

**INTERVENTIONS AND MAIN CRITICAL POINTS OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION MEMBERS OF THE GSF TASK TEAM  
25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**Added value of the GSF**

Intervention:

Civil Society Organizations welcome the Guidelines on GSF proposed by the Secretariat. They highlight two key words: to align and to orient. The GSF should try to bring together different issues already agreed upon and orient the work of governments and non-state actors. The GSF is useful for the CFS itself because it will orient its work. It can also be used to orient states with policy decisions at the national level. Controversial issues are important and the GSF affords us a space to explore these issues. Although we may not come to a consensus, due to different views, on causes of hunger and how can we solve it for instance, it is nonetheless important to spell out these divergent opinions and perhaps propose them for discussion within the CFS.

**Human Right Framework**

Intervention:

We welcome the incorporation of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food into the GSF. We believe that the human right framework should be the foundation on which the GSF is built. The voluntary guidelines on the progressive realization of the right to food gives a good orientation for the GSF because it departs from a comprehensive diagnostic and mapping of the structural causes of hunger and proposes a structure for addressing the issue. This is coherent with the mandate of the CFS and the aims of the GSF. In addition, this was negotiated and adopted by the governments themselves. We thus invite all governments to mobilize the resources needed to guarantee civil society participation in these regional conferences, in particular of food producers and other groups suffering food insecurity

**Gender and Nutrition**

Intervention:

We welcome the fact that gender is included as an issue in the Policy Recommendations section. But we must go further. We believe that in order to address the particular needs and realize the unlocked potential of women, gender must be mainstreamed throughout the document, as the perspective through which all the issues in the document will be addressed.

Women and children are the most affected by the root causes of hunger and malnutrition. Women bear an enormous responsibility in achieving food security and adequate nutrition for their families. They make up to almost half of the labour force in agriculture and they carry the greatest burden of care and reproductive roles. Women must be protected against all forms of discrimination, including violence and the right to maternity leave for wages agricultural workers. Women should have equal rights regarding access to land, resources, education and health as well as included in the decision-making process.

**Multilateral Systems**

Discussion:

Civil Society demands a more democratic process that involved all 192 governments of the UN and Civil Society. Governments are to utilise the CFS as the most important intergovernmental and international platform for the promotion of food and nutritional security, in line with their human rights obligations. We don't want to center our discussions on whether or not G20, WEF or others are coherent with the RtF and not to reduce the role of

the multilateral system (CFS) but we should reaffirm the centrality of the CFS in relation to all those. We must reaffirm the centrality of the CFS, as the multilateral space to give the final word in food and nutritional security and even in negotiation with others. The final political responsibility must be with the governments and harmonize them through the CFS centrality

Intervention:

Centrality of the CFS needs to be highlighted. Who is the GSF for? It is also for the CFS itself. We are drafting a framework that is for all of us, non-state actor, governments, private sector etc. CFS is the center of the multilateral system. It is dangerous to water down the meaning of multi-lateral. If everything that is international is multi-lateral, then we give less importance of what the actual meaning of a multilateral organisation is.