

## B

SESSION 9 - Background reading  
**CSO engagement in tenure issues**

CSOs have been actively involved in the lead-up to and in the actual negotiating sessions of the VGGT. Below is an outline of some of the major events and contributions of CSOs in this process.

### 1996 – World Food Summit

NGOs/CSOs organized the Forum on Food Security, held in parallel to the World Food Summit (WFS), and launched the concept of food sovereignty.

As a result of this meeting, the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) was born in 2000 from the group of organizations that hosted the 1996 Forum.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:  
[www.fao.org/docrep/w9990e/w9990e07.htm](http://www.fao.org/docrep/w9990e/w9990e07.htm)

### 2002 – World Food Summit Five Years Later

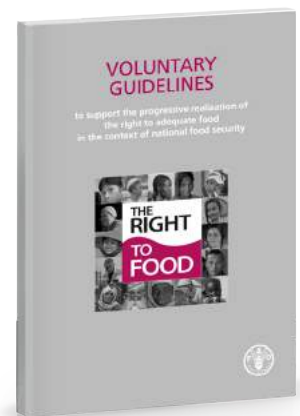
The draft NGO/CSO position and draft Political Declaration of Civil Society for the WFS was discussed and developed in a process that involved more than 2,000 CSOs and social movements worldwide.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:  
[www.fao.org/worldfoodsummit/english/newsroom/news/8580-en.html](http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsummit/english/newsroom/news/8580-en.html)  
[www.fao.org/worldfoodsummit/photos/ngoforum.htm](http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsummit/photos/ngoforum.htm)

### 2004 – Voluntary guidelines on the right to food

A group of NGOs/CSOs have actively participated in the development of the *Voluntary guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security*. NGOs/CSOs were involved in promoting national legislation and food programmes in many countries. These guidelines were adopted by FAO member countries in September 2004, thanks in part to the effective lobbying of CSOs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:  
[www.fao.org/docrep/009/y7937e/y7937e00.htm](http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/y7937e/y7937e00.htm)



## 2006 – ICARRD and the Land, Territory and Dignity Forum

A forum, 'Land, Territory and Dignity', was held as a parallel event for CSOs/NGOs in conjunction with the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) in Porto Alegre, Brazil, 6–10 March 2006. The IPC facilitated the participation of about 400 delegates at this forum and representatives of 125 organizations in 60 countries worldwide. The forum issued a declaration to draw attention to the need for agrarian reform based on food sovereignty and called for the recognition of the concept of territory. In the words of the Declaration:

*All of the original peoples, indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, tribes, fisherfolk, rural workers, peasants, the landless, nomadic pastoralists and displaced peoples, have the right to maintain their own spiritual and material relationships; to possess, develop, control, use and reconstruct their social structures; to politically and socially administer their lands and territories, including their full environment, the air, water, seas, rivers, lakes, ice floes, flora, fauna and other resources that they have traditionally possessed, occupied and/or utilized. This implies the recognition of their laws, traditions, customs, tenure systems, and institutions, as well as the recognition of territorial borders and the cultures of peoples. This all constitutes the recognition of the self-determination and autonomy of peoples.*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:  
[www.ukabc.org/tierraydignidad/index-en.htm](http://www.ukabc.org/tierraydignidad/index-en.htm)

## 2007 – Forum for Food Sovereignty, 'Nyéléni 2007'

The Nyéléni Forum held in Mali in February 2007, was attended by over 500 delegates from 80 countries representing organizations of peasants/family farmers, artisanal fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, landless peoples, rural workers, migrants, pastoralists, forest communities, women, youth, consumers and environmental and urban movements. The Declaration from the event supported the global movement for food sovereignty and called for specific agrarian reforms related to land tenure, as excerpted here:

### WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING FOR?

*A world where ...*

*... there is genuine and integral agrarian reform that guarantees peasants full rights to land, defends and recovers the territories of indigenous peoples, ensures fishing communities' access and control over their fishing areas and ecosystems, honours access and control by pastoral communities over pastoral lands and migratory routes, assures decent jobs with fair remuneration and labour rights for all, and a future for young people in the countryside; ... where agrarian reform revitalises interdependence between producers and consumers, ensures community survival, social and economic justice, ecological sustainability, and respect for local autonomy and governance with equal rights for women and men ... where agrarian reform guarantees rights to territory and self-determination for our peoples;*

*... share our lands and territories peacefully and fairly among our peoples, be we peasants, indigenous peoples, artisanal fishers, pastoralists, or others;*

*... all peoples have the right to defend their territories from the actions of transnational corporations;*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:  
[nyeleni.org/spip.php?rubrique2](http://nyeleni.org/spip.php?rubrique2)

## 2009 – Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is an international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. The CFS has formally endorsed the VGGT in May 2012. Using a multistakeholder, inclusive approach, CFS develops and endorses policy recommendations and guidance on a wide range of food security and nutrition topics. CFS holds an annual Plenary session every October at FAO, Rome, during which progress in implementing the VGGT is also discussed.

During 2009 the CFS underwent reform to make it more effective by including a wider group of stakeholders. The CFS Advisory Group currently includes five different categories of CFS Participants. These are:

1. UN agencies and other UN bodies.
2. Civil society and non-governmental organizations, particularly organizations representing smallholder family farmers, fisherfolk, herders, landless, urban poor, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, consumers and indigenous people.
3. International agricultural research institutions.
4. International and regional financial institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, regional development banks and the World Trade Organization.
5. Private sector associations and philanthropic foundations.

The Advisory Group helps the Bureau advance the Committee's objectives in particular to ensure linkages with different stakeholders at regional, subregional and local levels and to ensure an ongoing, two-way exchange of information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:  
*CFS Reform Plus Five - What have been the biggest changes in the five years since the multistakeholder reform in 2009?*  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsTWkAvtfcs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsTWkAvtfcs)

## CSOs in the VGGT development process

The VGGT were developed through a participatory process facilitated by the FAO and the CFS. Representatives of civil society participated actively in this process. While officially they did not have voting rights, civil society representatives had an important voice in the process of negotiating and decision-making on the text of the VGGT. In practice, voting was not used; instead all participants worked in a spirit of respectful collaboration to find consensus on the content and wording of the document.

Between September 2009 and November 2010, a series of regional consultations were organized (one private sector and four civil society consultations). These meetings brought together almost 1 000 people from over 130 countries. The participants represented government institutions, civil society, private sector, academia and UN agencies. Each consultation meeting resulted in an assessment identifying issues and actions to be included in the VGGT.

### Milestones:

- Zero draft of the Voluntary Guidelines (E-Consultation from 18 April–16 May 2011).
- First meeting of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) (14, 16 and 17 June 2011, FAO, Rome).
- Three rounds of negotiations:
  - 1st Round of Negotiations (12–15 July 2011);
  - 2nd Round of Negotiations (10–14 October 2011);
  - 3rd Round of Negotiations (5–9 March 2012).
- 2012 – Final endorsement of the VGGT.

The VGGT were endorsed by the 38th (Special) Session of the CFS on 11 May 2012.

FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva congratulated the participants of the negotiations on a “milestone achievement”, adding: “The Voluntary Guidelines will play an important part in answering the challenge of ending hunger and assuring food security of every child, woman and man in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable way.”

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:

Radio interview with Sofia Monsalve, FIAN/CSM: [www.radiomundoreal.fm/Killing-Global-Silence-on-The?lang=es](http://www.radiomundoreal.fm/Killing-Global-Silence-on-The?lang=es)

Video interview with Rehema Bavuma, Katosi Women Development Trust/CSM (fragment 4:07–6:04): [www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJlcwF0yPIQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJlcwF0yPIQ)

FAO press release: [www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/128907/icode/](http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/128907/icode/)

Photos: [www.flickr.com/photos/faonews/7176702268](http://www.flickr.com/photos/faonews/7176702268)