



العريضة لحماية الطبيعة
Arab Group for the Protection of Nature

Annual Report

2015



In the support of peoples' sovereignty over food and natural
resources, we carry out our work

Annual Report 2015

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About Arab Group for the Protection of Nature

Arab Group for the Protection of Nature was established in 2003 as a member-based non-profit organisation to contribute to the protection of the environment and natural resources in Arab countries, in coordination with both Arab and international organisations, against all hazards, including the destructive impacts of wars and foreign occupations.

APN's Mission

Arab Group for the Protection of Nature seeks to reinforce the capacity of the Arab people to sustain their natural resources and gain sovereignty over them especially in areas under occupation and conflict, and to mobilise efforts of civil society organisations towards promoting and advocating regional and global environmental issues.

Objectives of APN

1. Contribute to the rehabilitation and sustainability of natural resources in the Arab region which suffer from wars and armed conflicts, especially in Jordan and Palestine.
2. Influence the drafting and implementation of related global environmental policies, and enhance the role of civil society organisations through effective partnerships.
3. Mobilise efforts of civil society in order to contribute and respond to the needs of Arab and global environment issues.
4. Build the capacity of the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature in order to achieve its mission with high professionalism, effectiveness and institutional sustainability.

Annual General Assembly Meeting

On Monday 17th August, 2015, APN held its Annual General Assembly meeting for the year 2014, which was attended by 15 members of the General Assembly as well as the Board of Directors, team of staff, and APN's financial auditor from Talal Abu-Ghazaleh.

The meeting began with a brief review of APN achievements and administrative report for the year 2014. This was followed by a discussion of the budget and auditor's report for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2014. A representative of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh reviewed the chartered accountant's report and the details of the financial statements for 2014, and answered all inquiries and provided clarifications in cooperation with the APN accountant. APN General Assembly unanimously approved the balance sheet, final accounts and the auditor's report on the financial statement.

Board Members & APN Staff

Board members



Razan Zuayter
President of the Board



Rami Barhoush
Vice President of the Board



Ziad Moughrabi
Secretary



Zina Mushahwar
Treasurer



Humam Mufti
Board Member



Suzan Ayoub
Board Member

APN team



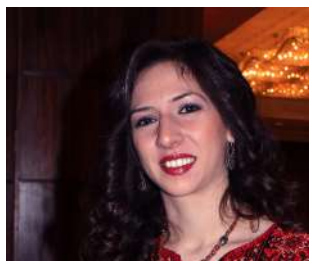
Mariam Al Jaajaa
General Manager



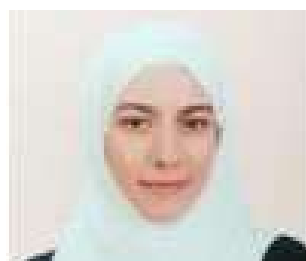
Mohammad Qtaishat
Projects Manager



Heather Elaydi
Advocacy Officer



Farah Kaddoura
Public Relations Manager



Wala'a Dabash
Administrative Assistant



Malik Jariri
Accountant



Sameh Hijab
Logistics

Volunteer Team

Volunteer team

APN is characterised by the participation of a huge volunteer community. More than 1000 volunteers from both genders and different age groups have contributed to various APN programmes.



Financial Auditors

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Group

Founding Members of APN

APN Founding Members

Razan Zuayter
Asem Shehabi
George Mushahwar
Humam Darwaza (deceased)
Humam Mufti
Eman Abu Alrous
Inas Baseisou
Hassan Al Jaajaa
Lubna Irsheid
Mutaz Al Afifi
Nicola Billeh
Rami Barhoush
Sameeh Kavar
Sami Nablusi
Sari Zuaiter
Subhia Al Maani
Zina Kavar
Dina Abu Alrous
Fouad Srouji
Sima Alami

Memberships and Partnerships

APN is Member of the Following Networks and Institutions

Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS)
People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS)
Civil Society Mechanism (CSM)
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR)
Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED)
International Network of Jerusalem Institutions
Jordan Federation for Environmental NGOs

APN Collaborates with the Following Regional and International institutions

Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
Qatar Charity
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Qatari Red Crescent

APN Partners in Tree Planting and Land Rehabilitation Programmes

Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC)
Palestinian Farmers Union (PFU)
Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee
Greater Amman Municipality
Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture – Forestry Department
Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC)
Land Research Centre (LRC)
Welfare Association
Ahali Center for Community Development
Elhawakeer Association Handala Cultural Center
Al-Nahda Rural Society
Jordanian Engineers Association
Al Hakura Society

Executive Summary

APN's Most Important Achievements of 2015

APN continued its activities for the year 2015, including agricultural projects in both Palestine and Jordan, awareness campaigns, and efforts to impact agricultural and environmental policy on the international, regional and local levels. This annual report highlights APN's accomplishments throughout 2015. Below are some of the most prominent achievements:

- APN continued planting its Third Million Tree Campaign in Palestine in 2015, having reached its previous goal of planting two million trees in 2014. The total number of fruit trees that had been planted by end of 2015 was 2,071,442, distributed on 112,320 dunums of land. The trees continue to meet the needs of 24,261 farmers, supporting a total of 184 056 people. In 2015 alone, APN planted 71,442 fruit trees covering 3,084 dunums of land to aid 910 farmers and support 8,667 people. APN was responsible for the building of nine water collection systems and installed irrigation networks with a length of 4,550 meters. Additionally, APN rehabilitated 59 greenhouses in the Gaza Strip, and provided fishermen with 156 fishing nets. Furthermore 242,000 vegetables seedlings were planted across Palestine, and 120 dunums of land were fully rehabilitated.
- APN also continued its work within the Green Caravan Programme in order to enhance food security and food sovereignty in Jordan. The programme promotes reforestation efforts and works to combat desertification, particularly in underprivileged areas, and raises awareness among students on the importance of agriculture and trees. Work included the planting of thousands of olive, carob and other fruit trees in Dhlail, Aira, Salt, Albayouda, Jerash , Ajloun, and the Jordan Valley to expand the green space in Jordan and enhance food security of the population. Activities this year were made possible through several institutional partnerships.
- APN organised a specialised workshop with the participation of volunteers, experts, farmers and journalists to develop a long term strategy for the Green Caravan, with the aim of achieving sustainable development through the creation of agricultural projects. APN has also continued its awareness campaign “If You Only Know” by giving lectures at a number of schools and centers in Jordan.
- As for the efforts to impact environmental and agricultural policies on the international, regional and local levels, in 2015 the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) granted APN Special Consultative Status which will allow APN to actively engage with the council and its subsidiary bodies, as well as with the United Nations Secretariat, programmes, funds and agencies in a number of ways. Furthermore, APN's General Manager was elected to represent West Asia in the International Civil Society Mechanism for Food Security and Nutrition, and APN's President was asked to chair the Open Meeting with governments as a member in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Advisory Group on behalf of civil society. APN also continued to lead Global Civil Society in a series of intense negotiations on the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA), which is a historic document as it addresses food insecurity in times of conflict and occupation in a comprehensive manner.
- In order to advocate the priorities of Arab and international civil society within the Framework for Action, APN organised a series of bilateral meetings with government representatives. One of the most important achievements for APN was the inclusion of “occupation” as a root cause of food

Executive Summary

insecurity and malnutrition in crises, in addition to the inclusion of several other articles important to our region, such as ensuring safe and unimpeded access to humanitarian and food aid, respect of tenure of land, forests and fisheries, safe access to affected communities and utilisation of their natural resources and their protection through the respect of international humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Conventions. Among the many successes with the FFA was the inclusion of a principle on the importance of country ownership in development and recovery programmes.

- APN had a major impact on the CFS 42 Session in October 2015, during which it organised a high level side event to push for the implementation and monitoring of the FFA.
- APN has also continued its role as the Secretariat of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS), through which two conferences were organised this year in Amman: first, on Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) from a civil society perspective, and second, a meeting on the back of the Fourth FAO Regional Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition.
- At the local level, APN participated in the launch of the National Jordanian Campaign to Stop the Proposed Gas Deal with Israel, for which it co-organised a series of activities and events.
- The Global Campaign to Return to Palestine honored APN with a medal in recognition of its voluntary assistance and great support for Palestine, and APN President Razan Zuayter was honored by the Jordanian Ministry of Culture at a special ceremony held in Amman in recognition of her work in leading APN efforts and initiatives.



Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS)

Arab Group for the Protection of Nature with a group of civil society organisation partners established the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS) in 2012 in Beirut. ANFS is an independent, voluntary and non-profit regional network whose membership includes institutions, associations and unions seeking first and foremost to contribute to the promotion of the principles and practices of food and natural resource sovereignty in the Arab countries, and to support strategies of resilience to confront the underlying causes of social and economic vulnerability faced by communities. The network includes a membership of more than 48 non-governmental organisations, farmers unions, fishermen, pastoralists, workers, women, youth, and consumer associations from eighteen Arab states.

Why the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty?

ANFS was established in order to:

1. defend the interests and rights of Arab peoples in relation to land, water, food, and sovereignty over natural resources;
2. strengthen the role of agricultural civil society organisations in the Arab world, reinforce their independence, and preserve the character and authenticity of Arab culture;
3. mobilise community participation and oversight in regard to policies and practices of governments and institutions related to agricultural and nutritional development;
4. work against the deteriorating situation of sovereignty over food and natural resources in the Arab world.

Definition of Food Sovereignty

Food sovereignty is the right of peoples, communities, and nations to define their own policies on agriculture, labour, fishing, food, and land, appropriate to its unique environmental, social, economic and cultural circumstances. This includes the right to food and food production, which means the right of every person to have



Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS)

access to reliable, healthy, nutritious, and convenient food and sources of food production, and the ability to sustain themselves and their families.

Strategic Objectives:

ANFS seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. Promote concepts, practices, and strategies for food and natural resource sovereignty in the Arab countries.
2. Develop institutional and community capacity and enhance the role and effectiveness of civil society organisations working in the fields of agriculture and food security.
3. Embrace, encourage, and mobilise innovative and creative initiatives, activities, and campaigns in the areas of food security and food sovereignty at the community and institutional levels.
4. Strengthen the cooperation and coordination of Arab, regional, and global networking to exchange expertise and to serve the vision and strategy of the Network.
5. Influence governmental and non-governmental policies and regulations on the local, regional, and international levels to achieve food and natural resource sovereignty.



APN President Razan Zuayter's Speech at Annual Dinner – 5th December, 2015

Another year passes yet we gather here today despite oppression and strife, because we know that even gentle droplets of water are able to carve stone and make history.

Our dear volunteers, supporters and members, we are proud to tell you that the UN Committee on World Food Security has announced the endorsement of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises. For the first time, states have agreed on a comprehensive, just framework to protect food security in the context of wars, occupation and protracted crises.

We humbly announce that this is our biggest and most difficult accomplishment this year, and it has come as a result of our collective struggle that exceeded ten years. Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) has worked very hard to master the international language of dialogue and negotiation. One of our most important successes is the inclusion of “occupation” as one of the root causes of hunger in this framework;



another is the fact that hunger cannot be resolved sustainably without addressing root causes.

Countries have endorsed the Framework and vowed to use it as guidelines. It is now our duty to ensure the implementation and monitoring of these promises - even if it takes us an additional ten years!

Our dear supporters, another year passes and, with you, we plant hundreds of thousands of trees in Palestine and Jordan. We are confident that the river driven by the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature will run its natural course towards the unity and sovereignty of our countries and peoples over our natural resources, in Jordan, Palestine and all over the great Arab nation. And for this purpose, and despite the very difficult times we are witnessing in the Arab world, APN has co-founded the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS), which includes 49 Civil Society Organisations representing hundreds of thousands of peasants, fishermen, pastoralists, workers, consumers, women and youth. And for this purpose as well, we have guided ANFS into becoming an active member of the Executive Committee of the Peoples Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS), which is the only global alliance requiring that the leadership always be from the south.

We welcome all of you again to join us in celebrating our achievements this year and we are proud to welcome guests from Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen, Iraq, and Tunisia today, like a beautiful, colorful rainbow from around the Arab world.

Thank you,
Razan Zuayter

APN Celebrates International Achievements at its Annual Dinner

On 5th December, 2015 Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) celebrated 15 years of achievements and collective hard work at its annual dinner held on 5th December, 2015. More than 900 supporters and guests attended the event, which was held in conjunction with 100 supporting companies and institutions.

The purpose of the event was to gather APN volunteers, friends, and fans to celebrate the achievements of the year 2015. The funds raised by the event will plant around 100 thousand tree saplings in 2016 to replace trees uprooted by Israeli occupation troops in locations threatened with confiscation, such as those targeted for the building of colonies, bypass roads and parts of the Apartheid Wall. Another objective of the event is to support APN's Green Caravan campaign which involves planting tens of thousands of tree saplings on Jordanian lands to fight desertification, enhance food security and create income sources for residents of marginalised areas.

A special guest honoured by the event was 77 year old Palestinian farmer Abdel Rahman al-Qassem who after 31 years reclaimed ownership of his land, stolen by Beit Eil colony in the Ramallah region, by winning a court order to regain the

land from the Israeli occupation authorities. Al-Qassem turned down an offer to receive \$28 million and has rejected an offer to receive an American passport for himself and his entire family, including children and grandchildren, in return for giving up his right to the land.



