



The Committee on  
World Food Security (CFS)

a **guide for**  
**civil society**



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*"What we are seeing with the CFS is a new breed of global governance emerging, in which [civil society] are co-authors of international law with governments and international agencies."*

**Olivier De Schutter**

UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food







## Introduction

This is a guide for civil society organisations (CSOs) to the Committee on World Food Security – known as the CFS.

It explains what the CFS is, why it is important, and how civil society organisations worldwide can monitor, influence or get involved in the work of the CFS at the global, regional and the national level.

The guide is written in plain language for social movements, community-based organisations (CBOs), civil society organisations (CSOs), and local or international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on food security and nutrition issues (see Box 1), including food sovereignty and the right to food, that have little or no knowledge about the CFS.

It is designed for those who may want to know more about the CFS, or participate or engage in its work, debates or deliberations.

This beginners' guide aims to simplify and demystify the CFS and explains how your organisation can get involved.



## Foremost platform

Increased participation and engagement at the CFS is increasingly likely because the CFS is emerging as the foremost global platform or political forum working on food security and nutrition issues at the international level.

Now uniquely set up as a multi-stakeholder forum, the CFS is mandated by governments to become 'the central United Nations political platform dealing with food security and nutrition' and 'the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform' for a broad range of committed stakeholders to support country-led processes towards eliminating hunger.

The process of modernising and reforming the CFS (which began in 2009) has three guiding principles:

This means the CFS has an explicit mandate to work with and consult widely with CSOs at the global, the regional and the national levels, and in particular to work with those communities most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition.

This is an approach that will appeal profoundly to FAO's Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, who was one of the masterminds of Brazil's 'Zero Hunger' campaign – which successfully cut child hunger by 73 per cent in six years – though a cross-sectorial, right to food-based and highly participative approach.

**Inclusiveness** – to ensure that voices of all relevant stakeholders are heard in the policy debates on food, agriculture and nutrition

**Strong linkages to the field** – to ensure the work of the CFS is based on the reality on the ground, and;

**Flexibility** – in the face of a changing external environment and the needs of countries.



Photo: Giulio Napolitano / FAO

*"We need to start to work  
in a more participative and  
transparent way"*

**José Graziano da Silva**  
FAO Director-General



Photo: Alessandra Benedetti / FAO

## Substantial weight

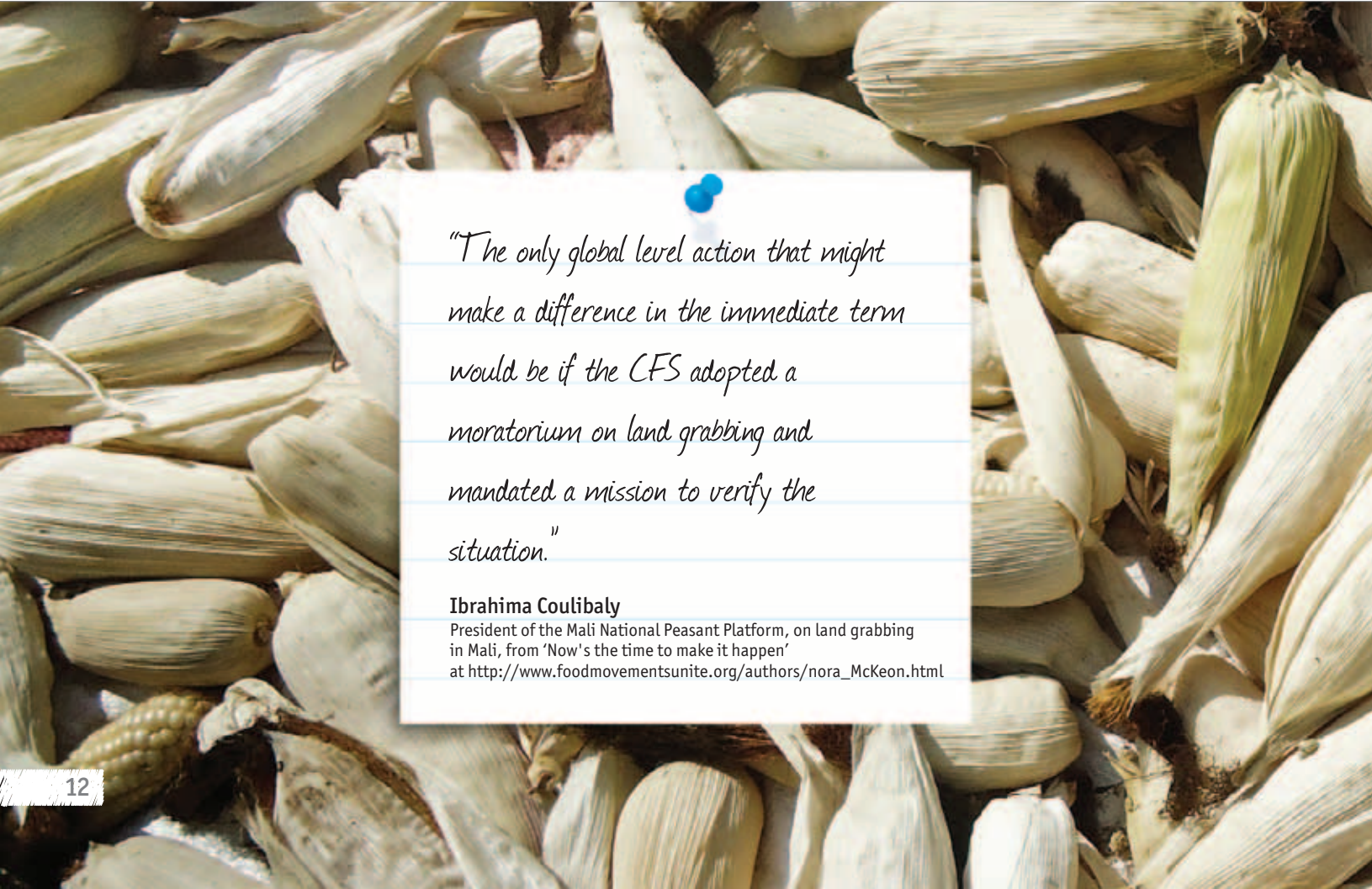
The CFS is starting to deepen and develop its political influence and clout. The analysis, advice, rules, guidelines and global strategies that come out of the reformed CFS are increasingly likely to carry substantial weight and will significantly influence food security policies and strategies – at all main levels.

