

C20 Working Group 2 Policy Brief

Food Systems, Hunger and Povertyⁱ

Food is the universal sustenance connecting all life on Earth. The Civil20 advocates for the G20 countries to prioritize the transformation of food systems, from production to consumption. The G20 must also ensure the realization of the human right to adequate food, meaning all people have access to an affordable, healthy, nutritious, and safe diet, whilst addressing the threats of urbanization and standardization of diets. This demands policy instruments and programs at broad-scale country levels, in line with recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and acknowledging the links between a dietary shift to healthy and nutritious plant-based foods, and improvements in food and nutrition security, the reduction of non-communicable diseases, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

We call on G20 Leaders to address and commit to the following recommendations:

- 1. Remove the systemic barriers that contribute to poverty and violence, by:**
 - a. Ensuring access to the basic right to food, sanitation, health, education, housing, transportation, public safety, energy, and communication, and reducing socio-spatial inequalities for underserved urban communities, and rural populations, taking into consideration their specificities in all their diversity.
 - b. Recognizing early childhood as a crucial stage in full and healthy development, underlining the relevance of nutrition, especially for women and children under the age of 2, including early diagnosis and special nutrition.
- 2. Develop public policies to guarantee food security and nutrition and to promote agroecology, aligned with regenerative farming systems.**
 - a. Restrict the advertising and marketing of unhealthy foods.
 - b. Orient food procurement policies towards healthy, sustainable, and diverse diets, including prioritizing purchases from smallholders.
 - c. Reduce the dependency on commercialized, chemically intensive, and high-energy input agriculture.

- d. Provide financial and technical support for agroecology, agricultural diversification, the conservation of agricultural biodiversity, and regenerative and resilient agriculture, especially in the Global South, while implementing tax exemptions for in-nature and minimally processed foods, and increasing taxation on ultra-processed foods
 - e. Promote practices such as community farming forestry, and water resource sharing.
 - f. Regulate the land use change of agricultural lands to non-agricultural use, to ensure it does not jeopardize global food security and nutrition, and ensure the availability of land use planning reports in the public domain.
 - g. Promote equitable land access, control, and tenure security, with particular attention to racial and ethnic minorities, Indigenous Peoples, People of African Descent, Africans, Asians, People of Asian Descent, migrants, refugees, Romas, Dalits, landless and homeless populations, women and, girls, LGBTQIAPN+ people, people with disabilities, including autistic people, and those with other health conditions, such as people living with HIV and dementia, and other groups in vulnerable situations.
 - h. Invest in smallholder farms, many of which are led by women, to diversify production and implement regenerative farming solutions.
- 3. Develop a Global Plan for Food Security, Nutrition, and Sovereignty regarding Climate Adaptation and Resilience to prevent crises, provide adequate financing and accountability mechanisms, tackle unsustainable debt, and measure the social and environmental impact of food production, with formal coordination mechanisms and accountability.**
- a. Increase long-term public investment and mobilize grant-based public resources for southern countries in critical areas, such as food systems and climate adaptation
 - b. Ensure domestic interventions related to food systems promote multiple positive health, environmental, and socioeconomic developments.
 - c. Ensure respect for and no harm to the food sovereignty of other nations, and ensure political coherence within existing multilateral forums that address food security and nutrition.

- d. Ensure governance structures address conflicts of interest between the private sector and human rights holders.
 - e. Prioritize agricultural land for indigenous and traditional crops and farming systems, such as locally-based and biodiverse crops.
- 4. Develop an inter-ministerial mechanism for a One-Health Policy for holistic food and health.**
 - a. Establish committees including representatives from the relevant ministries (e.g., health, education, agriculture, water, environment, finance) to facilitate coordination and decision-making.
 - b. Develop integrated action plans outlining the roles, responsibilities, and contributions of each ministry towards a shared vision and common goals.
 - c. Develop enablers and drivers to adopt sustainable lifestyles for one healthⁱⁱ
- 5. Prioritize diverse and decentralized food systems and local production.**
 - a. Promote the consumption of locally grown, processed, stored, and value-added foods. and tackle food monotony by promoting the consumption of fresh, local, diverse, and natural products.
 - b. Promote rural-city integration systems, economic incentives for food production and distribution in peri-urban spaces, the building and preservation of green areas, and tackle environmental racism
 - c. Provide economic incentives for food distribution in underserved urban communities, procure locally grown and diverse food for the public distribution system (PDS) and fair price shops, and encourage public investment in promoting short-cycle logistics.
 - d. Create sustainable economic opportunitiesⁱⁱⁱ tailored to local needs and resources.
- 6. Create policy tools to curb food loss and waste in the entire value chain.**
 - a. Encourage sustainable agricultural practices, such as precision farming, integrated pest management, and water-efficient irrigation techniques to minimize food loss and waste^{iv}.
 - b. Enhance low-GHG infrastructure, and low-cost technologies along the entire food supply chain, to improve decentralized storage and transportation^v.

