RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
IX HEMISPHERIC FORUM OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS IN PREPARATION
FOR THE XLII REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS
“FOOD SECURITY WITH SOVEREIGNTY IN THE AMERICAS”

(OAS headquarters, Washington D.C. – April 26-27, 2012)
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On April 26-27, 2012, civil society and social actor representatives met at OAS Headquarters in Washington, D.C. to exchange ideas and propose recommendations to Member States in preparation for the XLII regular session of the General Assembly “Food Security with Sovereignty in the Americas”

The Forum was held in follow-up to the mandates assigned in General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2635 (XLI-O/11), and Permanent Council resolutions CP/RES. 840 (1361/03) and CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), approved by the respective General Assemblies.

The Hemispheric Forum consisted of an inaugural session, three plenary sessions, three parallel thematic workshops and a session on the results of the Sixth Summit of the Americas, in which representatives of civil society, Member States and the OAS General Secretariat exchanged ideas and best practices with a view to offer civil society and social actors a space to develop recommendations related to the Draft Declaration of Cochabamba and other topics that form the inter-American agenda.

This document includes the recommendations generated by civil society and social actors in the IX Hemispheric Forum on the following topics:

1) Food Security in the Americas
2) Democratic Governance and Food Security
3) Strengthening Human Rights and Food Security

The Hemispheric Forum was held with the support of the governments of the United States, Canada and Chile, and in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The list of participants and agenda of the IX Hemispheric Forum of Civil Society and Social Actors are included in this document as annexes 1 and 2.

Civil Society and Social Actor Recommendations

Workshop 1: Food Security in the Americas

To achieve food security, an integral strategy is required, and a fundamental part of this strategy lies in family agriculture, the base for food production in many countries of the Americas. By valuing
small farmers we can recover their contributions to greater production, generation of rural employment and create an added value, improving access to food.

Agriculture must be based on economic, social and ecological sustainability. The environmental conventions (desertification, biodiversity and climate change) are also directly related to the topic of food security. That relation should be reflected in the texts of the agreements, and later transcend into a unified focus at the institutional level, especially with a view to the Rio+20 meeting. The key natural resources to translate these agreements at the level the producers’ lives are water and soil. The generation of extreme precipitation (droughts and floods) due to the climatic variability, demonstrates the importance of linking the environmental discussion with the food security discussion.

To increase food production and access of small farmers to new production opportunities, the generation and transfer of technology is fundamental. Both modern and traditional knowledge have a role. The countries require a strengthened state and university research system, as well as an extension service that responds to the needs of small farmers. These institutions should have adequate infrastructure and human resources to contribute in the short and long term. Knowledge must be shared not only at the national level, but also between countries, with processes such as south-south cooperation and the exchange of best practices.¹

In order to maximize the benefits of the programs and projects that support food security, it is key to ensure that the actions to be carried out respond to the real needs of the producers and consumers. In addition, the only way to know the requirements of the productive sector is for governments to engage in broad communications with this sector.

Another responsibility of the states is inter-institutional coordination within each country, to optimize the effects of the programs. To achieve food security, in terms of physical availability and economic and social access, many actors intervene. The existence of a formal grouping of public institutions involved in food security is beneficial, and they should consider participatory consultation processes with civil society and productive sectors.

Food security is not limited to rural areas. Urban agriculture can generate a substantial contribution for access to food for vulnerable families in these areas. These family unites generate food for their own consumption and a surplus for sale. Initiatives should include community gardens and school family orchards.

Finally, the most important tool to confronting the challenge of food security is the human resource. Education and training of all actors is important, but preparing the future of the sector, youth, is key to be able to enjoy productive opportunities that may arise.

**Workshop 2: Democratic Governance and Food Security**

We, the representatives of the participating civil society organizations in the 9th Hemispheric Forum of Civil Society and Social Actors, in preparation for the 42nd OAS General Assembly, having discussed the topic of the relationship between democratic governance and food security, and thankful for the opportunity offered by the OAS for this purpose, share the following reflections with the representatives of the OAS Member States:

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¹ For example, the Mango Festival in Trinidad and Tobago.
As civil society, we express our will to follow-up, accompany and provide feedback on the concrete actions carried out by the States.