The CFS, for instance, is negotiating new voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of land, fisheries and forests in order to prevent 'land grabbing' in poor countries, and this year is also developing a Global Strategic Framework on ending hunger which will guide national efforts to eradicate hunger, as well as all UN agencies working on these issues, plus governments and key bodies and organisations.

But it is only with strong, organised and consistent civil society input and engagement that the CFS will realise its full potential and truly emerge as the foremost inclusive global forum on food security.

Only member states may vote at the CFS, but this is the distinctive feature about this innovative multi-stakeholder forum; in a rare example in UN history, CSOs have won recognition to be involved in this key UN forum as full participants.





*"The only global level action that might make a difference in the immediate term would be if the CFS adopted a moratorium on land grabbing and mandated a mission to verify the situation."*

**Ibrahima Coulibaly**

President of the Mali National Peasant Platform, on land grabbing in Mali, from 'Now's the time to make it happen' at [http://www.foodmovementsunite.org/authors/nora\\_McKeon.html](http://www.foodmovementsunite.org/authors/nora_McKeon.html)





## Full participants

After a campaign by social movements and networks such as peasants' organisation La Via Campesina and the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC), CSOs, NGOs and in particular those most affected by food insecurity and on the front lines of finding solutions – such as smallholder farmer groups, women, pastoralists, indigenous people, urban youth and fisherfolk – a unique space was carved out in 2009 to formally participate in shaping the agenda and engaging in debates and discussions at the CFS.

Working in Task Teams and Open-Ended Working Groups alongside member governments, representatives from multilateral organisations, philanthropic foundations and private sector associations, social movements, CBOs, and CSOs can now formally participate and feed into the CFS through various meetings and mechanisms at the regional and global levels – such as the annual CFS global Plenary Session, currently held at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome in Italy.

The CFS has started to forge links to regional and country-level multi-stakeholder food security mechanisms and hunger reduction



Photo: FAO

mapping exercises, too – and aims to deepen and strengthen its country level engagement over time.

We believe seizing the historic opportunity provided by the opening up of the CFS to civil society participation and constructively occupying this new policy 'space' is essential to achieving food sovereignty and realizing the right to food for all.

## Box 1

### What is the Right to Food?

The right to food is a human right and a binding legal obligation well established under international law.

The right to food relates directly to an individual's access to food and also the fundamental right to be free from hunger. It is a right that is a collective responsibility, but also one that states are obliged to take steps to respect, protect and fulfill.

The right to adequate food was first recognised as a human right in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and it was further elaborated in the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The general comment 12 of the ICESCR states:

“...the right to adequate food is realized when every man,

woman and child, alone or in community with others, have the physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement..”

Promoting the right to adequate food for all is an obligation for 157 states that ratified the ICESCR.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Olivier De Schutter, says: “The right to food is not primarily the right to be fed after an emergency. It is the right, for all, to have legal frameworks and strategies in place that further the realization of the right to adequate food.”

Most states, however, are failing to uphold the right to food. Only 23 countries included the right to food in their constitutions in 2011, while just 13 countries recognise the right to food as a directive principle of state policy.



## What is the CFS?

The CFS stands for the Committee on World Food Security.

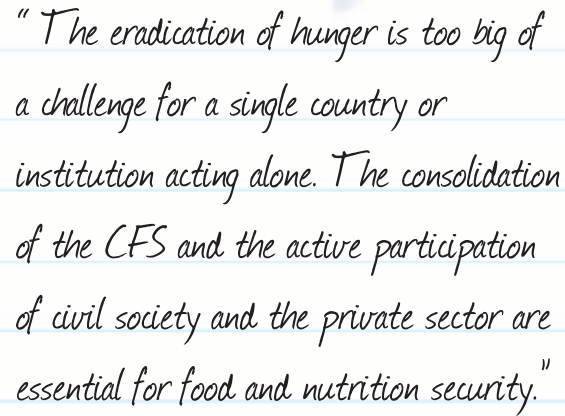
It is a recently reformed committee that is emerging as the central UN political platform and global decision-making forum dealing with food security, agriculture and nutrition issues (see Box 2 for CFS history). The CFS is an intergovernmental and international political platform, currently hosted by FAO in Rome and run through a Secretariat consisting of all key relevant Rome-based UN agencies (see Box 3).

Membership is considerably more inclusive than other ad hoc intergovernmental groupings working on food and agriculture issues, such as the G8 or the G20. As such, the CFS is open to all member states of:

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- The World Food Programme (WFP)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Non-member states of FAO that are members of the United Nations (UN)

- International and regional organisations with food security agendas, and:
- International and regional financial organisations
- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)
- Private philanthropic organisations/foundations
- Private sector associations

One aspiration of the multi-stakeholder CFS is to provide policy coordination and convergence for other key fora, such as the G20, and it is moving towards this goal. For example, the CFS recently won significant political recognition in June 2011 when G20 Agriculture Ministers declared that they would work closely with the CFS to promote greater policy convergence and strengthen policy linkages at the global level.



*"The eradication of hunger is too big of a challenge for a single country or institution acting alone. The consolidation of the CFS and the active participation of civil society and the private sector are essential for food and nutrition security."*

**José Graziano da Silva**  
FAO Director-General

## Box 2

### CFS history

The CFS was established soon after the 1974 World Food Conference in Rome. It was set up as an intergovernmental body within the UN system to oversee the implementation of policies to eradicate hunger and malnutrition within ten years.

However, with hunger clearly undefeated, the CFS was later re-tasked to monitor the implementation of the 1996 World Food Summit 'Plan of Action' to eliminate hunger by 2015.

Despite further high-profile summits and commitments on hunger, and with waning political commitment behind it, the CFS slowly drifted towards irrelevance and some member states considered winding it down or disbanding it.

## Box 3

### FAO...WFP...IFAD...

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are the three key Rome-based food and hunger related UN organisations – sometimes known as the 'Rome-based agencies'.

