



## International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)

### COAG 29 – Item 3.2 “Integrated water resources management and governance of tenure of water resources for food and agriculture”

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 grassroots/community-based social movements to advance food sovereignty at the global and regional levels.

The IPC

- Agrees that there is a need for identifying and agreeing upon the principles for the responsible governance of water tenure; and
- Asks COAG to explicitly encourage the creation of mechanisms ensuring the effective participation of organizations of small-scale food producers and Indigenous Peoples as rights holders in the Global Dialogue on Water Tenure process, as key element of a human rights-based approach.

#### Background:

In 2010, the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council recognized water as a human right. General Comment No. 15 of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) has clarified the content of this right, including its close connection to the right to food. Furthermore, the CFS Policy Recommendations on Water (2015), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP, 2018) have further clarified the importance of water and its management and governance for small-scale food production and the realization of human rights. To fulfil its mandate to support the realization of the right to food, the FAO should therefore apply a human rights-based approach to its work on water, including the meaningful and effective participation of small-scale food producers and Indigenous Peoples.

On the basis of the great importance of water management and governance for small-scale food production and the realization of the right to food, the IPC supported the inclusion of water in the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT), which, however, found no consensus among governments. A participatory, human rights-based process to identify and agree on principles for the responsible governance of water tenure could therefore close a normative gap and provide guidance to states on how to implement their obligations under the international human rights framework.