



Report of the Intersessional Civil Society Consultation for the Near East and North Africa Region Beirut, 13–15 November 2019



Prepared by Housing and Land Rights Network – Habitat International Coalition, Cairo, Egypt

For the first time in an intersessional period, between the FAO Near East Regional Conference, members of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) in Near East and North Africa met from 13 to 15 November 2019 in the Lebanese capital, Beirut. The activity took place as an extension to the FAO-supported CSO Database project to develop the infrastructure for self-organized communication and information sharing among the civil society organizations cooperating with FAO in the region. Despite the difficult political and security conditions in Lebanon, 22 CSO partners convened for the three-day consultation, representing eight NENA countries.

Representative of CSOs from Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Iran participated in the intersessional consultative meeting to follow up and monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Near East and North Africa FAO Conference (NERC 34), pursue the priority issues and commitments made in previous CSO consultations, and to review FAO policies and related programs in which civil society can or does play a role.

Unfortunately, due to the unstable and unsecured situations in Lebanon, the officials of the FAO Offices were unable to participate. However, two Cairo-based FAO officers participated in specific sessions through online communication media, as did two IPC colleagues from Rome.

Day 1: 13 November 2019

Opening

The CSO Intern-sessional Consultation opened with statements by Joseph Schechla (HIC-HLRN, Egypt), laying out the objectives of the three days as the first in an anticipated series of intersessional consultations with FAO that focus not only on the biennial FAO Regional Conference, but also as a step toward more practical cooperation in between.

Ghada Haidar, executive director of GAIA welcomed the participants to Lebanon at a sensitive moment in the country's history and hoped-for reform toward a civil state serving all its people.

FAO's Senior Policy Advisor and Civil Society Focal Point Kayan Jaff also joined the opening by Skype from Cairo. He explained the difficult circumstance and the inability for him and other FAO officers to travel to Beirut, but nonetheless will follow the consultation from Cairo and rejoin the meeting to discuss its outcomes.

Review of the IPC Processes and Functions

The openings sessions were dedicated to a review of the self-organized CSO-cooperation mechanisms in NENA: the standing Facilitating/Steering Committee is made up of three global IPC member organizations, and the Follow-up Committee of four individuals elected every two years by participants in the pre-sessional consultations in preparation for the biennial NERC.

The regional Facilitating/Steering Committee members in the NENA region are:

- Hiba al-Jubeihi (La Via Campesina)
- Souad Mahmoud (World March of Women)
- Joseph Schechla (Habitat International Coalition)

These persons are designated by their global IPC-member organizations as members of the global IPC Facilitating Committee and function as such in between FAO Regional Conferences. In the preparations for the NERC, they form the nucleus of the “Steering Committee,” which then typically includes also the CSO hosting the pre-sessional CSO Consultation and one other regional network. As such, the Steering Committee is jointly responsible for supporting the host CSO to develop the agenda and participant list for the CSO Consultation.

Ahmed Mansour (Housing and Land Rights Network – HIC), acting as NENA secretariat, reviewed the activities and developments of the elected Follow-up Committee consistent with the objectives, functions, priorities set in the 2018 Consultation.

The 2018 CSO Consultation in the region elected four members to the region’s second Follow-up Committee (for 2018–2020):

- Adil Bakheet (Human Rights Observatory, Sudan);
- Mohsen Kalboussi, Agroecology Association for a Green Agricultural Environment, Tunisia);
- Ali Razmkhah (CENESTA, Iran);
- Rawan al-Shawbaki (Tamkeen, Jordan).

The composition of the Follow-up Committee represent specializations is small farmers, agroecology, legal expertise and youth, respectively.

The previous CSO Consultation requested to FAO to organize at least one inter-sessional CSO Consultation, an application of the FAO/CFS Tenure Guidelines as a model for use in policy analysis, to organize a regional workshop to develop the concepts, principles and practices of agroecology in NENA, to arrange a regional Facilitating/Follow-up Committee consultation with FAO officers in Rome, and to develop a database on CSOs working with FAO.

As for the last of these, HLRN initiated the proposed CSO Database according to IPC criteria for communication among constituents and with FAO. One technical design meeting took place in Tunisia in June 2020.

The reviews of the regional mechanisms and processes since 2018 covered the activities developed with, and proposed formally to FAO as components of the joint CSO program for the region. Those consisted of an integrate set of initiatives to build cohesion among the CSOs and to develop further the relationship with FAO officers in Headquarters and in the field. (A chart of the activities, sequencing and resource requirements is found on the following page.)

Links between CSO Recommendations and FAO/NERC 34 Outcomes

The third session involved “CSOs Evaluation of their Progress in Implementation of the Linkage between NERC34 Outcomes and Regional Consultations Recommendations,” with Ghada Haidar (GAIA, Lebanon) and Ahmed Mansour facilitating. What transpired was participants’ country-by-country assessment of conditions related to the NERC 34 outcomes, namely:

1. Agroecology: Adapting to Climate Change in Semi-arid Areas for [...] a Sustainable Agricultural Development;
2. Agricultural Transformation in NENA Region and the Challenge of Youth Employment and Migration;
3. One Health: Addressing Transboundary Plant, Animal and Fish Pests and Diseases: A Case for Regional Cooperation (CBD).

Mindful of the protests ongoing across Beirut during the session, participants characterized the poor conditions experienced by the peoples of the region, bringing about a new wave of popular protests in several countries. At once, these were calling for improved standards of living, fighting corruption, the realization of basic rights to education, health, food and housing.

In the third session the first day, the agenda focused on progress in implementing the linkage between the agendas and decisions of the FAO NERCs and the recommendations of the regional CSO Consultation, as well as a review of the recommendations and evaluation the progress on subjects of the background papers for NERC 34, held in Rome in May 2018, which covered:

- Agricultural Transformation in NENA Region and the Challenge of Youth Employment and Migration,
- Agroecology: Adapting to Climate Change in Semi-arid Areas for a Sustainable Agricultural Development,
- One Health: Addressing Transboundary Plant, Animal and Fish Pests and Diseases: A Case for Regional Cooperation.

No FAO officers, including FAO Lebanon officers, were available to join the consultation, and while no reports, documents or other FAO information was available to indicate the longer-term outcomes of NERC 34 since 2018. Therefore, the participants diagnosed these major issues according to the conditions in their countries, particularly those enduring protracted crises and armed conflicts.

