

 <p>CFS Committee on World Food Security</p>	<p>Secretary, CFS UN-FAO, Room C314 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, Italy</p> <p>Tel: 0039 06 5705 6673 Fax: 0039 06 5705 5522 Website: www.fao.org/cfs Email: cfs@fao.org</p>
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Open letter from the CFS Chair to the NGO/CSO community worldwide

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to draw your attention to the reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

Paragraph 16 of the CFS Reform document states:

“Civil society organizations/NGOs and their networks will be invited to autonomously establish a global mechanism for food security and nutrition which will function as a facilitating body for CSO/NGOs consultation and participation in the CFS. Such mechanisms will also serve inter-sessional global, regional and national actions in which organizations of those sectors of the population most affected by food insecurity, would be accorded priority representation. Civil society organizations/NGOs will submit to the CFS Bureau a proposal regarding how they intend to organize their participation in the CFS in a way that ensures broad and balanced participation by regions and types of organizations keeping in mind the principles approved by the CFS at its Thirty-Fourth Session in October 2008 (CFS: 2008/5; CL 135/10: paragraph 15). The activities of the mechanism will include:

- i. broad and regular exchange of information, analysis and experience;*
- ii. developing common positions as appropriate;*
- iii. communicating to the CFS and, as appropriate, its Bureau through representatives designated by an internal self-selection process within each civil society category;*
- iv. convening a civil society forum as a preparatory event before CFS sessions if so decided by the civil society mechanism”.*

In view of the above, we invite you to constitute the referred mechanism and submit its terms of reference to the CFS Bureau, with enough time for the mechanism to be in place by the 36th CFS session, October, 11-14th, 2010. It is the understanding of this Bureau that consultations for that purpose are already underway.

I also would like to inform you that one of the first duties of the 36th CFS Bureau is to establish an Advisory Group to provide input to the Bureau regarding the range of tasks that the CFS plenary has instructed it to perform (see Annex 1, paragraph 32). It has been decided that NGOs/CSOs shall have four (4) representatives in this Advisory

Group. CSOs/NGOs that were members of the former Contact Group for the CFS Reform¹ (see list in Annex 3) are being invited to appoint by the 25th February four NGO/CSO representatives who, until the global CSO/NGO mechanism for food security and nutrition is in place, shall act as 'ad interim' representatives of CFS participant category ii) (see para 11 of CFS reform document).

I and the rest of the Bureau look forward to fruitful collaboration with you.

Best regards,

Noel De Luna
Chair of the Committee on World Food Security

Attachments:

Annex 1: Reform of the Committee on World Food Security
Annex 2: Terms of Reference and Structure of the CFS Advisory Group

¹ ActionAid International; Ad Hoc Group of INGOs in formal status to FAO; IEH - Instituto de Estudios del Hambre; International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP); International NGO/CSO Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC); Oxfam International; Save the Children/Concern/Action Against Hunger; Via Campesina; Women Organizing For Change In Agriculture And Natural Resources Management (WOCAN)