

Civil Society and UN Forums: current practice and future challenges

14 October 2009

12:45-14:30

Iran Room – B016

Rationale

Achieving enhanced and effective civil society participation in UN forums - while maintaining member governments' responsibility for decision-making - is an objective that is being pursued throughout the UN system. It is one important component of the current effort to reform the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). In this context, it is useful to highlight good practices that have been developed throughout the UN system and to identify some of the major challenges that need to be addressed.

Programme

In the chair: Maria del Carmen Squeff (Chair of the CFS); co-chair: Thomas Price (FAO Senior Programme Officer for civil society relations)

Interventions :

- **Maria Squeff:** *Introductory remarks*
- **Thomas Price:** *Civil society participation in UN forums: the FAO context.*
- **Nora McKeon** (formerly responsible for FAO-civil society relations): *A system wide assessment of civil society participation in UN forums, based on her recently published book *The United Nations and Civil Society—Legitimizing Global Governance—Whose Voice?* (UNRISD and Zed, 2009)*
- **Michael Windfuhr** (former President of FIAN, now with Brot fur die Welt): *Civil society and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for the Application of the Right to Food: an example of good CFS practices.*
- **Ndiogou Fall** (President of ROPPA), *Linking national, regional and global levels: the experience of the West African small farmers network.*
- **Jean-Philippe Audinet** (Acting Director, Policy Division, IFAD): *IFAD's experience with the Farmers' Forum: lessons learned.*

Discussion

Chair's/co-chair's conclusions : *Lessons for the reform of the CFS*

Interpretation in English, French and Spanish

Refreshments will be served.