APN Celebrates International Achievements at its Annual Dinner

The ceremony, introduced by presenter and activist Aroub Soubh and APN Vice President Rami Barhoush, also hosted Jordanian farmer Elham Al-Abbadi, who works to train residents in organic farming techniques in her village of Al-Bayyouda in Salt. Farming in the area, which is seeking to achieve self-sufficiency, is almost free of chemical use. Also participating in the event this year was singer May Nasr, who presented a set of patriotic songs to the music of oud player Humam Eid.

In addition to Ms Al-Abbadi, Mr Al-Qassem, singer Nasr and musician Humam Eid, APN also presented honorary plaques to following friends for their active roles in promoting common goals: volunteers Mrs Theresa Wolfwood and her late husband Gerd, Mr Hussien Yahya from the Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee, and Mrs. Darah al-Taher and Dr.Bassel Burqan.

The ceremony included the premier of a short film, “APN Through the Eyes of Volunteers”, about APN and its programmes, as well as two films about farmers Abdel Rahman al-Qassem and Elham Al-Abbadi. During the dinner there was a raffle to raise funds on the following items: bottles of olive oil; a Palestinian embroidered thobe (dress) donated by Ms May Khoury; two baskets of organic products from the village



APN Celebrates International Achievements at its Annual Dinner

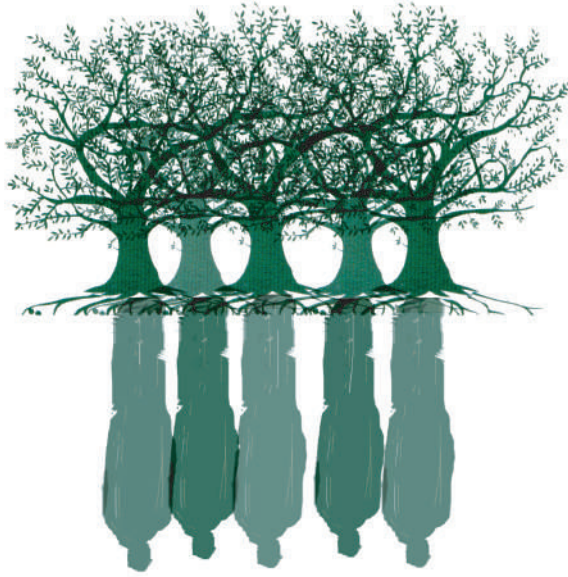
Al-Bayyoudah in Salt; and volumes entitled “Palestine in the books of Arab and Muslim Geographers and Travelers,” written by Dr. Naila Waary.

Prior to the annual dinner, APN held a press conference to announce the event, during which media representatives were briefed on achievements in the areas of agriculture, food security and environment. A large number of reporters and journalists supporting the group’s causes were present.



Agricultural and Environmental Development

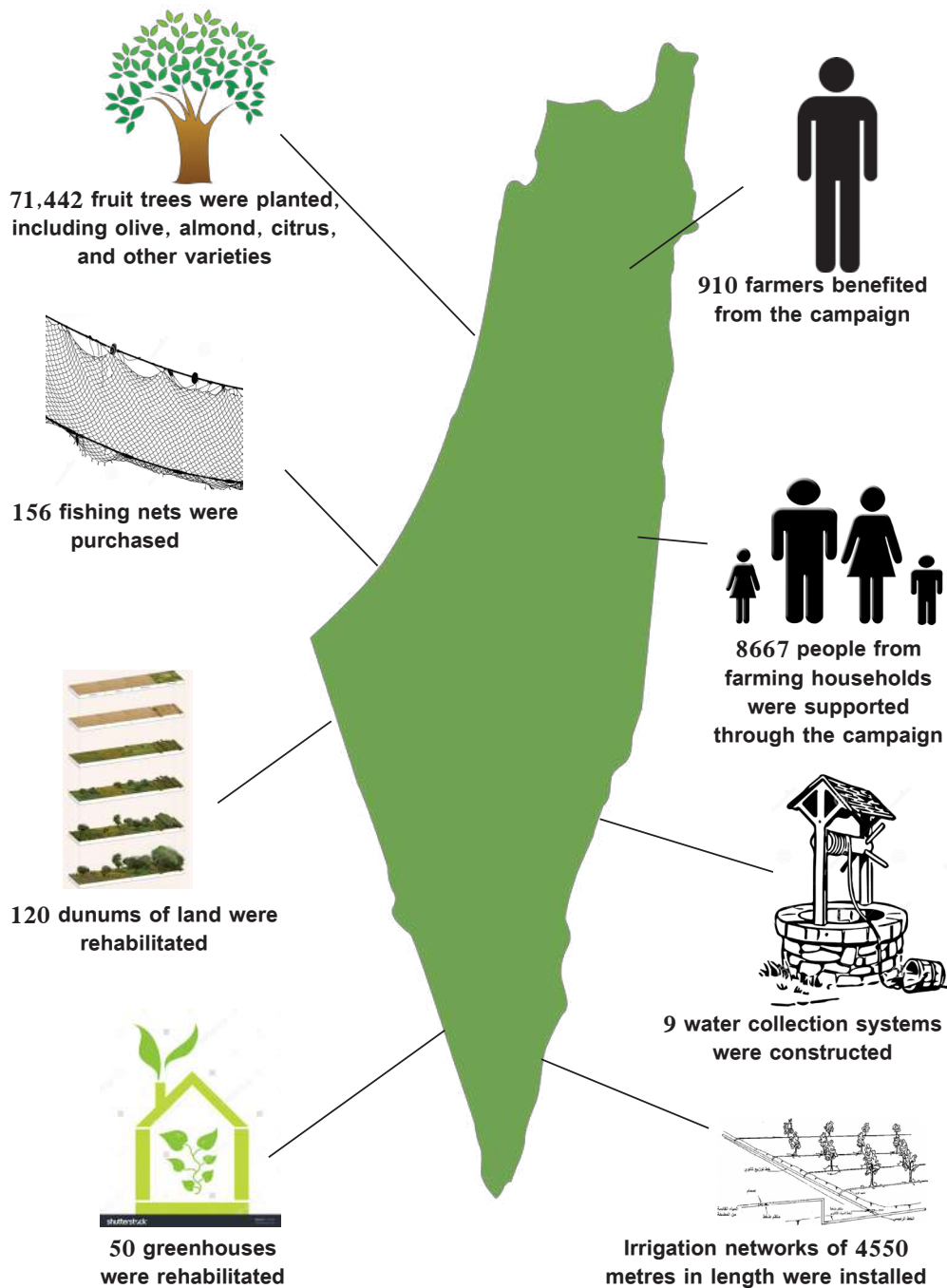
Million Tree Campaign



“They uproot one tree...we replant ten”

Million Tree Campaign

Facts about the Third Million Tree Campaign in 2015



Million Tree Campaign

Israel intensified its aggression in 2015 resulting in the destruction of the Palestinian agricultural sector through bulldozing and confiscating of agricultural lands, uprooting, burning, and stealing trees, as well as attacking the fisheries sector and restricting the movement of fishermen. These violations remain an important component of Israel's systemic policy to prevent the existence of sustainable Palestinian communities.

To meet these challenges, APN succeeded in completing the Second Million Tree Campaign in 2014 and launched the Third Million Tree Campaign to continue efforts to support and assist Palestinian farmers in holding on to their land through the re-planting of trees to replace those that have been destroyed or uprooted by Israeli bulldozers.

During 2015, the Third Million Tree Campaign succeeded in planting 71,442 fruit trees on 3,084 dunums of land, benefitting 910 farmers and supporting 8,667 people. APN was responsible for the building of nine water collection systems and installation of irrigation networks with a length of 4,550 meters. Additionally, APN rehabilitated 59 greenhouses in the Gaza Strip, and provided fishermen with 156 fishing nets. Furthermore 242,000 vegetables seedlings were planted across Palestine, and 120 dunums of land were fully rehabilitated.

Planting of 45,000 Fruit Seedlings and Construction of Three Large Irrigation Pools in Jericho

More than 45 thousand fruit tree seedlings were planted in the Palestinian city of Jericho as part of the Jordan Valley Project conducted in conjunction with the Palestinian Farmers Union and Welfare Association. 45,526 seedlings of olive, grapes, avocado, citrus, guava, papaya, pomegranate and almond varieties were planted in an area of land exceeding 2100 dunums, owned by 450 farmers, which will benefit their families for a total of 5564 people.

The project, which aims at supporting food security and farmers' ability to hold on to their lands, also included construction of three large irrigation pools (2000m³, 1400m³, 1300m³) that will provide water to five farming families. Drip irrigation systems, for a total of 3000 metres in length, were also provided by the project to irrigate around 15 dunums of land owned by six families who depend on agriculture for a living.



Million Tree Campaign

Planting of 1,400 Trees around Al-Aqsa Mosque and in the 1948 Palestinian Lands

Dozens of volunteers took new steps toward cultivating hope and enhancing resilience on 29th April, 2015, with the distribution and planting of more than 1,400 trees in the areas of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and lands in Jabal Mikles, Sikhneen, Wad A'ra, and Ar'ara in the Muthallath area, Araqeeb, Khasham Ranneh, and Likya village in the Naqab inside the 1948 Palestinian lands. The event was held in cooperation with the Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee, Al-Bayader Community Organisation and its branch in 1948 Palestine, known as Intima' Youth Movement.



Million Tree Campaign

Rehabilitation of 59 Greenhouses and the Cultivation of 150,000 Tomato Seedlings in the Gaza Strip

APN, in collaboration with its partners Union of Agricultural Work Committees, rehabilitated 59 greenhouses which had been partially or totally destroyed during the recent Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip in 2014. The project also planted the greenhouses with 150,000 tomato seedlings, and created 12 new jobs; 446 individuals are benefitting from this project.

Losses to the agricultural sector in the Gaza Strip following the Israeli attacks were estimated at 550 million dollars.



Planting of nearly 2,000 Citrus and Olive Trees in the Gaza Strip

On 5th April, 2015, APN carried out a series of agricultural projects in cooperation with local Palestinian societies and groups planting 1,890 tree seedlings in the Gaza Strip. Nearly 57 dunums

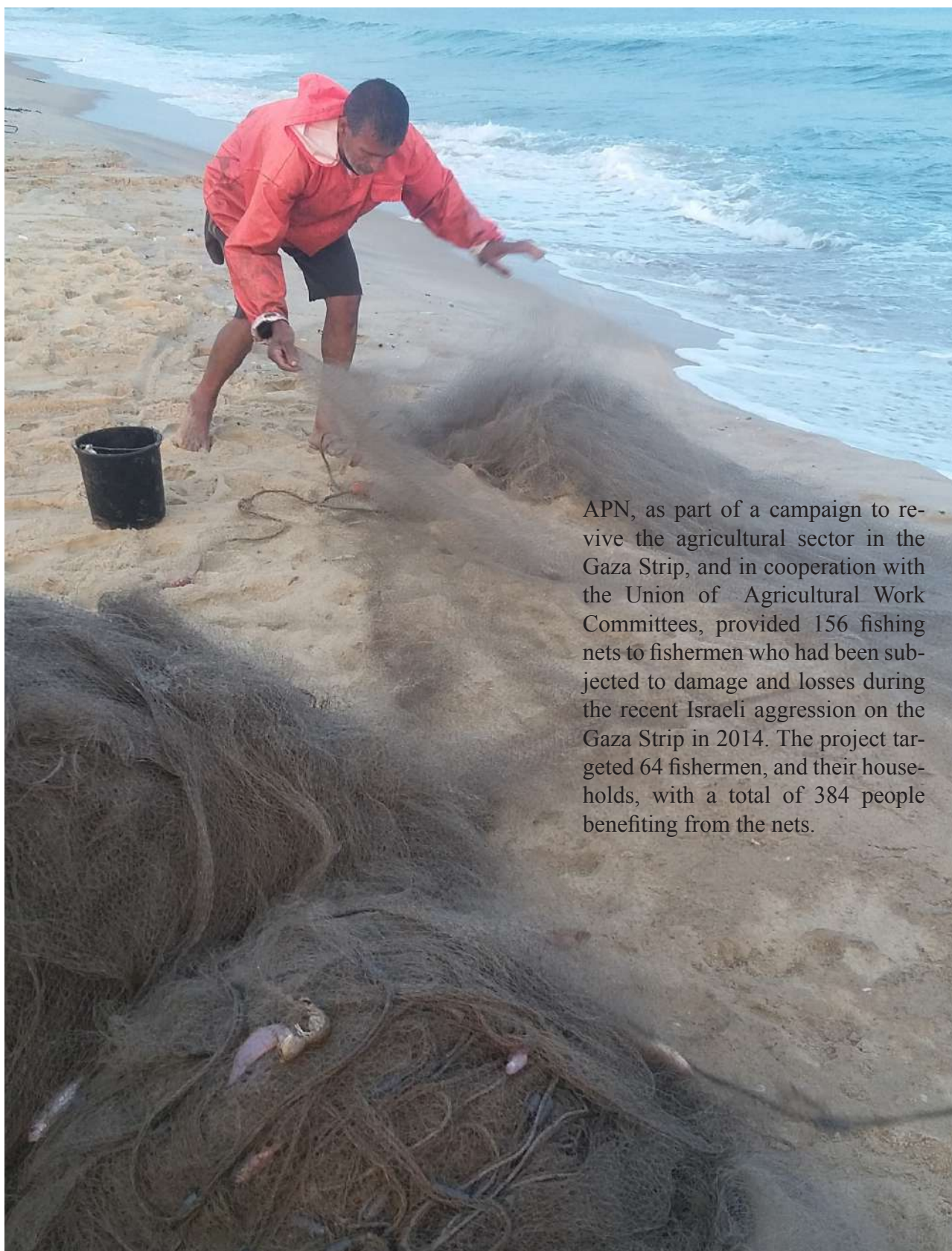
of land in Khan Younes, Juhf Al-Deek, East Bureij and Beit Hanoun were planted with the seedlings supporting 51 farmers with 280 household members.

