

Conclusions from the Working Group of the CSO Forum to Prepare CSO Positions for the Round Table on the Protracted Crisis – CFS 36, October 2010

1. The recommendation to support deeper analysis of people's livelihoods and coping mechanisms is welcome. However, there is also a need to **analyse the root causes** of protracted crisis to identify the policies, actions and actors and duty bearers contributing to the crisis. Preferably preventing crises from escalating into prolonged crisis by involving all stakeholders of society (not just governments) and especially Civil Society.

- Impartial definitions, criteria and analysis are vital in the identification of protracted crises. Criteria or definitions need to cover regional crises or sub-national crises. Some protracted crises are excluded from the list of 22 countries, for example the situation of the Palestinian people.
- The analysis should not only consider the local or national causes of crises but also look at how international policies and actions contribute to chronic hunger and food insecurity. For example, the impacts of climate change and the responsibilities of industrialised countries should be recognised.

2. **Respect the rights of people** affected by protracted crises and they should be involved in decision making to ensure their sovereignty over resources and livelihood. People affected by protracted crises should be put at the centre and actively involved in defining the solutions.

3. In order to promote food and livelihood security in protracted crises, **the policies and actions which contribute to crisis must be changed**. We welcome the fact that the SOFI report and the background paper emphasize the need to support people's livelihood in protracted crises. However, we also recommend :

- Invest in small-scale sustainable food production at the community level building upon local knowledge and expertise. All governments should spend a significant share of their budgets to support small-scale sustainable food production as African governments committed to do in the Maputo declaration. It should be noted that many African governments have not yet met their Maputo commitment.
- Governments in countries responsible for carbon emissions leading to climate change need to reduce their emissions and provide finance to help developing countries mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change.
- International law should be respected in order to address the root causes of protracted crises. International law should be consistently applied.

4. International organisations should work in close collaboration with civil society organisations and local communities to **improve the appropriateness and effectiveness of international assistance**.

- The recommendations to place more emphasis on protecting and promoting livelihoods during emergencies, as well as meeting immediate food needs through food aid and other forms of food assistance...
- ... as are the recommendations to strengthen local institutions and organisations. It is important to emphasise the need to avoid creating dependency upon external aid.
- There is a need to improve coordination between international organisations and reform funding mechanisms to ensure that long term aid is available in order to support livelihoods.

5. Civil society should be involved in the high level expert group, which develops the Agenda for Action and ensures that the principles and modalities outlined above are taken into account.

- The CFS Advisory Group should be requested to establish the high level expert group, ensuring that civil society actors are included.
- The expert group should prepare the agenda as the basis for high level, inter-government discussions in the CFS. The Agenda for Action should be part of, and coherent with, the Global Strategic Framework to be developed by the CFS.