FAO/CSO Engagement between NERC34 and NERC35					
	NENA CSO/IPC Database	Tenure Guidelines (Iraq)	Agroecology Forum	Inter-sessional CSO Consultation	Partnership Orientation (Rome)
Objective	Full and democratic participation and communication	Localizing Tenure Guidelines	Refine concept, build capacity, operation	Policy coherence, further alignment and cooperation with FAO program	Build capacity for relating to FAO HQ
Target	All cooperating CSOs, FAORNE, IPC Secretariat, other IPC regions	Decision makers, academics, journalists, farmers, CSOs	CSOs and SSPs practicing agroecology	All cooperating CSOs, 25 invited	IPC Steering Committee and elected Follow-up Committee members
Main activity 1	Consultation to set expectations, criteria and functionality of communication, cooperation and presentation of specializations	Knowledge creation through training and research	Conference	Review FAO documents	IPC briefing in Rome
Main activity 2	Design database according to criteria	Awareness raising of public through media, and of decision makers through consultation	Case studies	Organize program (host with SC and FuC), Convene CSOs and FAO officers	Briefing with numerous FAO offices
Main activity 3	Operationalize database	Reporting and pose recommendations	Develop regional action plan	Reporting and diffusion	Reporting and diffusion
Priority	1	2	2	3	4
Outputs(s)	Functioning IPC database as source of CSO information, record of IPC & FAO cooperation, region-wide communication	Reports of workshops, studies, policy analysis, reform agenda	Region-specific definition and inventory of agroecology, prioritized action plan to develop and up-scale agroecology in NENA	Plans for cooperation based on enhanced mutual knowledge of FAO and CSOs	Report identifying potential contact points and areas of cooperation in FAO (Rome)
Outcome(s)	No more reason to complain about lack of information or opportunity	TGs operationalized in one NENA country	Agroecology concept and practice diffused as basis for continuous development	CSO and FAO complement each other across region	CSOs and FAO counterparts (not just OPCP) know how to relate to each other
FAO office	FAORNE	FAORNE	FAORNE	FAORNE	FAO Rome

Budget	\$37,712	\$49,577	\$30K	\$49,995	\$17,500
Total		\$137,314			\$17,500

Agroecology: Adapting to Climate Change in Semi-arid Areas for [...] Sustainable Agricultural Development

Maede Salami, representing CENESTA (Iran), presented several points about the situation in the region, including, but limited to Iran. She pointed to major challenges due to climate change, including water scarcity, drought, desertification, and soil erosion. Approximately 5.1 billion tons of pesticides and chemicals have contributed to these negative effects across the world, in addition to two billion people who eat spoiled and unhealthy food, and one billion people who suffer from hunger.

She stressed the importance and priority of capacity building in drought-affected areas. She shared some work and practices in support of agroecology in the region, while enhancing innovation and skills in fieldwork with farmers to increase and strengthen the role of farmers in agroecology.

Agroecology contributes to an agricultural community system that achieves good nutrition, uses natural resources in a sustainable manner, preserves the soil, reduces agricultural losses; contributes to applying environmental concepts applicable to everyone. It also considers their practices and traditional knowledge, especially local communities and indigenous peoples. Therefore, it is important to place agroecology in the region's legal and regulatory framework.

While Laura Tabet, representative of Nawaya Misr Association (Egypt), explained that agroecology is a science and practice necessary for movement toward sustainable agricultural systems, and she gave a model for this approach of the Local Partnership Network for Consumer Support, an initiative supported by civil society at the regional level, It aims to resist the challenges of peasants and promote community-supported farming approaches. It is a real opportunity to support young people's continued agricultural work, while enhancing participatory knowledge, especially for young people in conflict and war situations.

Laura explained how promoting diversity in light of a new system of trade takes into account the relationship between smallholder farmers and the consumer, based on the right to access to knowledge, learning and innovation, to promote the use of unconventional methods, especially for rural women. These include learning via video uploads on the Internet, to develop knowledge of other successful practices in a participatory manner with other regions around the world.

The long-planned regional CSO workshop had not yet taken place because FAO had not yet responded to the complete proposal and curriculum presented. Nonetheless, participants propose ways of converging knowledge to develop a repertoire and set of principles for agroecology to work amid the region's many challenges. Globally, the FAO's ten principles were considered as a good start, but partial and in need of development, which contribution appears to be up to the region's civil society to inform.

Agricultural Transformation in NENA Region and the Challenge of Youth Employment and Migration

In Yemen, for example, the representative of the Social Democratic Forum in Yemen, Mr. Nabil Abdul Hafidh Majid gave an intervention on the issue of agricultural transformation and migration. He explained that Yemen suffers from a fundamental crisis due to the lack of policies for agriculture and food security, in general.

Meanwhile, seven thousand registered agricultural CSOs in Yemen are no longer active and have not contributed to supporting food security, due to the ongoing armed conflicts that have led to the displacement of many families, whose number reached 4 million internally displaced persons, with women bearing the largest share of the burden of expulsion and refuge from their areas and lands destroyed and burned due to the indiscriminate bombing and implantation of mines in agricultural lands with no maps left to locate them, most *waqf* (Islamic endowment) lands invaded and otherwise appropriated, and corruption among the military actors plundering the lands with heavy weapons.

Nabil also clarified that the geographical situation and the mountainous nature of Yemen have made agriculture difficult. The required modern agricultural equipment and tools have not been available to Yemeni farmers for decades, in addition to their reliance mainly on rainwater and groundwater wells that have been drilled at depth of up to 400 meters. With no development strategy for operationalizing irrigation systems to expand the agricultural area and improve the agricultural sector, Yemenis rely on *qat* ([Catha edulis](#)) cultivation as a main source of income, covering nearly 60% of the land area of agricultural land in Yemen used to cultivate *qat*, consuming two-thirds of irrigation water and engaging a quarter of the Yemeni population in its cultivation and sale.

Nabil was critical of FAO's role in providing support to the Yemeni people in its protracted crisis from war and war. The food and agricultural programs have helped small subsistence farmers to improve their living conditions and build their capacities in providing agriculture and providing food. However, FAO has been able to implement only some activities with the government to provide some food aid and benefits, without setting a real plan to address the conditions of agricultural families deteriorating as a result of war and armed conflict. Nabil concluded his intervention by observing that food sovereignty is a distant dream in Yemen, with the lack of real international cooperation that helps the Yemeni people out of its crisis.

Joseph (HIC) offered to cooperate with research efforts to find more information, including FAO Yemen project and program evaluations, to inquire about any efficiency and effectiveness. This we can do to try and fill the gaps and inform the discourse that might otherwise rest on rumor.

From Iraq, Ms. Amna Adham (Together to Protect Human & the Environment Association) stated that, as well, there are no public policies regarding the agricultural sector, and there is no strategic plan from the state to address the issue of scarcity of water resources, and damage to water security in Iraq, due to the processes of drying rivers and building dams That are held in

neighboring countries, In addition to decreasing precipitation rates, a rise in temperature due to climate change, and a decrease in soil fertility. It examined the example of a 16,000-kilometer marsh drought, as one of the crimes of the defunct political system. What led to the displacement and displacement of hundreds of thousands of farmers and small-scale fishers inside Iraq, including those who became refugees outside Iraq, because of the destruction of their hoods. On the other hand, as a result of the armed conflict with ISIS, Mrs. Amna recounted another example of the displacement of hundreds of families from the Iraqi provinces that were considered the food basket for Iraq, which are Salah al-Din, Kirkuk, Anbar, Kut and Nineveh.