The work was carried out in partnership with the Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee, the Palestinian Union of Agricultural Work Committees and the Society of Friends of the Thalassaemia Patients with the participation of the Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation team and a number students from Azhar and Al-Islamiya universities.



Million Tree Campaign

Supplying Gaza Fishermen with New Nets after Damages during the Last Aggression



APN, as part of a campaign to revive the agricultural sector in the Gaza Strip, and in cooperation with the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, provided 156 fishing nets to fishermen who had been subjected to damage and losses during the recent Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip in 2014. The project targeted 64 fishermen, and their households, with a total of 384 people benefiting from the nets.

Million Tree Campaign

Launch of 'Land is Ours' Campaign to Plant Thousands of Trees in all Governorates in Palestine

More than one thousand volunteers and activists joined the launch event of the 'Land is Ours' campaign, part of the Third Million Tree Campaign adopted by APN, to plant 4,000 olive tree saplings in Palestinian lands including Jerusalem, Hebron, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Nablus, Qalqilya, Tubas, Jericho, Tulkaram, Jenin, the Gaza Strip and inside the Green Line.

The campaign was marked by the unification of efforts of various civil society groups and organisations including the Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee and the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees, municipalities, local women and youth groups, community centers and orphanages, and foreign activists.



Photos from the Um Al Khair activity in Yatta south of Hebron

Million Tree Campaign



The launch of the 'Land is Ours' campaign in the neighborhood of Tel Rumeida in the old town of Hebron



Cultivation of Ein al-Bayda and Bardala in Tubas



Cultivating land of the village of Qaryout near the settlement of Shiloh

Million Tree Campaign



APN defy occupation forces for the second time in collaboration with its partners to replant olive saplings in the neighborhood of Tel Rumeida after settlers uprooted them under the protection of the Israeli occupation army



Cultivation of land threatened with confiscation in Seir - Hebron



Olive cultivation in the neighborhood Sawwanah on the outskirts of Jerusalem

Million Tree Campaign

Cultivation of Lands Cleared of Mines in Hebron

Dozens of volunteers from Arab Group for the Protection of Nature, the Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee and its partners, on 5th September, 2015, planted around 1,000 fruit tree seedlings in the village of Yatta, in the Hebron region. The cultivation of olive and almond seedlings was carried out in an area cleared of landmines thanks to the combined efforts of the local councils, committees, human rights groups and residents, who forced the occupation forces to remove the mines.



The cultivation of the seedlings was financed by APN and Hayat FM radio listeners within a framework of partnership with the Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee, popular committees against the Wall and settlements (the South West Bank Committee) and the village's council of East Yatta, in addition to human rights activists.

APN Launches 'Plant Your Tree in Jerusalem' Project

APN, with its partners in the Million Tree Campaign, embarked on the first phase of implementation of the "Plant Your Tree in Jerusalem" project. 11,510 fruit trees, including 3,010 olive seedlings, 5,500 grape seedlings, and 3,000 almond seedlings, were planted with donations from listeners of Hayat FM and generous contributors from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and the Palestinian refugee camps of Lebanon.

The project targeted the cultivation of 8 villages including Beit Iksa, Biddo, Aljeib, Beit Surik, Beit Diqqo, Beit Anan, AlQbeiba and Qatana, on 691 dunums of land, benefiting 76 farmers who are caring for a total of 767 family members.

Planting of Four Thousand Fruit Seedlings in Eight Villages in Jerusalem

APN in collaboration with Al-Nahda Rural Society carried out the "Fruit Seedlings in the Villages of Jerusalem" project, which aims to plant 4,000 fruit trees of olive, almond and grape varieties on 50 dunums of land, for the benefit of 70 farmers from the villages of Jeeb, Quibeh, Biddo, Beit Ijza, Beit Aqsa, Beit Duqqu, Beit Surik and Beit Anan.



Million Tree Campaign

Launch of 'Plant Your Tree in Gaza' Project

APN launched the project "Plant Your Tree in Gaza" in collaboration with its partners in Palestine. The campaign is financed by Jordan Engineers Association and the Popular International Committee to Support the Gaza Strip, and implemented by the Palestinian Farmers Union.

The project was implemented in stages, first targeting the governorates of Rafah and



Khan Younis which were planted with 3,400 olive and citrus trees on 85 dunums of land. Forty-four water tanks each with a 1,000 litre capacity were also distributed among the beneficiaries. An irrigation pond was constructed with costs donated by Jordan Engineers Association.

Construction of Water Storage Systems and Cultivation of Olive and Almond Trees around Jerusalem

As part of APN's 'Aknaf Beit Al-Maqdes' project 2 targeting the environs of Jerusalem, two water storage systems were dug and constructed on lands threatened with confiscation in the Palestinian villages of Qubeibah and Beit Iksha in occupied Jerusalem. It involved planting of 1,800 thousand olive, almond and grape trees. The project is financed by the International Islamic Charity Organisation, in conjunction with the Al-Nahda Rural Society in north-west Jerusalem. Fifty dunums of land were cultivated benefiting 48 farmers with 330 household members. The project covered lands in the villages of Bido, Beit Iksha, Omm el-Lahem, and Nabi Samuel.



Million Tree Campaign

Planting of 1,500 Trees in the Village of Al-Walaja

Hundreds of volunteers managed to bring the smile back to the faces of Abd Rabbu household members whose house lies close to the Israeli separation wall. On 5th May, 2015 volunteers planted 1,500 fruit tree seedlings on the family's land in the village of Al-Walajah, Bethlehem. The village is blessed with natural supplies of water and green land, and with residents who are attached to their land and have a love of farming it.

The work was carried out in partnership with the Welfare Association for Youth and the Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee with the participation of students from the faculties of agriculture in Al-Quds Open University and the Polytechnic University of Hebron.



Implementation of Projects Supporting the Economic Empowerment of the Family of a Palestinian Martyr

APN planted 5,000 thyme seedlings on land named after the Palestinian martyr Ahmad al-Najjar in Burin village in Nablus governorate, in conjunction with the Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee. The land was equipped with water storage systems and irrigation pipes. The cultivation of the seedlings is designed to provide support to the residents of the area exposed to continued violations by Jewish colonizers in two nearby colonies.



Million Tree Campaign

Supporting the Palestinian Farmers in the Village of Deir Abu Misha'l, Ramallah

Farmers in the village of Deir Abu Misha'l, west of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank have received 1,200 fruit tree seedlings from APN to plant on their lands. They were distributed to 150 families in cooperation with the village agricultural committee. The move is part of APN's activities supporting food sovereignty. Most of the seedlings were planted in the western part of the village.



More than 20 dunums of land were also rehabilitated, which will encourage farmers to invest in this land and protect it against seizure by Israeli authorities.

Planting 1,200 Trees in the Town of Al-Shuyookh

Under the slogan “they uproot one tree... we replant ten”, dozens of Palestinian volunteers joined by foreign supporters replanted 1,200 olive and almond tree seedlings on 11th April, 2015 in the town of Al-Shuyookh in Hebron region. The planting was an urgent response to the uprooting of olive and almond trees the same week by settlers from two nearby colonies.



Rehabilitation Projects in Shoyokh Village in Hebron to Protect it from Confiscation

APN in collaboration with its partners carried out a project to rehabilitate around 100 dunums of land owned by the al-Ayadeh family in Shoyokh village in Hebron, to protect the land against expansion plans by Asfar and Beni Kadim Jewish colonies. The project included



Million Tree Campaign

construction of retaining walls and a 500 meter farm road and restoration and expansion of an old water storage system, followed by the cultivation of two thousand olive, grapes, fig and almond seedlings.

Land in Beit Ummar Cultivated to Protect it from Confiscation

Scores of volunteers have planted 2,230 fruit tree saplings in the Palestinian village of Beit Ummar north of Hebron in the Occupied West Bank.

The cultivation of trees will also create income sources for residents of the area by growing a variety of fruit trees including different types of grapes in addition to peach, pear, apricot and quince trees. The voluntary activity was financed by APN and Radio Hayat FM listeners in Jordan in cooperation with the Palestinian Centre for Freedom and Justice and the Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee.



Million Tree Campaign

Rehabilitation of Abdel Rahman al-Qassem's Land

The Third Million Tree Campaign launched a project for the reclamation and rehabilitation of the land of farmer Abdel Rahman Al-Qassem in the village of Dura Alqra, Ramallah, in cooperation with the Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee, and the support of listeners of Radio Hayat FM.

Rehabilitation includes the establishment of a 75 m3 agricultural water collection system, retaining walls, fences and gates, and a 500m agricultural road. The project also involved the planting of more than 2000 olive, grape and almond trees.

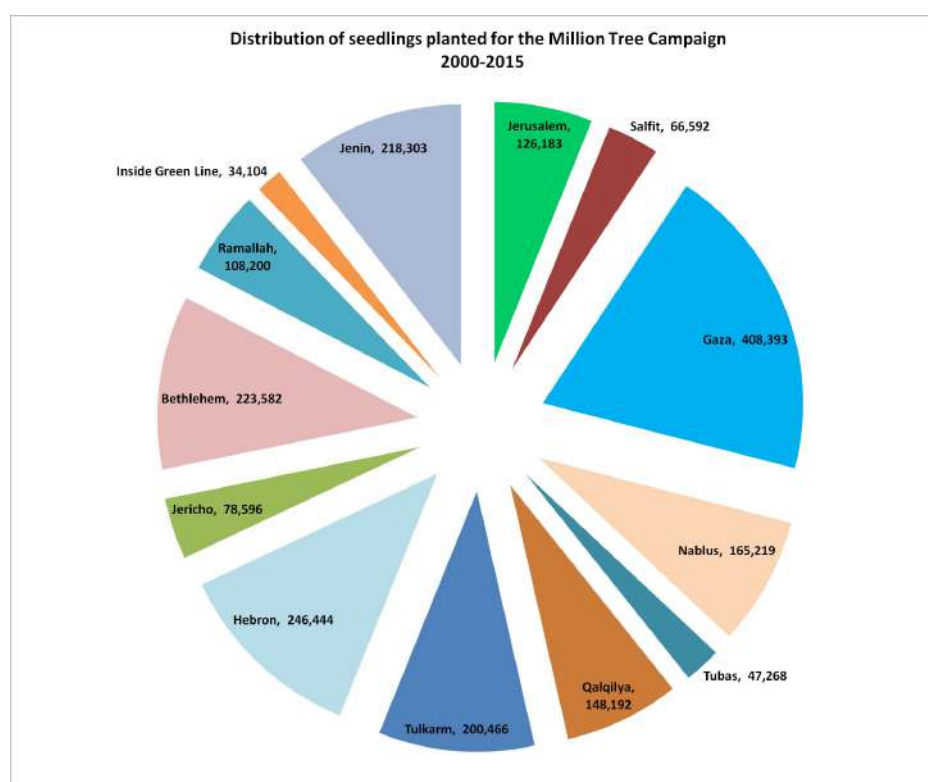
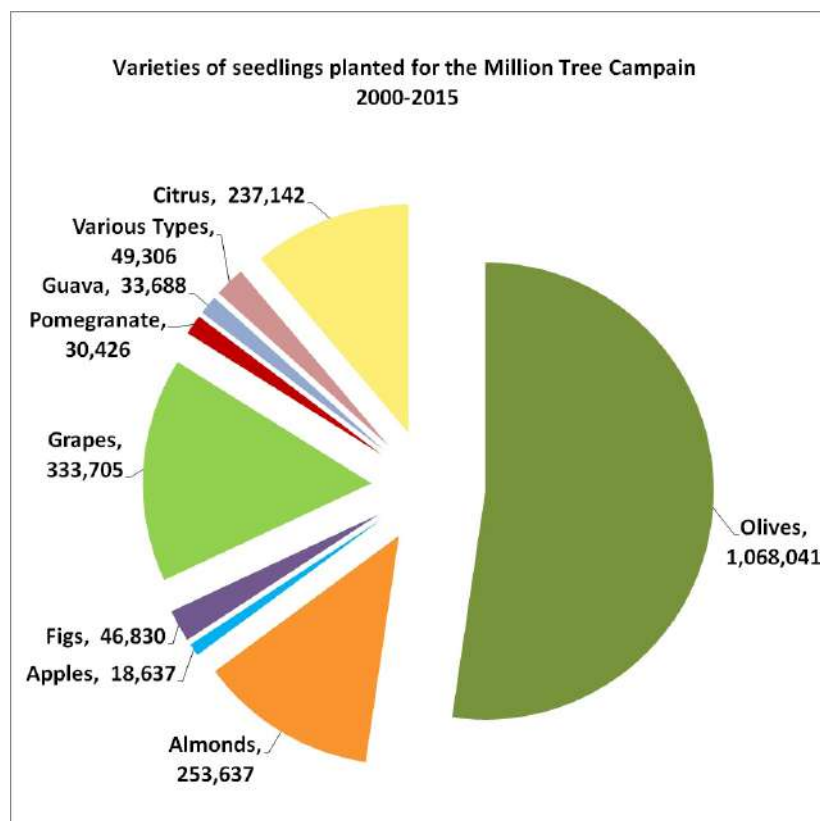


