CSIPM Forum 2026 – Public Session

Human Rights, Not Rule of Might: Centring Grassroots Voices in Food Governance

Sunday 18 October 2026 · 16:00–18:00 · Università Roma Tre, Aula Magna del Dipartimento di Architettura, Rome, Italy.

Interpretation in English, Spanish and French

Concept note

The Public Session closes the CSIPM Forum and is open to all CFS Members and Participants. It takes place on the eve of the CFS 54 Plenary.

Wars, occupations, violence, exploitation, the concentration of corporate power and climate disasters are tearing food systems apart. This is when multilateral institutions are needed most: they should be where governments cooperate, where rules are upheld and where power is held accountable guided by the principles of the United Nations, human rights and the 2030 Agenda.

Multilateralism rests on a principle: States are the duty-bearers for human rights, and their obligations apply to all. Today those obligations are being bypassed. Rules are applied selectively and double standards go unchallenged, while corporate power, including that of big tech, gains influence over public decisions.

In the CFS, the voices of the CSIPM express how the right to food is among the first to be violated: hunger is used as a weapon, territories are taken, and a few powerful actors decide what is grown, sold and eaten. The CFS has an explicit mandate on the right to food. It is a platform where human rights principles guide the work, and where organisations on the ground can say directly whether human rights obligations are being met. It is also where rights-holders present their own solutions for resilience and call for policy frameworks that support them. Defending the right to food therefore means defending the rules and the institutions that uphold it.

The session brings governments, UN institutions and CSIPM organisations into dialogue on these questions. The first panel looks at the state of multilateral food governance, and the second at what the CFS should take up next. The session closes with the CSIPM's key messages to the CFS 54 Plenary.

Draft agenda

16:00–16:10 Opening and framing

- Mística: contemplative practice to open the Public Session
- Welcome and framing of the session by the Moderator - Elisabetta Recine (CONSEA)
- Opening remarks by the CFS Chair, **Professor Anas A. Al-Nabulsi**

16:10–17:00 Panel 1 – Multilateralism at a Crossroads: Defending Rights-Based Food Governance

35 minutes of moderated discussion, followed by 15 minutes of discussion with the public

Speakers will discuss where the CFS and the wider multilateral system stand today, and what public institutions must do to defend the public interest. The discussion will focus on three themes: global food governance, the concentration of corporate power, and the weaponisation of food, water and territories.

Speakers

- **Lauren Phillips**, Director Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division, FAO
- **Sofia Monsalve,** Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food
- **CSIPM representatives**

17:00–17:45 Panel 2 – The Future of the CFS in a Reformed UN System

30 minutes of moderated discussion, followed by 15 minutes of discussion with the public

The CFS will soon define its next multi-year programme of work, while the UN system around it is being reformed. Which issues must the CFS take up in the next four years, and how should it connect and coordinate with other UN processes? Speakers will reflect on priorities for the next CFS agenda, including the digitalisation of food systems, the link between the Rio Conventions and the Right to Food, and the rights of peasants, drawing on the lessons of recent CFS negotiations and looking ahead to the upcoming Plenary.

Speakers

- **Representative of Tanzania *(tbc)***
- **H.E. Ambassador of South Africa Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile**
- **Shalmali Guttal, Chair of the UN Working Group on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas**
- **CSIPM representative**

17:45–18:00 Key messages to the CFS 54 Plenary and closing

- **CSIPM representative** – on the focus of the next four years in the CFS and main messages and demands to the CFS 54 Plenary
- Closing remarks