Amna told of the impoverishment of many small-scale farming families and small traditional fisherfolk because of the war with ISIS. Moreover, they face dangers from the indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides without guidance or awareness, including those banned elsewhere, leading to the spread of many cancers and other health risks, especially due to poor water quality, pollution with wastewater, high salinity of the soil, added to pollution from industrial waste.

As for Sudan, Mr. Adil Bakheet (Human Rights Observatory) reviewed the agricultural transformation and migration from the countryside. Although Sudan is referred to as the region's food basket, the country lacks a vision for improving the economic and social conditions of small-scale farm families. Many agricultural areas have been abandoned, and increased migration from the countryside to the cities has resulted in deteriorating economic and social conditions, increased cost of living and costs to meet basic needs as a result of the exclusionary economic policies and speculation pursued by the previous regime. Adil said that, of the 400 billion cubic meters of water contained in Sudan, only 5% of it is used.

The soil and fertility of agricultural lands have also been depleted due to the major investments that have acquired a lot of fertile land, including under alfalfa-cultivation agreements between the government and other Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Turkey. These cover vast areas of land that reach millions of acres under concessions for 99 years. Adil provided examples of Arab investors (Saudi berseem projects) that have degraded the soil of a land surface the size of Bahrain, while the investors effectively own the land under their 99-year lease.

The cultivated land in the State of Khartoum alone has reached 62% of the land area in the state, greatly diminishing the area of land used for grazing and pastoralism. With the launch of unbalanced development projects, the cost of agricultural production has increased due to the high fuel prices, especially after the separation of South Sudan in 2011.

Among the obstacles to farmer livelihoods is the continuing sanctions regime impose by the UN and USA for the behavior of the Sudanese government. The sanctions over all agricultural produce, everything except gum Arabic. Corn, sesame and other crops could yield greater (300x more) income for farmers if sold on time; however, the Agricultural Bank controls the price, making it impossible for producers to survive. The government mismanaged and, thus, destroyed the Gazira Agricultural Flourishing project. Meanwhile, the informal sector represents the 4th largest sector of economic activity, especially for rural people, but they remain deprived any

government services or social protection. These conditions causing farmers to transition out of agriculture and generate migration.

Adil speculated that the ongoing Sudanese revolution should bring about changes. Joseph reminded of the long standing proposal (since the 2016 CSO Consultation) for a civil society initiative to develop Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI) with specificity for the region, where Arab-Arab investment is often considered, by definition, to constitute laudable regional economic development, while evading the usual scrutiny—even civil society scrutiny—of other types of land grabbing and irresponsible investment. Developing such a set of principles would also provide an opportunity to review the shortcomings in the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI) developed with the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

Adding to this, Ahmed cited the states' extraterritorial obligation under human rights and other regimes of international law not to cause harm or destroy. Specifically, also, the International Law Commission has adopted and presented to the Security Council draft Articles on State Responsibility and, more specifically, State Liability for Cross-border Harm. These instruments could provide a basis for further developing the RAI

One Health: Addressing Transboundary Plant, Animal and Fish Pests and Diseases: A Case for Regional Cooperation

The same lack of information on the FAO regional initiatives was felt in the final session on outcomes of this NERC 34 pertaining to shared, cross-border plant, animal, fish, soil and human health issues.

Nonetheless, Syrian attorney Nada Khoury explained how economic sanctions and the war between the government and armed groups in many Syrian regions, have affected most fertile lands that have produced the largest share of food in Syria from a health perspective. She noted that, in Syria, the role of civil society in combating environmental pollution and preserving water resources has completely ceased due to the suspension of support and financing projects since the war. Besides the devastating consequences of climate change and the lack of water resources, the use of chemical weapons has affected Syria's soil, water, and other natural environment resources. This also has negatively affected the health of farmers and led to many diseases and agricultural migration, as 161 villages in northern Syria have been displaced and depopulated due to climate change.

Badr Ourich, from Morocco's National Federation of the Agricultural Sector, spoke of the great gap between people and government, because the people in the region still do not have sovereignty over their food resources. Lands are cultivated to meet the minimum local needs, while government policies in the region seek economic growth through export and investment. However, they only use the language of food security without actual, fair policies to achieve it.

Strengthening Gender Equality and Discrimination in Rural Development and Achieving Food Sovereignty

The afternoon session on the first day tackled one of the priority issues for civil society organizations in the region that were not adequately dealt with as a priority on the FAO Conference agenda: That is the promotion of gender equality, in general, and anti-discrimination in rural development as a part of achieving food sovereignty.

Mrs. Rana Ghanem (Social Democratic Forum, Yemen), addressed the conditions of gender equality in times of conflict and war, as one of the protracted crises in the region. She highlighted that women's issues are the most neglected in the handling in protracted crises, even though they are primarily responsible for providing food and water for the household. The mention of women in FAO programs and activities seems to have declined since 2014, when the NERC 33 entertained "Addressing Gender Gap in Agriculture and the Rural Sector in the Near East and North Africa" among its Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues, and produced a corresponding conference paper on the subject ([NERC/14/6](#)). Since NERC 32, women and gender issues have been dropped from the NERC agenda.

Even with that momentary consideration of gender, the issue is broader than only rural women, or women in farming. The narrow treatment of gender in the regional FAO program is inadequate to address such issues as equal access to productive resources, which is far more elaborately addressed in the CEDaW interpretation of state's treaty obligation on the rights of rural women (Recommendation No. 34). Women as household providers and as persons with special nutritional needs in the reproductive function, for example, remain untouched. Women in cooperatives, including agricultural cooperatives, is also relevant to the NENA experience. However, the principles of sustaining cooperatives are not in FAO's repertoire. Rather, that is the specialization of the International Labour Organisation.

In managing or participating in cooperatives, for example, Rana noted the absence of any gender classification in Yemen consistent with the fifth principle of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises concerned with women and children. In this connection, Nabil also wondered if FAO has reviewed any progress on implementing or further developing the recommendations on discrimination against women since the 2014 NERC. In the 2016 CSO Consultation, we learned that women and gender had been folded under the new Regional Initiative on support for small-scale family farming.

Rana reported that, according to 2019 statistic, 80% of Yemenis live in extreme poverty, in addition to 9 million Yemenis, who are facing food insecurity, mostly women and children, due to the loss of their families in the war. Women are typically unable to go to the job market to find work, due to customs and traditions that restrict a woman to work at home. Also, no FAO known assessments report the extent of the humanitarian relief to the breadwinners and their families who have been displaced from the war and who have lost their property and lands.

