

Food and Nutrition Security taking as a base the respect to food sovereignty and the promotion of the human right to food in the international scope: proposal of an agenda of actions for CONSEA and the Brazilian Government

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Introduction

The present document presents a proposal of principles and axis of action which should orientate the agenda of the internal line of action of the National Council on Food and Nutrition Security - CONSEA and, consequently, the positioning of the Brazilian Government.

Since its re-creation in 2003, CONSEA dedicates attention to the factors in the international scope which condition the food and nutrition security based on food sovereignty and the promotion of the human right to food - DHAA, presenting propositions and participating in international cooperation. In 2004, the Council supported the Brazilian Government's international actions, related to poverty and hunger, as well as manifested its willingness to be an active part in the consultations in respect to the commercial negotiations in course with the World Trade Organization (WTO), MERCOSUL (Common South Market) and the European Union, alerting them on the possible impacts on food and nutrition security - SAN.

In 2005, it elaborated a document entitled: "Considerations on Food and Nutrition Security in the international negotiations integrated by Brazil", debated in a plenary meeting in the presence of H.E. the President of the Republic, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

In the global food crisis context CONSEA presented, in 2008, specific propositions to be defended as negotiating positions of Brazil in the WTO. As well as this, it elaborated a diagnosis pointing out to the systemic nature of the crisis and the importance of facing the theme in a global manner, especially because of the international repercussion of the national decisions. Recognizing the inter sector characteristic of the food and nutrition security in the context of the food and energy crisis, CONSEA also elaborated, in 2008, a document entitled: "Agro food Model and the production of agro-fuels, questions and impacts on the Food and Nutrition Security".

The food and economic crisis, which overrode the first, occupied a great space in the Council's debates in 2008, including during the "World Food Week", last October. According to the preliminary statistics divulged by the Report of the United Nations Agriculture and Food Organization - FAO, about the State of Food Insecurity in the World, in 2008, the rise in the prices of food, as well as the financial crisis, provoked an increase in the number of the starved population.

It is worrying the risk of entering a scenario of weakening of rights, among them the right to food, food sovereignty and the right to produce and to territories, making us search for other safeguards, not only those of the commercial types.

The crisis provoked by the financial speculation originated in the rich countries, spreads all over the world causing a deep recession and the unemployment of millions

of labor. The thesis of the minimum State and of free market is being put in question when the banks and great corporations turn to the public power in search of help for their survival. The reduction in the economic activity and the increase in the dismissals put in risk the few advances made in the food and nutrition security area. In this sense, there is a world tendency of a reduction in the interest rates aiming to minimize the worsening of the crisis. This is a demand of the social movements and labor unions which have not yet been answered by the Brazilian Government, and this could also harm the advances obtained by the social programs in Brazil, through a reduction of investments in this sector.

The relevance attributed by CONSEA to these matters, added to the expectation of the role which could be played by Brazil, internationally, in the perspective of a differentiated insertion which puts emphasis in the eradication of hunger and on the promotion of sovereignty and food and nutrition security and the human right to food.

The document was prepared by a work group formed by representatives of the civil society and of various government sectors, in the scope of the Permanent Committee on Food and Nutrition Security in the development strategies of CONSEA, to be submitted to the Council's Plenary. It is organized in a manner to cope with the two objectives previously mentioned, that is, define the principles and the international axis of action of CONSEA and, according to what is attributed to the Council, present to the Brazilian Government propositions in this field which are consistent with such principles and axis.

Institutional Framework

We established in Brazil a concept which inserts the food and nutrition security as an objective of public policies oriented by the promotion of the human right to adequate food - DHAA and food sovereignty. The inter sector focus which considers the multiple dimensions involved allows to overcome not only the sectional visions of food security centered in the availability of food products, but also the merely emergency steps of hunger relief.

We also understand that adequate and healthy food will only be a universal human right when it is secured in the local, regional, national and international scopes. Therefore the importance of the institution and strengthening of the national and regional food and nutrition security (SAN) which allow the states to take over their obligations to their citizens and make it possible to achieve the DHAA (Human Right to Adequate Food) by means of SAN public policies. These are the terms established by LOSAN (Federal Law on Food and Nutrition Security)¹.

In its 5th article, LOSAN establishes that the consecution of the human right to adequate food and the food and nutrition security requires the respect to sovereignty, which confers to countries the primacy on their decisions over the production and consumption of food. The 6th article says that the Brazilian State should try hard to promote technical cooperation with foreign countries, contributing therefore, to the accomplishment of the human right to adequate food in an international scope.

