6TH INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATION ON ZERO DRAFT OF POST 2015 OUTCOME, 22-24 JUNE, 2015, UNHQ

Zero draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda

# Farmers, Food Security and Sovereignty – Interactive Dialogue, 24 June 2015

Dear Co-Facilitators, I am Jiten Yumnam of the Peoples Coalition on Food Sovereignty. This intervention is delivered on behalf of the Farmers Major Group, the Food and Agriculture Cluster of the NGO Major Group and Save the Children.

In reviewing the Zero Draft of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we strongly encourage Member States to maintain the balance and the ambitious character of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, as proposed by the Open Working Group on SDGs (OWG). It is with our collective desire to maintain this balance and level of ambition of the SDGs in mind that we would like to make the following suggestions:

1. In order not to loose the emphasis on sustainability as included in the titles of goals 2 and 12 we strongly urge that all references to food, nutrition and production/productivity in the declaration or chapter 1 of the agenda be preceded by the adjective ‘sustainable’ or ‘sustainably’ if only to reinforce the message that business as usual is no longer an option. In this regard we would also (text suggestion) stress that the implementation of the SDGs will require that appropriate accountability mechanisms for all agri-business/corporates be established, including clear mechanisms / commitments that will secure an end to land grabbing and those that promote food sovereignty.
2. The description of ‘the New Agenda’ in the Declaration chapter does not address the need to end poverty and hunger, achieve food security and eliminate malnutrition, despite being prominent in the SDGs themselves. Ending hunger and malnutrition is not only an outcome of poverty reduction but investments in food security and good nutrition are key drivers, they are the foundation upon which sustainable development and national economic growth are built. Therefore we propose to add to the text of para 3 the phrase '...and ensure food and nutrition security ', to read *'We intend, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger and ensure food and nutrition security once and for all*'.
3. In order to reference the symbiotic relationship that exists between humans and nature, in particular animals, we would suggest that in para 44 we add the words, ‘*and all life it sustains*’ after ‘*planet*’ to read ‘*The future of humanity, our planet, and all life it sustains, lies in our hands*’. Similarly we suggest that in para 27 the reference to biodiversity is followed by the qualification ‘*particularly animals*’. In the same paragraph and sentence, we suggest to include “We must respect the planetary boundaries and also safeguard our oceans and seas (…)”
4. In order to ensure that the poorest and most marginalized are not just seen as people with needs but rather as development actors and change agents in their own right we would suggest that in para 37 we make reference to not just ‘all relevant stakeholders’ but rather to ‘*all relevant rights-holders and stakeholders’*.
5. Rural land redistribution and tenure security remain the top agenda of small scale/poor farmers, especially in the global South and are vitally linked to their food sovereignty. In order to ensure that the Post-2015 agenda addresses the structural factors that undermine sustainable development for all, particularly as it relates to agriculture, we would argue that the issue of equal rights to land and natural resources be considered as a priority and is reference as such in the declaration, possibly through the *inclusion of the following sentence in para 24:* ‘*We will work to ensure secure and equitable tenure rights for women, men, marginalized and indigenous peoples and local communities, to promote inclusive and human rights-based development paths’*
6. In order to accentuate the integrative nature of the Post-2015 Agenda, and, more specifically the close linkage between goals 2 and 11 we would suggest that a reference to the fact that ‘*Rural based integrated landscape management approaches are key to urban-rural linkages, sustainable natural resource management and ecosystem services’* be included in para 26 of the Zero Draft.
7. On the Goals and targets, we would also like to stress that the proposed changes to targets 6.6 and 15.1, 15.3 and 15.5 on ecosystems would weaken the level of ambition and not faithfully reflect the CBD’s Aichi targets by extending the original timeline from 2020 to 2030.
8. Finally, as part of an open, inclusive and transparent follow-up and review process we would suggest that in bullet 3.c in Chapter 3 a reference be made to ‘*an enabling environment for the institutionalized and rightful participation of all peoples and their organizations*’.

Thank you very much.