Therefore, it is important to focus on the gender (and not just women), the promotion of educational policies, and equal decision making and leadership processes, to enable women to have full access to and use natural resources for security, food and development. Rana also recommended that a working group be assigned to the IPC regional processes, focusing and following up on gender and equality issues in the FAO agenda.

Amna reported a similar situation in Iraq, which finds women suffering from the issues that were mentioned about Yemen. Women are disproportionately affected in the marginalized areas and neighborhoods that contain large numbers of displaced people, where social-welfare programs are lacking. It is the same point raised by Adil from Sudan on the need to develop a framework to address women's issues and solutions in conflict and displacement situations, including the dispossession and displacement of the inhabitants of the Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains as a result of government practices, wars and armed conflicts.

Rawan al-Shawbaki, representing Tamkeen-Jordan, also mentioned that, although a large number of women in the countryside are working in agriculture as the main source of livelihood, their role in the countryside is noticeably declining, due to pressures to migrate to the cities and transition out of agricultural work. This is in addition to the increasing number of refugees and displaced people in Jordan as a result of wars and conflicts from neighboring countries.

While Joseph Schechla, Regional Coordinator for the Habitat International Coalition, explained that, despite the important role of cooperatives in Palestine, and the FAO support provided to them, a recent ILO evaluation found 47% of cooperatives do not operate according to the principles of cooperatives. Recently, FAO received \$7 million from the Swiss Development Corporation to strengthen cooperatives, a question remains about how FAO operationalizes the principle of cooperative governance. This could be another area where CSOs could help toward improving FAO relevance and outcomes in the field.

Consequently, Joseph raised the duty of UN Charter-based organizations the support and assist cooperatives in accordance with human rights and labor rights standards. These are the “value added” of UN specialized implementing organizations that should distinguish them from services provided by the private-sector or other parochially interested—including national interest-based, bilateral—development services.

At the end of the third session, the participants unanimously agreed that FAO should deal comprehensively with the issue of gender equality and related women's issues, commensurate with the difficult conditions faced by women in the region, especially since the majority of countries are under the scourge of war, occupation and/or armed conflict.

The last session of the first day addressed the role of civil society organizations in supporting small-scale producers and evaluating the FAO strategy in supporting small-scale farming families.

Phoebe Lewis, representative of the FAO NENA Regional Office, presented by Skype an overview of the 2016 FAO study developing a strategy to support small-scale farming families (SSFFs). The

strategy was intended to be regional, while six countries from the region participated in that study (Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan - Morocco and Tunisia).

She explained that the study relied on the "practical" approach and did not to address the root causes of rural transformation. Human rights standards were not considered, as they were outside the scope of the report and its authors. The study tried to align with the sustainable development goals, but that was considered too much of a challenge, and this alignment will be considered in the future. The FAO representative also admitted neglecting the issue and role of agroecology, which was still new on the FAO agenda at the time of the study.

Within the framework of this strategy, FAO developed a three-year work plan to implement the strategy, and FAO runs the Family Farming Knowledge Platform to exchange experiences and knowledge with civil society organizations. However, that is not linked directly to the review of the study/strategy.

Following the intervention of the FAO representative on the strategy, Heather Elaydi, representative of the Habitat International Coalition – Housing and Land Rights Network (Egypt), presented critical insights into the study that addressed the most important points omitted from the study and strategy:

- Emphasizing the human right of farmers to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and the treaty-bound prohibition against depriving them of their means of subsistence.
- Neglect of environmental impacts from the FAO strategy on small farmers.
- The importance of establishing a civil society mechanism to support small farmers, which was one of the recommendations of the CSO Consultations in 2016 and 2018, to support small farmers and build their capacities to address their economic concerns and overcome poverty.
- The absence of any evidence in the study of the alleged consultations, including SSFFs, leading to its conclusions and publication.
- The study did not address root causes of problems and crises, whether debt, structural causes preventing SSFFs from earning a living wage, benefitting from social protection and other benefits entitled to other workers.
- The continuing need to consider the processes of consulting and drafting studies with the competent authorities, in a technical manner, and to develop the FAO approach in a practical and normative framework to develop the policies of the countries of the region in support of small-scale agricultural families.
- The necessity to operationalize the human rights approach, including state compliance with binding obligations, in dealing with issues of small-scale agricultural families.
- The necessity of communicating permanently at the regional level and with the assistance of CSOs.
- The neglect of the problem and priority of small-sale farmers' crushing debt.
- The lack of any link it to the SDGs, linking it to an eco-farming plan, and the need to consider the existence of traditional agricultural systems and benefit from them, while paying more attention to the issue of climate change

- The need for the participation of independent civil society organizations, not those working under the government’s direction, as happened in Sudan, to enhance the practical application of human rights.
- The necessity of translating and updating that strategy into Arabic, in order to broaden the scope of its participation at the local level.
- While the study/strategy raised the challenges of secure land tenure, its treatment was superficial and delinked from the mounting literature and norm setting related to land tenure and land’s environmental and social functions.

Day 2: 14 November 2019

CFS Tenure Guidelines

On the second day, the first session covered the review of Amna Adham, representative of the Together Association (Iraq), the opportunity to operationalize the Tenure Guidelines (a.k.a. Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests). The importance of implementing it in the context of Iraq, which suffers from a multiple protracted crisis, relates to the need to support and enhance the security of various tenure types for those affected by the armed conflict in Iraq.

Amna attributed the challenges related to the restitution of housing, land and property faced by displaced persons and returnees, property rights claims and use by the current (secondary) occupants, loss of productive assets, natural resources, infrastructure and public services, as well as homes, companies, markets and other property that was destroyed or damaged.

The project of applying the Tenure Guidelines (TGs) in Iraq, already proposed in detail to FAO since June 2018, aims to support the sustainable use of the environment and natural resources in Iraq through equitable access of people, communities and indigenous peoples to lands, fisheries and forests in line with the TGs on rational management of fisheries and forest land with a “policy coherence” approach consistent also with the SDGs.

IPC Database for CSOs and FAO in the NENA Region

In the second session of the second day, Yasser Abdel Qader, the Systems Manager of HIC-HLKRN (Egypt), presented progress on implementing the database design for civil society organizations concerned with food sovereignty and cooperation with FAO in the NENA region. The project to develop the database has been implemented in cooperation with the FAO Regional Office. His review addressed the technical aspects of database design refined at a technical CSO workshop at Tunis in June 2019. The CSO Database will be instrumental in addressing one of the challenges facing the IPC regional process in preparation for the regional consultations, namely the lack of information on the capabilities and capacities of civil society organizations in implementing strategic cooperation and partnership, both among them and with FAO.

Yasser clarified that designing a database for community organizations is in line with the structures included in the IPC (departments and working groups) as criteria that are searchable and enable all users to develop a map of the CSOs cooperating with FAO in the region, in

accordance with its interests, activities, and experiences at the local, regional and international levels. In his introduction, Yasser explained the Database's capacity and added value in supporting the process of strategic consultation and cooperation with FAO or with other civil society organizations.

