



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

E

FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Thirty-eighth Session

Georgetown, Guyana, 11–13 March 2024 and 18–21 March 2024

Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Organizations

1. In preparation for the 38th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, we – family farmers, peasants, Indigenous Peoples, artisanal fishers, artisanal gatherers, consumers, Afro-descendants, women, youth and urban popular movements – who have always fought for Food Sovereignty and for better living conditions and peace in the territories to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and inequalities, met on 28 and 29 February 2024.
2. Whereas:
 - a. in our region more than 40 million people suffer from hunger and 180 million people are in poverty;
 - b. multiple crises deepen inequalities and conflicts over lands, water, and (land and water) territories; heighten biodiversity loss; aggravate the climate crisis; and sicken and marginalize peoples; and
 - c. the corporate capture and false solutions presented by large corporations curtail social participation and, in turn, fail to change those systemic dynamics that profoundly affect our territories, our food sovereignty and our lives.
3. We, the Civil Society Organizations, declare to the Member Nations that:
 - a. We demand that efficient, inclusive and sustainable production has the firm support of the countries in prioritizing agroecological transition and food sovereignty, and in promoting the production, supply and marketing of food free of agrochemicals and additives, while strengthening the popular, solidarity-based and territorial economy.
 - b. To end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, the governance of land and territories by the peoples is essential and, therefore, we demand a greater political will and a larger public budget to materialize policies to free us from hunger and to produce information that promotes the defence of peoples, the production and trade of food at fair prices, and legal frameworks based on sovereignty and the right to food.
 - c. We call for the creation of national committees on peasant and indigenous family farming, cross-cutting issues of women and youth, and the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, with action plans for sustainable, healthy and solidarity-based rural development. These instances must have:

Documents are available on www.fao.org.

- i. full social participation, without interference from corporations, and with the aim of concretizing rights, differentiated public policies, fair agrarian reforms and the food sovereignty of the peoples, with guarantees for the application of free, prior and informed consent;
 - ii. tenure and governance of land, territories, seas, rivers and other common goods;
 - iii. climate financing;
 - iv. the protection of native seeds;
 - v. technical assistance, public procurement, and marketing of agricultural, livestock and fishery products, with agroecological, intersectional, gender and generational approaches; and
 - vi. likewise, to recognize care as the centre of reproduction of life, considering the leading role of rural women and youth.
- d. We request – for the reduction of inequalities and rural poverty and the promotion of resilience – the implementation of capacity-building policies based on food sovereignty, considering interculturality and investments in policies to strengthen associations and cooperatives, public procurement and the food supply, while expanding the participation of women and youth in decision-making. We also request a review of free trade agreements to safeguard our territories, and productive, economic, cultural and environmental practices that guarantee food sovereignty.
- e. We recommend keeping “food governance” as a regional priority. To achieve this, we call for the creation of a permanent, participatory and multisectoral regional mechanism that engages the entire FAO policy cycle, assesses specific national public policy scenarios and policies, expands partnerships for regional and local policy dialogue, produces and disseminates data recognizing ancestral sciences, practices and knowledge, and recommends policy instruments based on food sovereignty.
- f. We reiterate the need to implement international instruments – such as the United Nations Decade of Family Farming; the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas; the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication; the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration; the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security; the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition; the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples; the Resolution of the Fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5); and other frameworks – and incorporate them into other spaces that guarantee our rights, such as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).
- g. Data governance must ensure the human right to adequate food. Digital technologies must be employed with accessibility, inclusion, a revaluation of traditional knowledge and social participation, while recognizing peoples as holders of rights over the data and knowledge they generate. We call for the promotion of training processes and access to appropriate technological innovations, with cultural relevance, intellectual property data, knowledge and systems of the peoples.
- h. We, the Civil Society Organizations, reaffirm our commitment to continue collaborating in the construction of instruments for a political solution that guarantees the rights of the peoples, to which end it is essential for us to preserve our territories and common goods. That is why we demand from FAO a new International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (CIRAD +20).

4. And finally, we request effective participation in the preparation of the Report of the Regional Conference, and for FAO to count on our contributions throughout the process of the preparation and implementation of its Regional Priorities.