In these terms, the commercial relations and of any other nature with other countries and also the actions of the country in the international scenario are integrating parts of SISAN (National System on Food and Nutrition Security), at present under construction in Brazil. In this direction, the deliberations of the III National Conference

¹ Law no. 11.346, of September 15th, 2006.

on Food and Nutrition Security² established that one of the six guidelines of the future National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security would be: “To promote the sovereignty and the food and nutrition security in an international scope”, and for this it presented various proposals which orientate the Brazilian State to promote its food sovereignty and to contribute with the achievement of the human right to food in an international plan.

The Brazilian Federal Constitution of 1988 states, in its 4th article, that: “The Federative Republic of Brazil is ruled in its international relations by the following principles: (...) II – prevalence of human rights, (...) IX – cooperation among the peoples for the progress of humanity (...)”.

In terms of the international references, the Human Rights Universal Declaration, which will complete 60 years in 2008, establishes in Article 25, § 1^o that “every person has the right to a sufficient life level to secure to his family, health and welfare, especially regarding food”.

In 1992, Brazil adhered to the International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, from 1966, and its article 11 establishes that the signatory states recognize everyone’s right to an adequate life level for themselves and their families, especially to be protected against hunger, being their responsibility to adopt measures to secure the effectiveness of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international cooperation based on free consent.

It is a majority comprehension of the Brazilian Law that this pact is hierarchically higher to the ordinary law, and the Constitutional Amendment 45/2004 attributes to the international treaties the possibility of acquiring a stature of amendment to the Constitution, by means of an approval of two thirds of the National Congress. Therefore, Brazil has a constitutional obligation to rule its foreign policy by the principal of the human rights prevalence, including the human right to adequate food, as well as having the obligation to cooperate with countries and peoples on behalf of the progress of humanity.

In the World Food Summit, in 1996, the participant countries, among them, Brazil, recognized in their final statement the “right of each person to have access to safe and nutritious food, in consonance with the human right to adequate food, and the fundamental right for each person to be free from hunger”.

An important step in the area of DHAA was the creation, in 2000, of the position of Special Narrator on the Human Right to Food in the scope of the present United Nations Human Rights Council.

In 2004, under FAO’s scope the “Voluntary Guidelines in Support to the Progressive Accomplishment of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of the National Food Security” was presented. Such guidelines offer a practical orientation to the States in the implementation of the progressive accomplishment of the right to adequate food, as a means to reach the compromises and objectives of the Action Plan of the World Food Summit and the objectives of the Development of the Millennium. Furthermore, the Guidelines, in its Section III., establish that “International measures, actions and commitments” can be voluntarily observed by FAO’s members.

Moreover, it is important to note that the recommendations of the World Strategy on Healthy Food, Physical Activity and Health, instituted and established by the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2004, of which Brazil is also a signatory, has

² Fortaleza, 2007.

as its objective to advance forward in the formulation and promotion of national action policies, strategies and plans to improve healthy food.

Taking as a reference the deliberations of the International Conference on Land Reform and Rural Development in Porto Alegre, in 2006, CONSEA recognizes that the land reform is one of the basic programs for promotion of sovereignty and of food and nutrition security and achievement of the human right to food. The lack of access to land and natural resources violates the right to food, among other fundamental rights, and its overcoming constitutes a structural change in the rural development profile as part of the agenda of actions against hunger and the right of nations to a development strategy.

Finally, it is to be mentioned the recent publishing of Decree 6.476, of June 5th, 2008, which promulgates the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, signed by Brazil in 2002 and ratified in 2006. By means of this Treaty, the countries recognize the rights of the farmers in relation to conservation, improvement and availability of these resources, including the use, exchange and sale of seeds and other propagation materials and the participation in the fair and equitable share of the benefits of usage of the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Guiding Principles of the international performance

The guiding principles of CONSEA's international performance and the propositions which it presents to the Brazilian Government in the field of food and nutrition security should be based in the principles of the National System of Food and Nutrition Security - SISAN, described in article number 8 of the Federal Law on Food and Nutrition Security - LOSAN, and its implantation involves the international scope. In these terms, the international performance of CONSEA and the propositions coming from this should be guided by the following principles:

1. *Universality and equity in the access to adequate and healthy food*

Everyone, without distinction or restrictions of any nature (i.e., color/race, gender, age, nationality, religion, culture or sexual orientation) has the right to benefit by universal policies and actions of SAN (Food and Nutrition Security), without any kind of discrimination.

2. *Social Participation and Transparency*

There should be social participation in the formulation and implementation of national and supra national policies of food and nutrition security, creating and valuing public spaces and mechanisms of interlocution between the State and society which allow the recognition and debate on the distinct visions about the matters and building of the common objectives beyond the economic sphere.