The database has two main sections: The first section includes the administration and maintenance of the database, and the other section includes steps and stages of registration in the database by the user.

Discussions and further recommendations on the Database also highlighted the importance of the role it will play in ensuring the participation of the largest number of civil society organizations at the same time that they have the ability and experience, in the electoral process for members of the Follow-up Committee, and members of the delegation that participates in the official sessions of the regional government conference that is held every two years, in addition to ensuring concrete recommendations and practical results in regional consultative processes among civil society organizations. It also will serve as an asset for FAO officers to locate and identify prospective CSO partners with needed expertise and capacities.

Participants in the meeting raised during the discussion about making this information available and allowing the user to search for organizations that are interested in their work, while respecting the security concerns by protecting information and data related to people working in those organizations from security harassment, especially if they are organizations working on the ground. Due to the procedures and restrictions that most laws of the countries of the region have on the work of civil society organizations, they have not been able to obtain a formal license to operate. However, as explained, the CSO Database is a closed system, accessible only to its CSO users and concerned FAO officers.

The participants agreed that the basic data that will appear to the user are general data about the organization or association, including its name and main activity and if it has a website. The design and management of the Database will treat information with discretion. Whoever wants more information about any of the participating organizations registered in the database should refer to the secretariat responsible for managing the database, which will be responsible for advertising the database, distributing the registration link, and deciding applications for approval to register in the Database. Managing the Database's content and regular communication with users will be a subject of the NENA Facilitating Committee and Follow-up Committee.

The participants also pointed out the importance of translating the database into French alongside Arabic and English, in order to contribute to its ease of use for all the different entities in the region speaking the three languages. This multilingual interface will facilitate communication with many parties from the Mashriq to the Maghrib. It was also emphasized that whoever wants to be registered in the Database should be from organizations or associations that adhere to the food sovereignty and governance principles the IPC, including approval of the principles of the [Nyéléni Declaration for Food Sovereignty](#), issued in 2007 at the International Forum for Food Sovereignty in Mali.

IPC Land, Territory, Water and Forests Working Group

Addressing the Consultation by video was Philip Seufert (FIAN International, Germany), who coordinated the new IPC Land, Territory, Water and Forests Working Group. The Working Group is engaged in diagnosis of the status of land issues, the struggles of local communities defending their rights to access and manage land and other productive resources, and the forms of violations they face.

Philip reported on development of the Working Group (WG) and its activities, covering the following main points:

Promoting food sovereignty

- The WG promotes and operationalizes the Tenure Guidelines, advocating their use as a matter of urgency.

Promoting human rights and increase women's participation

- Supporting the struggle of local communities against violations of their civil, cultural, economic, political and social human rights.
- Working to decriminalize the struggle of local communities against the policies of violating their right to land and natural resources, and to provide them with support and solidarity.

Building a vision of participatory natural resource management, and emphasizing the right of people to decide the fate of the exploitation of those resources.

- Supporting the decentralization process of all IPC regions for food sovereignty and developing a clear strategy for exchanging activities, experiences and experiences with new coordinators.

On some of the priority issues identified by the Working Group on Land and Territories and Indigenous Peoples, the Land and Territory WG has recognized that the issue of land and natural resource financing as a priority issue. Evaluation and monitoring methods have been established to assess the impact of financing and economic transformations on small farmers, herders and indigenous peoples, prioritizing their historical rights to lands and their management and exploitation of their resources. Likewise, the growing relationship between finance and digital technology has become a major challenge in monitoring the flow of funds and speculative operations under the pretext of agricultural development and investment.

Regarding the diagnosis of land issues in the Middle East and North Africa region according to the priority issues of the WG in Yemen, Nabil explained from the Social Democratic Forum has identified systematic policies plundering and redistributing land among groups that benefit from power or who have capital, and that SDF has addressed these issues in the region, but lack a needed mechanism to monitor the plunder of lands and related crimes, especially in times of conflict, occupation and wars. He asserted that the United Nations should find a mechanism to deal with these situations, especially in the case of Yemen, where the issue of speculation is prevalent on land, after plundering it from its owners in favor of influential military and political

actors and the tribes loyal to them, without regard to law or social justice standards for maintaining stability and social peace.

Since the 1994 Civil War in Yemen, the previous regime approved a set of measures and policies that enshrined the distinction between the people of the North and the South, including requisitioning land, confiscating a lot of public property, disposing of many areas that were designated for public purpose and green spaces, and seizing many assets of government institutions. These actors have grabbed real estate and acquired vast areas of agricultural land in the suburbs of Aden, Abyan, and Lahj with the aim of trade and speculation.

As for the situation in Sudan, Adil Bakhit explained that the previous regime of Omar al-Bashir contributed mainly to the deterioration of the land situation, through demographic manipulation in areas that opposed his rule, and allocating lands to new settlers from the tribes supporting him, as in Darfur and Nuba Mountains. That regime imposed control over 60% of the land area in Sudan, also by misusing the concept of "public benefit," which largely allowed the exploitation of land and the confiscation of private investment and money laundering.

In light of the domination of customary and tribal rule over land, trade and speculation over land has become popular in Sudan, which has distorted the market rules of supply and demand, and raised the price of land in an exaggerated manner, especially with the absence of a legal framework regulating land management in a fair manner. The public harbors much suspicion of money laundering in the purchase and management of land in Sudan, and other entities are speculating on agricultural lands and converting them to residential lands, which has doubled their exchange value. The same applies to pastoral societies whose lands have been reduced by large agricultural projects, as well as by their lack of registered ownership of land.

In Iraq, Amna spoke about projects to build dams and divert rivers from neighboring countries, especially Iran and Turkey, without conducting proper studies on the environmental and social impacts. This has to the destruction of many Iraqi agricultural lands.

Amna presented the issue of desiccating the marshes of southern Iraq as an example of the destruction of agricultural land for political reasons. The expropriation of vast palm groves has led to their conversion into real estate and speculation and investment in urban development. Money laundering and real-estate speculation spread on the pretext of post-war reconstruction after the ISIS or coalition wars.

She focused attention to the growing danger of armed groups affiliated with religious (Islamic) political parties since 2003, which have seized vast lands that re-divided them and sold them again at prices much lower than its real value, with the help of employees in the real estate departments to document these new properties. Amna confirmed that a lasting solution of the land acquisition issue is essential in building a future, not less than achieving security and sovereignty over food, for the Iraqi people.

Ahmed Mansour characterized the problem arising from Arab-Arab investments in land for the benefit of real estate projects, the re-planning and renewal of some residential areas, including replacement of their residents with real-estate projects and investments for the benefit of specific categories of capital owners under the slogans of development, without any standards include justice and reparation for victims of forced eviction from those areas they have inhabited for decades.

Parceling and speculating in land is impeding realization of the human right to adequate housing for low-income groups. In addition. Legislation of land-investment laws should apply strict criteria upholding the social function of land to acquisitions "for the public purpose."