The agencies have different but complimentary mandates, and they are encouraged to collaborate on an ongoing basis at all levels. The FAO develops global norms, shares knowledge and provides policy advice and technical assistance to developing country governments; the WFP is the humanitarian and emergency food aid arm of the UN system; and the IFAD's role is to mobilise resources to invest in smallholder farming and rural communities. Below is more on each of these agencies.





## What is the FAO?

**[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)**

Established in 1945, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to end hunger. The FAO acts as a neutral forum and a source of knowledge and information, and helps all nations meet as equals to negotiate and debate agreements and policies around food and agriculture.

The FAO supports developing countries and countries to improve their agricultural, forestry and fisheries policies, plans and practices, and ensure good nutrition and food security for all. Its Latin motto, *fiat panis*, translates into English as 'Let there be bread'. The FAO has 191 member nations, two associate members and one member organisation, the European Union.

Headquartered in Rome, the FAO is present in over 130 countries, with a network of five regional offices and 74 fully-fledged country offices. It employs 3,691 staff, and had a regular global budget of \$1 billion in 2010-2011. FAO's Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, started in January 2012, and he was an architect of Brazil's recent successful right to food-based and participatory 'Zero Hunger' campaign.

## What is the World Food Programme?

**[www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)**

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food aid branch of the United Nations, and the world's largest humanitarian organisation addressing hunger worldwide.

WFP provided 4.6 million tonnes of food to 109 million people in 75 countries in 2010 – of whom 89 million were women and children. It delivers food to victims of war, civil conflict and natural disasters, and provides food after humanitarian disaster and emergencies to rebuild shattered lives.

WFP has an extensive global field presence with immense logistical and procurement capacity to deliver and distribute emergency food assistance. It also conducts food insecurity assessments and vulnerability analyses to help it anticipate and respond rapidly to food crises. The top five WFP food aid beneficiaries in 2010 were Pakistan (16 million people received food aid), Ethiopia (10 million), Sudan (9 million), Afghanistan (6 million) and Niger (6 million).

Besides distributing food rations to victims of natural disasters – such as in the Horn of Africa, Haiti or Pakistan – it provides food vouchers, food-for-work or cash transfers for urban economic shocks (e.g. Afghanistan, Burkina Faso) and provides food or school meal programmes to tackle rural chronic child malnutrition (Uganda); seasonal food insecurity (Bangladesh, Malawi); and support for special groups – such as refugees in Syria. Founded in 1963, the WFP is based in Rome and has 10,200 staff worldwide, and it receives voluntary contributions from 60 governments.

## What is IFAD?

**[www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)**

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialised agency of the United Nations, and the leading multilateral investor in the livelihoods of poor rural communities in developing countries. Working with governments, partners and local communities, IFAD uses a mix of low-interest loans and grants to finance agricultural and rural development

programmes and projects focused on women and men, smallholders, landless workers, artisanal fishers, pastoralists, forest communities and indigenous peoples.

Since starting in 1978, Rome-based IFAD has granted or lent about \$13 billion (about \$5 billion to sub-Saharan Africa) and mobilized nearly \$20 billion in co-financing for 870 programmes or projects in 117 countries. It currently funds 240 projects. The agency has 167 member states and about 35 offices worldwide, and it currently has a commitment of loans and grants for 2010 to 2012 of \$3 billion, which combined with co-financing is worth about \$7.5 billion in total.









## CFS main roles

With an explicit mandate on realising the right to food for all (see Box 1), the CFS has the following roles:

- Increase coordination at the global level – by providing a platform for discussion and coordination to strengthen action among governments, regional organisations/agencies, CSOs, philanthropic organisations, the private sector and other stakeholders.
  - Promote policy convergence and coordination – through developing international strategies and voluntary guidelines on food security and nutrition policies, based on lessons learned from local experiences and input from national and regional levels.
  - Provide support and advice on regional and country-led plans to eliminate hunger, based on applying right to food approaches that are founded on the principles of participation, transparency and accountability.
  - Coordinate at national and regional levels, through building and strengthening existing regional and national mechanisms and networks working on nutrition and food security issues.
- Promote accountability and share best practice, through developing innovative mechanisms and common indicators to help countries monitor and report quantitatively on their progress on tackling hunger.
  - Develop a Global Strategic Framework for food security and nutrition in order to improve coordination and guide synchronised action by a wide range of stakeholders. This will build on existing frameworks, such as the:
    - ▶ Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security
    - ▶ UN Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA)
    - ▶ Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

## Box 4

### New characteristics of the CFS

The key formal 2009 CFS reform document contains a number of new roles and important features.

- The political centrality of the CFS within the UN system
  - Its inclusiveness – the CFS is being reformed specifically 'to ensure that the voices of all relevant stakeholders – particularly those most affected by food insecurity – are heard.'
  - There is more emphasis on the CFS as an on-going process rather than an annual event. This means that work is undertaken on an on-going basis, which should result in more efficient, responsive and effective policy decisions.
  - Its linkages with different levels (from global to regional to local levels), and particularly its aspiration to be connected to the field and 'the reality on the ground.'
- Realising the right food is explicitly included in the CFS's mission.
  - CSOs are recognised as full participants and can autonomously self-organise themselves at the CFS through a global Civil Society Mechanism.
  - The CFS is empowered to negotiate and adopt a Global Strategic Framework for a food strategy providing guidance for national food security action plans.
  - The CFS work is supported by a new High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), in which the expertise of farmers, indigenous peoples and practitioners is recognized alongside academics and researchers.
  - The principle of subsidiary (decisions taken at the lowest appropriate level) is recognised and links to be built between global proceedings and regional and country levels.



## Recent CFS reform

Things changed after the failure of global governance and global policy coordination was exposed during the world food crisis in 2007–2008, where hunger jumped by up to 150 million people – to a record of 1.02 billion – because of low global stocks, lack of global oversight and coordination, biofuels policies, market panic and spiraling food prices.

Despite a competing G8 proposal of establishing a vaguely-articulated 'Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition', determined political and civil society actors strongly urged in 2008 to reform the CFS into the key discussion and decision-making body within the UN system on food security issues.

Reform of the CFS started that year with the goal of focusing its role on the coordination of efforts to ensure universal food security. The reforms have sought to make the CFS more effective by including a wider range of participants, strengthening its technical expertise, increasing its on-going work programme throughout the year, and reaching out and paying particular attention to those most affected by food insecurity.

