

Member State Representatives of the FAO Council
UN Food and Agriculture Organization
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy

9 June 2022

**Civil society and Indigenous Peoples' appeal to the FAO Council
to rescind the FAO partnership agreement with CropLife International**

Dear Member State Representatives of the UN FAO Council,

We would like to take the opportunity to urge you to bring forth in the discussion of the Strategy for Private Sector Engagement in the upcoming 170th FAO Council Session (13-17 June 2022) the strong recommendations of civil society, Indigenous Peoples and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food for the FAO to review and rescind its existing [partnership agreement](#) with CropLife International (CLI).

In a [report](#) made to the 49th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, UNSR Michael Fakhri recommended the FAO Council *“to review the agreement with CropLife International with an eye to human rights concerns”* and *“to consider directing the Director-General of FAO to rescind the agreement.”*

We urge you to act urgently on these recommendations. CLI is a global trade association whose members are the world's largest agrichemical, pesticide and seed companies: *BASF, Bayer Crop Science, Corteva Agriscience, FMC and Syngenta*. CropLife International member companies make [over one-third \(35%\)](#) of their sales from Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) — the pesticides that pose the highest levels of risk to health and the environment.

We believe that FAO's agreement with CropLife International is **incompatible with FAO's obligations to uphold human rights**. The use of hazardous pesticides is inconsistent with the rights protected by the United Nations to: *Health; Clean, healthy and sustainable environment; Safe working conditions; Adequate food; safe and clean water and sanitation; A dignified life; and Rights of Indigenous Peoples, women, children, workers, and peasants and other people working in rural areas.*

We are concerned with how CLI member companies have interfered in national policy and exert enormous pressure on governments that take measures to protect people and the environment from pesticide harms. As [pointed out](#) by former UNSR on the Right to Food Hilal Elver in 2017, “The pesticide industry's efforts to influence policymakers and regulators have obstructed reforms and paralysed global pesticide restrictions globally.” Recent examples are how CLI and Bayer [influenced Thailand's decision](#) to overturn a ban on the cancer-causing glyphosate, and applied similar lobbying tactics to [pressure Mexico](#) to drop a decree to phase-out glyphosate and GMOs.

It cannot be ignored that as profit-driven corporations, CropLife International's primary aim is to maximize sales of their members' products, especially in the Global South. CLI member companies [explicitly target](#) countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia, where the proportion of their HHP sales is even higher. **FAO deepening its collaboration with CropLife International directly counters any efforts toward progressively banning HHPs, as [recommended](#) for consideration by the FAO Council as early as 2006.** The FAO and WHO Code's [Guidelines on](#)

[HHPs](#) recommends phasing out and ending the use of HHPs through banning, canceling or withdrawing registration, and “ending use” as a mitigation option.

Further, **FAO’s partnership with CropLife International undercuts the FAO and several Member States’ [support for agroecology](#)**, an approach that offers viable and sustainable proposals for generating ecologically-based food and farming systems without the use of toxic pesticides.

In the year and a half since the Letter of Intent between FAO and CLI was signed in October 2020, civil society and Indigenous peoples have submitted [various letters](#) of appeal to the FAO leadership, including a [global petition](#) signed by over 187,300 individuals from more than 107 countries. However, to date, Director General Qu has not addressed the calls from rights holders, [scientists and academics](#), [funders](#) or even the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Food to rescind this agreement. **Therefore, today we elevate our concerns to the FAO Council as the governing body which can properly address this urgent matter.**

The FAO’s new due diligence framework (FRAME) under its Strategy for Engagement with the Private Sector outlines a specific set of criteria for assessing potential private sector partnerships. It should be pointed out that FAO’s partnership with CLI was entered prior to the adoption of FRAME, therefore, it is unclear whether it was evaluated through an adequate due diligence screening. If CropLife International were to be evaluated on such criteria now, e.g. Exclusionary Criteria, which lists companies involved in **human rights abuses** as excluded from potential partners; and reputational risk criteria which checks companies’ alignment to Environmental, Social and Governance components (page 17 and Appendix I, II, and III of *FAO Strategy on Private Sector Engagement – Updates and Implementation Status [PC 132/2](#)*), it is unlikely that it would be deemed fit for a partnership with the FAO without undermining the FAO’s integrity, credibility, impartiality, independence and neutrality.