Therefore, the recommendations of the participants to address the issue of land plunder, whether in the case of investment or in the event of wars or protracted crises, are as follows:

- Develop an observatory to monitor land violations, document them, comprehensively calculate the resulting costs, losses and damages and support reparations as defined in international law ([A/RES/60/147 \[ع\]](#)).
- Embedding the Tenure Guidelines in national land policies;
- Improve and develop policies and legislation governing tenure, while engaging civil society in shaping it with decision makers;
- Support methods for displaced persons and victims of plunder victims of conflict and war to restore their housing, land and property, and build the advocacy capacity of communities whose livelihoods are linked to the management and use of land, fisheries and forests.
- Pressure governments of the region in the FAO political process to implement Tenure Guidelines, in general, as well as the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA).

Ahmed Mansour then presented a summary on the outcomes of the IPC Working Group on Land and Territory, reporting on the deliberations held at Bangkok (2017) on "Tenure Guidelines and Human Rights-based Approach," where the WG members convened to discuss the link between the Tenure Guidelines and the rights-based approach by exchanging experiences among regions and analyzing the current and future work of the WG. The Bangkok meeting also assessed the current dynamics related to the natural resources, and devised a corresponding new strategic action plan for the WG. The context analysis and plan considered the challenges that have arisen due to governments' violations against human rights activists by increasingly criminalizing social struggles. The plan also focused on support of women rights and the youth participation.

The discussion about the challenges that communities face led to an inventory of common challenges to be addressed, including:

- Financialization and privatization of the nature;
- Criminalization of social struggle;
- Considering international and regional governance spaces (beyond FAO) whose outcomes and decisions have an impact on communities' rights to natural resources, such as those dealing

with climate change, trade and investment, the new UN Urban Assembly and the HLPF on SDGs;

- Resources needed to expand the WG support to the struggles and direct actions of its member organizations.

Global IPC Processes and Developments

The report from the Steering Committee by Joseph Schechla (Habitat International Coalition) recapped the highlights of the IPC Coordinating Committee meeting in October 2018, including the efforts to rebuild an indigenous Caucus inside FAO, also involving the Partnership Office (OPCP), IPC regional processes and secretariats. Much of the discussion on the regional processes and secretariats focused on the various needs and diverse modes of managing communications and information among regional CSOs. The participants agreed that communication and full participation and information sharing are essential, and each IPC region should *begin* establishing communication strategies, mechanisms and procedures. However, some regions (e.g., Latin America and Asia) resisted change from the tightly controlled email lists and centralized management. In cases, the participants felt little connection between the Working Groups (Land, Territory, Water and Forests; Agroecology; Fisheries; Agricultural Biodiversity; and Connecting Smallholder to Markets) and the regions and regional processes of IPC.

Global processes and deliberations of the IPC in the previous years included the following decisions:

- IPC regional communication processes should be more open and more participatory;
- Each IPC Working Group will send a quarterly report to the Facilitation Committee to be automatically disseminated to the regions and will be put on the IPC website.
- Create guidelines for communication and how to use the email lists.
- Revise the IPC website with sections featuring a calendar and events, each Working Group, a document archive, and regional processes.
- Pursue financial support for IPC with volunteers, exploring possible support under the SDG2: ending hunger, developing an agreed-upon list of donors from which IPC should NOT accept money, and considering areas of cooperation with IFAD. (Joseph Schechla was the only one to volunteer for the Facilitation Committee fundraising group.)
- Chart the advocacy spaces for IPC beyond FAO.
- Agroecology and Agricultural Biodiversity Working Groups should lead the engagement with the UN Decade of Family Farming.

CSM Processes

On the timely subject of the ongoing CFS program to monitor the implementation of its policy instruments, Heather Elaydi outlined the process whereby the Civil Society Mechanism for CFS is focusing in early 2020 on the FFA. She identified a set of 12 elements that are contained in the (FFA) that should be considered, operationalized, monitored and evaluated in and for the NENA region:

1. Address the root causes of conflict and the effects of climate change.
2. Comply with the rules of international law and human rights principles.
3. Support local food purchases and products of local organizations in food assistance.
4. Support policies and procedures to enhance local food systems, access productive resources and markets that for smallholders, and establish and strengthen food reserves
5. Desist from using food as a means of political or economic pressure.
6. Achieve country ownership, participation, stakeholder support and accountability in land and other agricultural resource administration.
7. Find permanent solutions, including by facilitating the return of refugees to their homes as a priority.
8. Ensure that CFS policy instruments are used by all stakeholders who may have a role in improving food security and nutrition in protracted crises or in influencing them.
9. Support local capacities and institutions in protracted crises, whereas interventions from abroad often lack commitment to support small-scale food producers and pay insufficient attention paid to corruption and the self-interest of political and institutional actors.
10. Respect the continuum of tenure rights, and the related rights to access, use and control of natural resources.
11. Reduce and relieve debt and reduce its burden on food producers.
12. Integrate, align and harmonize short-term relief, longer-term and institution-building development approaches within the framework of human rights and their corresponding individual, collective, domestic and extraterritorial obligations of state, ensuring their preventive and remedial applications.

The CSM monitoring contribution to the CFS process offers the opportunity for CSOs to address some of the missing or under-emphasized aspects of the FFA. Among these are gender issues and the extraterritorial human rights and other international law obligations of states in the framework, and the seven entitlements of reparations for victims of gross human rights violations' and breaches of international humanitarian law. The CSO contribution needs to formulate observations and recommendations, and define a mechanism to communicate with the CSM WG concerned with monitoring protracted crises, so that the necessary steps can be found to transfer the experience and specificities of the Near East, with a comprehensive document based on real cases, and the need to address the lack of resources and political will to resolve current and cyclical crises affecting food security and nutrition.

From Synthesis to Synergy: Where and How Operational Needs Coincide and Intersect

In the last session of Day 2, discussion turned to the question of “policy coherence” and how the United Nations development system reform is seeking to achieve the sustainable development

goals with a longer-term vision and positioning from a “higher vantage point.” This approach calls for harmonization of both political “commitments” such as the SDGs, and binding “obligations” such as those under the human rights treaties, other hard law instruments and the peremptory norms of international law applying to all states *erga omnes*.

Joseph provided an overview of the 14 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of NENA states at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2018–2019 and the five countries of the region that will present their VNRs in the coming 2020 session. He proposed how to apply the SDG indicators in the event of wars and other protracted crises, while reviewing the human rights approach and human rights standards in achieving the human right to food. He highlighted the essential distinction in sustainable development monitoring and evaluation between political “commitments” and binding “obligations” of states to achieve peoples’ food sovereignty.