- c. Prevent food waste behaviors throughout the supply chain.
 - d. Promote composting, to divert food scraps from landfills, and reduce environmental impacts.
- 7. Encourage a holistic system of agricultural practices, in combination with livestock farming, to create a synergistic, sustainable, and resilient farming system, by encouraging diverse crop-fodder cultivation.**
- 8. Develop policies supporting integrated farming, including subsidies, grants, and incentives for sustainable practices and credit to small and marginalized farmers for sustainable livestock management.**
- 9. Encourage a collective movement for holistic soil health, security, and sustainability.**
 - a. Support measures to enhance ecosystem services, such as pollination, natural pest control, and soil health, through conservative tillage, periodic soil rest, and other sustainable land management and Soil-Water-Crop management practices.
 - b. Develop monitoring mechanisms to regulate activities detrimental to soil health.
- 10. Create farmer and producer-friendly ecosystems for developing community enterprise models.**
 - a. Promote emerging sustainable business models for food systems, such as cooperative marketing for farmers, farmer producer companies (FPO), and cooperative retail marketing^{vi}.
 - b. Encourage networks of farmers, consumers, and suppliers by organizing and supporting community events.
- 11. Develop a charter ascribing values, ethics, and cultural considerations of diverse geographies and communities, to food systems.**
 - a. Integrate the consideration of food, culture, spirituality, and geography in policy.
 - b. Revive and protect traditional knowledge of food systems.
 - c. Create repositories of intangible cultural practices, means, and measures, to pass down knowledge through generations.

12. **Implement concrete actions to reduce socio-spatial inequalities, and multidimensional aspects of poverty.**
 - a. Create universal income redistribution and expand social protections^{vii}, observing the specific needs of racial and ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, People of African Descent, Africans, Asians, People of Asian Descent, migrants, refugees, Romas, Dalits, landless and homeless populations, women and girls, LGBTQIAPN+ people, people with disabilities, including autistic people, and those with other health conditions, such as people living with HIV and dementia, and other groups in vulnerable situations.
 - b. Establish a Global Fund for Social Protection, to achieve target 1.3 of the SDGs.
 - c. Address the lack of data availability to design appropriate public policies.
 - d. Allow for unbiased and robust data collection and transparency.
13. **Develop measures to secure employment, livelihood, and financial autonomy for poverty-stricken people, especially those who are also impacted by other systems of oppression such as racism, gender discrimination, and ableism, including adopting anti-discrimination laws and affirmative actions for education, social protection systems and employment, across all countries.**
14. **Stop the primary drivers of environmental destruction by implementing effective environmental regulation to protect natural resources, declare sensitive and strategic ecosystems as No-Go Zones for extractive industries, and uphold the primacy of the territorial rights of indigenous and traditional communities, land demarcation, and the self-governance of land, fisheries and forests.**
15. **To the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, we recommend that:**
 - a. The array of public policies should include three Brazilian examples: the Food Acquisition Program, the "Bolsa Família", and a Basic Food Basket based upon agroecological production.
 - b. The Global Alliance should avoid duplicate structures and leverage synergies, especially with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

ⁱ Over 200 members from more than 15 countries gathered for the Working Group "Food Systems, Hunger and Poverty", to discuss and elaborate on the recommendations presented below.

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- ⁱⁱ The One-Health Policy for holistic food and health will involve coordinated action and collaboration amongst the multiple government ministries that address food, nutrition, and health issues, comprehensively and holistically. These policies recognize health is influenced by a wide range of factors, including agriculture, health, environment, education, water, transportation, and social services. The policy aims to leverage the strengths and resources of various sectors for the holistic development of people and the planet.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Securing employment and financial autonomy for people in vulnerable situations and those living in poverty requires a multifaceted approach that addresses both immediate needs and long-term sustainability. Embedding local economic development initiatives within the ethos of a community will provide sustainability and resilience. People living in poverty are historically excluded from labor markets and integrated education, due to social and sensory accessibility barriers that can be aggravated by racial and gender discrimination.
- ^{iv} One-third of all food produced globally, by weight, is lost or wasted between the farm and the fork, totaling more than 1 billion tonnes. Converted into calories, this is the equivalent of 24% of the world's food supply going uneaten, whilst at the same time 1 in 10 people globally are malnourished. This scale of food loss and waste harms not only human health and nutrition but also economies and the environment. Wasted food has a major financial cost to the global economy, more than \$1 trillion each year, while also driving climate change, accounting for between 8 and 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions. (Source: WRI, <https://www.wri.org/insights/reducing-food-loss-and-food-waste>)
- ^v Handling practices can be improved, through investment in cold chain logistics, refrigeration facilities, packaging innovations, and transportation networks.
- ^{vi} Adopting a cooperative model in food distribution creates significant advantages for small-scale farmers and producers in terms of market access, resource efficiency, and overall sustainability. This approach not only benefits individual members but also gives producers important agency to have their voices heard and in attaining negotiating power. It also increases farmers' risk-taking ability and provides social security.
- ^{vii} Social protection schemes promote inclusive growth and ensure that groups in vulnerable situations are not left behind. By addressing immediate needs and fostering long-term improvements in health, education, and economic stability, these programs have a crucial role to play in building resilient and equitable societies.