

Organizational position of Mexican civil society before the United Nations Food Systems Summit. (rough translation)

July 2021



In the context of the civilizational crisis that humanity faces as a consequence of an economic model based on the over-exploitation of natural resources and the hand of work, which exacerbates social inequalities between and within countries and the destruction of the planet. which has led us to a crisis due to global climate change and to the sixth mass extinction of species, the United Nations has decided to convene to the Food Systems Summit i in September 2021. In accordance with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, this Summit will intends to propose actions for the “eradication of hunger, the creation of systems healthier and more inclusive food and the protection of the health of our planet. ”

However, as evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, humanity will not be able to rise to the challenge survival without transforming the dominant industrial food system, controlled by a handful of transnational corporations, under which industrial agriculture has reigned that promotes the use of pesticides, pollutes natural resources, damages biodiversity, kills pollinating insects and harms the health of those who grow and consume these food. In addition, it contributes with more than a third of greenhouse gas emissions greenhouse, which are warming the planet and causing the destruction of ecosystems.

This dominant industrialized food system increases poverty and inequality, for the concentration of land and the economic subordination of the peasants, who they have to buy new hybrid or genetically modified seeds for each harvest, along with technological packages that, among other highly dangerous pesticides, include the glyphosate herbicide, considered by the World Health Organization (WHO) as “probable carcinogenic ”, iii which allows the oligopoly / monopoly control of the inputs and establishes the prices in national and global markets. Transnational corporations dictate what seeds to sow, the techniques, and the foods to produce, promote the creation of industrial farms for animal production, promote monocultures devastating jungles, forests and healthy lands with serious consequences for the environment and the health of the population, imposing itself on cultural and food traditions built over millennia by a great diversity of peoples and cultures.

On the other hand, the Summit could also offer the opportunity to promote the fight against hunger through a sustainable food system, protect and promote agroecosystems traditional and the rights of producers, collectors and fishermen who contribute more than a third of world food production and that in some regions of the world planet, it reaches 70%, iv but it is not like that.

The Food Systems Summit has generated countless expressions of concern in the world, because the diversity of voices that participate in the systems food, as well as populations in situations of vulnerability, especially the peasants, women, girls and boys.

Among the most urgent concerns are those expressed by the Mechanism of Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples for relations with the Food Security Committee of the United Nations, I saw coincidence with those of the United Nations Special Rapporteur for the Right to Food, Michael Fakhri, and his predecessors, vii as well as hundreds of peasant and indigenous organizations, representatives of indigenous peoples and civil groups worldwide linked to the defense of the environment and human rights.

In this context, the organizations that sign this position adhere to the global complaints and those of the Civil Society Mechanism and the Indigenous Peoples to point out that the Food Systems Summit from the ONU:

It has been a process with little transparency and safeguards against the conflict of interest. Being conceived as a multisectoral platform, there is no differentiation between the roles of private and public actors, unprotecting the public interest. its architecture is complex and the criteria for selection and participation in its bodies are unclear, leaving doubt as to who will decide the results of the Summit. In addition, it ignored and initially marginalized the Food Safety Committee (CSA) and the Mechanism of Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples, developed by the United Nations over 11 years to ensure the participation and inclusion of the civil society in politics.

Unprotect food systems from corporate capture. With the influence of the World Economic Forum (WEF) at the beginning of the process, as well as the appointment of Dr. Agnes Kalibata as Special Envoy, current President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), you run the risk of presenting "solutions" in tune with the same industries responsible for the destruction of the earth, the bad nutrition, poverty and climate change, and not to promote actions to challenge the power and concentration of the agrochemical, seed and ultra-processed industries. It is reductionist and limited in its conception of food systems, missing the opportunity to have a deep, systemic and comprehensive transformation that includes social, economic, gender and climate justice.viii

OUR DEMANDS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO Given the significance of this Summit, the signatory organizations ask to the representation of the Mexican Government retake and present the following demands on this global platform, which we will enforce in all spaces within our reach:

1 That the guiding axis of the proposals be Human Rights. The top must be based on the right to food, the right to land, territory and water, the rights of the peasants who produce food, women, indigenous peoples, and workers in the food system; protect the right to seeds and against the UPOV91 act to promote the exchange and the preservation of seeds; the rights of

consumers; the right to transparency and public information on how they are produced and what contain food. That the voices of rights holders, such as small and medium-scale producers are prioritized in the development of the politics. Likewise, the UN bodies with a human rights perspective, such as the Food Security Committee and the Mechanism of Civil Society and the Indigenous Peoples, occupy a central place to monitor, implement and monitor the results of the Summit.

2 That the Mexican State promote and promote programs and public policies comprehensive solutions around food systems, from production to delivery consumption, along with its social, environmental and health and nutrition effects. The Food systems have public goals beyond health and nutrition. These should also contribute to the preservation and regeneration of nature, to life, decent work and the protection of traditional knowledge of the indigenous and native populations, as well as diverse culinary cultures.

3 Make agroecology the central principle of food systems at the Summit. For food production to transition from being a producer greenhouse gases (GHG) and pollutants to be sustainable, capturing and storage of these gases, which allow to cool the planet and restore fertility of the land and the quality of food. Agroecological production should be prioritized based on peasant science and innovation in the hands of farmers, peasant families and native peoples as part of a sustainable management and the defense of the territories and natural resources of the country as a whole. What's more, as mandated by the Science and Technology Law, ix allocate at least 1% of GDP to research and scientific education taking into account the dialogue of knowledge.