With the FAO and its Member States’ crucial role in enacting and promoting policies to reduce reliance on toxic pesticides, the FAO Council must not allow the agency to continue its partnership with CropLife International through an LOI or any other engagement mechanism. FAO Director General Qu Dongyu has [said](#) that prior to the partnership, the agency had already been working with CLI on the “on the removal of highly hazardous obsolete pesticides.” The FAO should continue to ensure that the pesticide industry fulfill its obligations to clean up the planet, not enter into a broad-ranging agreement to collaborate on “[expanded areas of engagement](#)” in line with the FAO’s private sector strategy.

We respectfully urge Members of the FAO Council to call on the agency leadership to instead prioritize the increase of farmer access to agroecological practices and tools that help them grow their crops sustainably without harming their health. ***To safeguard the health and well-being of the people and the planet, we call on the Council to direct the Director-General to end FAO’s partnership with CropLife International.***

Signed,

Keith Tyrell, Chair
Pesticide Action Network International

Million Belay, Coordinator
Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)

David Azoulay, Environmental Health Program Director
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)

Sofía Monsalve, Secretary General
FIAN International

Kirtana Chandrasekaran and Martín Drago, Food Sovereignty Program Coordinators
Friends of the Earth International

Sophia Murphy, Executive Director
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)

Andrea Carmen, Executive Director
International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)

Pam Miller and Tadesse Amera, Co-Chairs
International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN)

Sue Longley, General Secretary
International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied
Workers' Associations (IUF)

Laurent Gaberell and Carla Hoinkes, Agriculture and Food Experts
Public Eye

Chee Yoke Ling, Executive Director
Third World Network

**On behalf of the undersigned 430 civil society and Indigenous Peoples organizations from
69 countries:**

International and Regional organizations

ActionAid International

Agroecology Europe

Asociación Americana de Juristas

Coalition of Agriculture Workers International (CAWI)

Corporate Europe Observatory

Food & Water Action Europe

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)

GRAIN

Health Action International Asia Pacific

Health and Environment Justice Support (HEJSupport)

Higuayagua Tainoof the Caribbean

International League of People's Struggle (ILPS)

People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS)

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Africa

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Asia Pacific

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe

Red de Acción Plaguicidas y sus alternativas de América Latina (RAPAL / PAN Latin America)

Society for International Development

Transnational Institute (TNI)
Transnational Migrant Platform Europe (TMP-E)
United Confederation of Taíno People

Argentina

Department Of Natural Resources, Comahue National University
Movimiento Laudato Si' – Capítulo Argentina
Red Argentina Ambiente y Desarrollo (RAAD)

Australia

Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance
Bellingen Environment Centre
National Toxics Network
TPEH

Austria

Brot für die Welt Österreich
DKA Austria
Dreikönigsaktion
FIAN Österreich
ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria

Bangladesh

BARCIK
Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO)
Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK)
Labour Resource Center (LRC)
Participatory Research & Action Network (PRAAN)
SHISUK

Barbados

Caribbean Amerindian Development Organisation

Belgium

BeeLife European Beekeeping Coordination
Broederlijk Delen
Fed. Apicole Belge (FAB-BBF)
Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)
SOS Faim – Belgique
Viva Salud

Benin

La Grande Puissance De Dieu

Brazil

Associação de Combate aos Poluentes (ACPO)
Agapan
Associação Brasileira de Agroecologia/aba-agroecologia
Centro Vocacional Tecnológico da Universidade Federal da Fronteira Sul
Fórum Mudanças Climáticas e Justiça Socioambiental (FMCJS)
Instituto do Bem-Estar (IBEM) / Welfare Institute
Movimento Sem Terra (MST)
Movimento Urbano de Agroecologia (MUDA)
Slow Food Brasil

Ufscar

Burkina Faso

ACF Burkina

Association Jeunesse pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable (AJEDD)

Coalition des Jeunes pour la Coopération Régionale

Burundi

Acecodad

Cambodia

Rural Women's Association

Cameroun

Alternatives Durables pour le Développement (ADD)

Association d'Assistance Au Développement (ASAD)

Coopérative des Producteurs Vivriers et Pérennes du Noun (COOPROVIPNOUN)

Concertation Nationale des Organisations Paysannes du Cameroun (CNOP-CAM)

Women Coalition for Agenda 2030

Canada

PINAY

Safe Food Matters Inc.