BEFORE

AFTER



Million Tree Campaign



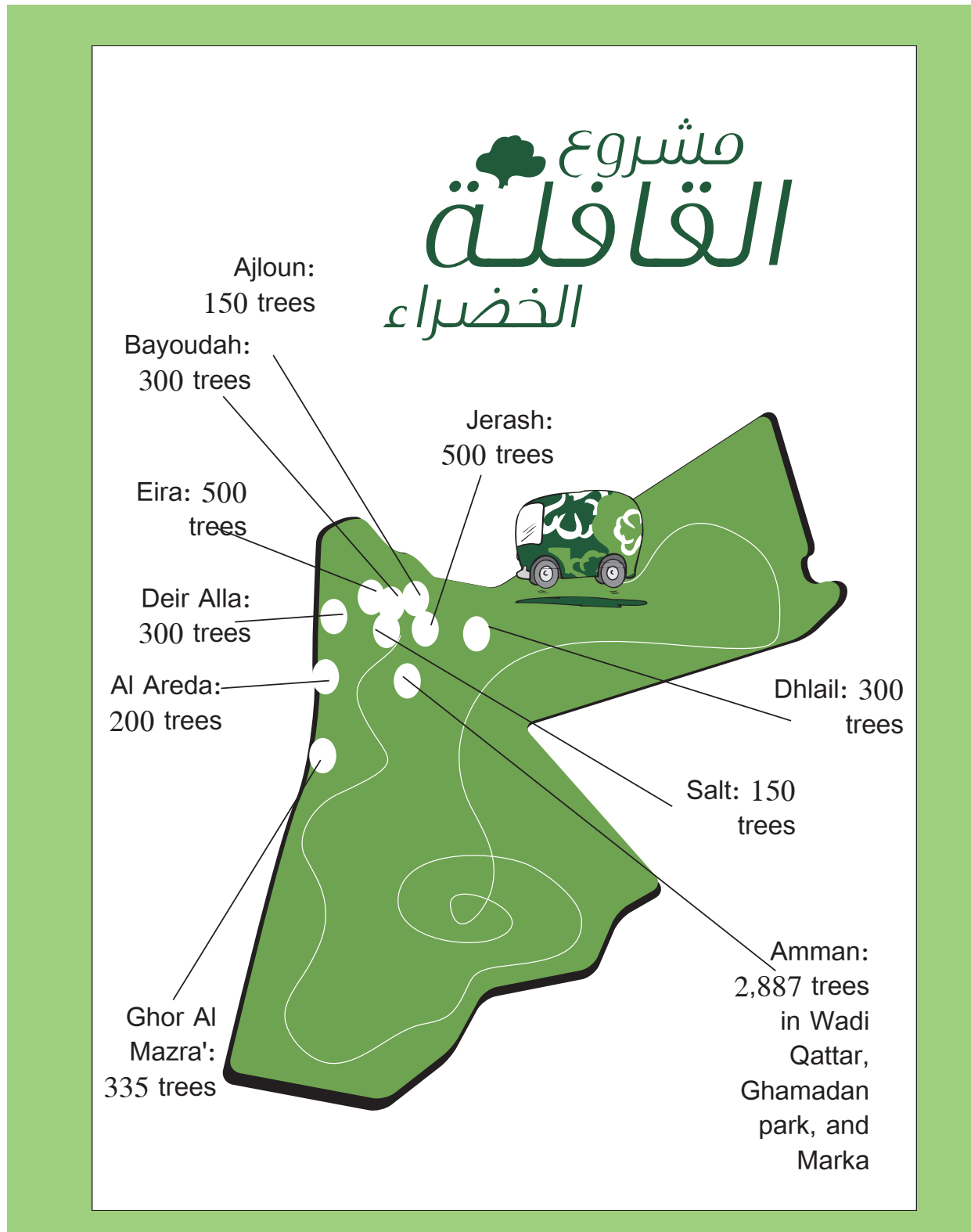
Green Caravan

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Green Caravan

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Green Caravan

Arab Group for the Protection of Nature, through its Green Caravan programme which launched in 2003, seeks to increase the green space in Jordan, particularly in marginalized areas. The programme is implemented involving school students, volunteers and members of companies, associations, and initiatives from a variety of different age groups in order to raise their awareness about environmental challenges and to activate their role in community service and volunteer work.

Workshop to Develop a Strategy for the Green Caravan Programme in Support of Agriculture in Jordan

With a strong belief in the importance of participatory action, APN held a workshop at the Landmark Hotel in Amman on 25th April, 2015 to develop long- and medium-term strategic plans for the Green Caravan programme in support of agriculture in Jordan. The workshop, facilitated by APN volunteer Tareq Abu Al-Hawa included the participation of a number of experts, volunteers and farmers. It emphasised APN's institutional identity as an independent organisation working to mobilise local



and global support towards enhancing environmental and food security in Jordan, Palestine and the Arab region. Food security is an integral part of the rights of a nation which cannot be waived.

The work and activities of APN were outlined during the workshop. They center on three strategic areas that include influencing policies, raising awareness, and the integrated restoration of eco-agricultural systems. Several initiatives were proposed during the sessions, to be considered and implemented in the next five years.

Farming on Both Sides of the River with Deloitte

APN in collaboration with Deloitte carried out two events for the cultivation of 400 fruit and forest trees. The event, which underscores Deloitte's belief in the importance of supporting environmental activities and raising the level of environmental awareness, particularly the conservation of nature, saw the participation of around 100 Deloitte employees. The trees were planted in areas around Wadi al-Qattar Jordan and the Ramallah area in Palestine.

Green Caravan

Green Caravan on its First Journey in Balqa' Governorate

APN's Green Caravan journeyed to Balqa' governorate on a mission to plant 500 carob tree saplings in Eira, Salt. The cultivation focused on carob trees due to their economic, nutritional and medicinal benefits, along with a minimal amount of water and care needed for their growth.

APN's volunteers carried out the work on 7th February, 2015, supported by the Bank of Jordan and in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Salt municipality, and Al-Beerah Charity Society.



The event saw the participation of a large group of 150 enthusiastic volunteers and Bank of Jordan employees, in addition to community members, municipal staff, and the Al-Beerah Charity Society.

Cultivation of Pomegranate Trees in Collaboration with Al-Hanouneh Society for Popular Culture in Honor of Mothers

APN, in conjunction with Al-Hannouneh Society for Popular Culture joined hands in planting pomegranate trees in Deir Alla/northern Shuneh lands to celebrate mother's day, as well as to foster food security in the Jordan Valley region. Three hundred seedlings were planted on 11th April, 2015, with 100 donated by the society's youth in gratitude to their mothers, while 200 others were offered by APN.



Green Caravan

APN Plants and Harvests in Al-Bayoudah

On 17th April, 2015, a group of APN volunteers headed to the Salt region to provide assistance to the residents of Al-Bayoudah village in Jordan in harvesting barley and planting fruit and forest tree seedlings on their lands. Three hundred tree seedlings were offered by APN to support food security in the area. They included almond, apple, Halabi pine nut, fig, berry, ziziphus, olive, carob, oleander, melia and other tree varieties.

Volunteers on the site were hosted

by activist Elham Al-Albbadi to a brunch meal of organic food ingredients grown in the area.



APN and Proficiency Academy Join Hands in Thousand Olive Tree Project in Jordan

Seeking to instill the values of voluntary work and the spirit of strong attachment to the homeland, the International Proficiency Academy and Schools for females joined the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) in implementing a tree planting campaign in Jordan. The work involves the planting of one thousand olive trees.

The first phase was carried out in Dhlail governorate on 28th March, 2015 with the participation

of Dr. Mohammad al-Rujoub, head of the school's Board of Directors, general manager Dr. Mohammad Baibeh, school principal Ms. Omaima Al-Akhras, lawyer and APN volunteer Abdullah Hawatmeh, Mohammad Qtaishat, APN programme manager, and a number of students from the school. Three hundred saplings were planted in some underdeveloped areas, a park, and in Hallabat boys' secondary school yards, in cooperation with the town's municipality.



Green Caravan

APN and Bank of Jordan Plant 500 Trees in Jerash

Around forty volunteers joined efforts in planting 500 forest trees in Bleila area in the Jerash governorate in Jordan. The operation was conducted on 19th December, 2015 by APN, with support of the Bank of Jordan and in conjunction with Jerash Department of Agriculture.



APN and Masar Initiative Supporting Food Security in the Jordan Valley

On 5th December, 2015, APN in cooperation with Masar youth initiative, with financial support from the BCI Company, carried out the planting of more than 180 fruit tree saplings, of pomegranate, guava, fig, olive, grape and citrus varieties in the Ghor al-Mazra' area.

The project involved planting the trees in the gardens of the Numeirah charity society and around the homes of a number of village women. It is hoped that growing trees in the area will develop food security and agricultural conditions to create income for the residents.



Green Caravan

Activity in Marka Refugee Camp: “Today We Plant, Tomorrow We Eat”

Olive trees were planted in Marka Girls School in Amman as part of APN’s Green Caravan programme. The planting event which took place on 27th May, 2015, declared by the school administration as a ‘day of bliss’, came under the slogan ‘Today we plant, tomorrow we eat’. Two hundred students from



10 UNRWA schools in Hitteen Refugee camp came together to join in the planting work which aimed to highlight the importance of the continuous care of trees and attachment to the land.

APN and BCI Plant Grape Trees in Ajloun

300 grape trees were planted by APN on land owned by farmer Khadr Mohammad Onnab in Kafranja in the Ajloun governorate of Jordan. The planting was carried out with financial support provided by BCI Company, the Jordanian representatives of Samsung Mobile Corporation.

The planting of the seedlings was coordinated with Jordanian Farmers Union member Ziad al-Balawneh and with the participation of 35 volunteers from the Sport Active Team of al-Hashimiyah University.



It is worth noting that Ajloun lacks necessary developmental support to help farmers hold on to their agricultural lands.

Green Caravan

Supporting Food Security in the Jordan Valley through the Mother's Day Campaign

APN in conjunction with Zikra Initiative and the Brighter Horizons Academy planted 150 trees including pomegranate, guava, figs, citrus and olive varieties on farmland in the Jordan Valley.

The activity came within the Mother's Day Campaign where fruit trees were planted inside the home gardens of a group of mothers in the Jordan Valley area as well as in the gardens of two mosques and a school to enhance the food security of the inhabitants of the region which suffers from high rates of poverty.



Planting Carob Trees to Celebrate Earth Day with Safeway

Green Caravan programme volunteers have planted 200 carob tree seedlings in the Ministry of Agriculture forest in Nzoul Al-Areda area as part of international Earth Day celebrations. Carob trees are known to have economic, nutritional and medicinal benefits with minimal water requirements and need for intensive care

APN carried out the planting on 16th April, 2015 with support from Safeway Company and in cooperation with the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture and the participation of Safeway management team members.



Green Caravan

Jordan Dubai Islamic Bank Joins in APN's Tree Planting Campaign

APN organised a tree planting activity in Ghamadan National Park which lies on Queen Alia Airport highway. The planting work was carried out on 5th May, 2015 in coordination with Amman Municipality.

The Bank's participation in the planting highlights its interest in supporting environmental activities, raising environmental awareness and asserting the importance of growing trees.



Planting the Martyr's Forest in the Name of Mu'ath al-Kasasbeh

APN joined civil society and student groups, and the Ministry of Agriculture in a forest planting ceremony in honor of Jordan's martyr pilot Mu'ath al-Kasasbeh. Hundreds of Jordanians joined the event, held on 8th February, 2015, as 2,475 trees were planted in the Sports City grounds. The forest planting honors the memory of al-Kasasbeh and



the other martyrs of Jordan and symbolises continuity and the power of giving.

Teaching Students How to Plant Trees in the King of Bahrain Forest

APN, within the Green Caravan programme, and in cooperation with International Proficiency Academy and Schools and the Greater Amman Municipality carried out an activity for the cultivation of forest trees in the King of Bahrain forest on 5th April, 2015. The event focused on teaching students how to farm and plant trees. Male students from the International Proficiency Academy and Schools also participated in the activity.



Green Caravan

Tree Planting Campaign in Celebration of Mothers' Day

APN launched a campaign in March, 2015 to plant trees in Jordan and Palestine in celebration of Mother's day. The campaign seeks to underline the symbols of the generosity of giving, and the unique relationship shared between the mother and the land.