3. *Respect to food security and accomplishment of the human right to adequate and healthy food*

The respect to food sovereignty confers to the countries the primacy of their decisions on policies and sustainable strategies of food production, distribution and consumption which guarantee the right to adequate and healthy food to all the population, respecting the multiple cultural characteristics of peoples, in a way that the exercise of food sovereignty does not compromise or puts in risk, the food and nutrition security of another nation. It is understood that the sovereignty of a nation acquires its full sense by combing its food, energetic, environmental and economic sovereignty.

The accomplishment of the human right to adequate and healthy food means the guarantee to a permanent and regular access, in a fair social manner, to a practice of adequate food from a biological and social point of view of the individuals, according to a life cycle and special food needs based on local traditional reference.

4. *Solidarity, complementarity and cooperation*

Solidarity and complementarity assume the non-indifference in the formulation and execution of the Brazilian foreign policy, the recognition of the differentiated treatment required by different countries, with special attention to the reduction of asymmetries, being the responsibilities of the richer countries to exercise a redistribution role. The contributions of the regional integration and the cooperation South/South for the conquest of food and nutrition security, as well as the introduction of this perspective in the commercial rules, require that the countries develop joint and synergetic actions, so as to increase their results, and, especially, face problems which go beyond borders.

Action Axis

Oriented by the “Voluntary Guidelines in support of the progressive accomplishment to the right of adequate food in the context of the national food security”, it is proposed that CONSEA’s international line of action and its propositions, be divided in three axis of action: (i) regional integration with a focus on MERCOSUL, (ii) international regimes and (iii) cooperation South-South and actions in conjunction with multilateral organisms.

This line of action has to have the perspective of spreading the inter sector focus of food and nutrition security being developed in Brazil, embodying the various dimensions of food and nutrition for individuals, families and society, from planting the food until its consumption. In this sense, the food and nutrition security is intimately related to the global agenda updated themes, such as; agro fuels, food crisis, climatic changes, land reform, use and conservation of natural resources and international trade. To be highlighted is the preoccupation in considering the natural resources in a systemic manner and the preservation of those destined for food and agriculture. For CONSEA, water is food, being this a theme with an increased importance in the international scenario.

It is quite evident the need to rethink the global governance structures in the present context of confluence of various crisis (food, economic, energetic and environmental), leaving to us the perspective of introducing public regional institutions and plans of action which assure food and nutrition security, as well as including this theme in the multilateral discussions (G20, WTO, among others). Brazil can move international debates forward on the concentration and oligopolies of commerce, according to what is being treated by the United Nations Conference on Commerce and Development - UNCTAD, with a view to establish norms and regulations which discipline the actions of the transnational corporations and of the large agents present in the agro food chains, and to attack the successive violations of the human right to adequate food (DHAA). Sovereignty and food and nutrition security and the human right to adequate food should be part of the analysis of any kind of multilateral or bilateral agreement, as well as serving as criterion for impact studies of any enterprise or financing of governments or companies inside and among nations.

The establishment of limits for the actions of transnational corporations is more necessary everyday to guarantee food sovereignty, taking into consideration that the

mechanisms of action of these corporations in the countries are based in the imposition of the import of raw materials (such as seeds, fertilizers, defensives) and in exploring the natural resources.

CONSEA will continue being a space for proposition, divulgation and sensitization as regards the inclusion of themes related to sovereignty and food and nutrition security in the government's agenda, including what refers to the production of fertilizers and the agro ecological production matrix.

Axis 1 – Regional Integration, focused on MERCOSUL

CONSEA has as a priority the regional integration of Brazil, with a focus on MERCOSUL, in the perspective of increasing this integration to Latin America and the Caribbean - CALC. This axis of action reflects the various initiatives in course in the region, including the building of institutional arrangements to face the food, economic, environmental and energetic crisis. It is understood that the participation of the organized civil society in the works developed by MERCOSUL's instances represents an important advance in the direction of the regional integration, giving visibility and greater transparency to its deliberations and introducing the component of participation and social control in the block's instances. As well as this, CONSEA will offer to the Member States, specific contributions of its thematic field.

According to what is detailed below, CONSEA will try to be inserted in instances and initiatives already existing in MERCOSUL's spheres, at the same time in which it will stimulate the creation of its own instance to include food and nutrition security and the human right to food.

1.1 – Creation of national and regional instances of social participation in food and nutrition security

CONSEA will act in the direction to stimulate the creation of spaces of social participation in policies of food and nutrition security in the State Members and Associates of the block, with formats very much the same as the Brazilian Council, and will also propose to institute an instance with the same profile, in the scope of MERCOSUL, beginning with the articulation of the referred national spaces.

