Food and Ag Cluster input to SDG Plenary – 11.07.2019

Since its reform in 2009 the Committee on world food security has positioned itself as the “foremost inclusive intergovernmental and international political platform on food security and nutrition with the explicit vision to foster the progressive realization of the right to adequate food for all.” Part of this process includes an autonomous civil society mechanism which is led which is led by representative organizations of those who are most affected by hunger and malnutrition, as well as those who are major contributors to food security.

With global food insecurity still on the rise, as we will see with the release of the state of food insecurity report on Monday, it’s clear that we are far away from achieving the ambitious goals set out in SDG 2 to end hunger, and that we need to seriously rethink policies and strategies that address food insecurity and food production.

Is it now more important than ever that take seriously the policy outcomes and guidance emerging from the CFS which address transversal issues across the food system, and support our understanding of HOW to operationalize the right to food.

Protecting the human right to food and nutrition means supporting small-scale food producers in realizing their livelihoods and accessing natural resources, supporting women’s rights, and creating the conditions in which communities and groups most impacted by food insecurity are at the center of decision-making.

- With the development of the CFS innovative monitoring mechanism, major policy instruments will be reviewed at the CFS on a biennial basis, taking into account national and regional participatory monitoring events and using a human rights based approach. This mechanism has a huge possibility to link up with the national and regional review processes of the 2030 agenda, but this has yet to be realized or taken up seriously by member states.

This method of assessment is important as Ending all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030 will require not only ‘technical expertise’ and tracking of data, but the solutions and alternatives from the lived experiences of those most impacted by food insecurity. Right to food is not in and of itself a solution to global hunger; it requires political will and accountability in order to fulfill State obligations and utilize an approach that ensures that the over 800 million people worldwide suffering from hunger will not remain silent in policy-making.

We need to continue ensuring support for the CFS, but that that the important policy advancements do not remain in Rome, but are take up seriously in our strategies to meet 2030 agenda.