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CONSEA

Conselho Nacional de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional



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Brasilia, December 10 2012

To:

Ambassador Yaya Olaniran

Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

Coordination Committee of the International Food and Security Civil Society Mechanism (CSM)

CC to:

José Graziano da Silva

General-Director of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Ertharin Cousin

Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

Kanayo F. Nwanze

President of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Monkombu Sambasivan Swaminatha

Chairperson High Level Panel of Experts on food security and nutrition (HLPE)

The National Council on Food and Nutritional Security (CONSEA) promoted, in a partnership with the Inter-ministerial Chamber for Food and Nutritional Security (CAISAN) and the Brazilian Forum on Sovereignty and Food Security (FBSSAN), the International Seminar "Global Challenges for the Human Right to Food Sovereignty and Food Security and Brazil's Roles", in Brasilia (DF), on October 29 and 30, 2012. The seminar was attended by about 100 representatives of civil society organizations and by the governments of more than 24 countries, from all regions of the world, as well as representatives of the Brazilian government and civil society.



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I have the honor of addressing the United Nations Committee for World Food Security (CFS) and the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM), linked to the same Committee, to share with your Excellencies our concerns and suggestions, presented by the participants of the Seminar with respect to the CFS, with the intention of contributing to the improvement of this important multilateral body.

In a context of recurrent manifestations of the crisis in the global food system, which prevents the eradication of hunger in the world, we believe that the CFS has an important role in coordinating policies and inducing strategies that transform the unfavorable situation into an opportunity to promote changes in the global agenda of food and nutritional security. We are concerned with critical social and environmental aspects of the agricultural model presented in response to the food needs of the world, as well as the control exercised by large transnational corporations on the global food system. Along with the persistence of hunger, we see a pattern of growing food consumption harmful to human health and to the environment.

The participants of the Seminar welcomed the adoption of a formal mechanism for civil society participation, a pioneering and unique initiative in the UN system, and emphasize the importance of the commitment of the Member States in financing the MSC. The participants of the Seminar also welcome the adoption of the Global Strategic Framework at the 39th Plenary Session of the CFS, an achievement that brings great challenges with regard to implementation. We support the full adoption of the food and nutrition security concept and the corresponding inter-sector policies, as has occurred for long in Brazil, as well as the instauration of the debate on the concept of food sovereignty, demanded by the social organizations and adopted in a large number of countries.

One of the most important immediate challenges is to build two-way links between the CFS, regions and countries. The debates and recommendations from the CFS reach the regional and even national spheres of discussion in such a fragile and disorganized manner, while many issues tackled



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at regional or national level do not gain projection in the CFS. In this sense, among other possible strategies, we highlight the importance of establishing / strengthening multi-stakeholder platforms in the institutional framework of countries and regional economic integration organizations, as well as regional intergovernmental organizations, such as the newly created Council Food and Nutritional Security (CONSAN) within the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP).

It is equally important to make progress in the articulation of civil society in a global level, to attain a more qualified incidence in the CFS through the MSC, it also being necessary to build links with the social movements and organizations at the regional and national levels. The incidence of civil society in the formulation of documents such as the Voluntary Guidelines and the Global Strategic Framework enabled, among other things, the incorporation of gender aspects and prior consultation with the indigenous peoples. However, its decentralization must be accompanied by processes of training and exchange of learning between social movements, so that civil society in different countries can build and strengthen national networks and platforms, and their own strategies for participation and social control.

We believe that international organizations, especially FAO, IFAD and WFP can play an important role in supporting the construction of these bonds, as well as in promoting social participation and the creation of national conditions for ensuring the human right to adequate food.

CONSEA, on its turn, expresses the willingness to make use of the accumulated national experience, especially with regard to the exercise of social participation, to assist in reflecting upon possible links to be made between the CFS, regions and countries with special emphasis on the relationship between civil society, and the mediation between civil society and governments. It is our intention to carry on with the initiatives that the Council has been taking to promote international cooperation through the exchange of experiences, particularly with regard to social participation in the formulation and social control of public policies.



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Finally, we would like to emphasize and enhance the growing role of CFS in the identification and treatment of emerging issues that affect the promotion of the human right to adequate food, sovereignty and food and nutritional security. We value the role of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food and Nutritional Security (HLPE) and the Civil Society Participation Mechanism in the definition of these themes. Some of these issues were mentioned during the seminar, emphasizing: food sovereignty, especially its relationship with conservation and farmers' rights and the free use of agro-biodiversity, the rights of indigenous peoples and traditional peoples and communities; regulation of food corporations and new technologies, and the impacts of "land grabbing" and the use of agro-fuels in sovereignty and food and nutritional security.

Best regards,

Maria Emília Pacheco Lisboa

President of the National Council on Food and Nutritional Security