Hundreds of students from Ahliya, Arab Model and Amman National Schools took part in the tree planting operation and each received good wishes' cards to give

to their mothers. More than 1500 trees were planted in the mothers' names.



Also on Mother's day, APN organised an event in cooperation with Amman Municipality which also marked Al-Karama battle anniversary. The event, held at Marj al-Hamam Park, honoured fifty widows in the area and included planting of scores of fruit trees, offered by APN, in the local park. An enthusiastic audience included residents, mothers and volunteers.

Activity for the Cultivation of Olive Trees at the Al Baqaa Preparatory School for Girls

Arab Group for the Protection of Nature carried out an activity to promote the cultivation of olive trees with the Al Baqaa Preparatory School for Girls. The project saw the distribution of olive trees, one per family, to cultivate and care for at the school.

APN was represented by agricultural engineer Khalil Hamdan, who advised volunteers how to plant and care for the trees. Participants also included male elementary school students and trainees at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jordan.

This event came as part of a series of activities undertaken by APN to rehabilitate the campuses of schools in Al Baqaa.

Influencing Agricultural and Environmental Policies: Food Sovereignty

Influencing Agricultural and Environmental Policies: Food Sovereignty

In 2003, APN launched its food sovereignty programme to participate in local, regional and global efforts to influence policy on agriculture, food, and environment. The programme focuses on the rights of peoples and nations to determine their own food and agriculture policies that are appropriate to their own unique environmental, social, economic and political circumstances. This includes the right to food and sources of production.

At the International Level

APN Succeeds in Imposing its Priorities on the Committee on World Food Sovereignty in Rome

Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) made a massive impact at the 42nd Plenary of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome. A delegation of three was sent to coordinate and participate in meetings and events relevant to food security and nutrition, representing the interests of civil society from the Arab region. APN was active and vocal throughout the week-long sessions to ensure that the issues of occupation and conflict remained high on the agenda of this UN forum.



The highlight of the trip was the CFS endorsement of the Framework for Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises, which occurred on Tuesday 13th October, 2015. APN has worked diligently for the past three years negotiating with states on behalf of civil society towards the adoption of this progressive framework, aimed at helping communities living in protracted crises such as occupation.

APN General Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa spoke to delegates of member states and UN organisations in CFS plenary in support of the endorsement of the framework. She urged delegates to fully and urgently implement the principles of the framework, stressing the need to mobilise political commitment at all levels.

As part of the week-long conference, APN organised a prominent side event, Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises: Way Forward, to discuss the future of document, including how it can be effectively implemented. Convened by APN President Razan Zuayter, the event featured several distinguished speakers, including Kostas Stamoulis, Director, Strategic Programme Leader – Food Security and Nutrition, FAO; Elizabeth Kvitashvili, Mission Director,

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USAID; Dominique Burgeon, Strategic Programme Leader – Resilience, FAO; Willem Olthof, Development Adviser, Delegation of the EU to the Holy See, to the Order of Malta and to the UN Organisations in Rome; Arif Husain, Chief Economist and Deputy Director of Analysis & Trends Service (OSZA), WFP; Karim Hussein, Policy and Research Adviser at IFAD; and Nazareno Montani Cazabat and Khaled El-Taweel, Alternate Permanent Representatives of Argentina and the Arab Republic of Egypt, respectively. The event attracted a large number of participants from a wide range of organisations eager to engage in the implementation process.

APN General Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa spoke to the CFS plenary during the special event Resilience Building for Sustainable Food Security and Nutrition. She warned delegates of the dangers of focusing on resilience to crises alone, and urged them to shift their focus away from coping with crises to ending them.

Advocacy Officer Heather Elaydi also spoke to delegates in plenary promoting the recognition of the links between the human right to water and the human right to food, highlighting the detrimental actions of occupying states and the vulnerability of communities living in protracted crises. The final Water for Food Security and Nutrition decision, endorsed on Wednesday 14th October, included an APN-proposed statement that states should refrain from using water as an instrument of political or economic pressure.

In the run up to the 42nd CFS, APN participated heavily in the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) Forum, where Zuayter, the outgoing Coordinating Committee member representing West Asia, and Al Jaajaa, the incoming Coordinating Committee member for the region, were both plenary speakers on the topics of current affairs and resilience to an audience of 210 representatives of civil society organisations from around the world. APN also organised and hosted two successful workshops for civil society delegates, on Protracted Crises and Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition.

APN delegates also had the opportunity to meet the incoming Chair of the CFS, HE Ambassador Amira Gornass from Sudan, who expressed her interest in communities in protracted crises, and reaffirmed her hope to see the implementation of the Framework for Action by CFS member states.

New Victory for APN at the Negotiations on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises

Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) and the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty have announced that the international negotiations on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises came to a conclusion on the eve of 22nd May, 2015 at the Rome headquarters of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The negotiations marked a major victory for global as well as Arab civil society because thirteen years ago, international parties and forums, including the FAO, viewed the issue of food security in situations of wars, conflicts and occupations as politically sensitive, a taboo, and outside its terms of reference.

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In 2005, APN managed to set up a global civil society working group under Arab leadership to deal with the issue of food insecurity in wars, conflicts and occupations. Five years after launching this tough and unrelenting voluntary mission, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) – the world's highest international and governmental forum on nutrition and food security – adopted this issue. After negotiations that went on for years, the framework document was finalised and submitted for endorsement in October, 2015.

A major achievement in the document, according to Razan Zuayter, coordinator of the Civil Society Mechanism working group on protracted crises, succeeded in integrating the issue of occupation into its articles as a root cause for food insecurity and under-nutrition in crises situations, in addition to including several articles relating to the issue of occupation such as ensuring safe and unimpeded access to humani-



tarian and food aid, the tenure of land, forests and fisheries, safe access to affected communities and utilisation of their natural resources and their protection through the respect of the international human law, particularly the Geneva Conventions.

The document affirmed that the principle of resilience should not be presented as a holistic approach or the only, ultimate goal being sought, but that there should be an examination of root causes of food insecurity and under-nutrition and ways of preventing and addressing such conditions. It also affirmed the principle of protection from shocks in defining 'resilience', since it was restricted to adaptive capacity to shocks (coping ability).

The document called for integrating full human rights principles to ensure the programme will not be restricted to (short term) humanitarian and developmental approaches. An approach based on human rights is considered preventive and therapeutic at the same time, and without it the document would turn into a real-time response tool.

The negotiations succeeded in integrating policies that foster local food systems as a main component in regards to development, and support of resilience, particularly ensuring access of small producers to production resources and markets, in addition to listing articles on encouraging local food procurement and engagement of local groups in the implementation of humanitarian and development aid programmes, as well as highlighting the importance of building food reserves at local, national and regional levels.

Moreover, the negotiations managed to identify main reasons behind the failure of policies and programmes in protracted crises situations, including the undermining of local capacities and

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priorities as a result of external interference, self-serving commercial and political interests and lack of support for food producers.

An article on an attempt towards sustainable solutions for people's displacement and livelihoods adaptability was removed and replaced with an article on the need to develop permanent solutions to the displacement of people that aims to facilitate their return to their homelands.

Another article was added preventing the use of food as a tool for political or economic pressure and stipulating the need to refrain from adopting unilateral actions in contradiction with international law including the UN Charter, which endanger nutrition and food security, as stated by the 1996 Rome Declaration.

The document included articles emphasising the need for affected countries to own programmes and oblige foreign humanitarian organisations to align their work with national programmes to avoid undermining them or creating parallel systems. Two other articles emphasised the need to facilitate implementation of the document by mobilising high-level political commitment. The negotiations affirmed the need to invest the document's goals and principles with great seriousness towards lifting the suffering of people living under occupation and experiencing conflicts and wars.

Election of APN's General Manager as Coordinator for West Asia in the Global Civil Society Mechanism

By a vote of 27-1, APN General Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa was elected as the representative for West Asia in the global Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) affiliated with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The CSM is an interactive forum for the world's civil societies on food security, while the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is the highest international and governmental platform working to ensure nutrition and food security.



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APN President Chairs an Open Meeting with Governments on Behalf of the Global Civil Society Mechanism in Rome

APN president Razan Zuayter, as a member of the Committee on Food Security (CFS) Advisory Group, representing civil society, was invited to attend the Advisory Group's meeting on 2nd March, 2015 and earlier, the preparatory meeting on 28th February – 1st March, 2015, which was devoted to the Group's global civil society members. Both meetings focused on nutrition related issues, Sustainable Development Goals, and preparations for a high-level



forum on ways to connect small-holder farmers to markets. Discussions also focused on preparation for the 42nd session of CFS in Rome held in October, 2015.

On 3rd March, 2015, Zuayter headed an open-ended meeting of government representatives with the global civil society mechanism where she and a representative of Latin American indigenous peoples spoke about demands of the civil society groups involved in agriculture and food security issues.

APN Granted Special Consultative Status at the UN Economic Social Council (ECOSOC)

It was announced at the Coordination and Management Meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) that was held at the end of July 2015 that Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) was granted Special Consultative Status. Consultative Status will allow APN to actively engage with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, as well as with the United Nations Secretariat, programmes, funds and agencies in a number of ways.



APN works intensively to influence food and agriculture policies through participation in various international fora, and it aspires to do the same through the ECOSOC.

ECOSOC is one of the six main organs of the United Nations established by the UN Charter in 1945. It is responsible for coordinating the economic, social and related work of 14 UN specialised agen-

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cies, their functional commissions and five regional commissions. ECOSOC serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to member states and the United Nations. It is responsible for promoting higher standards of living, full employment and economic and social progress; identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems; facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

APN President, Member of the Advisory Group of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome

APN President Razan Zuayter, as a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Civil Society Mechanism(CSM), attended the Advisory Group Meeting of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome. During the session held on 14th July, 2015, she requested that a paragraph be incorporated in the Committee's decision on the need to push towards implementing the Framework for Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises, especially through the work of concerned UN agencies. At another meeting of the same coordinating group on 11th September, 2014, she had underscored the need to enhance capabilities and resources of southern civil societies to enable them to participate effectively in forums drawing up policies, which could benefit their societies.

APN General Manager Speaks about Food Sovereignty in Beirut

The German Orient-Institut and Goethe Institut in Beirut organised a forum on food industry and policies in the Arab world. The forum was held on 15th-17th March, 2015 with the partic-

ipation of farmers, businessmen, activists, artists, politicians, chefs and academics. Five topics were at the centre of discussions, including the dialectical relationship between globalism and local food production and consumption, the power of food and ways to maintain food sovereignty, food control safety, transformations in food culture, and current alternatives such as organic food.

APN manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa



made a presentation during the final session ‘ The Power of Food’ on food sovereignty in the Arab world, and the role of civil society. She shed light on APN's work in supporting the agricultural sector in Palestine and Jordan and its role in influencing global food and agricultural policies and unifying efforts of the regional civil society in this field through the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty. The session was headed by Dr. Rami Zureik, a professor at the AUB with

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the participation of Dr. Ray Bush of Leeds University, Jordanian farmer Issa Halabi and Morris Sa'adeh representing FAO.

Al Jaajaa was also invited on the first day of the forum to mediate the session entitled 'Think Globally and Eat Locally', which focused on the influence of the trans-border companies on food patterns and the lack of fairness in food production and distribution.

APN Mobilises Efforts before the Negotiations and Halts Attempts to Abort the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises

Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN), representing Arab civil society in the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and as coordinator of the Working Group on Food Inse-

curity in Crises and Conflicts, organised a series of meetings at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises, which underwent negotiations among countries prior to endorsement in October, 2015.

APN opened the meetings held between 27th – 30th January, 2015 with a consultative workshop for



global civil society which was attended by representatives from Sudan, Iraq, Palestine, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Zimbabwe, Chad, Uganda, Kenya, Italy, Switzerland and the United States.

APN president Razan Zuayter spoke about the organisation's success in moving the issue of food insecurity in crises and conflicts to the top priorities of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). APN manager Mariam Al Jaajaa also outlined a draft agenda for action which was followed by a discussion aimed at reaching recommendations that reflect peoples' priorities in areas suffering from crises, wars and occupations.

Leading the meeting, Zuayter affirmed the need to adopt a legal framework in addressing food insecurity that should take into account root causes of conflicts and factors that prevent safe access to food and production resources. Meanwhile, Al Jaajaa underlined the need to link emergency aid to long term programmes which do not lead to dependence on food programmes and which also support local food production essential to sustainable economic and food security.

The meeting was followed by bilateral meetings with Arab and European representatives aimed at unifying views in the negotiations on the framework for action.

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On 30th December, 2014, APN coordinated participation of the Civil Society Working Group in the open-ended meeting of the CFS which had a great impact on its deliberations after encouraging allies from government of developing southern countries to join hands with civil society against attempts by powerful countries which tried to abort the negotiations on the framework.

APN Organises Bilateral Meetings with Government Representatives in Rome

APN organised intensive bilateral meetings between 21st – 23rd April in Rome with governmental representatives in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to exchange views on the draft Framework For Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA), which was later negotiated by country members on 8th and 9th May, 2015 and again from 18th -23rd May, 2015. The bilateral meetings organised in cooperation with the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) secretariat were with representatives of Sudan, Egypt, Argentina, Brazil, the European Union (represented by Holland, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Spain), USA, Uganda, Pakistan and the Philippines. During these meetings, APN president Razan Zuayter and manager Mariam Al Jaajaa managed to communicate some of the global civil society priorities to these countries, pushing them to support their inclusion in the FFA.