Then Amna presented her organization’s exceptional experience at critically reviewing Iraq’s recent VNR on the application of SDGs in the context of the protracted crises from which Iraq suffers. She explained the process of preparing the VNR report for the State of Iraq preparing the statement to be presented at the HLPF in 2019. Amna attributed the most important challenges in achieving the SDGs in Iraq to: political and security turmoil, environmental pollution, and the effects of climate change such as desertification and water scarcity.

Nabil (Yemen) commented on the need to bridge the gap between governments and large civil society organizations in achieving the SDGs, raise the capacities of local organizations to deal with indicators and measuring the sustainable development goals, reformulate the SDG strategy in light of the crises in NENA countries, and urge the United Nations to be reminded of its role in ensuring peace and security, forward development and human rights as the three pillars of the UN Charter and the UN’s purpose.

Joseph commented on the necessity of developing alternative and more-practical indicators to measure progress toward achieving the SDGs, prioritizing the obligations of states, especially in global processes. For example, the obligations of states party to CEDaW are far more relevant and binding, unlike the SDG indicators, to ensure that rural women have equal access to, and control of land and other productive resources. We are challenged to strengthen the role of CSOs in country monitoring and evaluation, and the articulation of needs to achieve the SDGs. We have good practices, as in the Japanese experience, to develop alternative national SDG structural, progress and outcome indicators, and a very respectable examples from Korean, Mauritania and Philippines in presenting parallel reports to the VNRs.

Joseph had prepared to share the relevant outcomes of the 14 NENA VNRs that HIC-HLKRN has monitored and reviewed so far. Although time did not permit sharing those details, they are found in the presentation materials prepared for the session and available to all present participants.

He also noted that Libya, Morocco and Syria will undergo their periodic SDG review in the 2020 HLPF, and that poses an opportunity for our colleagues in those countries to evaluate the performance of their states' commitments and obligations.

UN Human Rights System Development

In a session applying the promised "higher vantage point" of the UN Development System reform to CSO engagement in the UN system related to food security and nutrition, Joseph briefly outlined the processes in the UN Human Rights System since 2018 to set standards and review the human-rights performance of NENA states. He reported the developments in the Human Rights Council, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

He reported on the process Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises currently underway within the UN Human Rights Council. The objective is to formulate a binding legal instrument to ensure that TNCs respect, protect and support the realization of human rights wherever they operate.

In November 2018, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants Rights and Other People Working in Rural Areas, recognizing related human rights principles as they apply to the specific context of rural workers, particularly agricultural workers. This is an important step toward specifying corresponding state obligations in a legally binding instrument. All states in the NENA region voted in favor, except for Israel, which voted against.

Significant for our region is the Declaration's affirmation of the rights of peasants and rural workers to organize and form unions (Article 9) and their "active and free participation, directly and/or through their representative organizations, participation in the preparation and implementation of policies, programmes and projects that may affect their lives, land and livelihoods" (Article 10). Article 11 recognizes their "right to seek, receive, develop and impart information, including information about factors that may affect the production, processing, marketing and distribution of their products...in a language and form and through means adequate to their cultural methods so as to promote their empowerment and to ensure their effective participation in decision making."

Also significant is Article 17, which recognizes that "Peasants and other people living in rural areas have the right to land, individually and/or collectively, in accordance with article 28 of the present Declaration, including the right to have access to, sustainably use and manage land and the water bodies, coastal seas, fisheries, pastures and forests therein, to achieve an adequate standard of living, to have a place to live in security, peace and dignity and to develop their cultures." It also determines that "States shall":

- Take appropriate measures to remove and prohibit all forms of discrimination relating to the right to land, including those resulting from change of marital status, lack of legal capacity or lack of access to economic resources.”
- Provide legal recognition for land tenure rights, including customary land tenure rights not currently protected by law, recognizing the existence of different models and systems;
- Protect peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to be protected against arbitrary and unlawful displacement from their land or place of habitual residence, or from other natural resources used in their activities and necessary for the enjoyment of adequate living conditions;
- Ensure that those who have been arbitrarily or unlawfully deprived of their lands have the right, individually and/or collectively, in association with others or as a community, to return to their land, including in cases of natural disasters.
- The new instrument also declares that peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to seeds in full sense of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Since 2018, the UN Treaty Bodies have reviewed the implementation of human rights obligations in cases of:

- Tunisia, Sudan, Lebanon under ICCPR
- Israel under ICESCR
- Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Palestine, Qatar and Saudi Arabia under ICERD
- Bahrain, Iraq, Qatar Saudi Arabia under CEDaW
- Algeria, Djibouti, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Tunisia under CRC
- Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Qatar under CaT (Bahrain, Palestine and Iraq in 2020)
- Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Sudan under CRPWD

Within the Treaty System, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is currently working on a draft General Comment on the obligations of states parties as they relate to land. HLRN has been cooperating with the Committee to overcome its legalistic dilemma to take into consideration the lessons of the biological and physical sciences that determine land and the relationship with land as a universal human need and, therefore, the “human right to land.” The General Comment is expected to be adopted in 2020.

Day 3: 15 November 2019

Developing Cooperation with FAO in NENA Region: Toward Effective Participation

On the third day of the intersessional consultation, a morning session involved a brainstorming exercise about ways to develop cooperation with FAO in the region, toward achieving effective partnership. FAORNE Senior Policy Advisor and Civil Society Focal Point Kayan Jaff joined the discussion, encouraging closer cooperation with FAO operationally. He reaffirmed FAO support to the CSOs in preparing for the coming NERC 35 at Muscat and stressed the urgency of finding and contract with the local CSO partner in good time before the early March NERC 35 date.

The session resulted in cataloging a set of priority issues for civil society organizations, the most important of which are:

- Fully implement the inter-sessional program of activities with FAO agreed upon at the 2018 CSO Consultation;
- Close the apparent gap between FAO's activities and programs on the ground and the involvement of relevant civil society, particularly related to support for small farmers and ecological agriculture, within the framework of Building Resilience to Climate Change initiative, understanding “resilience” to mean the capacity to resist and recover from shocks, along with accountability of the parties responsible for causing such shocks ;
- More and more-effective support to the role of civil society in countries experiencing conflict and protracted crises, to support food security;
- Pay more attention to the diagnosis of gender issues, and equality as a key item in implementing the FAO policy and work programs;
- Apply good-governance principles in dealing with CSOs to integrate policies, especially those related to implementing the SDGs, without exploiting them to serve political interests;
- Pay attention to developing effective programs to rehabilitate the displaced from conflict and war zones, and building their capacities to provide for their basic needs in the areas of displacement;
- Develop a joint plan with FAO for urgent action in countries with protracted crises;
- Develop a strategic plan to implement the Tenure Guidelines for small farmers and landless people, especially in the case of countries experiencing protracted crises.