Toronto Non-GMO Coalition

Vigilance OGM

Chad

ATRENVIRO

Cabinet d'Expertise Six Sigma

Observatoire des Filières Agricoles Porteuses du Mayo Kebbi Est et Ouest

ONG Espoir

Plate Forme Provinciale de l'agriculture Durable du Mayo kebbi Est

Société Agro Sylvo Pastorale Koté Na Ma

Chile

Afzo

Agrupación de Usuarios Prais Oriente

ANTIMAFIA Chile

Asociacion Apicultores Maule Sur

Asociación Biodinámica de Chile

Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Rurales e Indígenas (ANAMURI)

BioAudita Ltda.

Bosque Matilde

CAP Paine

CEC CAC Casablanca

Centro Ecoceanos

Cesante

CETSUR

Chile Mejor sin Tratados de Libre Comercio

Chile Sin Ecocidio

Chilemiel AG

Colectiva por la defensa de las semillas

Colectivo Cabildos Constituyentes

Colectivo de mujeres

Colectivo Somos Constituyentes Limarí
Colectivo VientoSur
Comité Ambiental Comunal de Casablanca
Comité Ambiental Comunal Paine
Comite Oscar Romero Sicsal Chile
CONFUSAM
Convocatorias Concón
Cooperativa Semilla Austral
Coordinadora Ambiental Valles en Movimiento
Coordinadora Ecológica de Casablanca
DoseI
Encargada de Derechos Humanos de Comunal San Bernardo de COLPROCH
Exige Vivir Sano
Freesouls
Huerta-Escuela Agroecológica Ketrawe Amantu
Huerto Agro Ecológico Antumapu Universidad de Chile
Huerto Funaltun
La Colmena
La Milpa
Movimiento por el Agua y la Tierra (MAT)
Movimiento SocioAmbiental Valles en Resistencia
Mujeres Autoconvocadas de Macul
Observatorio Latinoamericano de Conflictos Ambientales (OLCA)
Organización Antroposofica Aurora
Polifen
Proyecto Agroecológico PichiWekén
Red de Acción en Plaguicidas de Chile (RAPAL Chile / PAN Latin America Chile)
Red de Acción por los Derechos Ambientales (RADA)
Red de Semillas Libres
Slow Food Chile Asociación Gremial
Social Hip-Hop
Sol del Sur
Somos Cerro Blanco
Visionandina

Colombia

Alianza Global ConVida20
ConpazCol
FIAN Colombia
Red de Desarrollo Sostenible

Costa Rica

Red de Coordinación en Biodiversidad

Croatia

Društvo istraživača mora - 20000 milja / Marine Explorers Societiz – 20000 Leagues
Earth Trek
Eco Hvar
Eco Pan – Association for Nature and Environment Protection
Zasadi stablo, ne budi panj!

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Association des Exploitants Miniers Artisanaux pour la Pacification et la Reconstruction de l'Ituri
(AEMAPRI)

Front Commun pour la Protection de l'Environnement et des Espaces Protégés

Ecuador

Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo SJ" (CSMM)
Colectivo Agroecológico del Ecuador
FIAN Ecuador
FUNBBASIC
Que Rico Es Comer Sano y de Nuestra Tierra
RAPAL Ecuador / PAN Latin America Ecuador
Red Chakiñán
Red por una América Latina Libre de Transgénicos

Ethiopia

Afar Pastoralist Development Association
Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Ethiopia

Fiji

Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom)

France

ActionAid France
Attac France
CCFD-Terre Solidaire
Engineers without Borders - Agriculture and Food Sovereignty
Génération Futures
Justice Pesticides
TERRE D ABEILLES
Union Nationale de l'Apiculture Française (UNAF)
URGENCI

Germany

Association of Ethical Shareholders Germany
Aurelia Stiftung
Bündnis für eine enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft
Coordination gegen BAYER-Gefahren
Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V.
FDCL - Center for Research and Documentation Chile-Latin America
FIAN Germany
foodwatch international
INKOTA
MISEREOR
Partner Suedmexikos e.V.
Pestizid Aktions-Netzwerk e.V. / PAN Germany
Save Our Seeds
Schweisfurth Stiftung
Umweltinstitut München e.V.
University of Bayreuth

