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Section B

The Current Status of Policies and Structures
1. The capacity of family farmers, including indigenous peoples, women, and youth, along with local and regional food systems, must be strengthened.

2. Concentration of wealth and power must be reversed and action taken through agrarian reform and protection of farmers’ rights to genetic resources.

3. Agriculture and food production systems that rely on non-renewable resources which negatively affect the environment must be changed toward a model based on agro-ecological principles.
4. National and local governments have the prime responsibility to ensure food security. Their capacity to fulfill this role must be strengthened, and mechanisms to ensure accountability must be enhanced.

5. The participation of people’s organizations and NGOs at all levels must be strengthened and deepened.

6. International law must guarantee the right to food, ensuring that food sovereignty takes precedence over macroeconomic policies and trade liberalization. Food cannot be considered as a commodity because of its social and cultural dimension.
The CFS is and remains an intergovernmental Committee in FAO. The reformed CFS as a central component of the evolving Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition will constitute the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings. The CFS will strive for a world free from hunger where countries implement the voluntary guidelines for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.
The statement called for the opening of the Intergovernmental Committee on Food Security to include participation by all actors of civil society involved in the follow-up tasks assigned to the committee.
Multiple Dimensions of Change

- Human rights as foundation, not macroeconomics
- Production of food by agro-ecology, not industrial methods
- Participation in governance by civil society
Vision of Participation

Agroecology
for food security and
Food Sovereignty

Governments

Civil Society

FAO
Civil Society Grows in Governance Participation

- The IPC (International CSO Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty) worked with the FAO in planning for the CSO meeting of the World Food Summit+5 meeting in Rome planned for 3 through 5 November 2001.

- A parallel civil society structure was adopted by the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) held in Johannesburg in 2002. Agenda 21 of the WSSD included a description of the social actors.
Major Groups of CSD (Commission on Sustainable Development)
- NGOs, women, children and youth, indigenous people, farmers, business people and industry, trade unions and workers, local authorities, science and technology
IPC and Major Groups

- IPC structure differed from Major Groups structure
  - IPC emerged from ongoing civil society process of self-definition
  - MGs predefined by an intergovernmental forum
  - MG approach assumed broad category of people would come up with consensus (e.g., La Via Campesina and IFAP)
  - MG approach used global focal points, IPC depended on regional and local consultation
  - Private sector in MGs, not in IPC definition of civil society
Food Sovereignty Movement

- Has advocated agro-ecology rather than industrialized food system
- Has promoted the work of the IAASTD (International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development)
- Has countered World Bank approaches to “land grabs”
- Has encouraged climate justice
- Has opposed biofuel production
- Has opposed speculation on food and commodities
Food Sovereignty Movement

- Has promoted gender justice in the food movement
- Has linked health to food production
- Has advocated just land tenure approaches
- Links water issues to food and farm issues
- Links peasant and indigenous rights, appreciates Mother Earth spirituality: Bolivia, Ecuador, etc.
  - UN endorsements of these concerns in recognizing indigenous rights and moving toward peasants’ rights
IAASTD (International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development) was a UN-based project completed in 2008

- Concluded that business as usual is no longer viable in agricultural production
- Called for greater use of agro-ecology and a move away from industrial-style production
Agro-ecology

- Agro-ecology is a method of farming that uses natural systems and biological methods of farming. It relies upon traditional knowledge of farmers and farming methods.
• Rio+20 will take place in June 2012 with significant civil society participation. Two themes are:
  – “The green economy”
  – Institutional and infrastructural support for sustainable development

• The Committee on Food Security meets at the FAO in Rome in October near World Food Day (16 October) to refine international efforts at food security
The GAFSP (Global Agriculture and Food Security Program) has steering committee participation from civil society representatives (two from the south, one from the north)—no vote, but moral and technical input
The World Bank has been on the verge of introducing criteria for responsible investments in lands internationally.

Civil society sees these guidelines as encouraging land grabs detrimental to small-holder farmers.

Due to the participation of civil society objection, the finalization of such criteria has been postponed! A victory for civil society!
The Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) is a forum and vehicle for civil society self-organization to assist civil society to participate in the newly reformed Committee on Food Security. It has taken up its own study on land investments, speculation in food, and similar themes.
FAO and the Reformed CFS: Case Study (July 2011)

- We noted with regret the e-consultation on the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment launched by FAO on 1 July 2011 and would have expressed our reaction in writing had it not been for the announcement that the consultation was being recalled as a result of the protest of the Vice-Chair of the CFS Bureau, Hugo Verbist.

- We share his view that it is very unfortunate that FAO, instead of supporting the upcoming CFS process of consultation, took the initiative of unilaterally starting an e-consultation on this issue.

- One of the basic pillars of the reformed CFS is the central importance it attaches to participation by constituencies, particularly those most concerned, and it is therefore essential for all parties involved to clearly distinguish between meaningful involvement and window dressing.
Right to Water

- 70% of the world’s fresh water is used in agriculture

- 2 billion people in the world lack access to water and sanitation

- The World Water Forum is held every three years, the sixth will be in Marseille, France, in 2012

- Mostly conducted by large corporate water companies, it includes a ministerial meeting
Ministerial Meetings

- In Mexico City for the fourth World Water Forum, civil society insisted on the right to water being included in the government consensus document, four countries insisted and didn’t sign without it.

- In Istanbul for the fifth World Water Forum, 24 countries listened to civil society and didn’t sign a consensus statement without the right to water included.
The United Nations General Assembly passed the right to water and appointed a Special Rapporteur on the right to water.

Now the Marseille World Water Forum includes special attention to the right to water!

Process for new ideas: first they deny it, then they grudgingly acknowledge it, and then they claim it was their idea all the time.
US and Human Rights

- The USA abstained and did not veto the right to water at the UN
- The USA supports the progressive realization of the human right to food
- The USA has not ratified social and economic rights to food and water as have other countries of the world
The United States in recent years has begun to move to local purchase of food for food assistance rather than shipping commodities overseas for food assistance, much of that money going for shipping on American vessels.