de feuilles mortes,
elle est nuage, eau,
femme arbre,
femme plante,
femme de feu.
La femme sans visage
est assassinée mille fois
au Mexique, en Argentine
au Nigeria et dans toute
l'Europe,
mais renaît au Brésil, au
Honduras
ou en Sierra Leone.
Elle a mille souffles,
elle est paysanne,
pêcheuse,
urbaine, arc-en-ciel,
elle nourrit le monde de
haricots,
de maïs, de riz, de manioc.
Elle lutte pour la terre,
l'eau, pour la vie et le
territoire.
La femme sans visage
a un visage et a un nom.

The faceless woman

There is a peasant woman
faceless, nameless
who feeds the world.
Who is reborn every dawn
in Uganda, Myanmar

Colombia or Palestine.
Her name tattooed
on the callouses of her
hands,
she is nude
veiled in seeds of red
black, yellow and white.
She does not care about
SDGs, the CFS
or hundreds of acronyms.
Landless woman
painted with color,
she is bamboo,
the smoke of fire-fallow,
she is a cloud, water,
tree woman,
plant woman,
fire woman.
The faceless woman
is assassinated a thousand
times
in Mexico, Argentina
Nigeria and all of Europe,
but she is reborn in Brazil,
in Honduras
or in Sierra Leone.
Having a thousand spirits
she is a peasant,
fisherwoman,
urbanite, a rainbow,
she feeds the world with
beans,
corn, rice, yucca.
She fights for the land,
the water, for life and
sovereignty.
The faceless woman
has a face and has a name.