## Why is a reformed CFS necessary?

First, the food system desperately needed an inclusive space for policy making on food security issues at the international level. Hitherto, and by default, this vacuum allowed decisions to be taken by powerful non-inclusive forums, such as the G8, or by those not specifically tasked with achieving food security, such as the World Bank or even the World Trade Organization.

Second, the number of international bodies and organisations working on food security, agriculture and hunger issues has multiplied considerably over the past 30 years, and the political space at the global level to achieve coherence and coordination between them all has not kept pace. For example, when the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon convened a High-Level Task Force to respond to the 2007–2008 food crisis, it counted more than 20 different bodies amongst its participants – ranging from the FAO and the WFP, to the IFAD and the WTO.



## Fragmentation

This growth in bodies and organisations has led to fragmentation and a complex – and often contradictory – mosaic of overlapping and misaligned strategies, advice, frameworks, guidelines, rules and policies.

## Lack of voice

Smallholder farmers, rural social movements and CSOs have also criticised recent global initiatives and platforms on food security – such as French President Sarkozy's 2008 G8 proposed 'Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition' – for lacking transparency and for being exclusive and reluctant to incorporate rural and marginalised peoples.

## One-country, one-vote

As such, and located within a forum based on the UN principle of one-country-one-vote, a strengthened, reformed, and inclusive CFS was promoted by CSOs, the FAO and some governments as an appropriate venue to address some of the global governance gaps identified above.

## States remain principle actors at the CFS

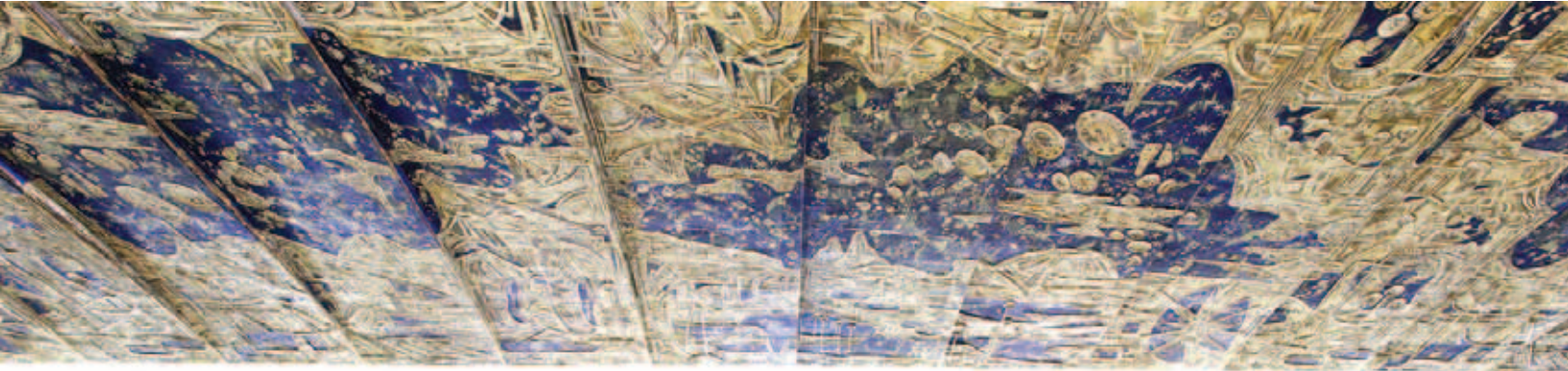
Member states rightly remain the principle actors at the CFS and in the elimination of food insecurity and hunger.

The 2009 CFS reform document confirms this in a number of ways. For example:

- Voting and decision taking power is assigned to member states alone
- The reform document asserts the importance of 'country-owned' plans for tackling food insecurity
- And it holds states accountable for addressing food insecurity and monitors their progress towards this.







# How does the CFS work?

## Global Plenary meeting

Members, participants and observers at the CFS meet as a whole once a year for an annual Plenary Session. The 37<sup>th</sup> CFS Session at the FAO in Rome in October 2011 was the second plenary since the CFS became a multi-stakeholder forum.

The Plenary is the main event in the CFS calendar and it is the:

'...central body for decision-taking, debate, coordination, lesson-learning and convergence by all stakeholders at the global level on issues pertaining to food security and nutrition and on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security.'

Plenary Sessions are open to all three categories of CFS participants – members, participants and observers – and they focus on specific topics and issues related to food security and nutrition in order to provide guidance and recommendations to assist all stakeholders in eradicating hunger.

At the 37<sup>th</sup> Plenary session in 2011, for example, there were three main policy roundtable debates on:

- How to increase food security and smallholder sensitive investment in agriculture
- Gender, food security and nutrition
- Food price volatility.

Representatives from 83 civil society organisations participated in these roundtable discussions through the Civil Society Mechanism (see below), and all the background documents and final reports are available online at [www.fao.org/cfs/en](http://www.fao.org/cfs/en).






## Inter-sessional work

The reforms have given a larger role to the ongoing work of the CFS during the 'inter-sessional' period throughout the year.

This is maintained through regular meetings of the CFS Bureau – the executive arm of the CFS that represents the broader membership of the CFS between Plenary Sessions – and the Advisory Group, which supports the Bureau and maintains links between participants and other stakeholders to ensure a two-way exchange of information.

The CFS is also informed and guided by the work of a new High Level Panel of Experts, which provides rigorous analysis through reports and studies on various related issues, such as on:

- Land grabbing
- Food price volatility
- Social protection
- Climate change and food security.



*"Countries, CSOs and NGOs can  
make their voices heard equally in  
CFS Plenary Sessions. That's  
what's unique about CFS."*

**Noel de Luna**  
Former Chair of the CFS



## Key actors

The CFS is now composed of three types of actors: Members, Participants and Observers (see Table 1).

