

CSO Statement on Results and Priorities for FAO in Asia and the Pacific region.

Thank you Mr. Chair.

I am Lim Li Ching, from Third World Network, speaking on behalf of the CSOs.

1. We appreciate FAO's efforts in implementing the various regional initiatives as highlighted in the presentation. However, we ask for stronger involvement of CSOs in the planning and design, as well as monitoring of these initiatives, at the national level. It would be also important to strengthen the engagement of CSOs with national FAO offices in national policy formulation and strategic programmes and to monitor progress. National level CSO platforms that engage FAO and learning exchanges, with CSO participation, would play a key role.

2. We also call on FAO and governments to ensure the meaningful participation of social movements and CSOs in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of FAO policies and guidelines, such as the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Lands, Fisheries and Forests or VGGT, the Voluntary Guidelines on Fisheries, and of the Right to Food. It would be important to facilitate, with CSO participation, the national implementation of these policies and guidelines, as well as the monitoring of their implementation at national level, including support for independent CSO monitoring. To facilitate access to information, the support of the translation of these policies and guidelines into simplified information, education and communication media, is necessary.

3. In terms of priorities, we strongly call on FAO and governments to make agroecology the basis of agricultural policies and programmes, as agroecology is demonstrably able to address the challenges of climate change, can increase productivity and incomes, as well as improve nutrition, which are priorities for the region. Appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks to support these initiatives are needed. Policy coherence is also needed so that policies that hinder agroecology are changed and the evidence-based transition toward agroecology is empirically demonstrated and publicly supported. In this respect, we call for the immediate funding and implementation of the recommendations of the Multi-stakeholder Consultation on Agroecology for Asia and the Pacific.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.