1.2 – Meeting of Ministers and Social Development Authorities from MERCOSUL and Associate States - RMADS

This is a technical- governmental instance which debates themes concerning the policies applied in the social area, having as the main function to present propositions to the Council of the Common Market – CMC, viewing the coordination of policies and the development of joint actions of social development. The present agenda of RMADS has the following themes:

- a) MERCOSUL's Social Institute: will give support to the implementation of policies and research in the social area;
- b) Matrix of the Offer of International Cooperation: basket of program offers which could be the object of cooperation;
- c) Food and Nutrition Security: the first seminar on SAN at MERCOSUL was held in Brasília, in 2008, reuniting representatives of governments as well as CONSEA's, having generated a group of proposals of guidelines in the area of food and nutrition security to be considered in MERCOSUL's Strategic Plan of Social Action.
- d) MERCOSUL's Social Action Strategic Plan: detailed as follows:

In relation to the debated themes and the proposals which will be sent by RMADS to the Common Market Council, CONSEA supports, recognizes and proposes to contribute with those related to the area of food and nutrition security. We highlight the recommendation proposal for the commemoration of the World Food Day, by all countries in the scope of MERCOSUL, especially in the border regions of the Member States.

The Council manifests its support to the Declaration of Brasilia “For a MERCOSUL without hunger and with full exercise of its food sovereignty”.

1.3 – Specialist Panel Meeting on Family Farming - REAF

Founded in 2004, by a Resolution of the Common Market Group - GMC of MERCOSUL 11/04, the Specialist High Level Panel on Family Farming of MERCOSUL - REAF is a space for political dialogue among governments and civil society organizations, aiming the strengthening of regional integration, by means of public policies in the sector and facilitation of the commerce of family farming products. Since its founding, REAF is highlighted by the participation of the civil society in all its discussions, the national sessions, as well as the regional ones, which confers to this MERCOSUL’S institutional space, a participative structure that differentiates it.

Some important results reached by REAF and which advance in the regional integration are: (i) approval by MERCOSUL of basic criterion for the characterization of family farming inside the block; (ii) implementation by various countries of family farming national registrations, which are the base for the implementation of specific public policies for the sector; (iii) creation in the countries which integrate the block of organizations or measures for the strengthening of family agriculture; (iv) promotion of interchange of experiences among nations; and, (v) progressive consolidation of participative national spaces and of collective construction of political proposals for the area, which contributes to legitimize the agreements made in MERCOSUL’S scope.

On the occasion of the IX REAF, in July 2008, there was a deliberation for manifestation to the Common Market Group - GMC on the importance of the formulation and implementation of food and nutrition security policies in MERCOSUL, affirming family agriculture as one of the structuring elements of this policy, and, at the same time, to make REAF available to contribute in the structuring of these policies.

More recently at the X REAF, in November 2008, MERCOSUL’S Family Agriculture Fund was approved. This Fund has as an objective to promote the participation of the civil society in the decision processes and increase of the public policies for the region’s family agriculture, guaranteeing more institutionalism and sustainability to the political dialogue spaces on regional integration.

In these terms, CONSEA proposes to the Brazilian Government to implement MERCOSUL’S Family Farming Fund, beginning in 2009.

1.4 – Social Action Strategic Plan

MERCOSUL - PEAS (Social Action Strategic Plan) is a document which aims to reunite a group of guidelines and actions for the strengthening and improving of its social policies, contributing with the surmounting of asymmetries among the nations and the promotion of a common horizon of development. The Heads of State of MERCOSUL suggested this during Cordoba’s Summit, in July 2006, and it began to be discussed in the scope of the Social Development Ministers and Authorities of MERCOSUL - RMADS.

In the second semester this year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned a meeting with the other government institutions to present the proposal of a plan and to ask for contributions to its text. The draft of the Strategic Plan will be presented in the Amplified Session of the Common Market Council - CMC, in December 2008, and is divided into five main axis, which contain proposals of guidelines and actions to be implemented by the countries: (i) Combat hunger, poverty and social inequalities; (ii) Citizenship, participation, human rights and diversity; (iii) Health; (vi) Education and culture; and, (v) Generation of productive employment and decent labor.

CONSEA recognizes the existence of the Plan supports the initiative and is willing to contribute towards the relative themes of food and nutrition security for this proposal.

1.5 – Social and Participative MERCOSUL

MERCOSUL's Social and Participative Program has the aim to promote the interlocution between the Brazilian government and the civil society organizations on the public policies for the Common Market of the South - MERCOSUL. CONSEA manifests its support to the launching of the MERCOSUL Social and Participative Program as it considers that the civil society is fundamental for the advance of the Block beyond the commercial dimension.

