

The MSC-CONSAN and the CPLP Rede das Margaridas demand the inclusion of rural women in governance spaces and decision-making processes!

The Mechanism for Facilitating Civil Society Participation in the Food and Nutritional Security Council of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (MSC-CONSAN) and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) Rede das Margaridas (Network of CPLP organizations working with rural women's rights) demand the enforcement of the political commitment made by the CPLP' Heads of State and Government of recognizing and strengthening the central role of rural women in the realization of the Human Right to Food and Nutrition in the region.

In the International Rural Women's Year and in the context of the International Rural Women's Day celebrations on October 15th, there is still a lack of representativeness of women food producers in academic debates, in governance spaces and decision-making processes in the most diverse instances.

Despite the region has achieved important political commitments in this subject (highlighting the progressive inclusion of the struggle for rural women's rights in the CONSAN-CPLP agenda and the approval of the CPLP Guidelines for Support and Promotion of Family Farming), it is essential to reaffirm and enhance the enforcement of the assumed commitments, giving political centrality to actions that promote rural women's rights.

In this sense, the MSC-CONSAN and the CPLP' Rede das Margaridas demand the full achievement of the rural women's rights, in particular their human right to adequate food and nutrition, which will only be possible in a democratic context, based on the rule of law, in order to guarantee the political conditions to promote women's economic, political and social autonomy. Thus, the MSC-CONSAN and the CPLP' Rede das Margaridas demand:

- The inclusion of rural women in governance spaces and decision-making processes, ensuring them representativeness in public policies formulation and negotiation.
- The recognition and visibility of rural women as agents of effective and sustainable socioeconomic development promoting biodiversity and as keepers of fundamental empirical knowledge to strengthen agroecological practices.
- The adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas, which recognizes, among other important points, the right to land and to other natural resources and is a manifest against the many humans rights violations suffered by these workers, specially regarding rural women.
- The recognition of the central role of women as food producers and consumers.
- The improvement of the working and living conditions of rural women and farmers and their families, by ensuring an increase in the income of family farmers and by implementing appropriate economic and social policies.

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Notes:

* The Mechanism for Facilitating Civil Society Participation in the CONSAN - CPLP (MSC-CONSAN) aims to facilitate the coordinated participation of Civil Society in the negotiations, decision-making processes and regular work of this regional council, as well as the follow-up of the Strategy implementation. It is an autonomous Mechanism constituted on the basis of the Guidelines approved by the Member States for this purpose as set out in the CONSAN-CPLP Statutes. The MSC-CONSAN currently represents more than 17 million family farmers and peasants and around 500 civil society organizations in the Community, including:

CNA - National Confederation of Agriculture (Portugal)

CONTAG - National Confederation of Farming Workers (Brasil)

FBSSAN - Brazilian Forum for Food Sovereignty and Food and Nutritional Security

FENAPA - National Federation of Small Farmers (São Tomé e Príncipe)

GT SAN - Working Group on Food and Nutrition Security of Angola

HASATIL - Sustainable Farming (Timor Leste)

KAFO - Peasant Federation KAFO (Guiné Bissau)

Plataforma de Camponeses da CPLP – Peasants’ Platform of CPLP

Plataforma de Agricultores de Cabo Verde - Farmers' Platform of Cabo Verde

PONGs – NGO’s Platform of Cabo Verde

REALIMENTAR - Portuguese Network for Food Sovereignty and Food and Nutrition Security

Rede das Margaridas da CPLP – Margaridas’ Network of CPLP

REDSAN CPLP - Civil Society Network for Food and Nutrition Security in the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries

RESCSAN STP - Civil Society Network for Food and Nutrition Security of São Tomé and Príncipe

RESSAN GB - Network for Food Sovereignty and Food and Nutrition Security (Guiné – Bissau)

ROSA - Organizations Network for Food Sovereignty in Mozambique

UNAC - National Union of Peasants

UNACA - National Confederation of Peasants' Associations and Farming Cooperatives of Angola