**TABLE 1. KEY ACTORS OF THE CFS**

| What                | Who  | Rights   |
|---------------------|--|--|
| <b>Members</b>      | 127 member governments of the FAO, the WFP, the IFAD, or the UN  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Voting and decision taking is the exclusive prerogative of Members (including drafting final reports of the CFS Plenary Sessions)</li> <li>■ Members can intervene in the Plenary and breakout discussions</li> <li>■ Approve meeting documents and agendas</li> <li>■ Submit and present documents and formal proposals</li> </ul> |
| <b>Participants</b> | <p>Representatives of the UN agencies (such as FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, Standing Committee on Nutrition and etc)</p> <p>Civil society and non-governmental organisations and their networks, with particular attention to organisations representing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Smallholder family farmers</li> <li>■ Fisherfolk</li> <li>■ Pastoralists</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Can take part in the work of the CFS and contribute regularly to inter-sessional activities at all levels</li> <li>■ Can intervene in the Plenary and breakout discussions</li> <li>■ Contribute to preparation of meeting documents and agendas</li> <li>■ Submit documents and formal proposals</li> </ul>                        |

| What             | Who  | Rights   |
|------------------|--|--|
|                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Urban poor</li> <li>■ Landless</li> <li>■ Agricultural and food workers</li> <li>■ Women</li> <li>■ Youth</li> <li>■ Consumers</li> <li>■ Indigenous peoples, and</li> <li>■ NGOs whose mandates and activities are concentrated in areas of concern to the CFS.</li> </ul> <p>International agricultural research bodies (e.g. CGIAR, Biodiversity International)</p> <p>International and regional financial institutions (World Bank, IMF, regional development banks and WTO)</p> <p>Representatives from private sector associations and private philanthropic foundations</p> |  |
| <b>Observers</b> | <p>Interested organisations invited to observe by the CFS or the Bureau</p> <p>Regional associations of countries (e.g. SADC) and regional intergovernmental development institutions</p> <p>Other networks or organisations (local authorities, foundations, research or technical institutions)</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ May be invited by the Chair to intervene during discussions</li> <li>■ These actors can apply for observer status for specific items, or entire sessions, but they have to be invited to speak by the Chair.</li> </ul> |



## How is the CFS organised?

The CFS is supported by several key bodies:

**The Bureau** comprises a Chair, plus 12 elected members – two each from the following regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East, and one from North America and South-West Pacific. The Bureau's role is to:

- Ensure coordination among all actors and levels
- Advance tasks in preparation for Plenary Sessions
- Carry out tasks delegated from the Plenary, including preparing agendas, proposals and documents
- Direct the work of the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE)
- Send requests to the HLPE for scientifically sound, clear and concise written reports and analysis for Plenary or inter-sessional purposes.
- The chair of the Bureau from 2011-2013 is Yaya Olaniran, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the FAO, Nigeria, and the 12 members are: Angola, Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt,

- France, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jordan, Switzerland, the USA and Zimbabwe.

**The Advisory Group** is made up of representatives from the key UN bodies (FAO, WFP, IFAD), plus other non-member CFS participants, such as CSOs and NGOs, international research bodies, international financial and trade organisations, private sector associations and philanthropic bodies (see Box 5).

## Box 5

### Advisory Group members – 2011-2013

#### UN bodies

FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization)

WFP (World Food Programme)

IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)

Right to Food: UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis

UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN)

#### CSO representatives

Mouvement International de la Jeunesse Agricole (MIJARC),  
George Dixon Fernandez

World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous People (WAMIP), Lalji Desai

Indigenous Caucus (ICAZA), Jorge Stanley

The World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFHFF),  
Margaret Nakato Lubyayi

#### Alternate Members:

La Via Campesina, Ibrahima Coulibaly

La Via Campesina, Kalissa Regier

International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant,  
Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association (IUF), Svetlana  
Boincean

Movimiento Agroecológico de América Latina (MAELA), María  
Noel Salgado

#### International agricultural research bodies

Biodiversity International

#### International financial and trade institutions

World Bank

#### Philanthropic foundations/private sector

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

International Agri-Food Network

**The Secretariat** supports the Plenary, the Bureau, the Advisory Group and the High Level Panel of Experts, and is currently housed in the FAO (although this could be rotated between the IFAD and the WFP in the future).

**The High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE)** has an independent steering committee of 15 experts who provide advice on policy as well as technical and scientific issues.

The HLPE convenes Project Teams to work on specific reports and studies and can call on a 120-strong global Roster of Experts to support their work.

Importantly, the HLPE is mandated to draw on world-class academic/scientific knowledge, as well as field experience and knowledge from social actors and practitioners from various settings.

The following 15 world-renowned experts were appointed by the CFS Bureau to the HLPE Steering Committee to serve until the CFS Plenary in 2012.

MS Swaminathan, Chairperson (India)

Maryam Rahmanian, Vice-Chairperson (Iran)

Catherine Bertini (the US)

Martin S Kumar (Australia)

Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher (Ethiopia)

Lawrence Haddad (the UK)

Sheryl Lee Hendriks (South Africa)

Alain de Janvry (France)

Renato Maluf (Brazil)

Mona Mehrez Aly (Egypt)

Carlos Perez del Castillo (Uruguay)

Roelof Rabbinge (the Netherlands)


Huajun Tang (China)

Igor Tikhonovich (Russia)

Niracha Wongchinda (Thailand)





  
M. S. Swaminathan

  
Maryam Rahmanian

**The Civil Society Mechanism (CSM)** is autonomous and self-organised.

It facilitates the participation of social movements and CSOs in the work of the CFS, including input in negotiations, discussions, consultations and decision-making while providing a space for dialogue between a wide-range of civil society actors. The CSM is inclusive of all organisations concerned with food security at all levels in all parts of the world.

