

Conclusions from the Working group of the CSO Forum to prepare CSO Position for the discussions for the Round Table Managing vulnerability and risks to promote better food security and nutrition – CFS 36, October 2010

1. Regarding the recommendation on price volatility

Given the recognition of the importance of the price volatility, it is even more important to look at the causes of it. The HLPE should be asked to have a thorough analysis of the causes of volatility, including issues as interlinkage between financial and physical markets; increased demand for non-food agricultural products (eg. agrofuels); the liberalisation of agricultural markets; the changes in international food reserves,...

The HLPE should also not only address the risks related to price volatility, but also addressing the volatility itself. It should therefore come with proposals to limit the price volatility, that should include : the regulation of financial markets and of speculation on food markets; food reserves management from local, national, regional and international levels; trade related instruments including variable levies and supply management instruments; sound investment policies that reinforce the resilience of small holder producers to price shocks.

2. Regarding the recommendation on climate change

While the discussion of the effects of climate change to vulnerable sectors is extensive, there is a lack of discussion on the drivers and causes of climate change. One of the main drivers and causes of climate change is the unsustainable industrial and agricultural policies and lifestyles, mainly in richer countries of the world, for example, the peoples' diets in many developed countries have too much protein from animal origin, leading to direct and indirect GHG emissions.

There should be more recognition of the roles that women play in food security and the initiatives or solutions they offer

Therefore we invite the Committee to:

Commission the HLPE to make proposals on the best design of a range of interlinked policies and programs (in agriculture, nutrition, research and development, trade, finance , institutional arrangements, agro-fuels) for the adaptation to , mitigation of , and reduction of risks and vulnerabilities caused by climate change. The proposed policies and programs should be based on a thorough review of climate change's drivers, causes, and impacts particularly to women and children in rural communities with clear reference to the work of the IAASTD, as well as of the solutions and initiatives being done, particularly by women, at local, national and international levels. This should include identifying pathways to ensure that food security and nutrition are considered in national and international adaptation and mitigation policies.

3. Regarding the recommendation to set up a CFS working Group.

Two tasks are being proposed to the Working Group. The general task of this Working Group should be to propose policies to prevent and reduce price volatility and to reduce impacts of price volatility, for adoption and implementation by CFS. We remind members that the CFS is the main global policy space on Food Security and should seize its responsibility to coordinate and adopt policies.

We insist also on the greatest importance that the proposed CFS Working Group includes all the concerned intergovernmental institutions concerned by the struggle against Food Insecurity, as well as the CSOs (participants at the CFS). This is required to make it possible to the CFS to coordinate properly the concerned institutions, to ensure its leadership on this issue and for the CFS members to have a policy dialogue with these institutions.

We believe indeed that it has sense that the CFS Working Group look first to the analysis and the proposals of the HLPE and make his own proposals before to identify the needed changes on institutional level.

4. Regarding the recommendation on vulnerability

Since civil society can not accept the fact that the vulnerability is considered inevitable and conform to ask governments for a social protection strategy that includes safety nets that protect the rights of the poor.

We have a responsibility to reduce structural vulnerability, not just cyclical. The free-market recipes have been a frontal attack on public policies for food, health, education. Today we know that the food crisis of 2008, driven primarily by speculation, caused more hunger than any other factor. It is a political responsibility to end it, just as the deregulation of the market, which affects the global crisis.

Therefore we ask governments to implement policies that ensure the common goods and to combat the vulnerability in all areas: health, education, standard of living, food, environment ... The CFS and governments need to ensure these with the participation of civil society.

We insist that the CFS provides the foremost importance to address vulnerability by enabling small holders producers to access the resources necessary for production, by ensuring fair and stable prices both for small holder producers and for consumers. To ensure stable prices at the international level is necessary to establish measures to regulate markets and production.