



Dear,

The UN Special Representative to the UN Food Systems Summit, Dr Agnes Kalibata, Norwegian Minister of Development, Anne Beathe Tvinnereim and Director General Aslak Brun of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute with ideas on how to create action after the UNFSS. We are grateful for the work you are doing on this important issue. We hope you will appreciate this written version of our input on how to create action after the UN Food Systems Summit.

There are several important issues we hope the UN will give priority to in the further work on sustainable food systems.

The next UNFSS should be organized in collaboration with the CFS or be led by the CFS. The expertise of the already existing structures in the UN-system, and the many well researched, negotiated, and approved documents must be considered the foundations of further work.

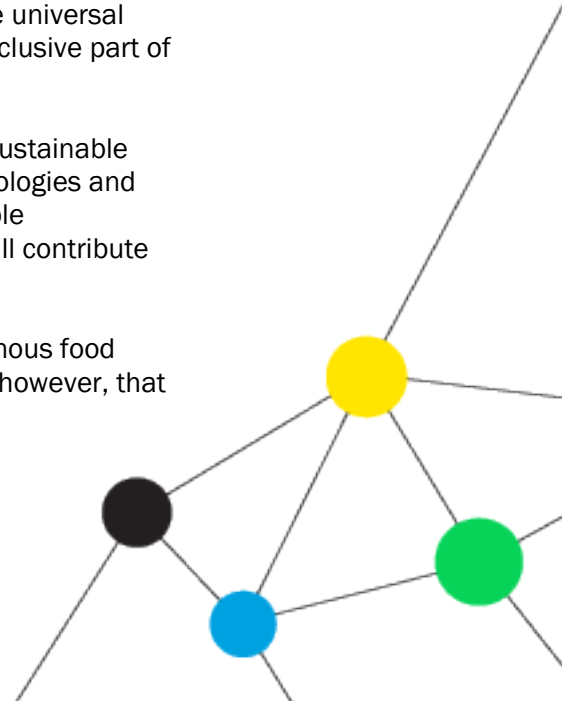
We also hope you will continue to collaborate with other UN departments as the Climate- and the Nature- and Human Rights institutions. To see today's many challenges in a holistic way, will be important for finding the best solutions to the food and nutrition challenges.

The food systems need to be changed. The high level of contribution to greenhouse gasses, the destruction of ecosystems, where converting land for agricultural use has led to a 70% reduction in biodiversity across the world, shows how destructive today's agricultural system has been.

The climate changes and the destruction of nature are threatening the access to food. In 2020 about 30 million people were displaced from their homes due to extreme weather. As the impact of the climate crisis evolves there will be a rising need for a human rights-based approach to secure the fulfilment of the universal right to food. Human rights, particularly the right to food, must be an inclusive part of the further work with the UNFSS.

A question to ask is how the FSS can contribute to a change to the unsustainable industrialized and commercialized food systems. The different methodologies and technologies defined in the coalitions' documents include many valuable recommendations for countries, corporations and organizations that will contribute towards better food systems.

We are particularly happy about the emphasis that was given to indigenous food systems, it came late but it also received substantial support. We feel, however, that





there is a lack of analysis of the systematic weaknesses of the current system, and little discussion on how to reform the systems towards more sustainability, more equity and justice, and increased agency of the producers themselves, particularly the small-scale farmers who are supplying a very large part of the food produced in the world today. A systematic approach based on the right to food will ensure that no one is left behind, and that the root causes for today's failing food systems are addressed.

One part of the solution is to highlight the indigenous peoples' food systems. They are clearly sustainable and should be a part of the important work of the UNFSS.

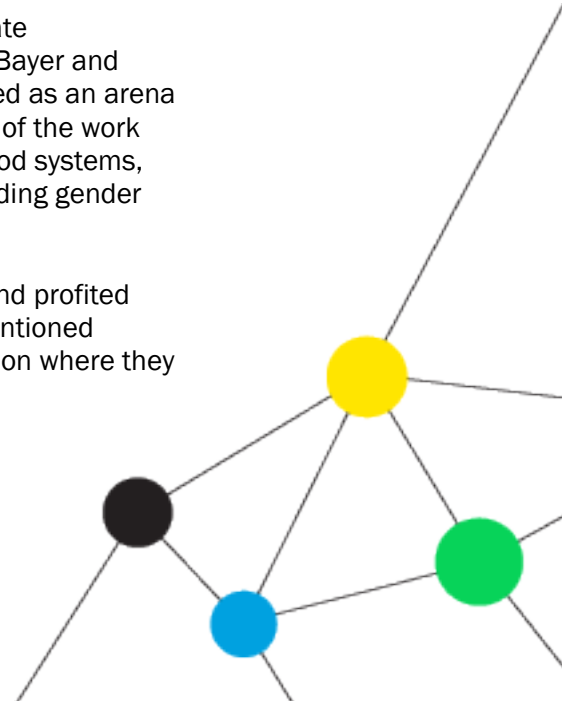
At the summit, as well as at COP26, there were important discussions about agroecology. Agroecology can be a way out of dependency. We all know that agroecology is better for both climate and nature – it contributes to the capture and storage of carbon in the soil, better the soil quality and the adaptation to extreme weather.

A new coalition for agroecology was established already before the summit. The coalition for the restructuring of food systems through agro-ecology appeared to be one of the strongest results of the summit. With the coalition, there is now an opportunity to ensure that agro-ecological principles become part of the restructuring of food systems. One question now is how Norway can support this agenda. First, the interest in embracing agroecology from the countries' authorities must be translated into concrete action. Secondly, there is now a great opportunity to raise funds for agroecology, which in turn will lead to initiatives that are considered agro-ecological, and it should include all agro-ecological principles. Norway should support agroecology in our foreign aid and direct more aid towards small-scale farmers with a particular focus on the most marginalized groups.

The work done by the UNFSS has been important for putting food systems on today's global agenda. There has, however, also been criticism from the CSM among others, which needs to be addressed in the future processes.

This criticism has been centred around the role of technology and private corporations in the Summit. One example of this is the involvement of Bayer and CropLife. The UNFSS, and further policies and programs, cannot be used as an arena for agri-businesses to further their corporate agenda. The continuation of the work done under the summit has to be centred around those who are the food systems, the farmers, and workers within the supply chain, with a focus on including gender perspectives and indigenous knowledge.

Technology must be developed for farmers, not to be sold to farmers and profited from large corporations. If the big tech companies, as well as those mentioned before, are in the driving seat, small-scale farmers can come in a position where they





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depend on the companies and their product and might even change their production in a less environmentally friendly route. We therefore hope, and expect Norway to always have the small-scale farmers, indigenous peoples, youth, and female's needs and voices in mind when discussing so-called technological solutions.

Further, there is a major question of where the discussions and knowledge gained in the process of the UNFSS will be followed up. In addition to the coalitions which have been established, we believe it is important to see the CFS as the main arena for food policies.

In 2022, the CFS will convene again to negotiate the Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems and the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment. We hope that Norway then will embrace agroecology, human rights and the participation of civil society and indigenous peoples in a holistic, careful and ambitious way.

Thank you for the attention!

Kind Regards,

**Kathrine Sund-Henriksen**

Director Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment (ForUM)

On behalf of: ForUM, FIAN, Caritas, Spire, Royal Norwegian Society for Development and The Grandparents Campaign.