Observations made by civil society representatives focused on the need to come out with a document identifying specific responsibilities for various stakeholders to carry out , in addition to the importance of adopting a human rights-based approach that allows affected communities' participation in the development of policies and programmes, implementation , and monitoring and accountability.

APN Awarded Medal by the '3rd International Convention for Solidarity with Palestine' in Beirut

The Global Campaign to Return to Palestine honored APN with a medal in recognition of its voluntary assistance and support to Palestine. APN President Razan Zuayter received the medal at a special ceremony held in Beirut on 9th December, 2015, on the sidelines of the 3rd International Convention for Solidarity with Palestine.

A number of Arab and foreign figures also received acclaim for their work in support of the Palestinian cause. Three hundred activists from 60 countries took part in the gathering. Dr. Pissias Evangelos, a Greek professor who organised a sea flotilla to Palestine to end the blockade imposed by Israel on Gaza, received acclaim along with Al-Mayadeen



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and Palestine Today TV channels, a young Palestinian girl and her mother who resisted attempts by an Israeli soldier to arrest her brother, two girls from Gaza wounded in Israeli air raids, the Shahid Falastine Institution, an Argentinean football player who chose to hold Palestinian nationality in order to play with the Palestinian football team, and an Indonesian doctor who made a donation to build a hospital in Gaza.

APN and ANFS Welcome the ICCM4 Resolution on Hazardous Pesticides

The Fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) in Geneva has recognised highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) as an “issue of concern”, acknowledging that HHPs cause severe adverse effects on both human health and the environment. ICCM4 also emphasised the need to promote agroecological alternatives to chemical pesticide use. The Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS) supported the campaign run by Pesticide Action Network (PAN), IPEN, and the international labour movement by gathering 49 signatures from the Arab region for an open letter calling on governments to stop production and use of HHPs in order “to protect our children and the succeeding generations from an impending toxic tragedy.”

At the Regional Level

APN Organises a Regional Conference on Public-Private Partnerships in Amman

Representatives from eight food production groups from Arab countries took part in a conference organised on 19th – 20th December, 2015 in Amman on food security and public-private partnership. Experts and CSO representatives, including farmers, fishermen, workers unions, and consumer organisations from Jordan, Iraq, Palestine, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Yemen, and Lebanon participated in the conference. It was also attended by the Secretariat of the People’s Coalition on Food Sovereignty, of which APN is a member, as part of its coordination committee.

APN President Razan Zuayter said in a speech that the conference aimed at discussing the public-private partnership approach which international institutions are pushing for in developing countries. A further objective was to enhance the concept of food sovereignty particularly in the Arab region and facilitate cooperation and networking between the regional civil societies and southern countries.



Participants emphasised that the partnership approaches promoted by international institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are widely criticised by global civil society because of the negative impacts of such partnerships, including increased private sector control over resources such as lands, water and seeds. They concluded that in order to assess the

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benefits of such partnerships, there is a need to differentiate between involvement of large multi-national companies and that of local small producers. The proposed partnerships should primarily enhance local food security and development instead of increasing profits of recipient companies.

Participants underlined the importance of engaging civil society in shaping public-private partnerships to ensure progress towards achieving countries' sovereignty over food by supporting local sustainable production and agricultural processing, value added products and protection of markets against dumping. They agreed on the need to provide support to farmers' cooperatives that engage with small farmers in the agricultural value chain and strengthen socio-economic protection.

On the issue of networking, participants were in agreement that Arab civil society should be able to identify and ally with organisations involved in food security and agriculture on joint causes. It is important, they also agreed, to pinpoint regional priorities ignored at international forums, advocate for them and increase the participation of representatives of marginalised societies living under occupation in such global forums.

The Fourth Regional Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition Convenes in Amman

APN has organised participation of Arab civil society groups in the Fourth Regional Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition held in Amman on 28th-29th April, 2015.

The workshop was launched by the FAO Near East and North Africa Regional Office in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the World Food Programme (WFP) with the participation of country delegates, the civil society and private sector representatives.

APN president Razan Zuayter was one of the speakers invited to address a session devoted to discuss ways to improve nutrition and food security. She outlined recommendations for tackling food insecurity in protracted crises and focused her interventions on the need to support local food systems and the importance of engaging civil society in discussions on policy and implementation. Zuayter affirmed that resilience should not be an end goal in



itself, but should be pursued in parallel with efforts to address and prevent crises while examining their root causes. APN also took part in drafting the final workshop report and recommendations. The workshop was also attended by the Chair of the CFS and the Director General of the FAO Regional Office. The Arab Network for Food Sovereignty was represented by Jamal Talab, Abbas Milhem, Ibrahim Dueik, Khaled Al-Khawaldeh, Mariam Al Jaajaa, Mohammad Qtaishat, Ra'afat Al-Khandakji, Karim Akrouit and Hassan Al Jaajaa.

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APN Calls on the IUCN to Pay More Attention to the Impacts of Wars on Environment

APN President Razan Zuayter has voiced concern that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is not paying sufficient attention to the impacts of conflicts, wars and occupation on the environment and natural resources in the Arab region. Her comments came at the IUCN regional conference held in Amman on Nov.10th-12th, 2015.

APN also took part in an exhibition held on the sidelines of the conference with a presentation of its various projects. The organisation's Advocacy officer, Heather Elaydi, also emphasized APN's concerns during a session dedicated for comments on the IUCN 2017-2020 world programme.

Voices of protest appeared during the conference over the quality of communication and dealing with the Union's various forums.

APN Takes Part in the Palestinian Housing and Land Rights Conference

APN was invited to the opening session of the Second Palestinian Housing and Land Rights conference held in the West Bank city of Ramallah. It was hosted on 27th May, 2015 by the Land Research Center.

An address by APN president Razan Zuayter was read out on her behalf. Zuayter emphasised the role of APN's tree planting programme in conjunction with its Palestinian partners in defending the land and preventing its confiscation, as well as in fostering food security. Zuayter also focused on APN's achievements at the global level which have brought attention to food insecurity in protracted crises, its causes, and means to address and prevent it. She affirmed the need for cooperation among Palestinian civil society organisations and integration of their efforts in order to unify their work strategies and coordinate with other organisations in the region to develop Arab agricultural strategies that underline solidarity with Palestine, a goal that led APN and the Palestinian Land Research Center along with a number of Arab organisations to establish the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty.

APN at the Arab Forum for Environment and Development Annual Conference

APN has taken part in the meetings of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development Conference (AFED) held in Beirut, Lebanon on 17th November, 2015. The theme was on 'Sustainable Consumption', on which AFED published its major annual report. The report indicates that the subsidised prices of water, energy and food in the Arab region is encouraging inefficiency and overuse of resources. However, the report also reveals that six Arab countries are moving to reform their subsidy systems.



Influencing Agricultural and Environmental Policies: Food Sovereignty

In comments during the conference, APN General Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa focused on the need for caution when following prescriptions of the international financial institutions (IFIs). The IFIs advocate for the lifting of subsidies, including on inputs of production, without a well planned strategy, and regardless of a country's socio-economic conditions.

She drew attention to the fact that most developed countries, such as North America and Europe, have the highest protection measures and support their agricultural producers with input subsidies in order to ensure local food security and increased national income through exports.

APN Meets the UNEP Regional Director in Beirut

APN President Razan Zuayter attended a meeting held by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on the sidelines of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development Conference in Beirut, Lebanon.

Speaking during the meeting on 17th November, 2015, Zuayter underlined the need to further develop communication between the UN agency and Arab civil society. She said attention should be directed to impacts of occupations and wars on the environment and ways to deal with them.

The meeting was held by UNEP Middle East Regional Director Iyad Abu Mughli and attended by Mrs. Melanie Hutchinson and Mrs. Awatif Abdulla Al-Hammadi.

Zuayter Takes Part in an Expert Group Meeting on the Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus

APN president Razan Zuayter was invited to ESCWA's Expert Group Meeting on Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus in the Arab region. The meeting held on 24th-25th March, 2015 in Amman aimed understanding the importance of this nexus for advancing sustainable development; and to utilise it within the context of the Arab region through looking at relevant initiatives and case studies.

In her remarks at the meeting, Zuayter underscored the need to take into account the specificity of the Arab region, which is facing a series of crises, and the need to engage in international policy discussions that influence both the regional and local levels. Zuayter also spoke of the need to involve civil society in any future consultations.

APN Participates in a Symposium on Restoring Degraded Ecosystems

APN attended the Symposium on Restoring Degraded Systems organised by Jordan's Royal Botanic Garden in cooperation with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the German Technical Cooperation Office (GIZ), Jordan Environmental Fund (JEF), Jordan Tourism Board (JTB) and the Ecological Restoration Alliance of Botanic Gardens. A number of ecology-related models and projects adopted regionally and globally, were presented during the forum's sessions on 30th March, 2015. Discussions followed on challenges and opportunities for the restoration of ecological systems in the Arab region. In an intervention, APN manager Mariam Al Jaajaa called for all stakeholders to stand against policies marginalising ecological preservation and the growth of the agricultural sector in Jordan and the Arab world. She said that the second Sustainable Development Goal focusing on food security and agriculture should be exploited to produce programs that reflect the regions' real needs. She also noted that it is important to use Arabic in such symposiums so that they are able to reach a wider segment population.

Influencing Agricultural and Environmental Policies: Food Sovereignty

APN Takes Part in a Regional Conference on Water Governance

Representing APN, engineer Mohammad Qtaishat took part in a regional conference organised by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Regional Knowledge Network on Water (RKNOW) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The objective of the conference 'IUCN-Nature and Water Knowledge Sharing Forum', held between 12th-14th May, 2015, was to exchange knowledge and expertise in water integrity and water governance and to develop capacities of stakeholders in the Middle East and North Africa region to improve management of water resources. The participants also discussed the development of RKNOW and other strategies relevant to IUCN work.

At the Local Level

APN President Honored by the Ministry of Culture in Jordan

APN President Razan Zuayter was honored by the Ministry of Culture at a special ceremony held in Amman in recognition of the work, efforts and initiatives of a number of Jordanian public figures. The Minister of Culture Lana Mamkegh said at the ceremony held on 2nd December, 2015 that the event, the second of its kind, aims at celebrating their work and highlighting the importance of altruism and finding innovative ways to make a difference in people's lives.

She noted that each of those receiving honors has achieved one's reputation through a long process in life and could have chosen to stop but instead decided to bear the responsibility of giving their time and effort in the service of humanity.

Among those honored was artist Suheil Bqa'een who launched an initiative to help blind students; engineer Hussam al-Tarawneh founder of Ibda' (Creativity) club in Karak; Dr. Asa'd Abdul Rahman, President of the Palestinian Encyclopedia; retired army general Sharif al-Omari, founder of a society to re-qualify young people released from rehabilitation centers; Mousa Hijazin, founder of a musical group dedicated to children with special needs; and Ibrahim al-Han-aqtah, who has several humanitarian initiatives in Tafilah governorate.



Influencing Agricultural and Environmental Policies: Food Sovereignty

APN Participates in Climate Change Meetings

APN took part in a meeting in Amman on 5th November, 2015 on climate change organised by Jordan Ministry of Environment in conjunction with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The meeting was held to discuss Jordan's obligations in the wake of the Paris Climate Change Conference which convened on 30th November, 2015 and ended on 12th December, 2015.

APN Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa and Advocacy officer Heather Elaydi represented APN at the meeting. Al Jaajaa focused on two points, primarily the issue of justice, where she emphasised that developed countries have to bear the major responsibility towards reducing causes of the climate change. She added that this would be an important step toward making a positive change following on the Climate Change Conference held in Doha, Qatar in 2012, which was organised around the idea that Arab countries should take the lead in reducing emissions. On obligations to build a 'green economy', she said there is a need for a carefully and accurately planned strategy to meet local needs and priorities, otherwise, she noted, funds meant to support developing countries will instead be used to market 'green' products of developed countries.

It is worth noting that as of COP 21, Palestine observer status has been upgraded to a state party in the UN Climate Change Framework Convention; however, there have been feelings of disappointment as a result of a rejection by some countries to refer to peoples living under occupation as a group suffering from the impacts of climate change. Arab civil society groups and organisations lobbying to effect policies should do more in this regard.

The IUCN National Committee Discusses the Annual Action Plan

APN President Razan Zuayter has attended the regular meeting of the National Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) held in Amman.

Noting at the meeting on 2nd September, 2015, that Jordan's benefit from the Union was very modest in 2014, she emphasised the need to build a strategy to develop and build on such benefit for better results. She said there would be no effective engagement without real solidarity among its members and support of their initiatives.

At the end of the meeting, participants discussed the 2015 plan of action which was praised by APN in calling for a regular follow-up by all members and involvement in group work to ensure its success.

The committee also held a training workshop at the IUCN regional office on 21st October, 2015 attended by APN Advocacy Officer Heather Elaydi. Around 15 representatives from other IUCN-affiliated organisations in Jordan were also in attendance. The training session focused on increasing visibility and engagement with IUCN through use of their Portal system.