1.6 – MERCOSUL Parliament - PARLASUL

CONSEA understands that MERCOSUL's Parliament - PARLASUL is the political dimension, by excellence, of MERCOSUL, as it is in this space that the populations of the block's member countries will gain representation through direct, universal and secret elections, respecting their ideological and political plurality. Agreeing with PARLASUL's objectives, CONSEA will search for the building of dialogue channels in order to put in PARLASUL's agenda, the debates over the sovereignty and food and nutrition security and of the human right to food in the Southern Region. The dialogues with other structures of MERCOSUL, as the Panel of Specialists on Family Farming - REAF, favor and strengthen this objective, as well as the interaction with PARLASUL's permanent committees which deal with subjects that are similar to those of CONSEA and are debating the harmonization of the national legislations. CONSEA should also contact the coordination of the Brazilian representation at PARLASUL as well as parliamentarians, to study the possibility of building a Parliamentary Front on Food and Nutrition Security, like the ones which exist in the Brazilian Congress and in various state legislative assemblies.

1.7 – National Amplified Session of the Common Market Group - GMC

The increment of the participation of the civil society in the construction of MERCOSUL passes through the adoption of innovating practices and of a greater social dialogue in the own structures which have already been instituted in the Block. The Common Market Group - GMC, executive instance of MERCOSUL, nationally coordinated, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of each country, still needs a dynamic in its national sessions which would allow for not only an adjustment among the various government areas on the different themes which affect the country, but also, and especially, for a greater participation of the organized civil society.

CONSEA proposes to the Brazilian government the implementation of an Amplified National Session of the GMC, including the social participation.

Besides MERCOSUL, CONSEA will also search for insertion in instances and initiatives in the Latin American and Caribbean scope, according to what is described as follows.

1.8 – Social Mobilization for the Human Right to Adequate Food (DHAA) and Food and Security Nutrition (SAN)

The mobilization and sensitization of the population are fundamental to conquer an effective sovereignty and food and nutrition security. In this sense, CONSEA understands the relevance of the carrying out of campaigns and of the building of spaces for articulation and dialogue on the theme at MERCOSUL, as well as all over Latin America and the Caribbean.

1.9 – Union of the South American Nations - UNASUL

CONSEA greets UNASUL's Constitution, based on citizen's participation, and requests a greater inclusion of the theme on food and nutrition security (SAN), anchored in the Human Right to Healthy and Adequate Food (DHAA), and on food sovereignty, among the specific objectives set out in UNSASUL's Treaty of Constitution.

1.10 – Latin American and Caribbean Summit - CALC

CONSEA recommends the inclusion in the agenda of CALC of appointments of the Member States in establishing regional policies of food and nutrition security and the building of monitoring mechanisms of food and nutrition security of these policies, having as a reference the promotion of the human right to food, according to CONSEA's Recommendation 05/2008.

Axis 2 – international Regimes

This axis embodies the group of strategic matters for food and nutrition security, related with the international relations, agreements and norms.

2.1 – Economic-Commercial Negotiations

The Brazilian policies of food and nutrition security and rural development – focused in food production, income generation and employment in family farming and land reform – have generated fundamental results for the eradication of hunger, poverty reduction and inequalities in Brazil. Additionally, this set of public policies has shown itself strategic to ensure a national environment of greater price stability of the prices of food, in face of increased and frequent fluctuations in the international market. Having this in mind, it is fundamental that the international economic-commercial agreements do not establish rules which forbid the continuity and increase of these policies and their results.

In the scope of the multilateral, bilateral or bi-regional commercial negotiations, the need to secure the spaces for the implementation and formulation of public policies is highlighted, agreeing with the principles and guidelines present in the Federal Law on Food and Nutrition Security - LOSAN. These spaces are fundamental to guarantee to Brazil a full sovereignty in the formulation of instruments which can make viable its policy of food security and poverty combat. In these terms, CONSEA proposes to adopt the following specific measures:

- To consolidate a National List of Food Security Products, which should receive special and differentiated treatment facing the demands of commercial opening in the scope of the international commercial agreements negotiated by Brazil, being such products effectively excluded from commercial negotiation.
- To establish, in the scope of the World Trade Organization - WTO, a special safeguard mechanism which is important for the country's food security. Such a mechanism should be able to contain, with special agility, surges of import of accentuated price drops. In order to reach this objective, it is fundamental that this

mechanism guarantees an effective action capacity, and, therefore, which is not restricted to the ceiling of the import tariffs consolidated by the countries of the Uruguay Round.