Ghana

Abibinsroma Foundation
Food Sovereignty Ghana

Greece

ECOCITY

Guatemala

Asociación Comunitaria par el Desarrollo SERJUS
Asociación de Agricultores las Ilusiones (AGRIDIV)
Asociacion de Desarrollo Tzuul Taqa
Centro Ak Kutan

Guinea

Carbone Guinée

India

Basudha
Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies
Gram Bharati Samiti
Inclusive Media for Change
Initiative for Health & Equity in Society
Kalpavriksh
KHaaNA
Maharashtra Association of Pesticide Poisoned Persons
National Alliance of Agriculture-Allied Workers Union (NAAWU-India)
Pesticide Action Network (PAN) India
Save Our Rice Network
Society for Rural Education and Development
Sunray Harvesters
Thanal
The Sidhwa Trust
Torang Trust

Indonesia

FIAN Indonesia
Indonesia for Global Justice (IGJ)
Institute for National and Democracy Studies (INDIES)
SERUNI

Ireland

Trócaire

Italy

IPES-Food
ISDE, Associazione Medici per l'Ambiente
Parma Sostenibile
Schola Campesina

Ivory Coast

Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE) Côte d'Ivoire
PNPA

Jamaica

The Caribbean Poison Information Network

Japan

Consumers Union of Japan

Kazakhstan

Feminist League

Greenwomen Analytical Environmental Agency

Kenya

Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE)
Common Ground for Africa
Growth Partners Africa
Kenya Food Right Alliance
Rural Initiatives Development Programme (RIDEP)

Lebanon

Human Environmental Association for Development

Luxembourg

Action Solidarité Tiers Monde
Cercle de Coopération des ONGD
SOS FAIM Luxembourg

Malaysia

Consumers' Association of Penang
North South Initiative
Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth Malaysia)
Saya Anak Bangsa Malaysia (SABM)
Tenaganita Womens Force

Mali

ADJMOR
IRPAD/Afrique

Malta

Moam

Mexico

BDTR MEXICO
Asociación morelense de lucha contra el Cáncer A.C. (AMORCC)
Asamblea de los Pueblos Indígenas por la Soberanía Alimentaria (APISA)
Asociación Nacional de Empresas Comercializadoras de Productorxs del Campo (ANEC)
Calmil Comunicación
Centro de Apoyo Solidario, Documentación y Estudio, A.C.
Centro de Capacitación en Ecología y Salud/ Defensoría del Derecho a la Salud
CIBA-IPN TLAXCALA
Colegio de Postgraduados
CONACYT
Cooperativa Servicios Agroecológicos Holísticos (COSEAH)
ECOSUR
EDUCE, A.C.
FCPYS
FIAN México
Fronteras Comunes
Fundación Semillas de Vida, A.C.
Grupo de Trabajo Agroecología Política CLACSO
Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda
Grupo Multidisciplinario en Agricultura Sostenible SC
Madre Tierra Colectivo
Maela

Mercado Agroecológico Del Valle
Observatorio Universitario de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional del Estado de Guanajuato
Proyecto Bosque de Agua
Red de Acccion en Plaguicidas y Alternativas en Mexico (RAPAM / PAN Mexico)
Red Mexicana de Periodistas Ambientales
RIAAVER
Salud Crítica
Sociedad Cooperativa de Productores del Tianguis Orgánico Chapingo
UNAM
Universidad Autónoma Chapingo
Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana
Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana – Xochimilco
VIDA AC

Morocco

Fédération Nationale du Secteur Agricole

Nepal

Agricultural Technology Center

Netherlands

ASEED Europe
Both ENDS
Pesticide Action Network Netherlands

New Zealand

BioGro New Zealand Ltd.
Organics Aotearoa New Zealand
Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Aotearoa New Zealand
Soil & Health Association of New Zealand
Tidal Organics

Pakistan

Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum

Palestine

Gaza Urban & Peri-urban Agriculture Platform (GUPAP)