We appreciate that upon signing the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the OAS Member States voluntarily recognize that “The peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it” and “… that democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas.”

We consider that democratic governance is based on the full observance of the essential elements and fundamental components recognized in articles 3 and 4 of the Democratic Charter, and bearing in mind that food security is essential for social peace and, in turn, for democratic stability, we propose:

1. That States guarantee that the policy-making process related to food security, as well as that of all public policies, recognizes the participation of ethnic groups, Afro-descendants and indigenous peoples, and that participation in public policies is open, transparent and inclusive, incorporating the results of prior consultations with different sectors.

2. That to ensure the effective participation of civil society, States should guarantee the full exercise and protection of freedom of association, expression and access to information.

3. That governments follow-up with their commitments by assigning the necessary human, technical and financial resources for their complete execution and compliance.

4. That all OAS Member States establish an institutional and permanent mechanism for relations with civil society organizations, to facilitate the follow-up of the commitments States acquire in the framework of the Inter-American System, to give information and receive feedback.

5. That governments promote dialogues and partnerships with the private sector and civil society, that allow for the definition of agendas of consensus and make the implementation of agreements viable.

6. That the Inter-American System, through its specialized agencies, such as IICA, pay special attention to the problems of food security of different countries of the Americas and develop a framework for regional cooperation.

Note on the Draft Declaration of Cochabamba:

We consider it important that official representatives take into account that some concepts in the declaration should be clear in their scope and size, such as the concept of sovereignty, living well, Mother Earth and role of small farmers.

**Workshop 3: Strengthening Human Rights and Food Security**

We, the participants in the Workshop “Strengthening Human Rights and Food Security,” make the following observations and proposals in relation to the Draft Declaration of Cochabamba:
1. We recognize in food security, the human right to food that implies not suffering from hunger and malnutrition, being able to fully develop and conserving physical and mental faculties (1\textsuperscript{st} World Food Conference, 1974). For its promotion, respect, protection, exercise and defense, designing public policies with a rights focus is required, that:
   a. Clearly establishes the content and the essential level of the right to food, in such a way to objectify its level of compliance and identify shortcomings;
   b. Establishes progress and non-regression in this area;
   c. Designs, implements and evaluates promoting the protection of sectors in situations of vulnerability, including affirmative actions that favor the eradication of all forms of discrimination for reasons of race, color, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, language, religion, political ideologies, persons with disabilities, age;
   d. Participation of the stakeholders in the design, implementation and evaluation of the corresponding policies; and
   e. Accountability and timely access to information.

Only public policies with a rights focus will allow for overcoming rhetorical declarations of concrete programs, financing, norms and institutions. Furthermore, it will facilitate having clear measurement indicators of the fulfillment of the acquired commitments. In this way, the “beneficiary” becomes a owner of rights.

As owners, persons will be able to demand that which the State has committed to guarantee, in function of the acquired commitments and of the international declarations and conventions signed. Combined, it should comply at the minimum essential level of rights.

In specific terms, we propose adding and/or clearly stating the following elements in the declaration:

1. In relation to agricultural policies: Ensure compensation programs to sectors of the population living in vulnerable situations.
2. Promote the participation and influence of civil society in this topic. This requires educational, promotional and outreach programs in rights, as well as in the existing entities and institutions to make them effective.
3. Ensure the full application of the International Labour Organization’s Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries in relation to the establishment of effective consultation and participation mechanisms that guarantee the right to access to water, land and territory.
4. In the same vein as the previous point, strengthen existing mechanisms in the Inter-American Human Rights System for their compliance.
5. We call upon Member States about the need to create guarantors for the food security of their peoples through mechanisms that regulate the market, impeding oligopolies, monopolies and oligopsonies.
6. The States should commit to updating their disaggregated statistics in such a way as to make vulnerable groups visible, and develop projection studies in order for public policies to be efficient, effective and sustainable.
ANNEX 1

IX FORO HEMISFÉRICO DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL Y ACTORES SOCIALES
IX HEMISPHERIC FORUM OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS


LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES / LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Vicente Partida

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HAITÍ / HAITI

Haiti Micro Gardens
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Semillas para la Democracia
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Agregado
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Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CIDH) / Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)

Rosa Celorio
Relatoría sobre los Derechos de las Mujeres

Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA) / Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
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ANNEX 2

