

## **Conclusions from the Working Group of the CSO Forum to Prepare CSO Positions for the Round Table on the Global Strategic Framework**

Civil society expects the member States in the reformed CFs to immediately engage in the process of elaborating, negotiating and approving the Global Strategic Framework on Food and Nutritional Security.

1. Food security cannot be separated either from the right to food or the rights of agricultural and food workers to decent work and living wages.

We are concerned about the absence of reference to fundamental rights :

- total absence of any reference to the Universal Right of all human beings to adequate, affordable nutrition and the obligation of governments to ensure that the right is defended and fulfilled.
- the concept note does not reflect a broader range of rights based frameworks in particular the ILO Conventions.
- the rights for those who produce the world's food. Agricultural and food workers are those who help to feed the world yet they and their families are amongst the most malnourished and food insecure. Surely it is one of the cruellest ironies that this who feed the world, agricultural and food workers and small farmers have the least resources to feed themselves and their families.

Agricultural workers should be guaranteed the right to a living wage, which would provide income to support themselves and their families. Yet agriculture is often excluded from coverage of national labour law in particular occupational, health and safety regulation. Safe food means also safe working condition for those who produce it.

2. Missing references :

- Need to recall the resolution of the ILC 2008 committee on rural employment for poverty reduction
- the Memorandum of Understanding between the ILO and FAO signed in September 2004
- the reform of the Food Aid Convention
- analyses and positions already elaborated by civil society, including those most affected by food insecurity, for example the working document on "*Policies and Actions to eradicate hunger and malnutrition*"

It is crucial to note that the documents listed in the concept note are different in nature, and should serve different purposes for the elaboration of the GSF. For example, whereas the CFA is a range of policy options compiled by UN agencies, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food stem from the legal Right to Food which governments are bound to respect, protect and fulfill. The Right to Food and its Voluntary Guidelines should thus provide the basis for a set of core principles for the GSF, which should guide any policy options it includes. The Right to Food and its Guidelines should also, therefore, represent an accountability tool against which actions under the GSF, and by extension the CFS as a whole, should be assessed. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food should therefore be afforded a specific role in the process to elaborate the GSF led by HLPE.

3. The governments must sovereignly negotiate and decide, at global level, what they must do together to place people, and the promotion of the human right to adequate food for all, and related rights, above sectoral and private interests. Governments must also have the political capacity to jointly decide what actions and processes must be stopped to eradicate hunger.

At the same time, governments, at national level, have the obligation to sovereignly decide how they will establish their own strategies to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, while promoting the right to adequate food and related rights, with the participation of their own people.

But we have no doubt that it is clear to all CFs State members that national governments alone will not be able to achieve the expected results, if policy coherence, public regulation and technical and financial cooperation are not thoroughly revisited at the international level and be truly supportive of the country led strategies. And this can only be done through bold collective political decisions.

**4. “Elaboration of the Global Strategic Framework should include a broad participatory process that will strive to “ensure the voices of all food producers; the most affected by food insecurity – are heard”.** We the civil society organization representatives of the most affected by food insecurity find unacceptable that civil society constituencies are not mentioned to participate and are concerned by the timing and the process of elaboration of the GSF. Also

- The need to involve the High Level panel of Experts and the UN special Rapporteur on the Right to Food in the elaboration of the GSF Draft zero.
- The schedule and time should ensure that there is enough consultation and time to modify and respond among the stakeholders, especially those constituents that represent food producers. Therefore we ask the consultation process to start in February and is extended until the end of June of 2011
- The CSM should be the official mechanism for which civil society should be consulted. We not only need time to enable the consultation process to take place among small scale food producers; but also effort should be made to ensure that funds are put in place to ensure we engage in the process
- Lastly the civil society organisation is eager to have the Global strategic framework, in place and thus urge that the time proposed for the presentation of the GSF which is October 2012, is adhered to.

Civil society, CSOs and social movements are willing and eager to continue providing our active contribution to this process, at all levels, based on our concrete experiences. We will also take all steps necessary to continue to hold our governments to account, both at national and international level.