



FINAL DECLARATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Regional Civil Society Consultation for Africa held in Brazzaville April 21-22, 2012

We, African civil society organizations - including small-scale farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, consumers, women, young people, NGOs, human rights movements, trade unions, academics, artisans, indigenous peoples – meeting in Brazzaville from 21 to 22 April 2012 in the context of the 27th FAO Regional Conference, having discussed the situation of agricultural development and food security in Africa, make the following observations :

1. Food insecurity affects more than 40% of the African population, of which 65% are small-scale producers, despite the variety of projects that have been implemented in Africa and the strong economic growth rate over the past few years highlighted by the authorities ;
2. Lack of coherence among policies, programmes and projects at different levels (local, national, regional et continental) continues to be a problem ;
3. Governments look to external resources to fund African agriculture yet, we maintain, our agriculture can only develop if it receives adequate national resources as a priority ;
4. Resources are targeted towards industrial agriculture adopting the Public/Private Partnerships (PPP) approach which is not an appropriate instrument for supporting the family farms that are the foundation of African food security and sovereignty ;
5. Despite the expectations that CAADP inspired at the outset, civil society notes that the process of its implementation is not inclusive and that the modalities of its funding are oriented towards external aid that is often not adapted to the national context ;
6. Government accountability regarding the various types of investments that have been put in place before and after the 2008 food crisis is progressively weakening;
7. There is a communications deficit among the various actors of food security;
8. The needs of small producers – women in particular – are increasingly highlighted in programme proposals as means for successfully mobilizing financial resources, yet these resources do not reach the small producers in whose name they were sought.

In order to address these preoccupations, which we discussed in detail, we make the following requests :

1. Regarding the Global Strategic Framework (GSF)

- The adoption of coherent agricultural policies that take into account the impact of climate change in Africa as well as the principles of agro-ecology and of food sovereignty.

- The establishment, within the framework of the CFS, of a mechanism of monitoring and evaluation adopting a human rights approach in order to verify that the various actors respect, protect and fulfill the right to food according to their respective obligations.

2. Regarding the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests

- In the African context, the Voluntary Guidelines should be harmonized with the AU Land Initiative and should support the implementation of this existing initiative.

- Once the Guidelines have been adopted, governments should apply them to the national context adopting an inclusive approach. A formal dialogue space should be established including all the concerned actors, with particular attention to small-scale producers, in order to identify gaps and ensure the effective implementation of the Guideline at all levels.

- Our assembly firmly condemns land grabbing and calls for a moratorium on the industrial production of agrofuels on the continent, which is strongly linked to this deplorable phenomenon.

3. Regarding agricultural investments

- The existence of agricultural policies formulated with a participatory approach should be the pre-condition for the formulation of national investment plans.

- States should be accountable for ensuring that agricultural investments are useful and relevant and that they are coherent with the visions of the agricultural policies.

- Agricultural investments should be directed towards family farms, and particularly towards women and young people and other marginalized groups.

We request that :

- governments, FAO, the G8, the World Bank and the GAFSP reconsider their promotion of Public/Private Partnerships which, as they are now conceived, are not suitable instruments to support the family farms which are the very basis of African food security and sovereignty.

- governments speed up the proactive participation of small-scale producers and other members of civil society in the decision-making mechanisms of CAADP, as is the case in the CSF.

- agricultural research be financed by the public sector and that it take local knowledge into account.

- FAO and governments provide Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) resources to support capacity building and the establishment of multi-actor platforms in the

context of consultations on principles of responsible agricultural investment and the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests.

- governments and FAO support the preparation of the International Year of Family Farming foreseen for 2014 according to the declaration of 22 December 2011 of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.
- governments, regional integration institutions, the African Union and FAO support the communication efforts of civil society at all levels.

We recognize the relevance and importance of the CFS and its inclusive method of work and we request that this approach be put into practice at all levels.

We support the decentralization process of FAO and recommend that this process be inclusive and transparent.

We also request greater coherence in Africa and that the programmes of the sub-regional and regional offices be defined through dialogue spaces involving all concerned actors.

We, civil society organizations, are ready to undertake lobbying, advocacy and social accountability action in order to bring our requests to actors at all levels.

Brazzaville, 22 April 2012

Participants of the African Civil Society Consultation from the Central Africa, East Africa, West Africa and Southern Africa regions