

Civil Society contribution to the draft 1 background paper on FPV
(12.08.2011)

General remarks :

Some of the remarks made by CSOs have not been incorporated in the proposal. Therefore these are repeated hereunder :

- The CFS background document should further build on the work of the HLPE, and takes this report as outline. This is a way to fully recognize the mandate given by the CFS to the HLPE. The background document should further be complemented by inputs provided by the IA paper for the G20, the FAO regional consultation on FPV conclusions and the Cordoba report on FPV.
- Background document should aim at providing elements for debate and decisions on analysis of short term and long term causes of FPV and policy recommendation in light of national and international policy framework for food and nutritional security, for sustainable agricultural systems.
- It should therefore aim at identifying the fundamental political debate, and not just focus on specific instruments. Ex. what should be the role of international trade in addressing local food price volatility? What production models should be supported for increased resilient food systems?
- This implies that we aim in the TT to identify these policy issues first before drafting specific decision boxes. That the decision boxes might provide clear options, depending on the policy perspectives and choices.

As CSOs we think it is essential that the debate recognizes that:

- The responses should in priority be rooted in strengthening local, sustainable, small producers systems by making them more resilient, that national and regional responses should strengthen food security and agricultural policies and national/regional markets, and that international responses are in the first place aimed at addressing the responsibilities of the major food exporting countries towards the vulnerability of LIFDC.
- The responses should be consistent with investing in resilient, sustainable, productive, carbon low, smallholders agriculture, address market power issues, inequalities in access to productive resources, that can further exacerbate inequalities related to risks and volatility
- The issue is not only related to food price volatility, but also related to food price levels (should enable decent income for smallholders and access for consumers) and to integrating positive and negative externalities
- Governance of policies and of specific instruments should, where relevant, be inclusive

The first draft draws mainly on the analysis of the IA paper, and is not sufficiently taking into account the HLPE paper as well as the CSO guiding principles.

The Decision Box needs review in light of the debate around the different points that are highlighted below :

- Better incorporate the need to address the demand side of the FPV
- Better incorporate the inequity aspects related to the impacts of FPV, both for poor and vulnerable households as countries

- Focus on the need to develop appropriate policy responses according to the specific situations of vulnerable people and countries (no one size fits all recommendations)
- Need to reinforce the role of the CFS as the foremost international forum to address food and nutritional security
- Recognize the need to take precautionary measures to tackle excessive speculation and market abuses
- Better recognise the role food reserves can play, in the first place rooted into enhanced local and resilient food systems. Build up local storage systems towards national and international food reserves systems.
- Revise the domestic support and trade policies in light of the analysis and recommendations of the HLPE
- Recognize the need to consider externalities to promote sustainable, resilient, smallholders food systems
- Expand the biofuel chapter to increasing demand for feedstocks and to high losses in the food chain
- The food information system should include data from private sector and the proposed RRF should be part of the CFS
- Investment in agriculture should more explicitly support agro-ecology
- Need for a revised FAC needs to be elaborated in the document
- Add a chapter on governance, including the role the CFS should play in averting future price shocks.

Specific remarks :

See proposed changes in track changes in the text annexed