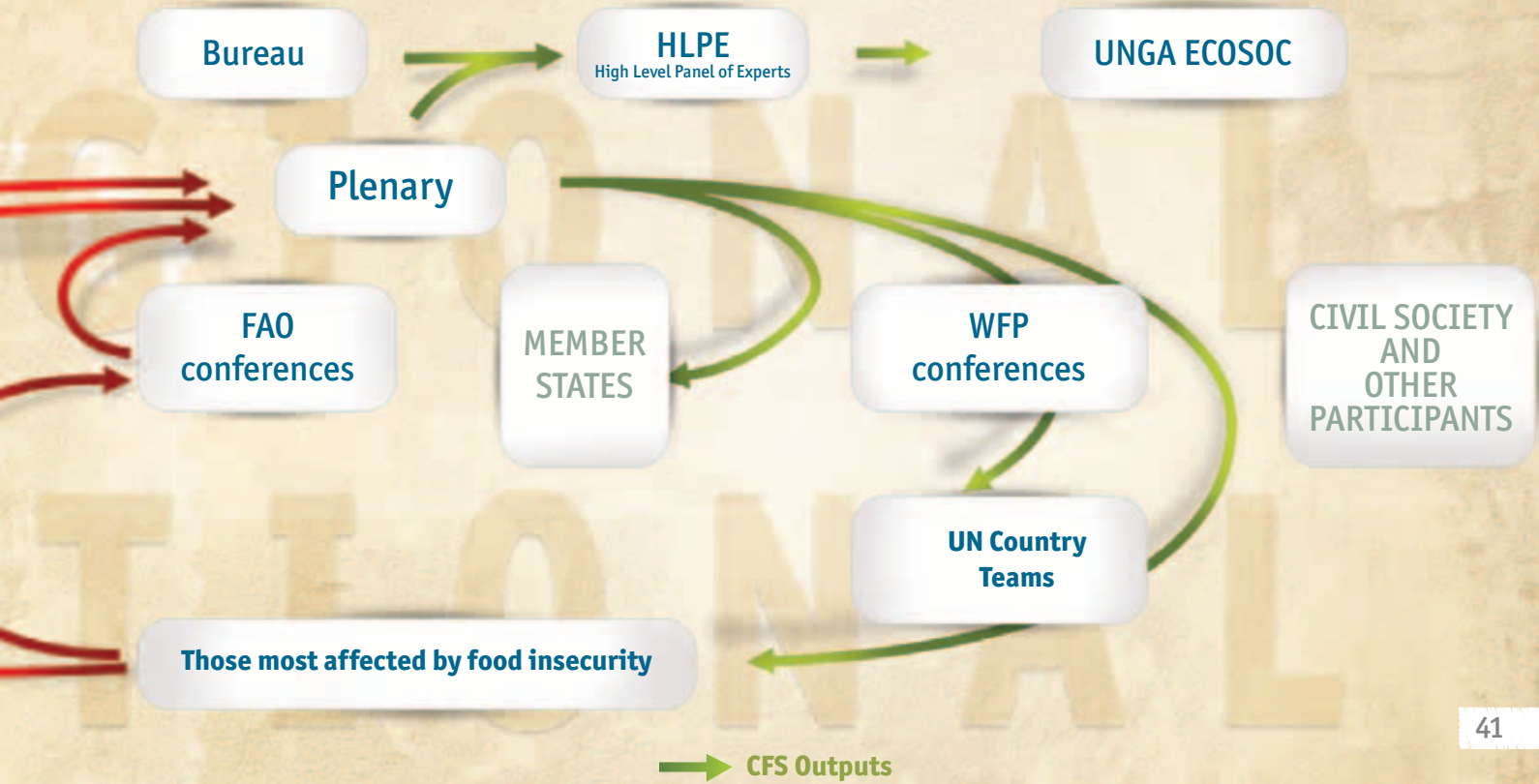
### Coordination Committee

The CSM is governed by a global Coordination Committee (CC), whose members are selected by the membership at large.

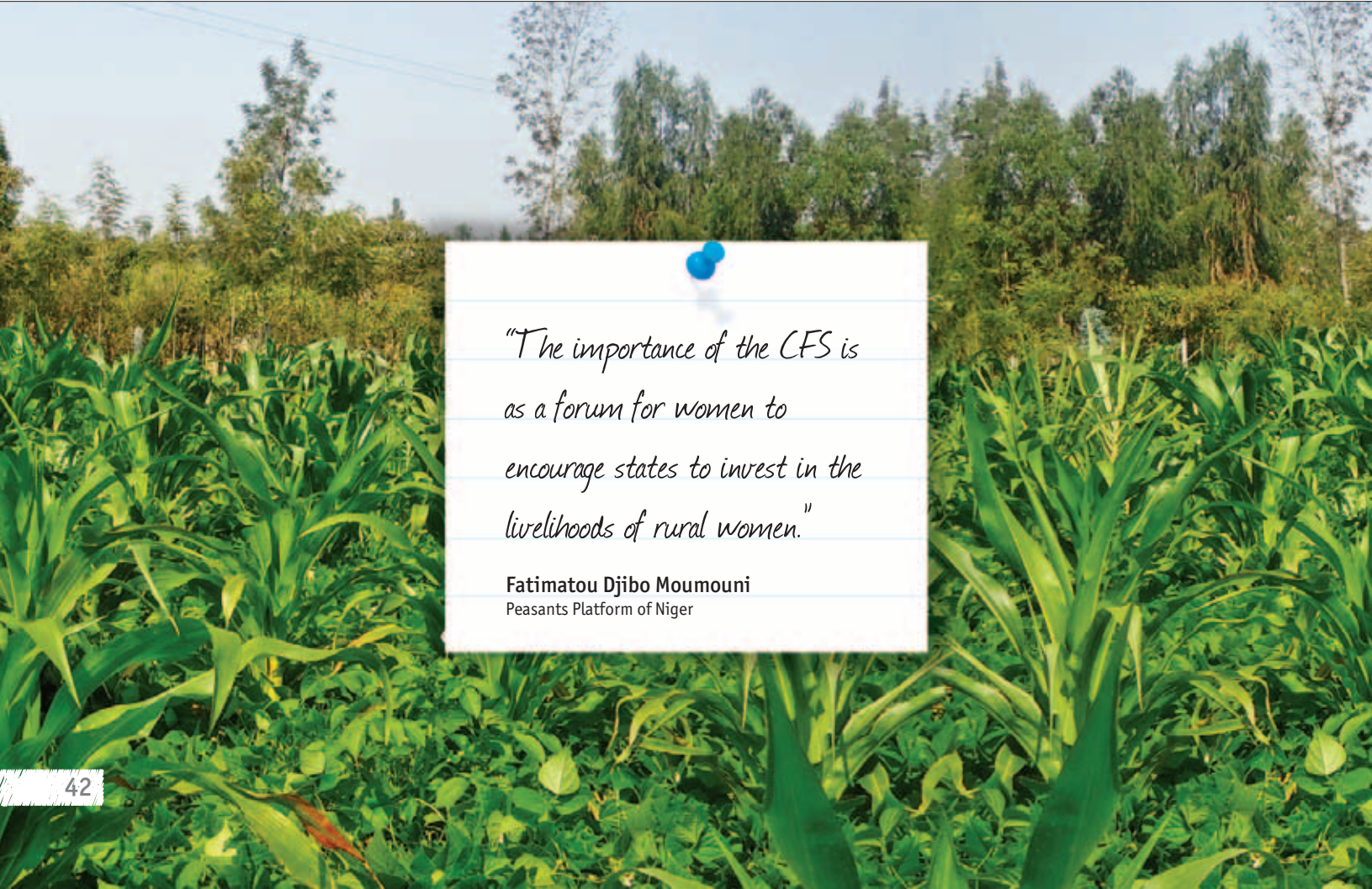
The Coordination Committee is comprised of 41 Members from 11 constituencies (key stakeholder groups) and 17 sub-regions worldwide (see page 50-53). Coordination Committee members do not represent their organisations, but provide services on behalf of all. Small-scale farmers make up the largest constituency in the Coordination Committee because they represent the majority of the world's hungry people and produce most of the world's food. A geographic and gender balance is also ensured; there is a goal of ensuring that half of the Members are women.



