



**GLOBAL NETWORK
FOR THE RIGHT TO
FOOD AND NUTRITION**

The Jakarta Declaration of the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition

Global Meeting

Jakarta, Indonesia May 20-23, 2019

We, the member organizations and friends of the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition, representing social movements, indigenous peoples and other civil society organizations, met in Jakarta from 20-23 May 2019 for our fifth global meeting.

We are grateful to FIAN Indonesia and the other civil society organizations and movements for welcoming us in Indonesia, and for their support. We also thank our friends and colleagues from FIAN Sri Lanka and National Fisheries Solidarity Organization (**NAFSO**) for their support in organizing the meeting in Sri Lanka originally, which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the violent attacks that took place in April 2019. We express our condolences to the victims and their families, and to the people of Sri Lanka who have been deeply impacted by this act of hate and violence.

The Global Network continues to grow and build as a space of convergence, seeking to strengthen the global movement for the right to food and nutrition. We are working collectively to build analysis, exchange strategies and experiences, and mobilize grassroots struggles against violations and impunity for the RtFN. In particular we continue to develop and share methodologies that promote the co-construction and exchange of knowledge, realizing the potential of such strategies to increase the visibility of human rights violations impacting the Right to Food and Nutrition, and to provide a holistic view that facilitates collective action, capacity strengthening, and advocacy.

We are witnessing a growing erosion of human rights as a universal normative standard. This extreme conservative and authoritarian wave is increasingly gaining ground across the world, deepening all forms of xenophobia, racism, sexism, discrimination, and violence against rights defenders and marginalized communities, and in particular violence against women. The ongoing regression of human rights commitments and other international treaties by nation states are compromising the gains that human rights organizations and other social movements have made in the last 50 years, including the right to food and nutrition.

We celebrate the hard won victories in the last 15 years with an increase in legal, constitutional, and policy frameworks for the right to food, and the creation of formal spaces of participation for civil society at the national level largely due to the struggles and advocacy work of networks and movements, including

members of the Global Network. However, growing authoritarian political environments in many countries is leading to regressive policies, and the erosion of peoples' participation in political processes. In particular, we are compelled to highlight the closure of the Brazilian Food and Nutrition Security Council (CONSEA) through a presidential decree, and the repressive national environment, is a major setback for the global Right to Food movement as it has stood as the critical example of how to build meaningful policies that have a real impact on decreasing hunger.

We denounce the increasing dominance of corporations over food systems, and the denial of peoples' self-determination to cultivate, trade and consume their own food. And we are deeply concerned at the increasing role that corporations play in policy making, through the normalization of "multistakeholderism" which fails to address the Conflicts of Interest of private actors. This also fails to put in place much needed regulatory measures which, risks further releasing the state of their obligations as a duty bearer and shy away from their accountability in upholding human rights obligations. We are rights holders, not merely "interested parties", and as such we demand an end to the impunity of those who violate and abuse human rights. The rights of people must come before the interests of corporations.

We condemn the increasing criminalization and torture of social movements and human rights defenders, as well as increased aggression and legal persecution of small-scale food producers in the name of property rights, as seen in the emblematic case of [Pepsico suing farmers](#) in India for saving seeds.

We continue to witness structural violence towards peoples and communities through discriminatory public policies, which trap people in cycles of poverty and marginalization. Austerity policies continue to dismantle public assistance, social protection, and education systems, and erode public health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights.. Such policies further marginalize rural communities and food producers, especially women through the failure to support the technical, financial, and social needs of small-scale producers.

We are witnessing the negative impacts of mining, extractive industries, tourism and large-scale agriculture and industrial fishing, which in addition to vast displacement of communities is causing irreversible eco-destruction, pollution and loss of biodiversity, as well as contributing to unhealthy diets. Global food production is increasingly based on a few staple export commodity crops for profit, while nutritious, locally grown, diverse foods, produced by peasants and indigenous peoples, are being replaced by low quality, ultra-processed products. We denounce the aggressive advertising of ultra-processed

foods, breastmilk substitutes and sugar-laden beverages by corporations, which are responsible for putting the well-being of communities at risk.

We see the impacts from ongoing grabbing of natural resources, in particular land, water, oceans, and seeds, as well as emerging threats masked by technology and innovation. The capture of data from land and seeds including patenting of living organisms, has led to the privatization of peasant seeds, financialization of land, and the implementation of genetic modifications on plants and animals that will have huge impacts on the future of our world's ecosystem and biodiversity.

