

## Session 3. Roundtable Goal 2.

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a representative of the farmers' constituency, while we expect rapid progress on delivering all goals, we consider Goal 2 as critically linked to many of the SDGs and delivering Goal 2 will ensure that many other targets in several goals will be ensured. Its more critical for the Asia Pacific region, as more than half of the people under hunger and malnutrition belong to this region.

We understand that land rights small and women farmers, indigenous farmers and landless food producers is critical to achieve Goal 2. 2.5 billion people across the world are dependent on land for their survival. Indigenous and local communities are estimated to manage 65% of the world's land area through customary and community-based tenure systems. However, up to 50% of the lands of small scale producers, indigenous peoples, and local communities are contested and agricultural land is being converted to other uses in many cases via processes of land grabbing, land alienation and militarization.

Corporate capture of the agriculture, land, trade in food resulting in increased dispossession of farmers, increased pollution of land, water, and air, and increased hunger further threatens achievement of not only Goal 2 but many other Goals.

Free Trade agreements, bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, and the WTO also poses a risk to the rights of not only small and landless farmers, local and indigenous communities, but also unfairly tilts trade balance in favour of rich countries, and challenges market access and political space of developing and poor sovereign states.

The GMOs promoted by the few agribusiness corporations with missionary zeal have led to adverse impact on the land and biodiversity, which militates against the rationale of sustainable agriculture and food production systems, which can be only based on biodiversity of seeds and livestock.

With traditional and indigenous knowledge and through their sustainable natural resource governance and management systems, indigenous peoples and small scale family farmers are actively contributing to sustainable development. However, in many countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the practice of traditional occupations such as small-scale farming, shifting cultivation/rotational agriculture, hunting and food gathering are in many cases restricted or prohibited by law. We strongly believe that to pursue sustainable development, it is an urgent and important task for the governments in the Asia-Pacific region to take all necessary measures including to conduct legislative and policy review to protect rights to land and livelihoods of farmers and indigenous peoples. We are deeply concerned on the trend of increasing laws and practices in the Asia-Pacific region that are threatening and criminalizing indigenous peoples and farmers.

We are of the view that secure rights to lands, territories and resources is cutting across all the sustainable development goals. Recognition, protection and promotion of land rights will contribute significantly to achieving the sustainable development goals, in particular goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 13 and 16.

We the representatives of CSOs call up on our governments to:

- Genuine agrarian land reforms including access and control of natural resources including water, seed among others

- Take the necessary measures to realize and institutionalize the full and effective participation of small-scale farmers, landless farmers and indigenous peoples in the decision making processes that may affect them, and, in the design, implementation, and, monitoring of public programs on land and agriculture.

To stop corporate land grab which is being promoted to guard the interest of foreign investors in agriculture, as well as for infrastructure development.

- to define a clear indicator on land and recognizing customary land rights as ancestral domain of indigenous peoples which are ICCAs (Indigenous and Community Conserved Territories and Areas)

- Take the necessary measures to ensure the availability of data disaggregation beyond gender and age to meet the needs of indigenous peoples and small scale farmers and to make them visible in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Inclusive data collection and disaggregation is critical to track the gaps and changes on the ground and to guide governments on the urgent and strategic actions needed.

- ensure transparent, participatory and democratic negotiations of trade agreements that do not harm the rights of small-scale farmers, family farmers and indigenous peoples that must be with communities' FPIC (Free Prior and Informed Consent)

- reallocate budget for military purposes towards supporting small and indigenous farmers particularly for women, and in the indigenous peoples' territory

- Establish comprehensive programs to encourage youth into agricultural and fishery to ensure rapid local growth, sustainable agriculture based on agro-ecology, and greater use of people-led innovative technology to increase entrepreneurial and employment opportunities.