Mr. Chairman,

Farmers are concerned about the need to consider the SOCIAL dimension of the themes. From the impacts of transition on workers to the capacity for smallholder farmers to make change, these and many other implications on the livelihoods of people cannot be neglected. We strongly encourage discussions at IPM 19 to consider social consequences and to include protection measures in the plans for implementation.

Moving forward on all themes, and in the context of Sustainable Consumption and Production in particular, there is a need to engage multiple stakeholders. We would encourage members to ensure that the relevant UN agencies with expertise in target areas are engaged in the process.

Equally, there needs to be a better and more meaningful engagement with those most affected. Be it farmers or any other civil society group, real involvement is not about being called into an annual meeting. It means full access to funding, programming, and decision-making processes.