# Committee on World Food Security (CFS)







*"The importance of the CFS is  
as a forum for women to  
encourage states to invest in the  
livelihoods of rural women."*

**Fatimatou Djibo Moumouni**  
Peasants Platform of Niger





## How YOU can get involved

The CFS has a mandate to reach out to the field and consult in particular those groups and communities most affected by food insecurity – such as smallholder farmers, women, youth, pastoralists, indigenous people and artisanal fisherfolk. There are a number of ways you or your organisation can get involved with the CFS.

### Global

#### Contact the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM)

Make contact with the CSM by connecting with your constituency or sub-regional Coordination Committee (CC) Member. Your CC Member will be keen to hear from you, and they can feed in or submit your points or input into ongoing debates and consultations at the CFS that they or other Members of the CC are involved in.

#### Participate in a CSM working group

The CSM currently has the following working groups, which are good avenues for active participation. These working groups feed into

the ongoing CSF work programme.

- Price volatility
- Agricultural investment
- Gender
- Nutrition
- Land
- Global Strategic Framework
- Protracted crisis and conflict

Please see the CSM website for all Working Group facilitator contact details, work programmes, working groups details and documents relating to the CSM here: <http://csm4cfs.org>

#### Submit evidence to High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE)

Your organisation can submit written comments or input into early drafts of important reports and studies prepared by the High Level Panel of Experts and which issues policy recommendations to governments.

The HLPE has written or is completing reports this year on land grabbing, food price volatility, social protection and climate



change and food security. Further studies were requested from them at the 37<sup>th</sup> CFS Plenary Session.

Organisations or individuals can submit input in any of these main languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian.

Look here for the list of ongoing or forthcoming reports or studies that the HLPE are working on, and opportunities to submit comments, input or evidence online: <http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/en/>

## Ongoing Consultations

There are ongoing CFS consultations in Rome on the draft Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security – which are aimed at curbing land grabbing in developing countries. Your Coordination Committee Member can guide you on this if you wish to submit input or comments.

## Consultation on Global Strategic Framework

Online consultations have begun on the CFS Global Strategic Framework (GSF). This will be a highly influential policy framework document, and we encourage your organisation to participate in

any further consultations civil society will have to influence the outcome of this process. Please consult the CSM website for any upcoming events or consultations on the Global Strategic Framework at <http://csm4cfs.org>.

- 1) You can read online consultation comments on the draft Global Strategic Framework here <http://km.fao.org/fsn/cfs>
- 2) You can contact the moderator on the Global Strategic Framework here: [fsn-moderator@fao.org](mailto:fsn-moderator@fao.org)
- 3) Or you can also input into the civil society consultation on the GSF by contacting the Working Group coordinator.

## Attend CFS Plenary

If you are self-funded, you can forward representative nominations through your sub-regional Member to the Coordination Committee to attend the annual CFS Plenary Session and the Civil Society Forum in Rome in Italy.

Over 150 CSO delegates from around the world attended the CSM Consultation Forum ahead of the CFS Plenary in Rome in 2011, alongside other CSO observers. Representative delegates also participated in proceedings at the 37<sup>th</sup> CFS Plenary Session.





## Regional

The CFS is doubly committed to increasing consultation with civil society on a regional basis. Your constituency or sub-regional Member can guide you towards forthcoming FAO, IFAD, or WFP regional conferences that feed in and are linked to the CFS, and which may be taking place near you.

Hundreds of civil society groups attend FAO Regional Conferences – which occur biannually in places as diverse as Cairo to Panama City – and these can be great opportunities to make your case, lobby or submit evidence or ideas directly to the CFS.

## National

You may approach your sub-regional Member or make contact directly with the chairperson of your national CSO food sovereignty or food security network, platform, or mechanism.

They may be involved in national-level CFS hunger mapping exercises or discussions, round tables or consultations through national level UN Country Teams, and you have a right to know about and to participate in them.



## Resources

### Online

You can follow all the official CFS proceedings and find documents and final reports here: [www.fao.org/cfs/en](http://www.fao.org/cfs/en)

This key site – Civil Society for the Committee on World Food Security – has all the details on the CFS from a civil society perspective that you may need, and outlines all the current CSM representatives and key documents.

See: <http://csm4cfs.org>

Several online debates and discussions related to the CFS and global food security take place here, at the Global Food Security and Nutrition Dialogue.

