

CSM Statement from the floor at the Global Thematic Event

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While there are many different laws, policies, strategies, and constitutional provisions that support the Right to Food at national level- our assessment has revealed that there remains fragmentation across sectors, as well as a gap between frameworks and implementation. And within those gaps falls many different kinds of violations which were already mentioned in the panel presentation, including the increasing rates of criminalization of human rights defenders- an important issue that we also raised in the 2016 monitoring exercise of the Tenure Guidelines, and unfortunately has not yet changed.

We propose the following concrete suggestions on the way forward.

At global level :

- maintain the Right to Food foundation in all policy outcomes. This requires stronger linkages with the UN human rights system. The technical human rights expertise held by the office of the High Commission of Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the right to food must be strengthened in the processes of the CFS in order to better to inform policy outcomes, including a permanent space in the annual CFS plenary session for a report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food
- It is important to implement and strengthen the CFS' innovative monitoring mechanism and seek synergies with other UN national reviews taking place
- We must ensure that the CFS builds on the emerging normative right to food interpretations by drawing from other instruments, including in particular, CEDAW General Recommendation 34 on the Rights of Rural Women, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and upon adoption, the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas.

At the national level we have the following recommendations on the basis of the monitoring we have lead.

- **states often plan development and infrastructure projects, solicit investment and development assistance, and construct social protection schemes, without regard to their human rights obligations.** To ensure these States need to develop concrete steps to ensure that states respect, protect, and fulfill extraterritorial human rights obligations, including the right to food, in particular in their development, trade, and investment activities, and ensure the participation of affected communities and rights holders in all decision-making.

Specific attention needs to be given to mainstreaming women's rights as well as direct attention as a separate issue:

- Recognize first and foremost women as human beings with their own rights, and not just as mothers and care givers with the responsibility for the food security and nutrition of the households and others;

- Address the root causes of women's inequalities and the imbalance of power relations to increase women's right to food realization