IX HEMISPHERIC FORUM OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS AND SPECIAL SESSION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN OAS ACTIVITIES (CISC)

INTRODUCTION

Washington, DC - April 26-27, 2012

PROGRAM

During the Forty-second Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly that will take place in Cochabamba, Bolivia on June 3-5, 2012, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Americas will discuss and adopt the Declaration of Cochabamba on Food Security with Sovereignty in the Americas, and approve resolutions related to the pillars of the OAS. In preparation for the General Assembly, the OAS General Secretariat will hold the IX Hemispheric Forum of Civil Society and Social Actors with the support of the governments of United States, Canada and Chile, and in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

This Forum will take place on April 26-27, 2012 at OAS Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and will offer civil society organizations (CSOs) and social actors the opportunity to dialogue with representatives of the OAS Member States and General Secretariat about the main theme of the General Assembly “Food Security with Sovereignty in the Americas.” In the Forum, the participants will be able to discuss and present proposals and recommendations to the OAS Member States for strengthening democracy, integral development, multidimensional security and promoting and protecting human rights.

The recommendations resulting from the IX Hemispheric Forum will be presented by the CSO and social actor representatives in the Special Session of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) of the Permanent Council on April 27, 2012, and will contribute to the Member States’ deliberations of the Draft Declaration of Cochabamba and the resolutions related to the inter-American agenda, to be adopted in the XLII General Assembly.

OBJECTIVE AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The objective of the IX Hemispheric Forum of Civil Society and Social Actors is to stimulate discussion and the exchange of ideas among the participants, and to propose recommendations to OAS Member States by CSOs that are registered to participate in the Organization’s activities, as they relate to the theme of the XLII General Assembly “Food Security with Sovereignty in the Americas” and other topics that comprise the hemispheric cooperation agenda.

As a result of the Forum, CSOs and social actors will generate recommendations on the theme of the XLII General Assembly and sustain a dialogue with the Member States in order to contribute to the work the OAS carries out in preparation for the General Assembly.
The Hemispheric Forum will commence on Thursday, April 26, 2012 at OAS Headquarters, will have duration of one day and a half, and will consist of:

1. Inaugural session;
2. Three plenary sessions;
3. Three parallel workshops in which civil society and the social actors will develop the recommendations; and
4. Dialogue on the results of the Sixth Summit of the Americas.

Each plenary session will be composed of two or three panelists representing the Member States, networks of civil society organizations and social actors and the OAS who will discuss the work of the OAS political bodies and the efforts carried out in support of the implementation of the theme of the General Assembly and other priority topics in the region. Each panelist will make a brief presentation based on the theme and the conceptual guide of the session. Following the presentations, there will be time for comments by the participants.

After the plenary sessions, the participants will have the opportunity to dialogue, exchange experiences and formulate their recommendations in thematic workshops that will focus on the theme of the General Assembly and will be moderated by a civil society representative and will have a rapporteur who will be responsible for taking notes of the discussions, compiling and organizing the various comments and recommendations and producing the final document for each session.

The morning of the second day will begin with a dialogue on the results of the VI Summit of the Americas, and will be followed by time for the presentation and revision of the recommendations generated by each workshop the previous day. The final recommendations from each workshop will be consolidated into a document that will be presented during the Special Session with Civil Society and Social Actors of the CISC, and distributed among OAS Member States, the General Secretariat, CSOs and Social Actors.

The special session of the CISC will be an opportunity for civil society and social actor representatives to dialogue with the Permanent and Alternate Representatives of the Member States and present the recommendations developed during the Hemispheric Forum. The representatives selected by their peers will present the summary of the discussions and recommendations of each thematic workshop. Upon receiving the civil society and social actor recommendations, Member States will take the floor.