Awareness and Mobilisation

Awareness and Mobilisation

APN Joins Moves Rejecting the Natural Gas Deal with Israel

The National Jordanian Campaign to Stop the Proposed Gas Deal with Israel launched a series of activities including sit-in protests as well as awareness lectures designed to alert the public to the risks involved in such an agreement. The Campaign, of which APN is a founder, has demanded the government to call off the agreement expected to be signed by the Jordanian National Electricity Company.

During the campaign's activities, letters were sent to embassies of Arab countries working with the Potash Company denouncing import of gas from Israel, and urging them to exert influence on the company's board to cancel the agreement. Campaign members joined by other activists held a series of protests including one on 27th January, 2015 outside the Potash Company's headquarters, to voice their opposition to the deal.



A vigil was also set up in front of the headquarters of the Jordanian National Electricity Company on Tuesday, 3rd February, which was attended by over 150 activists and members of the Campaign, who distributed leaflets describing the seriousness of the gas deal and the need to find alternative solutions to vehicles and passers-by.

On Saturday, 28th February the campaign also set up a human chain on Sahafeh bridge, with participants carrying banners urging Jordan to reject the deal.

A march from the Professional Associations Complex to the prime ministry in protest of the deal was also organised on 6th March, 2015, attended by nearly 1000 people. APN hosted workshops in its offices attended by a group of campaign activists in order to prepare the crowd for the successful march.

On 5th September, 2015, the campaign organised a symbolic tribunal of the deal denouncing those who stand behind it. The tribunal, which was convened in cooperation with the Professional Associations criticised Prime Minister Abdullah al-Nsour and the National Electricity Company for signing the deal, ruled in favour of an annulment of the deal on grounds that the gas will be stolen by the Israeli occupation authorities from Palestinian land. The deal obliges Jordan to purchase the gas at a value of \$15 billion over a period of 15 years.

Present at the tribunal were a number of members of parliament, political parties, and professional associations, while missing were any representatives of the government or Electricity Company. As part of the media campaign, two short films were shot to raise awareness on the dangers of the deal, as well as several interviews with activists, politicians, and artists who support the campaign.

The campaign issued a number of press releases during various press conferences to denounce the agreement and to inform the Jordanian public of the latest news on the deal and the activities of the

Awareness and Mobilisation

campaign. The campaign has also created its own Facebook page to make it easier for people to follow its activities and to find all information related to the campaign since it was launched (<http://tiny.cc/nogasjo> ; Twitter: @ StopGasDeal), in addition to holding dozens of interviews and information sessions on talk shows on the subject.

The campaign also succeeded in communication and dissemination of its activities and the formation of a popular base in the governorates of Irbid, Karak, and Zarqa. Campaign members in these governorates participated in educational activities for their populations aimed at stopping the deal, in addition to organising marches in parallel to the popular march that took place in the capital, Amman.

Save Bergesh Forests

The National Save Bergesh Forests Campaign has held an interactive event at Souk Jara aimed to raise awareness and remind people of the environmental catastrophe of Bergesh forests, ninety kilometers northwest of Amman.

Four years ago a decision was issued to cut down and fence off parts of Bergesh forest to build a military academy. Last year, 2,200 ancient trees were uprooted or cut down in the forest. APN, a member of the campaign, joined the activity on 22nd May, 2015 which included a photo exhibition and lighting of candles equivalent to the number of trees cut from the forest. Activists at the event worked under the slogan of 'Bergesh is Ours'.

'If You Only Know' Campaign Continues Awareness Lectures in Schools

APN in collaboration with Sanabel Landscape Design and Services delivered two awareness lectures at Ahlya Girls School in Amman as part of the group's campaign launched in 2012 under the slogan 'If You Only Know'. Eighty girl third grade students listened to APN volunteer Firas Hamdan and APN Public Relations Manager Farah Kaddoura during the lectures on 16th February, 2015, who spoke about the earth's topographic and climatic diversity and its impact on green cover. They also highlighted the need to protect trees, the role of individuals in preserving the environment and APN's programmes aimed to expand the green areas in Jordan and Palestine.

Kaddoura delivered another lecture on 4th March, 2015 at the Arab Model Schools where boy and girl students showed great enthusiasm at the campaign's themes, because they had previously taken part in one of APN's agricultural activities. The young students came up with some suggestions to promote agricultural and water conservation campaigns.

The "If You Only Know" campaign is APN's main awareness programme,



launched in 2012, which targets university and school students. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness of the importance of agriculture and its benefits, and bring attention to the environmental challenges in Jordan, Palestine and the wider Arab region. The campaign also seeks to shed light on possible ways to address these challenges.

Awareness and Mobilisation

Iftar Banquet in Qatar for APN's Third Million Tree Campaign

The Qatari Rozana group held an Iftar banquet in Doha in support for APN's Third Million Tree Campaign in Palestine. The event was held on 28th June, 2015 with the support of the Qatari Red Crescent Society and in coordination with Al-Sidra Agricultural Company. Activist Hassan Al Jaajaa briefed the attendees on the campaign's achievements in supporting the resistance of Palestinian farmers and meeting their food security needs.

He touched on the systematic environmental violations to which they are subjected as a result of the Israeli occupation.

The event hosted Palestinian farmer Ibrahim Subeih, a resident of Khader village in Bethlehem who was frequently subjected to harassment by Israeli settlers and soldiers but refused to sell his land to them although they offered him \$15 million as a price. Attendees supported the tree planting effort pledging to finance cultivation of 1400 tree seedlings in Palestinian lands.



The event was organised by APN volunteers Khaled Al-Muhanadi, Sara Suleiman, Safwan Ghanam, Rafia Suleiman, Isra' Al-Miftah, Eman Odeh, Amira Osama, Dima Daghistani, Sara Al-Disi, Sara Al-Rishq, Abdul Rahman Taha, Abdul Azeez Taha, Mariam Osama, Nour Odeh, Haitham Al-Natsheh and Abdul Salam Abd.

Providing a Series of Lectures on Environmental Awareness in SOS Village

As part of the "If You Only Know" environmental awareness campaign, APN delivered a series of lectures and workshops in an SOS village to educate its children on ways and importance of protecting the environment. Engineer Farah Kaddoura, joined by volunteer Jeeda Abu Zaid village, ran a workshop for 20 boys and girls from the village, where they presented a short film by APN on agri-

culture before dividing the group of children into interactive subgroups to illustrate the children's relationship with the land and motivate them to carry out future agricultural projects in their village.



Awareness and Mobilisation

APN Continues its Participation in Souq Jara

Continuing the tradition from previous years, APN held a booth in Souq Jara during the summer of 2015, where products manufactured and designed by APN volunteers were sold and displayed. The proceeds went to support reforestation projects in Jordan and Palestine. More than 50 volunteers participate in Souq Jara, which runs every Friday for three months in the market area of Jabal Amman on Rainbow Street.



Raad's Music Plants 200 Trees

Student-activist Raad Barhoush (16 years old) of Amman Academy School, held a benefit concert entitled "Music of Palestine" on 12th November, 2015 in support of the Million Tree Campaign in Palestine. The songs were written, composed, and played by Raad. Proceeds of this musical evening were used to plant 200 tree saplings.



Lecture on the Million Tree Campaign in Seattle - USA

APN volunteer Farah Kaddoura took part in the regular meeting of the Food Justice Group in the American city of Seattle on 21st April, 2015. She apprised the audience of APN's work and activities including its Million Tree Campaign to support Palestinian farmers on their lands and foster food security.

Kaddoura was also invited to deliver a lecture on the tree planting campaign at Sammamish Mosque in the city. During the lecture, a short documentary film was presented on violations of the Israeli occupation authorities targeting Palestinian natural resources and the systematic assaults launched against Palestinian agricultural lands which include destroying, uprooting and burning of trees. A second film was then shown which spoke about the achievements of the Million Tree Campaign in Palestine. The lecture was attended by a number of Arab and Muslim community members from the city, who eagerly participated throughout the discussions and questions.

APN at 'Shop the Night Market' in Dubai

APN, through its volunteer Bahaa AlKayyali, participated in the 'Shop the Night Market' in Dubai on 16th December, 2015. Bahaa aimed to increase awareness about the organisation's projects and campaigns, and collect donations for its Million Tree Campaign.

APN in the Media

APN in the Media

Listeners of Radio Hayat FM Support the Planting of 23 Thousand Trees in Palestine

APN in collaboration with Radio Hayat FM on 20th April, 2015, held a full day campaign under the slogan “they uproot one tree... we replant ten”, in support of the Million Tree Campaign in Palestine, during which listeners pledged to plant 23 thousand trees, build 7 water collection systems, and purchase 13 fishing nets for Palestine.

The campaign was the focus of eight radio programmes from 7:30 am to mid-night and included a number of diverse interviews and commentary from participants including APN Vice President Rami Barhoush, as well as Head of the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association, Eng. Mahmoud Abu- Ghanimeh; the Secretary General of the Jordanian Engineers Association Nasser Huneidi; APN Board Members Susan Ayoub and Ziad Moughrabi; and a number of esteemed APN volunteers, including Abdullah Hawatmeh, Dr. Fatima Jamali, Ayman Zuayer, and youth volunteers Lamis Abuaziza, Farah Abdul Jawad, Zeena Al Jaajaa.



The meeting also hosted the Deputy Grand Mufti of Jerusalem to speak about the importance of being advocates for the people of Palestine, saying that donating for tree planting to prevent the confiscation of land is a part of Zakat. Also participating by phone were some of APN's partner institutions involved in the implementation of the programme.

Singer May Nasr: “APN Carrying Out a Noble Message”

On Saturday 5th December, 2015, APN was the focus of an interview for Ro'ya television. Participating in the interview were singer May Nasr and APN Board Member Ziad Moughrabi, who presented APN's programmes and objectives. Moughrabi also introduced guests of APN's annual dinner: singer May Nasr and musician Humam Eid, Palestinian farmer Abdul Rahman Al-Qassem, and farmer Elham Al-Abadi from Bayoudeh village in Salt.



May Nasr stressed her absolute belief in the objectives and programmes of APN which highlight belonging and love of the land. She also praised the work and efforts carried out by APN in helping the Palestinian people hold on to their land and support their resilience.

Awareness and Mobilisation

Heavy Media Presence at APN Annual Press Conference

APN briefed media representatives on its achievements in the areas of agriculture, food security and environment during a press conference held on 2nd December, 2015 to announce its annual dinner event.

A large number of reporters and journalists supporting the group's land and environment causes were present. APN President Razan Zuayter said she expected the journalists to make the news with the organisation and not only to report it. She said that since the group was founded in 2003, several programmes have been launched to develop Arab capabilities to preserve the region's natural resources and achieve food sovereignty. At the top of these achievements was success in having the UN Committee on



World Food Security (CFS) endorse a document, the first of its kind, dealing with food security in crises, wars and occupations.

Among those present at the press conference were Lebanese singer and activist May Nasr, who spoke about her support for APN's campaigns which serve the Palestinian cause, and 77-year old Palestinian farmer Abdul Rahman Al-Qassem. Al-Qassem is known for having won a court order to regain his land from within a Jewish colony where it had been confiscated after 31 years of struggle. He has since refused an offer of \$28million and an offer to grant himself and his family American passports to give up his right to the land.

TV programme “Money Map” hosts APN President

APN President Razan Zuayter was a guest on the “Money Map” programme on Dubai TV on 7th February, 2015, where she spoke about APN's plan to plant more than 100,000 trees in Palestine in 2015, and to help rehabilitate the devastated agricultural sector in the Gaza Strip through the re-building of 50 greenhouses and construction of 12 new water collection systems.

She also spoke about the role of APN in mobilisation and awareness raising through the establishment of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty, which we hope will unite regional efforts towards sustainability and protection over natural resources.



Awareness and Mobilisation

Guests at APN Annual Dinner Share Their Stories

APN was invited to participate in four radio interviews, two of them with Mazaj FM and two with Radio Farah Alnas. Farmer Abdul Rahman Al-Qassem, Hassan Al Jaajaa, Ziad Moughrabi, and singer May Nasr spoke about APN's programmes and details of preparations for the Annual Dinner, where the cost of each ticket contributes to the cultivation of 10 trees in Jordan and Palestine.



Palestinian and Jordanian Radio Stations Host APN to Talk about the “Land is Ours” Campaign

Radio stations Angham Al Khalil, Mazaj FM, and Farah Al Nas hosted Mohammad Qtaishat, APN's Projects Manager, to speak about the launch of the “Land is Ours” campaign, held in partnership with the Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee within the framework of the Third Million Tree Campaign in Palestine.

Qtaishat spoke about the diversity of activities within the campaign and the participation of community members and various institutions, touching on the first site targeted for the campaign – Tel Rumeida in Hebron's old city. The event saw the participation of dozens of volunteers. The campaign targets the areas of Khirbet Um Alkhair and Seir in Hebron, which are threatened by confiscation, Ain Beida and Bardala in Tubas, Qaryut near Shilo settlement, Zeta village in Tulkarem, Zaleh Sheikh Zaid in Jenin, the outskirts of Jerusalem, the grounds of the Al-Aqsa mosque, and inside the green line (historic Palestine). The campaign also targeted several areas of the Gaza Strip that were devastated by brutal Israeli aggression in summer of 2014.

