

**62nd session of the Human Rights Council
Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur
on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change**

19 June 2026

Transforming food system for a safe climate and health for all

*Delivered by: Panuga Pulenthiran
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Thank you, Mr. President,

Franciscans International, FIAN International and Fastenaktion welcome the report and echo the Special Rapporteur's concern on the increasing use of fossil fuels in food systems which negatively impacts on the right to health, the right to food and the right to a healthy environment amongst other human rights, and exacerbates climate change.

We are concerned about the acceleration of the concentration of corporate power in food systems today, and more generally, commend the strong emphasis on business impacts. As noted in the report, the largest 1% of food businesses control more than 70% of the world's farmland, while small-scale farmers, often peasants and Indigenous Peoples, who manage only 12% of agricultural land yet produce 36% of the world's food. This imbalance fuels land grabbing, undermines food sovereignty, and erodes democratic control over food systems. In the absence of a binding global framework on corporate accountability, mandatory human rights due diligence and in general businesses obligation to prevent human rights abuses, impunity prevails in the food sector and leaves affected individuals and communities without remedy.

We are also concerned about the increasing dependency on fossil fuels by the agribusiness and petrochemical industries in our food system that hinders climate action and perpetuates human rights violations. Therefore, phasing out fossil fuels is essential not only for climate mitigation but also for protecting the rights to health, food, water and a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. A just transition requires a shift that upholds human rights and ensures that no one is left behind.

A just transformation of food systems is needed. It must dismantle the domination of corporations and structural drivers of harm while redistributing power, resources and decision-making toward Indigenous Peoples, peasants, small-scale fishers and other rightsholders. This requires ending subsidies that sustain fossil-fuel-dependent agribusiness, ending the expansion of petrochemical production, and ensuring that transitions do not replicate patterns of dispossession, pollution and inequality but instead repair them, support agroecology and guarantee agrarian reforms that deconcentrate corporate power and strengthen local markets.

We highlight last month's adoption of a UN General Assembly resolution which reaffirms and operationalizes the ICJ's advisory opinion on the obligations of States in respect of Climate Change, support the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur in light of the opinion, and underscore the urgent need for climate action and justice.

The Council should reaffirm that phasing out fossil fuels, in line with the best available science and human rights obligations, is indispensable to securing resilient, equitable and sustainable food systems that guarantee the enjoyment of the human rights of present and future generations. The Council must also play a decisive role in ensuring that this transformation is grounded in human rights, justice, and the protection of those who have sustained the world's most resilient food systems for centuries. Last, we support the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur in regard to a legally binding instrument on business and human rights and call on all States to support the ongoing process and work to end corporate impunity.

Thank you.