

Ref.^a 647/GSE/CPLP/21
Lisbon, 13th August 2021

Subject: International coalition for the promotion of territorial sustainable food systems

Excellency,

In 2009, inspired by the reform of the World Committee on Food Security (CFS), the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) launched a Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (ESAN-CPLP) comprising a territorial approach and a related multi-level governance architecture.

Since then, CPLP has developed and fostered a multi-sector, multi-actor, multi-level, and inclusive governance model. In 2020, seven of the nine CPLP Member States¹ had already in place governance structures approved by their national parliaments or governments.

This territorial governance architecture allowed for the implementation of important policy and program agreements and initiatives involving our Member States, in areas such as school meals, family farming, agroecology, promotion of world heritage agricultural systems, agricultural investments, institutional capacity building, and development of programs for the promotion of territorial food systems and healthy diets. Bearing this in mind, in January 2021, FAO Brussels and the Portuguese EU Presidency co-organized a high-level dialogue entitled "Territorial Food Systems and Healthy Diets: Pathways to Global Transformation". The importance of advancing territorial development to promote sustainable food systems was recognized by all participants, including the Portuguese EU Presidency, the European Commission, the African Union Commission, and the Italian G20 Presidency for Food Systems.

Building upon that consensus, CPLP Member States have been actively participating in the "ad hoc working group" in charge of the preparation of the United Nations Food Security Summit (UNFSS). In this working group, comprised by countries, academia, civil society, and international organizations (including FAO, IFAD, UN HABITAT, OECD, CIRAD, NEPAD), CPLP has advocated the need to further promote the debate on territorial approaches methodologies.

¹ The CPLP has nine Member States, representing about 270 million people, in four continents: in Africa, Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, and São Tomé and Príncipe; in South America, Brazil; in Asia, Timor-Leste; and in Europe, Portugal.



Recently, on behalf of this "ad hoc working group", FAO and OECD, with the support of CPLP, organized a parallel event in the UNFSS Pre-Summit, in Rome, entitled "Territorial Governance for Sustainable Food Systems", that also counted with Your presence.

Also, the 3rd ordinary meeting of the CPLP Food Security and Nutrition Council (CONSAN-CPLP), held in Luanda, Angola, on the 15th of July, in the margins of the CPLP Heads of States and Government Summit, approved a set of decisions and recommendations for the UNFSS, namely the objective of **establishing an "International Coalition to Strengthen Territorial Governance for Sustainable Food Systems"**.

While the CPLP acknowledges the UNFSS Secretariat's recent discussions to include governance under a possible coalition entitled "Means of Implementation: finance, innovation, and technology, data, governance", we do believe that territorial governance to promote sustainable food systems would benefit from a specific framework and commitment of interested Member States and other relevant international stakeholders.

We are already undertaking diplomatic efforts so that the above-mentioned International Coalition proposed by the CPLP soon comprises other States including CPLP's Associated Observers such as Argentina, Canada, France, India, Italy, Japan, Namibia, Peru, Spain, and Turkey. Also, we are preparing a high-level event to launch this inclusive coalition in New York, in the margins of the UNFSS.

The CPLP Executive Secretariat stands ready and interested in engaging with your Office and the UNFSS Secretariat for implementing this relevant initiative.

Looking forward to your positive reaction, please accept, Madam Deputy Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration

Zacarias Albano da Costa
Executive Secretary

Hon. Amina Mohammed
Deputy Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, USA

Cc: UNFSS Secretariat