



CFS 51

23-27 October 2023

Side event 04 | Human rights-based food governance – Coordinating policy responses, rebalancing power, and ensuring corporate accountability

Organized by:

- International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food)
- Global Alliance for the Future of Food (GAFF)
- Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism for Relations (CSIPM)
- Mexico

Monday, 23 October; 13.30 – 14.45 (UTC+2)
Iran Room & via Zoom

[Register here](#)

Abstract

Deep power asymmetries in food system governance block the transformation we need. International initiatives are proliferating, but they are often fragmented, neglect the voices of the countries and constituencies most affected by crises, and promote solutions that are incompatible with the long-term transformation needed. Moreover, for decades, the institutions, policies, and norms that affect decision-making about food have been impacted by corporate overreach, undermining the public good and the rights of people and communities (especially those most affected by hunger and malnutrition) to engage in food governance on their own terms.

It is urgent and essential to critically examine the governance architecture of food to guarantee food system decision-making prioritizes the public good and the right to food for all. This side event will examine how the upcoming CFS MYPoW can strengthen its mandate as a global policy coordination body and its role in promoting accountability. Drawing inspiration from successful initiatives such as the World Health Organization's tobacco control frameworks, the side event will explore actionable accountability mechanisms to ensure public-interest-based decision-making.

Objectives

- Build the case for a UN-wide Corporate Accountability Framework to keep the UN free of undue corporate interference and to create mechanisms of legal liability to hold corporations accountable for the impacts of their activities both domestically and abroad;
- Strengthen the role of CFS in global food governance by developing further the policy coordination function in responses to food crises, and by advancing the accountability function of the CFS in the context of the next MYPoW;
- Critically examine public-private partnerships and multi-stakeholder coalitions and the erosion of multilateralism, in the food and health sectors and beyond. Share findings from the IPES-Food publication, *Who's Tipping the Scales?*, which examines the challenges to participation in current decision-making processes.



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