

## **Written Statement of Major Group of Children and Youth for the opening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Working Group.**

Thank you. I speak on behalf of MGCY.

We believe, in a green, fair and people centered agricultural system. Along with other MGs in Rio we stated that, in Rio “We need to agree on concrete steps to end starvation and malnutrition for all, as well as to fight unsustainable patterns of food production and consumption.”

This is will require dismantling perverse incentives and subsidies that promote unsustainable agriculture, over consumption and food dumping. We have already crossed the planetary boundaries of nitrogen cycles and biodiversity loss.

The importance of food security and sovereignty is indispensable for achieving sustainable development. Food Sovereignty as a key principle implies that people have the right to define their own food and agricultural systems. This requires ensuring equal access to productive resources for all peoples, especially rural youth and women subsistence farmers.

Targets in relation to this could be:

- 1) The **increasing of the proportion of total overseas development assistance (ODA) allocated for agriculture and rural development to 20%** (Farmers MG, IFAD, Rome), with an aim of increasing the share of these funds and services to smallholders and women farmers to support local production (Bonn DPI/NGO Conference).
- 2) The strengthening of land tenure rights, addressing land grabbing and **creating a target for land that is owned and/or controlled by the people that work the land.**

The need for sustainable agricultural and increased investment in sustainable agricultural practices has already been mentioned in the Rio outcome (paragraph 110-113). With a special emphasis in (111) ‘maintaining natural ecological processes that support food production. 109 stresses the role of traditional practices and seed supply in doing so.

To achieve this we need to have a goal, which would aim to:

- 1) At least cut in half the rate of conversion of natural ecosystems to agriculture via low-input intensification of existing production and reclamation of degraded lands (CBD Nagoya Protocol)
- 2) Increase soil carbon stocks of agricultural lands by 1 ton per hectare; and improve agricultural water efficiency by a minimum of 20%.
- 3) Establishing a robust knowledge sharing mechanisms would further democratize and accelerate this process.

In addition, we support what the farmers MG stated in Rome regarding achieving a **20% increase in total food value through supply chain efficiency** – reducing loss and waste at every stage from production, storage, transportation, processing, and retailing, **to limit the need to increase food production and ease the pressure on the use of natural resources and energy.** This needs to be done by not clocking these figures only in developed countries, but in a disaggregated manner with a focus on rural smallholder, youth and women farmers.

We support the Committee on World Food Security as an inclusive forum to develop food and agricultural policies that will help us feed the world. With out inclusion in decision making these processes cannot be termed as ‘fair’ nor ‘just’.