

*Statement during Major Groups and other Stakeholders Meeting, Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, March 5, 2014, 3:00-4:15pm, TRI*

## **Focus Area 2 “Food Security and Nutrition”**

Thank you chair. I am Michael Rütimann speaking on behalf of Major Groups: Local Authorities, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, Women, Farmer), as well as the Food and Agriculture Cluster.

With regard to Focus Area 2 “Food Security and Nutrition”, I would like to make the following comments:

First

We commend and are encouraged that ensuring food and nutrition security for all and establishing sustainable agriculture and food systems is prominently placed in the document.

Second

We remain convinced that a strong call for a transformation to sustainable, diverse and resilient agriculture and food systems must be made. We are pleased that many elements that characterize sustainable agriculture and food systems are outlined in the document. In addition, other characteristics include high resource use efficiency, minimized emissions and use of non-renewable inputs, strengthened ecosystems, farm animal welfare, strengthened urban-rural linkages, adaptation and mitigating to effects of climate change, and safeguarded rights of agriculture and food systems workers. We must also acknowledge food sovereignty as a key demand of the poor.

Third

We are concerned that smallholder farmers as the critical “agents of change,” have not been given the necessary prominence in the document. Empowering smallholder farmers and other rural communities, in particular women and disadvantaged groups, is essential, including through access to productive resources, such as credit and other financial services, land tenure, training, prioritization of traditional knowledge as well as through better access to education, information and markets, including fair prices for their products. In this respect it is also necessary to address the structural causes of what we see as the feminization of poverty, especially in the countryside and end all forms of structural violence against women.

Fourth

We note with concern that the right to adequate food is not explicitly mentioned. Given its overarching and transformative role in achieving food security for all, we request to include the Right to Food in this priority area.

Fifth

Agriculture is equated with crop production and, at best, considers livestock production as a means to augment farming income. With livestock taking up three quarters of all available agricultural land and consuming well over one third of all crops produced, the livestock sector must be directly addressed in this focus area.

Sixth

The correction of inherent market failures must include efforts to eliminate dumping, support the establishment of food reserves to mitigate price and supply volatility, and preventing landgrabbing and excessive speculation on commodity markets through the establishment of commodity-specific position limits and increased transparency.

Seventh and Finally

We note that concrete measures to support countries in achieving the food and agriculture related goals and targets are missing. In this regard, we wish to emphasize the role of the Committee on World Food Security, not only as the foremost inclusive intergovernmental body on food security and nutrition, but also with the ability to support regular global, regional, and national multi-stakeholder assessments on sustainable agriculture and food systems.

Thank you.

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