



*International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty*

*Working Group on Agricultural Biodiversity*



## **Opening Statement, made by Tammi Jonas**

The International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) is an articulation space which brings together small-scale food producers involved in the conservation, sustainable use, development and governance of agricultural biodiversity, which is the basis for food sovereignty.

Agricultural biodiversity is guaranteed by the women and men of the world who are peasant farmers, pastoralists and livestock farmers, artisanal fishers, forest dwellers, indigenous peoples and other small-scale food producers who feed the world.

The targets of the post-2020 biodiversity framework cannot be achieved unless the real causes behind the destruction and loss of the world's biodiversity are addressed.

Progress cannot be made unless we bring an end to the criminalization and repression of those who defend biodiversity and territories. People must be allowed to live in rural areas in harmony with nature, as indigenous peoples and local communities do.

Therefore, this week's consultation process cannot and must not conclude without making progress on negotiating the texts which should include contributions from those who are at the forefront of conserving biodiversity.

The current climate crisis has been largely brought about by human activity and more specifically by those who promote an extractivist economic model which is damaging to biodiversity. There are plenty of examples of events which have not seen the urgent reactions which are needed and which have brought about the loss of native and wild breeds and which have forced people to flee their communities, such as the fires in Australia, the Amazon and Africa.

Plantations have caused ecocide in many countries by polluting and deviating rivers, destroying marine species and evicting nearby communities. The fundamental role played by local food systems, small-scale producers and agroecological approaches in conserving forests and wildlife while also achieving food security must be taken into account.

The free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities must also be respected, with communities being able to define their own ways of life while conserving and managing the biodiversity of their territories.

The post-2020 framework must be coherent in its 3 main objectives and coherent with the zero draft when it comes to effectively implementing sustainability and benefit sharing.