Paraguay

Conamuri - Organización de Mujeres Campesinas e Indígenas
Iniciativa Amotocodie

Philippines

Kilusan para sa Repormang Agraryo at Katarungang Panlipunan
Possible Futures
SEARICE
Sibat
Sining na Naglilingkod sa Bayan Inc. / Art for the People Inc.
Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment
Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA) / Federation of Agricultural Workers

Portugal

ZERO - Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável

Puerto Rico

Proyecto Agroecologico Juan Antonio Corretjer
Taller Baira

Senegal

ADEC
ADK
ALSE
Association Sénégalaise des Producteurs de Semences Paysannes (ASPSP)
Association Sénégalaise pour un Développement Equitable et Solidaire (ASDES)
BAMTAARE PODOR
Enda pronat
Fahamu Africa
Fédération des Agropasteurs de Diender (FAPD)
FENAGIEPECHE
ISRA
Nous Sommes la Solution
RECODEF
Réseau Koussek
UCEM

Serbia

Earth Thrive

Slovenia

Association Organic Gardens for Education

South Africa

10 Million Makers
Abalimi Bezekhaya
African Centre for Biodiversity
BDAASA
Biowatch South Africa
Coalition of various local citizen groups
EarthLore Foundation
Farm and Garden National Trust
GeaSphere
Good Food Network
groundWork, Friends of the Earth South Africa
Happy earth people
Lindros Whole Earth Consultants
Masifundise/WFFP
Rural Women's Assembly
Stellenbosch University
Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE)
UnPoison

Spain

Amigos de la Tierra
Ecologistas en Acción (Área Tóxicos)
Ecologistas en Acción-La Rioja

Sri Lanka

National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NAFSO)
We Women Lanka

Switzerland

Alternative refugee center
Biorespect
Bio Suisse
Biovision Foundation
BirdLife Schweiz
ETH Zürich
Fastenaktion (previously Fastenopfer)
FIAN Suisse
Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2)
HEKS Swiss Church Aid
Solidar Suisse
SWISSAID
UNITERRE

Tanzania

TABIO

Thailand

Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand (EARTH)
Focus on the Global South

Uganda

Center for Food and Adequate Living Rights
FIAN Uganda
Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment

United Kingdom

Baby Milk Action IBFAN
Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust
Earth Thrive
GMWatch
Pesticide Action Network (PAN) UK
The Gaia Foundation
Zero Hour

United States

Agroecology-Research Action Collective
Alliance for Natural Health USA
Beyond Pesticides
Californians for Pesticide Reform
Caribbean Agroecology Institute
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Food Safety
Clean and Healthy NY
Coming Clean Inc
Community Alliance for Global Justice
Community to Community Development Projects
CRLA Foundation
CS Fund
Cuba-US Agroecology Network
DeepAgroecology.net
Empire State Consumer Project

Family Farm Defenders
Farms Not Arms
Farmworker Association of Florida
Food & Water Watch
Friend of The Earth US
Friends of the MST (US)
GMO/Toxin Free USA
Groundswell International
Growing Health and Justice Coalition
Harambee House Inc.
HEAL Food Alliance
Herbicide-Free Campus
Indigenous Environmental Network
Informed Green Solutions
Los Jardines Institute
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Maryland Pesticide Education Network
Millennium Institute
National Family Farm Coalition
National Young Farmers Coalition
NOFA-VT
NOFA/Mass
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
Organic Consumers Association
Organic Seed Alliance
People & Pollinators Action Network
Pesticide Action Network (PAN) North America
PODER
Pollinate Minnesota
Real Food Media
Safe Ag Safe Schools – Monterey Bay
Science and Environmental Health Network
Sciencecorps
Seeds for All
Small Planet Institute
Smart on Pesticide Coalition
Springstead Construction
Start:Empowerment
Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville
The Oakland Institute
Toxic Free North Carolina
University of Vermont
Until Justice Data Partners
Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights
US Food Sovereignty Alliance
Women's Voices for the Earth

Uruguay

RAPAL Uruguay / PAN Latin America Uruguay

Venezuela
Fundacion Aguaclara
IPIAT

Zambia
Children's Environmental Health Foundation
Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity (ZAAB)

Zimbabwe
Njeremoto Biodiversity Institute NBI-Zim