



International NGO/CSO Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty
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From:
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty
International Secretariat

Rome, March 5th, 2021

To:
Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary of the CBD

Mr. Francis Ogwal and Mr. Basile van Havre
Co-chairs of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz
SBSTTA Bureau Chair

Mr. Adams Toussaint
SBSTTA Bureau Member,
Chair of the Item 7 (Agriculture and Biodiversity) of the SBSTTA informal session

Subject: effective participation of small-scale food producers during the SBSTTA informal session

The International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) is an autonomous and self-organized global platform of small-scale food producers and rural workers organizations and grass root/community based social movements to advance the Food Sovereignty agenda at the global and regional level. IPC is a space of alliance and policy dialogue for 11 global organizations and 8 regional ones, counting more than 6000 national organizations, and 300 million of small-scale producers.

We, the small-scale food producers, are well aware that 2020 was a year that will remain a historic watershed and that we are now facing challenges that human beings had not yet faced on such a large scale and with such devastating global consequences. The sudden inability to move and meet meant that we all had to reorganize within a few months, and we thank the Secretariat and those who made it possible to continue the work agenda towards CoP15 and thus the endorsement of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

We are aware that, at the moment, there is no other solution than meeting online and we know that this method, besides having a lower environmental impact, gives the opportunity to participate to those who, mainly for financial reasons, cannot travel long distances. Even if the online meetings represent a limitation to the participation for those living in rural areas or with poor internet access, the initiative to allow the written submission of declarations through a unique platform and to ensure their publication on the official meeting page is therefore appreciated.



Nevertheless, and as agreed by several Parties during the SBSTTA informal session, these meetings do not allow a full and effective participation of Parties and Observers. The relevance of the forthcoming biodiversity framework does not allow for gaps in the overall construction of the framework and therefore requires inclusive, full and effective participation of all stakeholders.

We are therefore dismayed and disappointed that we were not given the floor during the last SBSTTA informal meeting, specifically during the agenda item 7 on Biodiversity and Agriculture. The IPC is an important actor in the process towards the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework process. Small-scale food producers, especially those applying agroecological models, have a major role to play in conserving and managing the agricultural biodiversity on which we all depend for our survival. The small-scale food producers do not only diversify agricultural production and conserve biodiversity, they also improve soil and plant health and reduce exposure to pests, diseases or extreme-weather events, it also brings greater rewards to farmers and the local community through improved nutrition, job creation and income generation.

We therefore welcome the Secretariat's initiative to focus attention on Agricultural Biodiversity through the second open stakeholder webinar on "Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Transition: Linkages to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework" to be held on 23 March 2021.

Hoping that the Secretariat will share and recognize the importance of small-scale food producers and their participation within the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework process, we ask the Secretariat the opportunity to give a space among the official speakers to the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty.

Our participation in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework process, as custodians of agricultural biodiversity and related traditional knowledge, is indispensable for protecting biodiversity, preventing further loss and restoring it.

Thanks for your consideration

Kind Regards

The Secretariat of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty