

Farmers Major Group RT4 Statement on Sustainable Consumption and Production and on SDG's

Thank you Chair. My name is Robert Jordan of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements and representative of the Farmers Major Group.

My first point is in relation to additional ten-year framework programmes:

The Farmers Major Group is disappointed that sustainable food and agriculture systems are not included in the initial open list of programmes identified in the framework for the consideration of member states.

The promotion and enhancement of more sustainable food and agriculture systems is critical given its impact on, and reliance on, natural resources, biodiversity and ecological processes. Furthermore agriculture is the mainstay of the economies of many developing countries **and**, many of the world's most poorest and vulnerable communities will need to be engaged in agriculture based sustainable development as a means of achieving poverty eradication.

Combining food and agriculture into one programme will enable whole of life cycle approaches that addresses important challenges such as food waste at farm, supply chain and household levels as well as the need for access to equitable local markets for smallholder farmers.

The Farmers Major Group calls for the UNEP Governing Council to:

- urgently include sustainable food and agriculture systems in the 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production
- develop specific interfaces and multi-stakeholder platforms through which the Farmers Major Group and other stakeholders can provide expert input and policy advice to help shape policies and initiatives of the 10 Year Framework Programme.
- facilitate participation in the 10-Year Framework Programme of those stakeholders that have the least opportunities and access to participate, especially those from developing countries and vulnerable communities.

My second point is in relation to important and promising sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives:

Sustainable Public Procurement is an important tool for encouraging and rewarding sustainable agriculture and sustainable food systems as they can simultaneously address food security, poverty alleviation and natural resource management at the local level through the effective engagement and empowerment of smallholder farmers, women and youth.

The World Food Programme's local procurement initiative 'Purchase for Progress' has used its purchasing power to date to help over half a million smallholder farmers to improve their agricultural production systems, access agricultural markets and to raise their incomes, resulting in significantly reduced hunger.

The Government of Brazil's 'National Policy on Agroecology and Organic Production' supports hundred of thousands of smallholder farmers through provisions for sustainable public procurement.

The public procurement policies and initiatives in Brazil utilize low cost inclusive participatory guarantee systems developed and implemented globally by the organic farming movement as an appropriate alternative to third-party organic certification schemes for smallholders to access local and national markets.

My third and final point relates to the Sustainable Development

Goals

Building on the outcome of the Future We Want we urge member states to consider "Food Security and Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture" as one of the SDGs goals.

This goal should take into consideration the Right to Food and the goal of achieving global food security, women and youth empowerment and green jobs through inclusive, sustainable and humane agriculture, with a focus on supporting and protecting small holder farmers so as to increase food production, while protecting and maintaining biodiversity, ecosystems services and enhancing animal welfare.

Thank you, Chair.

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