We have witnessed how small-scale fishers continue to struggle over access to water and ocean resources which their lives and livelihoods depend on, as these natural resources are increasingly being exploited and extracted by the interest of the private sector and industries such as oil and gas, transportation, and tourism, as well as in the name of conservation.

Women, who are largely responsible for feeding the world, continue to live with violence, both physical and structural, having their rights continually violated. The structural violence against women includes gender inequity perpetuated by both state policies and cultural factors, which must be overcome so that women can genuinely and fully participate in inclusive and democratic decision making. Women remain at the forefront, as political actors and leaders, community organizers and food producers, actively resisting human rights abuses against themselves and their communities and contributing to building alternative food production systems. Women working in the agricultural sector are more likely to be exposed to pesticides and herbicides, increasing the risks of miscarriages, infertility, cancers, and births of children with deformities. The effects of pesticide exposure is also said to last for generations, thus having intergenerational consequences even for those not directly exposed to pesticides. We recognize that the practice of breastfeeding, which is the first act of food sovereignty, is threatened by insufficient protection, promotion and support, including the inadequate implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

We emphasize that hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition and obesity are not exclusive to the global south. These are fast growing trends present in every part of the world. Food and nutrition security, good health and disease prevention, the transition to more sustainable food systems are development and political challenges that must be approached intersectionality and beyond global north and south boundaries.

We recognize climate change and biodiversity collapse as a challenge many regions have been facing for some time and which now we must face globally. We must be vigilant about false green and blue washing solutions, like for example what is being labeled as “climate smart agriculture”.

While we recognize the importance of food aid during emergencies to prevent impacted communities from hunger and starvation in the short term, we condemn the entrenchment of food aid as a core strategy to address chronic hunger, which is framed as charity rather than human rights. This promotes a culture of dependency and victimization, instead of strengthening food sovereignty in urban and rural communities, allowing access to and the production of healthy and culturally appropriate adequate food. It perpetuates the myth that hunger and food waste reduction can be achieved by using surplus food from the industrial food complex. This allows for continued overproduction and oppression leading to the proliferation of corporate consolidation, influence and wealth, and the widening chasm between the rich and the poor.

We recognize the serious impact that conflict, occupation, and war has on the basic human rights and dignity of millions of people globally. The increased weaponization of food aid as seen in Venezuela, or the aid blockages seen in Yemen and Syria, leading to famine-like conditions, shows the failure of the international community to uphold essential principles of international humanitarian law, and the human cost of political conflicts. These conflicts have contributed to a global refugee and migration crisis, as people are displaced from the countries, homes, and lives, and often face discrimination and violence, as well as lack of basic rights in their host countries.

We recognize the profound impacts of colonialism, and its legacies in economic, political, social and cultural systems including the global food system. We condemn the deeply embedded structures of racism, gender and class oppression that maintain capitalism as the status quo and which keeps the majority of the global population oppressed.

We denounce neo-colonialism and globalization, which uses trade agreements, financial and technological aid as mechanisms to control and influence these systems. These legitimize structural exploitation and occupation and deny true sovereignty for former colonies and independent states.

Therefore, the organizations and movements participating in this meeting reaffirm our commitment to:

- Build and strengthen the RtFN movement to face global challenges, through developing methodologies and strategies to guarantee rights, build regional and national resilience to resist regressive policies;
Build the capacity of the right to food and nutrition community, including social movements, indigenous peoples, and CSOs, to have intersectionality as a perspective - going beyond human created borders-- understanding multiple forms of discrimination and violations, and building solidarity across struggles;
- The decolonization of ourselves, our organizations, food systems, social, economical and cultural systems;
- Shifting power and control to communities, and ensuring citizens participation in decision making;
- Reaffirm our commitment to the struggle against the grabbing of natural resources, including land, forests, oceans, rivers, lakes, lagoons, seeds, and local animal genetic resources.
- Prioritize our advocacy for gender equality to ensure that the policy makers are accountable towards upholding human rights including sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- Prioritize our support to implementation of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, adopted in December 2018, as a result of a long social movement struggle.
- Prioritize our support to real solutions to the climate crisis through the transition to agroecology, a science and practices of food production and a way of life embedded in ancestral and cultural knowledge and maintained by peasants, fishers, pastoralists, indigenous communities, and other small-scale food producers, also as a way to ensure healthier diets.
- Prioritize our support and demand protection for the people who are defending our human rights from the repression, violence and criminalization to which they are often subjected.
- Promote real solutions to hunger, malnutrition and obesity, based in community visions and leadership, creating alternatives, and challenging neo-liberal narratives, dominant market dynamics and systems, corporate power and charitable false solutions.