- To insert completely, the food and nutrition security public policies and of rural development in Brazil from limitation and/or reduction compromises, in the scope of the international economic-commercial agreements. Highlighting especially the need for full preservation, in relation to the agreements:

- a) Of the effective capacity of the Brazilian state to implement actions related to land reform, acquisition of food from family agriculture - PAA, agriculture insurance and differentiated credit to the small farmers in the National Program of Strengthening of Family Farming - PRONAF;

- b) Of the sovereign prerogative of the State to establish regulations for the acquisition of rural land by foreigners, in accordance to their national objectives, as well as being able to define the manner of reparation due to the rural land expropriation for land reform.

2.2 – Regulation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization - FAO

CONSEA sees with preoccupation the multiplication in Brazil and in different parts of the world of the episodes of violation of the rights of the peasants, family farmers, extractives, fishermen, and traditional peoples and communities, in what refers to the access to land, water and to the resources originated from biodiversity, indispensable for the guarantee of the Food and Nutrition Security of these populations. In what refers specifically to the genetic resources, the structuring, in the international level, of a regime of intellectual property and its implantation in Brazil – adopting many times, more restrictive interpretations than those established by the International Treaties themselves, as observed in the recent attempts of altering the present Law of Cultivars (Lei de Cultivares) – it has been establishing very clearly, as a cumulative process of erosion, not only of the rights of these populations, but also of the biologic diversity of the agriculture production and food.

In this sense, CONSEA proposes the Brazilian Government to work, in an international level, for the effective implementation of the Farmer Rights, already affirmed by FAO's International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and by the Convention on Biological Diversity (especially article 8 of this Convention), creating, if necessary, a group of safeguards which secure the preponderance of an approach to food and nutrition security, to the considerations of a strictly commercial character imposed by the commercial agreements.

To be highlighted are the rights of the farmers to preserve, use, exchange and sell seeds and other propagation materials and to maintain the integrity of their productive systems and the knowledge associated to them. Every and any alteration of the present legislation, which could threaten these rights, should be avoided. It is still suggested that Decree no. 6.476 /2008 which promulgates FAO's International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources on Food and Agriculture, should be settled in this perspective.

2.3 – Climatic Changes

All the recent analysis on the weather behavior in the national scope reveal that Brazil is strongly affected by global heating, especially its population in poverty conditions, not only urban, but also rural. In December 2008, the United Nations Conference on Climatic Changes was held, in Poznam, Poland, with Brazilian

participation. CONSEA understands that it is fundamental for the theme to be treated in the perspective of sovereignty and food and nutrition security, as well as the human right to food. Having in mind that the Council still does not have an accumulation of knowledge about these scenarios, impacts and challenges referring to the climatic changes. It is proposed that this theme be incorporated in the work agenda for 2009.

2.4 – Access to land

CONSEA should promote the defense of the guarantee of the right to land in the international scope so that this becomes a fundamental right. It proposed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that it moves in this sense, in its foreign relations policies.

Axis 3 – Cooperation South-South and the performance alongside the multilateral organisms

This axis concerns the growing importance of the cooperation among developing countries, having in mind the accomplishment of food and nutrition security, highlighting Brazil as an international reference actor. Furthermore, it presents a proposal of a line of action of CONSEA alongside the multilateral organisms.

3.1 – Cooperation South-South

The present proposition, fits in the context of the continuous reduction of the traditional cooperation North-South and of the elaboration of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, framework of adjustment of the developing nations in the sense of offering more adequate solutions to the specific problems of countries with the same socio-economic conditions. This has become a priority in the Brazilian foreign policy in the sense to promote the sustainable development of populations.

As well as the priority line of action alongside MERCOSUL and Latin America and the Caribbean, which constitutes Axis 1 of the present proposition of an international agenda, eventual initiatives in other regions of the world should privilege the cooperation South-South and especially, with Africa and the developing countries members of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries - CPLP, which was founded on the occasion of the Conference of the Heads of State and Government, held in Lisbon in 1996, conferring the meaning of institution and narrowing of the relations among the Portuguese speaking countries.

CONSEA supports the construction of social technology centers in food and nutrition security by the Ministry of Science and Technology, so as to allow the forming and training of Brazilian farmers and of other Southern Hemisphere countries. In this sense, it manifests the support to the building of the Center of Social Technologies in Agro ecology in the state of Rio Grande do Sul for the cooperation with the Latin American and Caribbean countries, Portuguese speaking countries and other southern countries.

CONSEA supports the cooperation South-South for the building of agro ecological seed banks exempt from intellectual property rights.

