



Press Release
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The People's Food Sovereignty Forum welcomes support from Brazil

For the first time ever, a country from the South has made a financial contribution to a Civil Society forum in Rome. The government of Brazil has just contributed \$40,000 to the People's Food Sovereignty Forum that will be held in parallel to the World Summit for Food Security [1].

Sofia Monsalve, member of the International Steering Committee responsible for the organization of the CSO Forum, and of FIAN (FoodFirst Information and Action Network) said *"The generous grant from Brazil to the forum is most welcome. It is in recognition of the support given by social movements and other CSOs to countries of the South that have been defending a democratic space in the UN's food governance system."*

The Brazilian ambassador to FAO had said earlier in Rome at a World Food Day meeting that he congratulated and *thanked* Civil Society Organisations for their ongoing support, especially during the course of this year. He recalled the decisive CSO statement in January 2009 at the Madrid High Level Meeting on Food Security for all (RANSA2009) [2]. Support to the position of the countries of the South has continued through the successful process for reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

Antonio Onorati, international focal point of the IPC [3], said: *"This heralds a new chapter in relations between Civil Society Organisations and governments. At precisely the same time that some traditional donor countries are leaning on FAO to exclude Social Movements from decisive involvement in the governance of food and agriculture, Brazil has stepped up to the plate and has indicated its support for their inclusion through our autonomous processes."*

Nettie Wiebe, spokesperson for La Via Campesina, the worldwide peasant movement, said: *"The central role of social movements of small-scale food providers and local consumers in deciding how food and agriculture are governed can no longer be ignored. She added: "The contribution of Brazil recognizes the importance of the participation of our movements at the international level, and this supports our inclusion in the heart of the UN food governance system in Rome."*

Notes for Editors:

[1] The Peoples Food Sovereignty Forum (13 – 17 November) is the official parallel forum to the World Summit for Food Security. Switzerland, Norway, the Catalan Government and now Brazil, together with IFAD and the Municipality of Rome, are the main donors. For the first time, FAO is not contributing anything to its officially recognised parallel CSO forum.

[2] The Common declaration by CSOs at the Madrid High Level Meeting on Food Security for all (RANSA2009) was presented by Henry Saragih, Secretary General, La Via Campesina. It was very well received. Text of CSO statement is at www.ukabc.org/CommonCSO-Declaration_RANSA2009.pdf ; Declaration is at www.viacampesina.org/main_en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=672&Itemid=1

[3] International Planning Committee for food sovereignty (IPC) is taking a lead in organising the present Forum as a member of the International Steering Committee. The IPC and its forerunner also organised all previous parallel forums to the 1996 World Food Summit and onwards.

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