The plenary sessions and workshops of the IX Hemispheric Forum of Civil Society and Social Actors will be in English and Spanish. The special session of the CISC will be in the official languages of the OAS (Spanish, French, Portuguese and English).
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

In order to enrich the discussion in each of the Forum’s thematic areas, participants are recommended to familiarize themselves with the following documents and websites:

- Proposal of the Declaration of Cochabamba on Food Security with Sovereignty in the Americas
- Panorama de la Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional en América Latina y el Caribe 2011 - "Altos precios de los alimentos: Oportunidades y riesgos (prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – FAO; only available in Spanish)
- The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2011 (prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – prepared by FAO)
- The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011 –(prepared by FAO)
- The Food Security Situation in the Americas (prepared by IICA)

AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012

Ruben Dario Room, OAS General Secretariat Building (GSB)
1889 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, USA

8:30 – 9:00am Registration
9:00 – 9:10am Inaugural Session
  • Amb. Leonidas Rosa Bautista, Permanent Representative of Honduras to the OAS and Chair of the Permanent Council
  • Jose Miguel Insulza, Secretary General, OAS
9:10 – 9:20am Introduction of the Forum
  • Amb. Alfonso Quiñonez, Secretary for External Relations, OAS
9:20 – 10:50am First Plenary Session: Food Security in the Americas
  • Amb. Diego Pary, Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the OAS
  • Victor M. Villalobos, Director General, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
  • Rosine Plank-Brumback, Senior Specialist, Department of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI)
  9:50 – 10:50am - Dialogue
10:50 – 11:00am Coffee break
11:00am – 12:30pm  Second Plenary Session: Food Security and Democratic Governance
  • Kevin Casas Zamora, Secretary for Political Affairs, OAS
  • Marcelo Varela Erasheva, The Carter Center

11:30am – 12:30pm – Dialogue

12:30am – 2:00pm  Lunch

2:00 – 3:30pm  Third Plenary Session: Strengthening Human Rights and Food Security
  • Rosa Celorio, Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)
  • Patricia Gálvez Z., Centro Ecuatoriano de Desarrollo y Estudios Alternativos (CEDEAL)

2:30 – 3:30pm – Dialogue

3:30 – 3:45pm  Coffee break

3:45 – 5:45pm  Simultaneous Thematic Workshops
  • Workshop 1: Food Security in the Americas (Gabriela Mistral Room)
    
    Moderator: James French, Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA)
    
    Rapporteur: Amy Ángel, Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES)
  
  • Workshop 2: Democratic Governance and Food Security (Padilha Vidal A Room)
    
    Moderator: Marcelo Varela Erasheva, The Carter Center
    
    Rapporteurs: Aixa Armas, Asociación Civil Mujer y Ciudadanía
                Roxana Salazar, Fundación Ambio
  
  • Workshop 3: Strengthening Human Rights and Food Security (Padilha Vidal B Room)
    
    Moderator: Patricia Gálvez Z., Centro Ecuatoriano de Desarrollo y Estudios Alternativos (CEDEAL)
    
    Rapporteur: Margarita Araujo, Semillas para la Democracia

6:00pm  Sessions conclude for the evening and rapporteurs to submit recommendations to the Department of International Affairs
FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012

Ruben Dario Room, OAS General Secretariat Building (GSB)
1889 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, USA

9:00 – 10:00am Dialogue on the results of the VI Summit of the Americas
• Amb. Andres Gonzalez Diaz, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the OAS

10:00am Sharing and revision of the recommendations from the thematic workshops

12:00 – 2:00pm Lunch
SPECIAL SESSION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN OAS ACTIVITIES (CISC)

April 27, 2012

The Special Session with Civil Society and Social Actors of the CISC will be held in order to lend continuity to the pursuit of mandates entrusted to it in the preceding term, including AG/RES. 2635 (XLI-O/11), CP/RES. 840 (1361/03), and CP/RES. 759 (1217/99). The Special Session of the CISC will be an opportunity for civil society and social actor representatives to dialogue with Member States and present the recommendations formulated during the IX Hemispheric Forum.

AGENDA

Simon Bolivar Room, OAS Main Building
17th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006

2:30 – 2:40pm  Welcoming remarks
• Amb. Andres Gonzalez Diaz, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the OAS and Chair of the CISC
• Amb. Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General, OAS

2:40 – 3:10pm  Presentation of civil society and social actor recommendations from the IX Hemispheric Forum of Civil Society and Social Actors on the theme of the General Assembly “Food Security with Sovereignty in the Americas”
• Jorge Sanin, Director of the Department of International Affairs / Secretariat for External Relations, OAS
• Civil society and social actor representatives

3:10 – 4:30pm  Interventions by OAS Member States

4:30pm  Closing