CONSEA manifests its support to the cooperation given by the National School Meal Program – PNAE to other Southern countries for the structuring of school meal programs.

In these actions, CONSEA's role is to impel social participation initiatives in food and nutrition security policies, taking as a base the Council's experience, as well as promoting the interchange of experiences among civil society organizations.

3.2 – International Technical Cooperation

The international technical cooperation is seen by the Brazilian Government as a strategic partnership option, being an instrument of social development which promotes structural changes in the populations of the partner countries.

CONSEA recognizes the efforts of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency - ABC in giving better opening to the participation of the civil society in international technical cooperation projects, and manifests its support to the technical cooperation financed by ABC for the training of farmers of the Southern countries, in agro ecological farming such as breeding fish in rice fields, and the local production of animal rations and biogas plants.

It was an honor for the Council to be invited to participate in international missions of cooperation in the field of agriculture and food security, especially in Haiti.

It supports the increase of cooperation with CONAB for supply projects in Southern countries, as well as the internationalization of CONAB, by opening an office in Nicaragua.

It proposes, however, that the ABC (Brazilian Cooperation Agency) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, increase even more the social participation in the international cooperation and that empowerment and social mobilization by the DHAA (Human Right to Adequate Food) and SAN (Food and Nutrition Security) becomes a requirement for the celebration of agreements of technical cooperation.

In this same direction, it is for CONSEA to establish general criterion of participation of its representatives in international missions of participation of the Brazilian Government.

3.3 – Actions with the United Nations System

CONSEA should try to increase the Brazilian participation in the theme of SAN, based on food sovereignty and on the human right to food, at the United Nations General Assembly - AGNU, at the Economic and Social Council - ECOSOC and at the ramifications of the Task Force of the General Secretary of the United Nations for the Food Crisis. The integrated Marker of Action followed by this Task Force has a relation with CONSEA's scope when: i) it considers the food crisis as multidimensional, ii) it demands integrated response and iii) it reinforces the coordination, evaluation and monitoring of the food and nutrition security.

CONSEA will seek with the United Nations team in Brazil, for a coordinated support in the context of strengthening food and nutrition security in the country. Among the various fields of partnership, it can be highlighted: i) the promotion of the protection of the more vulnerable populations; ii) the support to the net of social security programs; iii) the improvement of the nutritional vigilance systems; iv) the management of the food stocks; v) the guarantee to access to food; i) the promotion of innovating programs of combating hunger and malnutrition; and vi) the achievement of the human right to adequate food.

CONSEA will also request, the support of the United Nations in the South/South Cooperation in the field of Food and Nutrition Security, with emphasis on the analysis of the possible adaptation and replication of the great social programs which have helped to ease the effects of the food crisis in Brazil, especially those centered on family agriculture.

CONSEA supports the international discussions on the ways to combat the concentration and oligopoly in the commerce, according to what has been treated by

having in view the establishing of norms and regulations that discipline the present line of action of the transnational corporations and of the large agents present in the agro food chains, and which combat the successive violations of the Human Right to Adequate Food.

3.4 – Actions with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization - FAO

CONSEA manifests its support to the “Latin America and Caribbean No Hunger Initiative”, conducted by FAO’s Regional Office and requests more effort from the Brazilian Government in the divulging and deepening of the proposal, and at the same time it agrees to give its own contribution to the proposal. It understands that this program could facilitate the expansion of similar councils such as CONSEA in the countries of the region, and at the same time strengthen the role of the Council in the South-South Cooperation.

CONSEA sees with interest the strengthening of the World Food Security Committee based at FAO, for it to comply with its mandate of world forum on food and nutrition security within its member countries, assuring the effective participation spaces of the civil society representations of these countries. CONSEA requests to the Foreign Affairs Ministry the continuity in the defense of the participation of the civil society in the referred Committee in FAO’s scope.

The Council also supports the work developed by FAO in the field of Human Right to Adequate Food and repudiates any initiative in the sense of extinguishing or weakening the discussions in respect to the organization’s scope.

In the framework of FAO’s reform, CONSEA manifests its support to the position of the Brazilian Government to defend a reform which does not deprive FAO of its characteristics, as an agency of support of development, with a mandate in the field of Food and Nutrition security, Human Right to Adequate Food and food sovereignty. It equally requests, a reform which will allow for a greater opening of social participation in the scope of FAO’s discussions, as well as the return to the discussion of the fundamental themes such as agrarian reform and guidelines to the access to land.

