

Agenda item 1: Impacts on global food security of the conflict in Ukraine (II). Fostering coordinated global policy responses at the CFS

Proposal for speaking points (2-3 different interventions)

1) On the reading of the situation and the HLPE note:

- We have read the HLPE Note with great interest and want to thank the High-Level Panel of Experts for their analysis and suggestions in this critical situation.
- On the **analysis** of the new crisis, we coincide with HLPE on several key aspects, particularly in its approach to understand this crisis, associated with the terrible war against the Ukrainian people, as a new layer of a global food crisis that builds upon previous layers of crisis, including Covid-19 exacerbating deep structural inequalities, the systemic failures in global value chains and international trade rules, the climate crisis, and the many other conflicts and protracted crises.
- The complex understanding of intertwined crises and their interconnected, reciprocal effects lead to an alarming worsening of hunger and malnutrition to which globally coordinated policy responses must be developed and implemented.
- We agree with the HLPE in recognizing the vulnerability of global food systems based on just a few exporting countries and the enormous risks of high food-import dependency of low and middle-income countries. Food price speculation plays an aggravating role, as the Note correctly points out.
- Some analytical aspects are, however, weak in the HLPE note: It could be clearer in characterizing this new layer as mostly a distribution crisis, not only a production crisis; It does not fully address the enormous impacts of the finance crisis, especially for highly indebted food-importing countries. Without a comprehensive cancellation of external debts, many countries are facing huge fiscal constraints for effective policies against growing hunger. The Note does not speak about the sensitive problem of “market-grabbing” when some agro-exporters try to use the moment for taking over the former Ukrainian and Russian export markets. The HLPE note could also be clearer on how to effectively regulate markets and how to build up food stocks.
- **On the way ahead:** We welcome the HLPE approach to address the new layer of crisis through a globally coordinated policy response, underlining the central role of the CFS, with a strong priority on the people and countries most affected, and the view that countries need to look beyond their narrow national interests and consider the global public interests.
- As others, the HLPE calls rightly for a better use of the existing CFS policy outcomes to address the multiple crises. The suggestions to combine short-term priorities and medium- and long-term strategies to build more resilient food systems and a CFS food crisis response framework, provide a good basis for further deliberation.
- In the short term, a moratorium on biofuels, stronger monitoring of current commodity markets and speculation in those markets, more emphasis on financial support to Low-Income Food Deficit Countries and social protection policies are crucial. For the medium and longer term, it is central to advance towards food sovereignty, diversify local production, strengthen small-scale food producers, support territorial markets and agroecology, and decrease dependency from synthetic fertilizers and chemicals. For

these goals to be possible, policies need to be put in place that effectively regulate speculation and guard against highly volatile markets.

- In general, the HLPE provides a substantial contribution for the debate within and outside the CFS and could be used also for the preparation of the CFS High-Level Event, possibly in form of an Extraordinary CFS Plenary, proposed for Spring/Summer 2022.
- The CSIPM is currently initiating popular consultations to gather updated experiences and analyses from the territories in all regions and will be happy to contribute with the diversity of knowledges of our communities and constituencies.

2) On the need for a globally Coordinated Policy Response and a High-Level Event/ Extraordinary Plenary of the CFS

- The Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism welcomes and supports the proposal of the CFS Chair to convene a high-level meeting of the CFS possibly in the form of an Extraordinary Plenary session this Spring/Summer.
- As an expression of deep concern and urgency, the CSIPM Coordination Committee had proposed in a Letter to the CFS Chair on 6 April an Extraordinary Plenary of the CFS to be convened as soon as possible to address the new global emergency and bring together the views and demands of all concerned countries, communities, and actors for a globally coordinated policy response.
- The Chair suggests that this CFS Special Plenary should focus on "examining the current global food systems situation". While we agree with this emphasis, we strongly suggest that Special space and attention should be given to those countries and populations most affected by the new crisis. Governments from food-dependent low- and middle-income countries, from countries with high rates of food insecurity should have a leading role in this Extraordinary Plenary, in sharing their analysis and proposals, and drafting the conclusions.
- The CFS Policy Coordination function, as underlined by the CFS Chair and the HLPE, is essential now. While we see that some coordination efforts are made in the context of G-7 and G-20 setting, they cannot replace the CFS as the most inclusive intergovernmental and international platform where also we, as the multitude of food producing constituencies and the diversity of food system workers, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, consumers, and urban food insecure, have a space and a voice.

3) On the Global Crisis Response Group and the participation of CFS and CSIPM in it

- The CSIPM received the kind invitation of the CFS Chair's to join the UN Secretary General Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, as part of the CFS participation to its Food Working Group and Network.
- The Coordination Committee and respective CSIPM Working Group have held internal consultations about how to respond to this invitation.
- These internal consultations are ongoing, and the CSIPM CC has agreed to send its response to the CFS Chair by end of the coming week.

On Agenda item 2: UNFSS and its implications for CFS

As CSIPM we would like to express once again our concerns regarding the UNFSS follow-up. We recall that the Coordination Hub has no true political mandate or MS oversight, as opposed to the CFS which is a normative space. We also would like to recall the divisiveness of the issue of the UNFSS follow up in the CFS.

In this sense, our strong demand regarding the proposals you have made, Chair, is that the 3rd proposal be set aside. As CSIPM, we would like contribute to your ambition of rebuilding trust within the CFS. Allowing the coalitions to enter the CFS space, however, highly risks exacerbating divisiveness within the CFS due to the different – and sometimes opposing - range of political orientations of the various coalitions, and to their lack of any multilateral legitimation.

On Any Other Business:

- We received the Save-The-Date for a CFS Event on the VGGT on 27 May. Given the outstanding commitment of many of our organizations in the implementation of the Tenura Guidelines, we would like to know more about how the event is being organized and kind request to be included into the preparation and the programme.
- Regarding upcoming meetings and negotiations during the coming months: how is the planning for virtual, hybrid or presential meetings at this moment?