



CSO Partnership 
for **Development Effectiveness**

A DECADE OF CSO SOLIDARITY
ON EDC ADVOCACY AND PRACTICE

PUT THE PEOPLE AT THE CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

A year after the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), the global food crisis rages on, driving billions of people into hunger and food insecurity. Amid the ongoing pandemic, price hikes, and climate emergency, the urgency and necessity to radically transform our food systems have never been so stark.

At the heart of the crisis is the fragile and neoliberal nature of our current food systems. Today's global food crisis, the third in the last 14 years, only serves to illustrate the necessity for just, equitable, healthy, and sustainable food systems, with the rural food producers of the Global South at the core.

Since last year, the CPDE Rural Constituency highlighted the people's demands for the radical transformation of food systems through its active support and participation in the Global People's Summit on Food Systems (GPS), the Global South-led counter-summit to the UNFSS that the People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty organized with twenty-one other global and regional organizations. A number of its activities tackled on-ground realities of Effective Development Cooperation (EDC) and Enabling Environment, while initiatives focused on food policy interventions that put the voices of the marginalized at the forefront as these policies affect the lives of all levels of society and sectors.

To carry on with these efforts, the CPDE Rural Constituency asserts that the effective development cooperation principles, aligned with human and women's rights frameworks, must address the following Key Asks.

KEY ASKS

Implementation of Effective Development Cooperation Commitments. Put the people, especially the rural people, at the center of development cooperation policies and plans. Support the call for just, equitable, healthy, and sustainable food systems.

- Uphold people's right to own and effectively control land, seeds, water, and other productive resources. Land should belong to those who directly till and enrich the land to produce food and other needs of societies.
- Reject neoliberal land reforms. Stop financing unsustainable projects that adversely affect rural peoples and the environment.
- Shift political mechanisms – regulations, subsidies, and taxes – that currently favor the big, global and techno-industrialized to support sustainable local food systems.
- Guarantee the incomes of smallholder farmers through various forms of state support and protection to allow them and their families to live decently.
- Women farmers, who make up much of the global farming population, must be accorded the respect they have earned, and their rights protected.

Ensure A CSO Enabling Environment. Listen to the struggling rural communities defend their human rights and civil liberties from intensifying attacks.



- Hold accountable governments and corporations that perpetuate human rights violations, especially the killing of peasants and land rights activists.
- Repeal repressive policies that criminalize lawful dissent.
- Defund militarization and other such items in the national budget that enable state-perpetrated political repression.

Private sector accountability. Profit motives of corporations – euphemistically called market forces – should not determine what food to produce, how to produce it, and for whom.

- Oppose all forms of land and resource grabbing and labor exploitation that massively displace farmers, indigenous peoples, workers, fishers, and other rural peoples.
- Hold accountable corporations that plunder and destroy the environment, grossly violate the people's rights to land and resources, and harm public health.
- Agricultural workers and all workers in the food sector must enjoy living wages, job security, maximum social protection, and other rights and benefits.

Coherent and Inclusive Responses to Crises of Conflict, Occupations, and Wars.

Address the root causes of conflict, wars, and occupations.

- Put impacted communities at the center of policy design and program implementation.
- End the militarization of aid and uphold international humanitarian principles.
- Denounce economic sanctions that have caused crisis-level hunger in countries with already battered economies and poor healthcare systems that struggle to cope with the pandemic.
- Hold accountable states that weaponize starvation as a war crime.

Effectiveness of Climate Finance. Climate finance commitments should build on people's right to a healthy planet and environment that is also capable of adequately producing all the food needs of the world's population.

- Promote agroecological food production and make it widely available and affordable to all to protect the health and well-being of both the food producers and consumers.
- Halt support for food production that relies on heavy doses of poisonous agrochemicals or uses questionable technology like genetic modification
- Rechannel public resources and implement appropriate, pro-people, and pro-planet government programs to support indigenous knowledge and practices as well as genuinely sustainable local initiatives with socially responsible science and technology.