3.5 – International Alliance Against Hunger - IAAH

This is an articulation of national alliances which reunite different types of organizations (public, private, among others) with the aim of contributing to eradicate the hunger in the world. The secretary of IAAH is exercised by FAO, in Rome. As the representative of Brazil in this alliance, CONSEA plans to increase the dialogue with other member countries to strengthen the exchange information and to make the Brazilian experience known, especially in relation to the role of the civil society. Furthermore, it supports the participation of Brazil in the International Alliance as a way to dialogue with the present government of the United States of America in the scope of the relations North-South.

3.6 – Humanitarian Aid

In relation to the international humanitarian aid and the post emergency actions of restructuring the harmed countries, CONSEA considers that the model of the Program of Acquisition of Food - PAA represents an important contribution to the world. In this sense, it proposes to the Brazilian government the defense of this and other models of public policies in the Executive Board of the World Program of Food - PMA. CONSEA proposes to analyze the initiative “Purchase for Progress”, launched by the PMA in September 2008, very much like the PAA in its conception.

CONSEA gladly registers the solidarity demonstrated by the Brazilian society in the past years to the victims of natural disasters and supports humanitarian assistance in a double traction strategy, which would meet not only the emergency demands, but also the structural ones.

Final Considerations

The expressive increase of the inequalities, poverty and hunger resulting of the systemic global crisis in its various dimensions (economic, environmental, food and energetic) causes the sovereignty and food and nutrition security to be considered central themes in any international agreement relative to commerce, environment, climatic changes, regional integration, South-South cooperation, among others.

CONSEA understands that the principles and guidelines of action presented in this document represent ways which should subsidize not only the actions of the civil society but also the positioning of the Brazilian government. Particularly, the diffusion of the Brazilian model of participation of the civil society aimed at conferring priority to the sovereignty and food and nutrition security, and to the human right to adequate food in the agendas of the governments and society, as is the case of CONSEA which could constitute itself as an international reference of democratic participation.

With this perspective, the Council will try and look for ways to act as a protagonist in the international scope, aiming to make its propositions concrete, focusing on the developing countries which are part of the South-South relation, especially in the regional level of MERCOSUL, Latin America and the Caribbean.

For this to happen, it should be necessary to adopt mechanisms of permanent dialogue with government and civil society actors having in view to guarantee the effective application of the referred principles and guidelines in Brazil's international relations. It will also be necessary to strengthen and to narrow CONSEA's interlocution with organizations, forums, and international social nets, as well as with the countries it will cooperate with, aiming to mobilize the civil society on an international scope for the incorporation of the Council's recommendations in its specific agenda of debates and divulge the universal character of the human right to food.

ANEX

Brasilia Declaration

“For a MERCOSUL without hunger and in full exercise of its food sovereignty”

1. To rank the food and nutrition policies as a State Policy, in light of the present global food situation;

2. To propitiate active public policies to reach Food Sovereignty, recognizing in this not only the need for food supply, but also the autonomy to define what types of food to produce and in which manner, having in mind not only the external demand but also the needs and customs of each country;

3. To establish supply public policies, considering the construction of local and regional structures linked to family agriculture organizations, strengthening the government policies of forming of food reserves, and encouraging the creation of networks of small local and regional businessmen, and direct commerce public fairs.

4. Identify, in the present world crisis, opportunities to guarantee regional strategies which could deepen the approach from the focus of rights, equity and social justice, in the entire axis which have relation with food security and nutrition and sovereignty, including:

- Integral productive approach, that is, orientating the production in relation to the local and territorial development;
- Foment family agriculture;
- Food production for one's own consumption and/or commercialization;
- Commercialization of food by means of the strengthening of socio economic nets, on the social economy and solidarity basis and fair trade, in the perspective of the overcoming of asymmetries.

5. Impel transversal State policies, which in a synergic manner, will strengthen the social, community and small producers organizations so that, in the role of a protagonist and identifying the needs, answers will develop according to the cultural standards and those of territorial identity.

6. Implement concrete common actions in the scope of MERCOSUL which, under an integral and multidimensional view of sovereignty and food and nutrition security, relate the health aspects (care to pregnant women, breast feeding, child care nutritional quality, among others); the education aspects (food and nutrition education) and the social and work aspects (access to land, access to the development of own technologies, access to water for consumption and irrigation, access to support production services, such as; raw materials, and micro credits among others), with the aim of responding to a complete and complex approach, in order to guarantee our peoples better quality of life.

7. Support small farmers by means of active policies of promotion, strengthening and access to the production factors, including credit, and bringing closer, in order for this to happen, the experience and benefits originated from the social economy (cooperatives, etc)

8. Secure the access of the poorest to fair price food; develop public policies which contemplate, among other instruments, the protection of consumer's rights and sanctions against the monopoly abuses in these sectors.