4 That mechanisms be developed to safeguard the systems food conflict of interest and corporate capture. Taking of decision, development, implementation and evaluation of public policy must be independent of private interests and safeguarded by the government, under citizen surveillance. In the same way, food sovereignty must be a central approach to achieving a fair, sustainable and healthy food system. In the same vein, measures should be implemented to regulate corporations that dominate the food system and ensure that small-scale producers and medium-scale, as well as family farming, have more control of the system agri-food, from the production phase, seeds and processing, up to consumption.

5 Design mechanisms and instruments with binding legal force, to that in case of affecting human rights, responsibility is attributed to the agribusiness and the food industry.x

6. That food systems fight poverty and inequity. It is It is key that these prioritize and protect short agri-food circuits, local and territorial short chain markets and local economies; that ensure livelihoods and decent work for all those involved in the food system and that trade treaties and agreements have a significant impact on positive to family producers and farmers with a fair distribution wealth, restoring dignity and giving fair remuneration to those who they feed us in a healthy way.

7 That ultra-processed foods, infant formulas and their advertising are regulated around the world. Damages must be acknowledged to the health and environment of the ultra-processed, as well as to propose policies for its regulation, such as fiscal measures, front warning labels, limits to your advertising in all media and the full implementation of the Code International Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes.

8 That the direct relationship between food systems, climate change and the health of people and the planet. The systems food must be aimed at guaranteeing human and planetary health, protect biodiversity, restore and maintain nature's cycles, regenerate soils, as well as maintaining conservation and access to native seeds.

9 Promote education for the sustainability of systems food with cultural relevance in the actors involved in the system from production to consumption, as well as for money takers decision.

The traditional agroecosystems of Mexico constitute the most important strongholds of the biological and cultural diversity of the country and are the most important resource for resilience and adaptation to climate change; Furthermore, they are of fundamental importance for the National identity. Therefore, its protection, as well as that of the rights of its inhabitants, must be a priority. The decisive position of our government for the protection and strengthening of traditional agroecosystems of Mexico and the rest of the world will undoubtedly be one of the best contributions to face the serious crisis in which our planet finds itself.

Organisations supporting this statement:

organizaciones campesinas e indígenas, organizaciones y colectivos de la sociedad civil, investigadores y observatorios universitarios del derecho a la alimentación en México, con amplia experiencia en la defensa y protección de la alimentación, la salud, el medio ambiente, la producción agrícola, la pesca, los derechos humanos, los derechos de los pueblos originarios y los derechos de las mujeres en amplias regiones del país, personas consumidoras, comunidad artística comprometida y grupos ambientalistas, que formamos parte de la Alianza por la Salud Alimentaria,¹ la Alianza por una Sana Alimentación en la Península de Yucatán,² la Campaña Nacional “Sin Maíz No Hay País”,³ la Campaña “Por el derecho a una alimentación sana y nutritiva de niñas, niños y adolescentes en Oaxaca”,⁴ el Movimiento Agroecológico de México,⁵ la Red por los Derechos de la Infancia en México (REDIM),⁶ así como las organizaciones: Adultos Mayores Activos por el Bien de Yucatán y México A. C., Alternativas en Salud y Desarrollo A. C., Asociación de Consumidores Orgánicos, Asociación Estatal de Padres de Familia de Yucatán A.C. (AEPAF YUCATÁN), Asociación Nacional de Empresas Comercializadoras de Productores del Campo (ANEC), Centro Calpulli A.C. , Centro de Apoyo al Movimiento Popular Oaxaqueño A.C. (CAMPO), Centro de Capacitación en Ecología y Salud para Campesinos y Defensoría del Derecho a la Salud (CCESC –DDS Chiapas), Centro de Derechos Humanos “Fray Francisco de Vitoria O.P.” A.C., Centro de Estudios y Fortalecimiento Comunitario Mano Vuelta A.C., Chan Tza Can A. C., Ciencia Social Alternativa A. C., Colectivo de Atención Comunitaria “U Yutzil Kaj”, Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad Oaxaca (Consorcio Oaxaca), Cooperativa de Consumo Consciente Milpa, Educación, Cultura y Ecología A.C., El Poder del Consumidor A.C., Espiral por la Vida A.C., Greenpeace México, Grupo de Estudios Ambientales, GEA A.C., IBFAN México, Kanan Kab Protección del Mundo A.C., Koollel Kab S de RL MI, Maela México, Manos Unidas por el Sur de Mérida A. C., Meliponario familiar Balam Kaab. Tekit, Yuc., Misioneros A. C., Muuch Kambal A.C., Observatorio del Derecho a la Alimentación ¿Qué Comemos? de Jalisco, Observatorio Universitario en Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional del Estado de Guanajuato (OUSANEG), Productos Ecológicos Vida Vida SC de RL de CV., Puente a la Salud Comunitaria A.C., Red de Acción sobre Plaguicidas y Alternativas en México (RAPAM) A.C, Slow Food México, Subinaj SC de RL. Vía Orgánica. Los agroecosistemas tradicionales de México constituyen los reductos más importantes de la diversidad biológica y cultural del país y son el recurso más importante para la resiliencia y adaptación ante el cambio climático; además, tienen una importancia fundamental para la identidad nacional. Por ello, su protección, así como la de los derechos de sus habitantes, debe ser prioritaria. La postura decisiva de nuestro gobierno para la protección y el fortalecimiento de los agroecosistemas tradicionales de México y del resto del mundo será indudablemente uno de los mejores aportes para enfrentar la grave crisis en la que se encuentra nuestro planeta.