

## Invitation to nominate participants in the Civil Society Forum, to be held in Rome on 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2010

### Background

During 2009 the **Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** underwent reform to make it more effective by including a wider group of stakeholders and increasing its ability to promote policies that reduce food insecurity. The vision of the reformed CFS is to be the foremost and most inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. Its roles include the promotion of policy and strategic coordination and coherence, the sharing of best practices developing a global strategic framework for attaining food security and encouraging accountability for delivery on commitments. It is understood to be a year-round process, building links between participatory policy spaces at local, national, regional and global levels.

As agreed in the CFS reform document, civil society is building its own autonomous mechanism for participation in CFS activities, discussion, negotiation and decision-making – see the full proposal for the **International Food Security and Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism** at <http://cso4cfs.org> The essential role of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) is to facilitate the participation of CSOs in the work of the CFS, including input to negotiation and decision-making. As indicated in Draft 1 of the Civil Society Mechanism, an executive body called the Coordination Committee is foreseen to oversee the work of the CSM on a continuous basis. The Coordination Committee will be composed of members from the 11 civil society constituencies listed in the CFS reform document and from 16 sub-regions. Please see attached draft Terms of Reference for the Coordination Committee.

An International Food Security & Nutrition **Civil Society Forum** will be held in Rome on 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2010. This Forum would be held immediately prior to the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which will take place also in Rome from 11<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> October. The purpose of the Forum is: *To organise ourselves as civil society organisations and networks in order to participate in and influence effectively the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFS in October 2010 and the on-going work programme of the CFS, particularly during 2010 / 11.* The following items are proposed for the agenda of the Forum:

- Endorsement of the proposal for an International Food Security & Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism, which will facilitate civil society participation in the CFS and discussion on how to build it up from national to regional to global levels over the coming year. For a copy of the Draft 1 of the proposal please see <http://cso4cfs.org/>
  - Definition of the process for selecting the members of the Mechanism's Coordination Committee.
  - Discussion of issues, which are on the agenda of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFS. For more information on agenda items please see <http://cso4cfs.org/cfs-updates/>

## Invitation

We are writing to you to invite your organisation to nominate participants in the Civil Society Forum, to be held in Rome on 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

### *Nomination of participants for the Civil Society Forum*

We have identified contact point organisations/networks for each constituency and each sub-region – please see attached list of contact points. They have been identified as being important networks with a strong record of concern for food security / nutrition issues, and have been chosen based on the following criteria:

- Contact points have a good knowledge of civil society organisations / networks in their sub-region
- Contact points are willing and able to ensure that there is a fair and balanced representation by region, constituency, organisation and gender
- Priority is given to peoples' organisations and social movements, i.e. self-organised networks of people most directly affected by, and concerned with, food security and nutrition
- For constituencies we have selected global networks wherever possible but have selected regional or national networks where i) there is no global network, ii) a national or regional/sub-regional network has actively been involved in the process, or iii) we are unaware of one.
- For sub-regions we have selected networks, which have their own identity at regional or sub-regional level and are not just breakdowns of global networks. In cases where we have not been able to find a sub-regional network we have selected national CSOs.
- Where there is no representative of a self-organised organisation or network, or we are unaware of one, we have identified contact points who have a good knowledge of civil society in the sub-region, and can help ensure participation of a broad range of peoples organisations and social movements in the Forum.
- There is at least one organisation / network per constituency and sub-region. We have often selected two in order to ensure broad representation.

During the Forum there will be approximately 100 seats for delegates, i.e. voting participants. There will be an unlimited number of non-voting participants. The number of voting participants per constituency and sub-region is proportionate to the number of seats proposed for the Coordination Committee of the Civil Society Mechanism in the Draft 1 proposal. Please see the Annex to this letter to see the number of voting participants

The number of voting participants to be selected by each contact point organisation / network is stated in the attached list of contact points.

When nominating voting participants we suggest the following of each contact point:

- Try and ensure that there is participation by a range of organisations, constituencies, regions and that there is a gender balance, giving priority to women where possible

- Consider the Organising Principles stated in the Draft 1 proposal of the Civil Society Mechanism, particularly the desire to ensure that a wide range of voices and views can be heard during the Forum
- Take into account the selection criteria for Coordination Committee members in the draft Terms of Reference.
- If possible, try and contact the other contact points for your constituency or sub-region in order to coordinate

Please note that the Organising Committee of the Forum will conduct a review of the nominations, to ensure fair and balanced representation by region, constituency, organisation and gender. If necessary the Organising Committee may have discussions with contact points to find ways of ensuring this.

People nominated will receive an invitation letter to attend the Forum as voting participants, which means that they will be entitled to vote on the decisions which will be made at the Forum. Nominated delegates from developing countries will be eligible to receive funding for their participation. However, given the current shortage of funding we cannot guarantee that all those nominated will be able to receive financial support. Therefore, please rank the names of those proposed as Forum participants in order of preference.

#### *Developing a process for selecting members of the CSM Coordination Committee*

During the Forum the participants from each constituency and sub-region will discuss and decide what process to put into action in order to select their Coordination Committee member and which constituency and sub-regional networks need to be involved in the consultation process. They will also nominate a focal person to be responsible for facilitating the selection process. This person will sit in the Coordination Committee on an interim basis until the selection process has been concluded. NB. Focal points do not necessarily have to be attending the Forum.

We would be grateful if you could confirm your nominations by **6<sup>th</sup> September 2010**. We apologise for the short time frame, which is necessary in order to ensure that people can receive their invitation letters and visas in good time. Please send the contact details (name, email address, telephone number etc) to [cso4cfs@gmail.com](mailto:cso4cfs@gmail.com) with "Civil Society Forum nominees" in the subject line. When sending in your nominations please indicate the criteria by which you were guided in selecting them.

Yours sincerely

Beatriz Gasco (IPC)  
Chris Leather (Oxfam)  
George Dixon Fernandez (MIJARC)  
Mamadou Cissokho (ROPPA)

Civil Society members of the CFS Advisory Group  
<http://cso4cfs.org>  
[cso4cfs@gmail.com](mailto:cso4cfs@gmail.com)



### Annex: Number of voting participants in the Forum per constituency & sub-region

Constituency	Number of Coordination Cttee members proposed in Draft 1	Total number of Forum participants
Farmers*	4	12
Fisherfolk	2	6
Indigenous	2	6
Herders/Pastoralists:	2	6
Landless:	2	6
Youth:	2	6
Consumers:	2	6
Urban Poor:	2	6
NGOs:	2	6
Women:	2	6
Agricultural and Food Workers:	2	6
	24	72

Sub-region	Number of Coordination Cttee members proposed in Draft 1	Total number of Forum participants
North America	1	2
Central America and Carribean	1	2
Andean Region	1	2
Southern Cone	1	2
Western Europe	1	2
Eastern Europe	1	2
West Asia	1	2
South Asia	1	2
South East Asia	1	2
Central Asia	1	2
Oceania and Pacific	1	2
Southern Africa	1	2
West Africa	1	2
East Africa	1	2
Central Africa	1	2
North Africa	1	2
	16	32

**Total**

**104**

\* As per the Draft 1 proposal, priority is being given to peasant and indigenous food producers and workers affected by hunger and marginalization because they represent 80% of the hungry people in the world and produce the largest proportion of the food in the world.