From the deliberations reported above, participants variously committed to actions that include:

- Cooperate in with research efforts to find more information, including FAO Yemen project and program evaluations;
- Pursue the civil society initiative to develop a version of RAI with specificity for the region, including in the context of Arab-Arab investment in land and projects affecting food systems;
- Forming a NENA working group among the IPC regional processes, focusing and following up on gender and equality issues in the FAO agenda
- Urging FAO to operationalize the principle of cooperative governance with CSOs to improve FAO relevance and outcomes in the field.

- Advocate FAO address the issue of gender equality and related women's issues comprehensively, commensurate with the difficult conditions faced by women in the region, especially since most countries are under the scourge of war, occupation and/or armed conflict.
- Bridge the gap between governments and large civil society organizations in achieving the SDGs, while integrating states' human rights obligations into the framework of VNRs, their evaluations and parallel reports to HLPF.

Annex I: CSO Intersessional Consultation Program



“Participatory Approach toward Food Sovereignty”

The Intersessional CSOs Consultation of NERC

13–15 November 2019, Beirut, Lebanon

Day 1: 13 November 2019	
Registration	9:00 – 9:30
Welcome and Introductions (objectives - participants): Kayan Jaff, FAO and Ghada Haidar, GAIA	9:30 – 9:45
Regional Facilitating Committee (objectives, functions, outcomes, recommendations of 2018 Consultation), Joseph Schechla, HIC-HLRN	9:45 – 10:00
Follow-up Committee (objectives, functions, outcomes, recommendations of 2018 Consultation): Mohsen Kalboussi, Agro-ecology Association for a Green Agricultural Environment	10:00 – 10:30
CSOs Evaluation of their Progress in Implementation of the Linkage between NERC34 Outcomes and Regional Consultations Recommendations: Ghada Haidar, GAIA and Ahmed Mansour, HIC-HLRN	10:30 – 11:00
Open Discussion with FAO	11:00 – 11:15
Break	11:15 – 11:30
Evaluation of the Implementation of the Outcomes NERC34 Documents within the Regional Initiatives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural Transformation in NENA Region and the Challenge of Youth Employment and Migration: participants 	11:30 – 12:00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agroecology: Adapting to Climate Change in Semi-arid Areas for a Sustainable Agricultural Development (UNFCC CoP 25): participants 	12:00 – 12:30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Health: Addressing Transboundary Plant, Animal and Fish Pests and Diseases: A Case for Regional Cooperation (CBD): participants 	12:30 – 13:00
Lunch Break	13:00 – 14:00
Follow-up on the progress of the CSOs Priorities in NENA region	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agroecology and Food System in NENA Region: Maede Salimi, CENESTA and Association of Iranian Women for Sustainable Development 	14:00 – 14:40
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening Gender Equality and Discrimination in Rural Development and Achieving Food Sovereignty: Rana Ghanem, Democratic Social Forum 	14:40 – 15:20
Break	15:20 – 15:35
Role of Civil Society in Supporting the Small-scale Producers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFS Tenure Guidelines: Amna Adham, Together Association to Protect the Human and Environment 	15:35 – 16:15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO Strategy to Support Small-scale Family Farmers: Heather Elaydi, HIC-HLRN 	16:15 – 17:00
End of Day 1	

Day 2: 14 November 2019	
Reflections on Day 1	9:30 – 9:45
From Synthesis to Synergy: Where and How Operational Needs Coincide and Intersect: Joseph Schechla, HIC-HLRN	9:45 – 10:00
Introduction to the IPC Database (training session): Yasser Abdelkader, HIC-HLRN	10:00 – 11:00
Break	
Global IPC developments	
Recommendations of the General Meeting in Rome (2018 & 2019): Joseph Schechla, HIC-HLRN	11:15 – 11:30
Outcomes of the IPC Working Group on Land and Territory: Ahmed Mansour, HIC-HLRN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangkok (2018): Tenure Guidelines and Human Rights-based Approach • Rome (2019): Financialization 	11:30 – 12:00
Diagnosis of Land and Territory Issues in the NENA Region with the IPC WG on Land and Territory: Ahmed Mansour (open discussion)	12:00 – 12:30
Global CFS Processes	
Introduction to CFS/CSM: Urban Food Insecure Constituency, Food Systems and Nutrition Work Stream, Monitoring of the FFA: Heather Elaydi, HIC-HLRN	12:30 – 12:40
CFS NENA Region Consultation on Food Systems and Nutrition (Cairo 2019): Laura Tabet, Nawayya/Access Agriculture (presentation)	12:40 – 13:00
Lunch Break	
Monitoring CFS Policy Instruments	
Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA): Heather Elaydi, HIC-HLRN (presentation and discussion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yemen (Rana Ghanem, Democratic Social Forum and Nabil Abd ul-Hafeedh Magid) • Iraq (Amna Adham, Together Association to Protect the Human and Environment) • Syria (Nada Khoury) 	14:00 – 15:30
Break	
UN Development System Reform to Achieve the 2030 Agenda of SDGs: Commitments & State Obligations	
SDGs 2030 Agenda at the CFS: Amna Adham	15:45 – 16:15
VNRs at HLPF 2018–2019: Joseph Schechla, HIC-HLRN	16:15 – 16:45
UN Human Rights System Development: Joseph Schechla, HIC-HLRN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights Council/UPR • Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises • UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants Rights and Other People Working in Rural Areas • UN Treaty Bodies: ICESCR, Draft General Comment on Land 	16:45 – 17:15
End of Day 2	
Day 3: 15 November 2019	
Developing Cooperation with FAO in NENA Region: Toward Effective Participation (brainstorming): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender and equality between the sexes • Smallholders, Landless, Land Tenure • Conflict and Occupation • Agroecology • Connection on the Ground • Policy Coherence 	9:00 – 10:30

Annex II: CSO Intersessional Consultation Participants

First Name	Last Name	Country	Email	Gender	
Nabil	Abd ul-Hafeedh Magid	Social Democratic Forum- Yemen	Egypt	Nabil.noor69@gmail.com	♂
Yasser	Abdelkader	Habitat International Coalition- Housing and Land Rights Network (HIC-HLRN)	Egypt	yasser@hlrn.org	♂
Amna	Adham	Together to Protect Human & the Environment Association	Iraq	amna_adham@yahoo.com	♀
Adil	Bakhit	Sudan Human Rights Monitor	Sudan	anssag@yahoo.co.uk	♂
Heather	Elaydi	HIC-HLRN	Egypt	helaydi@hlrn.org	♀
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Mohsen	Zain Eldin	Gaia Association	Lebanon	gaiagrouph@gmail.com	♂
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Philip	Seufert	FIAN International (by video)	Rome	Seufert@fian.org	♂
FAO Participants					
Kayan	Jaff	Senior Policy Adviser and Civil Society Focal Point, FAORNE (by Skype)	Egypt	Kayan.Jaff@fao.org	♂
Phoebe	Lewis	Junior Professional Officer-FAORNE (by Skype)	Egypt	Phoebe.Lewis@fao.org	♀