See: <http://foodnutgov.ning.com/>

ActionAid International posts a monthly update on the CFS here:

<http://www.actionaid.org/what-we-do/food-rights/food-crisis-policy>

## Key documents on the CFS

### Latest CFS documents:

Here's the final report on the 37th CFS Plenary on 17-22 October 2011. See: [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs1011/CFS37/documents/CFS\\_37\\_Final\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs1011/CFS37/documents/CFS_37_Final_Report_FINAL.pdf)

For a summary of outcomes from the CSM Forum on 15-16 October 2011 please refer to the CSM website: <http://csm4cfs.org>

### Two key UN documents on the CFS:

The final CFS reform document (2009):

See: [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs0910/ReformDoc/CFS\\_2009\\_2\\_Rev\\_2\\_E\\_K7197.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs0910/ReformDoc/CFS_2009_2_Rev_2_E_K7197.pdf)

The final document on the CFS Civil Society Mechanism (2010)

See: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/019/k9215e.pdf>

## Key civil society guides and reports on the CFS:

Global governance for world food security: a scorecard four years after the eruption of the 'Food Crisis' by Nora McKeon (2011)

See: <http://www.boell.de/downloads/Global-Governance-for-World-Food-Security.pdf>

Now's the time to make it happen, in Food Movements Unite! by Nora McKeon (2011)

See: [http://www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it/pdgcs/documentazione/ArticoliInterventi/2011-01-01\\_McKeonFoodFirst.pdf](http://www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it/pdgcs/documentazione/ArticoliInterventi/2011-01-01_McKeonFoodFirst.pdf)

The reformed Committee on World Food Security, A briefing paper for civil society, by Mundubat and IPC (2010)

See: <http://www.derechoshumanosdelcampesinado.org/es/descargas.html?func=select&id=16>

Civil society consultation to the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on World Food Security, Final Report, (2010)

See: <http://foodgovernance.files.wordpress.com/2011/02/cso-consultation-final.pdf>



## Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) Constituencies

(Total of 24, x2 Members each, apart from smallholder farmers who have 4 Members)

### **Smallholder farmers (4)**

Name: Henry Saragih  
Organisation: La Via Campesina  
Location: Indonesia  
Email: [hsaragih@viacampesina.org](mailto:hsaragih@viacampesina.org)

Name: Ibrahima Coulibaly  
Organisation: La Via Campesina  
Location: Mali  
Email: [i\\_ibracoul@yahoo.fr](mailto:i_ibracoul@yahoo.fr)

Name: Elisabeth Atangana  
Organisation: PAFO (Pan-African Farmers Organisation)  
Location: Cameroon  
Email: [cnopcameroun@yahoo.fr](mailto:cnopcameroun@yahoo.fr)

+ 1 TBC

### **Fisherfolk**

Name: Muhammad Ali Shah  
Organisation: World Forum of Fisher Peoples' / Pakistan Fisher Folk Forum  
Location: Pakistan  
Email: [pakistanfisherfolk@hotmail.com](mailto:pakistanfisherfolk@hotmail.com)

Name: Margaret Nakato  
Organisation: The World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers  
Location: Uganda  
Email: [mnakato@worldfisherforum.org](mailto:mnakato@worldfisherforum.org)

### **Pastoralists**

Name: Lalji Desai  
Organisation: WAMIP  
Location: India  
Email: [lalji\\_satya@yahoo.co.in](mailto:lalji_satya@yahoo.co.in)

Name: Safouratou Moussa Kané  
Organisation: Association pour la Redynamisation de l'Evage au Niger  
Location: Niger  
Email: [rosedjabo@yahoo.fr](mailto:rosedjabo@yahoo.fr)

### **Landless**

TBC

### **Urban poor**

Name: Davinder Lamba  
Organisation: Habitat International Coalition (HIC)  
Location: Kenya  
Email: [davinderlamba@gmail.com](mailto:davinderlamba@gmail.com)

+ 1 TBC



### **Agricultural and food workers**

Name: Svetlana Boincean

Organisation: International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association (IUF)

Location: Moldova

Email: svetlana.boincean@iuf.org

Name: Alessandra Lunas

Organisation: CONTAG Brasil

Location: Brasil

Email: alessandra@contag.org.br

### **Women**

Name: Sarojeni Rengam

Organisation: Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC)

Location: Malaysia

Email: sarojeni.rengam@panap.net

Name: Fatimatou Himax

Organisation: Plateforme Paysanne du Niger

Location: Niger

Email: fatimatou3@yahoo.fr

### **Youth**

Name: George Dixon Fernandez

Organisation: MIJARC

Location: Brussels/India

Email: georgedixon72@yahoo.co.in

Name: Kalissa Regier

Organisation: La Via Campesina

Location: Canada

Email: kjregier@gmail.com

### **Indigenous Peoples**

Name: Jorge Stanley

Organisation: Indigenous Caucus

Location: Panama

Email: manigueuigdinapi@yahoo.es

Name: Saoudata Aboubacrine

Organisation: Indigenous Caucus

Location: Mali

Email: tinhinanbf@yahoo.fr

### **Consumers**

Name: Henry Kimera

Organisation: Consumer International

Uganda (CONSENT)

Location: Uganda

Email: khr@consent.ug

Name: Judith Hitchman

Organisation: URGENCI

Location: France

Email: contact@urgenci.net

### **NGOs**

Name: Natalia Landivar

Organisation: FIAN Ecuador

Location: Ecuador

Email: Landivar@fianecuador.org.ec

Name: Luca Chinotti

Organisation: Oxfam International

Location: Rome

Email:

luca.chinotti@oxfaminternational.org

## Sub-regions

(Total of 17, x1 Member each)

### North America

Name: Christina Schiavoni  
Organisation: WHY Hunger  
Location: New York, the US  
Email: christina@whyhunger.org

### Central America and the Caribbean

Name: Francisco Guerrero  
Organisation: ATC - Asociacion de Trabajadores del Campo  
Location: Nicaragua  
Email: atcnic@ibw.com.ni

### Andean Region

Name: Erminsu Iván David Pabón  
Organisation: Instituto Mayor Campesino - MAELA  
Location: Colombia  
Email: ermincho@yahoo.es

### Southern Cone

Name: Maria Noel Salgado  
Organisation: Movimiento Agroecológico de América Latina – MAELA  
Location: Uruguay  
Email: maria.noel.salgado@gmail.com

### Western Europe

Name: Stineke Oenema  
Organisation: Policy Advisory for Food and Nutrition Security for ICCO/Netherlands, Chair of the European Food Security Group of CONCORD (EFSG)  
Location: The Netherlands  
Email: stineke.oenema@icco.nl

### East Europe

Name: Willy Schuster  
Organisation: EcoRuralis Romania  
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### Pacific

TBC

### West Asia

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**South Asia**

Name: Ujjaini Halim

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**South East Asia**

TBC

**Central Asia**

TBC

**Oceania**

TBC

**Central Africa**

TBC

**East Africa**

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Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN)

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**North Africa**

TBC

**Southern Africa**

TBC

**West Africa**

Name: Djibo Bagna

Organisation: ROPPA

Location: Niger

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