

MERGED CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT ON THE GSF PROCESS

Civil society organisations and social movements together insist that the Global Strategic Framework is at the heart of the reformed CFS.

GSF development is a critical step towards achieving a new paradigm on global food, agriculture and nutrition governance reflecting related CFS 35 decisions, to be enshrined in more democratic and coherent policies and coordinated responses rooted in human rights, dignity and respect for peoples' sovereignty and participation .

Critical discussions have taken place and decisions will be adopted this week on key related issues. The GSF offers the opportunity to showcase this consensus and coordinate appropriate responses. Such a framework will support governments in the fulfilment of their obligations for the realisation of the Human Right to Food..

Civil Society commends the efforts of the CFS Bureau together with the AG and supported by the CFS secretariat to elaborate the Global Strategic Framework in accordance with the decision of the 36th CFS session.

We hereby reaffirm the CSO commitment to participate in the CSF Task Team's work – the elaboration of the GSF Drafts 1 and 2 – on the basis of the proposed broad consultation process, notably the face-to-face consultations foreseen during the regional FAO conferences in early 2012.

To ensure that the CFS reaches its potential as the leading forum for discussion and decisions on food security and nutrition, the GSF must remain a flexible evolving document capturing not only the current policy consensus but which also identifies key emerging food security and nutrition policy areas..

Civil society organizations have participated in the CFS-led on-line consultation but have considered its methodologies as insufficient insofar as they did not either recognise the important role of the CSM in facilitating the autonomous participation of CSO/NGOs in such an important process, or take into account the need to guarantee an equitable participation of those most affected by the food insecurity - who are less likely to have internet access

Consequently, the Civil Society GSF Working Group facilitated by the CSM is running an autonomous consultation which has generated a working document outlining the importance of the GSF while articulating various

civil society positions on food security and nutrition.

We encourage governments to strengthen their efforts to promote a participatory, transparent, and inclusive process so as to build a GSF that will enable your efforts to end world hunger and malnutrition

In this context, we invite all governments prior to the above regional conferences to proactively engage at national level with CSOs and social movements, with special attention those most affected by hunger and food insecurity. We further invite governments to mobilise the resources needed to guarantee civil society participation in these regional consultations, in particular of food producers and other groups suffering food insecurity.