

CSIPM Intervention on Agenda Item V. “Empowering Women and Girls and promoting Gender Equality”

CFS51 plenary

Wednesday 25 October

Prepared by the Women and Gender diversity working group and delivered by Paula Gioia and Paola Romero

Chair, representatives of member states, observers, colleagues, persons of all genders, sexual orientation, class, caste, ethnicities, race, abilities, and ages.....

On behalf of the CSIPM, we start by expressing our solidarity with all the civilians in areas of conflict and protracted crises, especially those in Gaza, currently deprived of shelter, medical assistance, water, and adequate food.

The Women and Gender Diversities WG of the CSIPM thanks the chairs of the Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment workstream. We also thank the CFS Chair and the Secretariat, and the other UN agencies who supported the process.

We have participated in this workstream with full commitment, bringing together a beautiful mosaic of people and experiences from around the world. We learned what true solidarity is; how to support a diversity of people who experience multiple and intersecting oppressions. We learned how much it means to make visible those who are made invisible, to care for all people.

The negotiation process was emotionally draining for us and the space was often violent, bringing many in the room to tears. While we were negotiating and as we speak here now, many lives in our homelands are suffering gender based and sexual violence. Millions who are still not able to realize their Right to Food, and are even being killed for being who they are. We had high hopes for an ambitious and progressive outcome for these Guidelines.

Our participation made a difference not only in this UN space but also in the lives of some of the people we carry in our hearts and thoughts.

We succeeded in bringing a human rights framework into the document as well as important references to the role of women's organizations and social movements. Indigenous Peoples and peasants, two very important constituencies of the CSIPM, are also recognised in the guidelines. Along with several other aspects.

However, the final text just approved contains many omissions that diminish our hopes and leave us unsatisfied. The aspects that we see lacking are:

- The recognition of land as commons;
- Free, prior and informed consent for Indigenous Peoples as always necessary and applicable;
- The recognition of the diversity of gender identities and sexual orientations in this world. LGBTQIA+ rights are human rights;
- The fact that redistribution of unpaid, invisible and unacknowledged care work requires the transformation of gender relations and of the economic system;
- Agroecology as an agriculture model, a science and a movement for life, for biodiversity, for cultures, for fair social relations. As such, it deserves more than a footnote;

- Intersectionality as the only framework that provides an appropriate analysis for how different discriminations and oppressions intersect, are compounded, and provide the basis for truly transformative policy responses;
- The needs of women, gender and sexual diversities under occupation must be addressed;
- Universal Social Protection must be a reality everywhere as a crucial right in the realisation of the right to food.

If those aspects are not addressed, exploitation of and violence against the most affected in our communities will continue. Therefore, as long as some of us are excluded, marginalised and made invisible, we cannot truly celebrate.

At the same time, CSIPM avoids the trap of political polarization and dichotomy between good and bad. We prepared an [extensive evaluation document available in the CSIPM website](#) and we have drafted an explanatory note to be added to the appendix of the CFS51 final report expressing our concerns while also recognizing this document as a starting point for continuing discussions in the CFS to achieve gender equality in food systems. This explanatory note has already been shared with the secretariat. We seek Member States's support on the inclusion of it to the appendix.

With these clarifications, the CSIPM supports the endorsement of the Guidelines on GEWE. We will contribute to their dissemination and use them in our future advocacy. The upcoming MYPOW presents us with plenty of opportunities to keep advancing towards the real transformation of the lived realities of so many marginalized peoples and address gender as a transversal and intersectional aspect of the progressive realization of the Right to Food.

We exist! We will continue to demand our rights in our communities and societies, from our governments, in the CFS, and in all spaces in the United Nations, and we commit to bring the achievements back home.