

March 14, 2022

Third working group on the Global Biodiversity Framework
IPC Initial Statement

The International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) is an articulated space representing 6000 grassroots organisations and social movements of Indigenous Peoples and small-scale food producers.

Today, two years into the pandemic, we face serious threats to the existence of life on our planet. Conflicts, extractive policies focused on ever-increasing industrial production for the sake of profit, obsolete laws and bureaucracies that do not adhere to the constant changes related to climate change and its harmful consequences for populations are deepening poverty and inequality around the world.

This honourable forum cannot afford to ignore any of the causes that have led us to the fastest recorded loss of biodiversity in history, as the 2019 IPBES report also states. We know that many of the causes that have led to this enormous loss of biodiversity are related to human activities and especially commodity production.

The industrial food system and extractive industries are the main causes of climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem destruction. A transition to more diversified and sustainable food production systems and a rapid move away from unsustainable energy, production and transport industries is therefore urgently needed. Setting targets that steadily increase the areas controlled and managed by indigenous peoples is a sure way to reverse the biodiversity losses the world is currently experiencing.

Indigenous peoples, peasants and small-scale food producers have protected, developed and enhanced the biodiversity on which we all depend for thousands of years; recognition and protection of their role is enshrined in UNDRIP and UNDROP. Ensuring secure and stable property rights for small-scale food producers and indigenous peoples, protecting them from the negative impacts of biotechnology by reaffirming the precautionary principle, and putting in place participatory monitoring mechanisms in which all stakeholders have the right to inform, are measures that should be included in the Framework.

In this context, we would like to remind delegates that Agroecology is based on our rights to seeds and biodiversity, as well as on our knowledge, innovations and practices. Agroecological systems already feed three quarters of the world with only one third of the land, and for three years we have been advocating for the inclusion of agroecology in the MGB, which would align with almost a decade of FAO's work to promote agroecology as the most sustainable form of food and fibre production that is also socially and economically just for small-scale producers and indigenous peoples.

IPC for Food Sovereignty also recalls that there can be no food security, no respect for resources, no respect for biodiversity, and no respect for human rights in a context of internal conflict or international war. Peace and respect between peoples is the minimum starting point to try to resolve the serious damage we have caused, but if war persists nothing will be resolved.

Thank you