

Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM)
Plenary Statement @CFS47 | 8 February 2021
Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030
Alberto Broch – COPROFAM on behalf of the CSM Global Food Governance Working Group

Dear colleagues,

I would like to extend warm greetings to the CFS Chair, FAO, IFAD, WFP, HLPE and Member States who are present at this 47th CFS Plenary Session. For us, this is a very important space of dialogue and policy recommendations.

A special greeting goes to members of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM), who represent the voices of the most affected by the negative impacts of COVID-19. You will find our proposals in the CSM reports and in the messages of Women and Youth.

Today, COVID-19 continues to severely impact food security and nutrition. Hunger is still rising in the world. According to SOFI 2020 the number of undernourished has increased by 132 million. This is happening right now, at this very moment in time, in our communities and territories.

We need to acknowledge that COVID-19 has exacerbated the food crisis, and that our current food systems continue to exclude those who are responsible for sustainably producing healthy foods.

The pandemic is a global phenomenon that needs a global response. Therefore:

We demand that the CFS adopt a multilateral coordinated response to COVID-19 that addresses people's urgent needs in the most affected countries. This response must take into account the HLPE's contributions, particularly recommendation number 6 of the "Report on the global narrative towards 2030", and recommendation number 4 of the issues paper on "Impacts of Covid-19 on food security and nutrition".

We find it unacceptable that COVID-19 is not on the CFS 47 policy agenda. The CFS must fulfil its mandate to provide a multilateral coordinated policy response in order to support the most vulnerable countries in facing the pandemic.

Failure to address COVID-19 jointly will increase division and inequalities between countries. We are already witnessing inequalities in the distribution and application of the vaccine.

The Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) must include an activity that enables the CFS to develop a policy response to the impacts of COVID-19 that can be implemented on the ground by national governments.

We advocate an in-depth transformation of food systems. The United Nations Decade on Family Farming and other policy frameworks can contribute to overcoming these big challenges.

Colleagues, we need a strong, democratic and inclusive CFS. This is a unique space, which we have built together over the last decade, and which has generated very valuable policy outcomes for our countries and our peoples.

Wishing you all a successful plenary.
Thank you very much.