APN in The Eyes of the People

APN in the Eyes of the People

“We organized an event to celebrate International Women’s Day, and I spoke about Women and Wars, including Palestine. I dedicated the poem “Spring is a foreign country in Palestine” to you and the work you do.”

Theresa Wolfwood, Canadian poet and activist

“You are doing a wonderful job in volunteering to help our society and the environment. You are the perfect example of global citizenship and a model for us and our students.”

Rawan Batarseh, Environmental Coordinator at Amman Baccalaureate School

“We thank you and have high esteem for our genuine communal partnership. We want to express our admiration and commitment to the fantastic developmental principles that you carry, which are unfortunately rarely found in other initiatives. Greetings to you in solidarity from the heart of besieged Gaza.”

Ahmed Sourani, Former Director of External Relations and Projects of the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee in Gaza

“It is refreshing to see committed people who have wiped the dust off themselves, rolled up their sleeves and begun to work to change things for the better.”

Muna Barghouth, Regional Programme Manager at Sida

“APN has developed in us the concept of volunteerism in both time and effort. A person does not realise the importance of volunteering unless he or she is engaged in it.”

Sawsan al-Khalidi, APN volunteer

“I encouraged my three children, Raad, Jana and Adam, to participate in planting trees. It is a very important way for them to learn that they are part of building the future. When this feeling grows with them, it becomes a routine in their lives. APN’s idea of planting trees in the names of mothers on Mother’s Day is unique, and stresses the value of mothers and family bonding which is the basis of community cohesion.”

Dana Jadallah Barhoush, APN volunteer and mother of three volunteers

“I’m very happy with this experience; it gave me a sense of patriotism and belonging. I also made new friends. I will not hesitate to participate again in this beautiful work. Hand in hand our country can become green.”

Danny Jamal Yousef, seventh grade student at Al Manhal School

“This wonderful initiative is in itself the spirit of inconspicuous resistance, because it helps Palestinian citizens cling to their land for two reasons: first, to show that there are those who still remember Palestine and provide support to it, and second, through the rehabilitation and cultivation of the land in order to live – this is exemplified by the Million Tree Campaign in Palestine piloted by APN. This exceptional, revolutionary step affirms that there is no difference between Jordan and Palestine, and that is why the Green Caravan programme was launched, to make Jordan as green as possible.

Because of its revolutionary agenda, APN has managed to impose itself on the international arena, struggling considerably towards Arab food security, and achieving breakthroughs which we must be proud of. APN’s presence in international consultations and activities is evident, necessary, and honorable, particularly given that Arab governments and its ambassadors are often absent from these platforms.” **Asaad Azouni, Ammon News [26-04-2015]**

APN in the Eyes of the People

“Leen Quran, a student at Arab Model Schools, didn’t realise that hearing an APN lecture under its “If You Only Know” campaign would ignite her enthusiasm to such an extent to push her to promote APN’s Mothers Day Campaign and fundraise to plant 33 trees in Palestine.

Leen believes that the campaign planted in her the spirit of determination. She says, “I am very happy and proud of this work,” and she shows immense gratitude to APN’s campaigns for raising awareness and offering guidance on the importance of agriculture and the environment.”

Al Ghad Newspaper [28-03-2014]

“The least that I could offer the Palestinian cause is to volunteer with APN.”

Malek Zuayter 2015

“APN is the only local organisation that truly “works on the ground”, since it genuinely rehabilitates and cultivates lands.”

Farah Al Tarifi 2015

“APN’s presence assures us that our right to return exists and will never be lost.”

Heba Albaz 2015

“Most attacks by settlers are against Palestinian farmers to make them leave their lands. APN is one of the few initiatives that assists Palestinian farmers directly.”

Hamza Sha’rawi 2015

“Resilience has many forms and tree planting is one of the most important to support our people in Palestine.”

Zein Sultan 2015

“APN makes me remember my home and Palestine always.”

Saif Abu Mahfouz 2015

“APN is an intifada (uprising) of olives, it is a tree intifada.”

Maaz Qatanani 2015

“APN took the responsibility upon itself that we cannot but encourage and support in every way possible, it is greening our land in Palestine, and our beloved land in Jordan.”

Artist Nadera Omran 2012

“We are delighted to be here among you today, and are grateful for your great efforts.

The violations committed by the occupation are changing the landscape whereby olive and almond trees have been uprooted and replaced with pine and cypress trees. With you we hope to restore the land to what it is in our memories and our hearts as Palestinians. Thank you very much.”

Artist Sana Moussa 2009

“APN is fertile ground for planting philanthropic initiatives where you harvest the most beautiful experiences and most incredible skills.”

Lamis Abu Aziza 2015

Declarations and Statements

APN Final Statement on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises – 27th May, 2015, Amman

The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) and the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty announce that the international negotiations on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises have come to a conclusion on the eve of May, 22nd, 2015 at the Rome headquarters of the UN Food and Agriculture (FAO) Agency. The negotiations marked a major victory for the global as well as the Arab civil society because thirteen years ago, international parties and forums including the FAO viewed the issue of food security in situations of wars, conflicts and occupations as politically sensitive, a taboo and outside its terms of reference.

In 2005, we managed to set up a global civil society group under an Arab leadership to deal with the issue of food insecurity in wars, conflicts and occupations. Ten years after launching this tough and unrelenting voluntary mission, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) - the world's highest international and governmental forum on nutrition and food security - adopted this issue after negotiations that went on for two years, and came to an end with a framework document which will be submitted for endorsement in October, 2015.

We believe that we have made big strides in our efforts over the years which led to the following achievements in the development of the framework document dealing with the issues of food insecurity in protracted crises:

- Success in integrating the issue of occupation into the document as a root cause for food insecurity and under-nutrition in crises situations, in addition to including several articles relating to the issue of occupation such as ensuring safe and unimpeded access to humanitarian and food aid, the tenure of land, forests and fisheries, safe access to affected communities and utilization of their natural resources and their protection through the respect of the international human law, particularly the Geneva Conventions.
- Believing that the principle of resilience should not only be restricted to being a holistic approach or an ultimate goal as being sought, we struggled to make the document more inclusive to include examination of root causes of food insecurity and under-nutrition and ways of preventing and addressing such conditions.
- Success in including the principle of protection from shocks in defining 'resilience', since it was restricted to adaptive capacity to shocks (coping ability).
- Integrating full human rights principles to ensure the program will not be restricted to a (short term) humanitarian and developmental approaches. An approach based on human rights is considered preventive and therapeutic at the same time, and without it the document will turn into a real-time response tool.
- Success- with great difficulty-in integrating policies that foster local food systems as a main component in regards to development, and support of resilience, particularly ensuring access of small producers to production resources and markets, in addition to listing articles on encouraging local food procurement and engagement of local groups in the implementation of humanitarian and development aid programs, as well as highlighting the importance of building food reserves at local, national and regional levels.

APN Final Statement on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises – 27th May, 2015, Amman

- ☐ Success in integrating articles on fostering food safety along the entire food chain to prevent contamination and diseases considered as common in food aid reaching affected communities until these days.
- ☐ Success in identifying main reasons behind the failure of policies and programs in protracted crises situations, including undermining local capacities and priorities as a result of external interference, self-serving commercial and political interests and lack of support for food producers.
- ☐ Removing an article on an attempt towards sustainable solutions for people's displacement and livelihoods adaptability and replacing with an article on developing permanent solutions to displacement of people that aims at facilitating their return to their homelands.
- ☐ Integrating an article that prevents the use of food as a tool for political or economic pressure and stipulates the need to refrain from adopting unilateral actions contradicting with international law including the UN Charter, which endanger nutrition and food security, as stated by the 1996 Rome Declaration.
- ☐ Imposing articles emphasizing the need for affected countries to own programs and oblige foreign humanitarian organizations to work through state institutions to avoid undermining them or creating equivalent systems.
- ☐ Integrating two articles emphasizing the need to facilitate implementation of the document by mobilizing a high-level political commitment.

Finally, we hope the document's goals and principles will be invested with great seriousness towards lifting the suffering of people living under occupation and experiencing conflicts and wars. We also look forward to continue work towards application of the document's articles and ensuring monitoring and accountability during such a process.

APN President Address to the High Level Expert Forum on Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises – 14th September, 2012, Rome

APN President Razan Zuayter

Panel: The Way Forward: Elements for an Agenda for Action

I would firstly like to thank the FAO, CFS and the Civil Society Mechanism for enabling civil society actors to be an integral part of this very important discussion.

Ten years ago, it was a taboo to talk about man-made crises when discussing food insecurity in the context of catastrophes. One would fear of getting accused of being political.

There was an evident hesitation in using clear terminology when discussing conflicts. At times it was called complex emergencies, and at others, protracted crises. Countries in conflict were often called vulnerable or fragile states.

We acknowledge the great progress that allowed for the realization of this forum. There has been excellent and courageous work done in Sofi 2010 “Addressing food insecurity in protracted crises”. Palestine was later added to the list of countries that are considered to be living in protracted crises. Despite the struggle that this step required, the eventual addition granted us hope of a democratic and genuine process.

The discussions during the past two days of the HLEF were sincere, rich and constructive, and we civil society organizations, are glad to endorse the process. Our documented recommendations and focused interventions are a result of a two-day CSO consultation and we hope that they will be endorsed by the HLEF.

It is important to reflect on a few points here:

- We can only achieve our goals through an accountability framework that puts communities at the center. Without this framework, words such, as resilience, conflict resolution, and peace building become void.
- We stress that there should be a distinction between natural and man-made disasters when addressing protracted crises.
- Mr. David Keen, an author of a background paper presented to our forum called ‘Aid and Development in the Context of Conflict’ and he expresses our views well when he states that over several decades “there has been a damaging silence on human issues.”

We also share his thoughts that trendy words such as state building, peace building, stabilization, counterterrorism, coherence and integrated missions can really feed into the suffering and the prolonging of crises if not carefully based on justice, rights and humanitarian laws.

- Mr. Henk-jan Brinkman in his address yesterday expressed that the classic big wars of the past were replaced with new forms, primarily civil and communal wars with no typical battle fields.

APN President Address to the High Level Expert Forum on Food

Insecurity in Protracted Crises – 14th September, 2012, Rome

We believe that the classic big wars, such as colonial wars as well as the cold war, persist but are manifested in new forms. Mr. Keen courageously speaks about the “war on terror” as an extension of the cold war.

The key difference between the classical wars and the current conflicts, is that the aim now is not “winning a war” but rather” sustaining it” as what we currently see in many cases in Africa and in West Asia.

Finally, I would like to wrap up the several points I made, with the following conclusion:
Failing to tackle the root causes of conflicts, and turning a blind eye towards violations of human rights, out of a fear of becoming political, is a political stance in itself.

APN President Speech at the Global Civil Society Mechanism Forum – 10 October, 2015, Rome

APN President Razan Zuayter

Panel: Global trends and challenges – What role for the CFS?

Normally I introduce myself as the President of the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature and a founder of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty, but since we are speaking today about communities in crisis, I will introduce myself as a refugee. I have been a refugee since I was 10 years old – I don't want to tell you for how many years I've been a refugee. You can figure out how old I am. I'm happy that attention is finally being given to this issue.

Now, in Syria there are 7.6 million internally displaced people and 4 million Syrian refugees – that is nearly 12 million people, or 50% of the Syrian population. Globally, 62 million people are registered as refugees or internally displaced – more than five times the number in Syria. There are 15 million people affected in Africa alone.

In 2008 twenty million people were displaced by climate change related disasters. Now, 10% of the global population is at risk of displacement.

But I have a question that I want to bring forward: Why is it only now that the world is alert to these crises? Is it because the refugees are finding themselves floating dead or alive at European shores? Or is it because displacement is becoming a source of business to institutions?

So what have we in the Protracted Crises working group been doing?

In 2004, these topics were taboo. We self-financed the coordination of the working group, and managed to gain the support of communities living in protracted crises.

In 2010, our first success was FAO's State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI), which recognized protracted crises as a broad, important issue. It recognized 40% of people living in protracted crises are undernourished, which constitutes one fifth of the global total of undernourished people. Our second success was in 2012, with the High Level Expert Forum (HLEF) on food insecurity in protracted crises, where we participated in both the steering committee and the task team that was formed later. We warned at that time that the aim of the new world order now is not to win wars, but to sustain wars.

Finally this year, in 2015, the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA) was finally endorsed on the 13th of October, after three years of consultations and negotiations.

Civil society has achieved a great number of successes for communities living in protracted crises: we persuaded members to acknowledge and address the root causes of crises, and to use a Human Rights Based approach when engaging with communities in crisis; we pushed for accountability and monitoring mechanisms; we have reminded the CFS of the differences between resilience, and prevention and recovery; we have continually stressed the importance of local food systems; we have mainstreamed nutrition into the CFS; we have encouraged country ownership rather than the creation of parallel systems; we ensured that initiatives are aimed not only at countries that are impact-

APN President Speech at the Global Civil Society Mechanism Forum – 10 October, 2015, Rome

ed by protracted crises, but at those that are impacting them.

I must salute the people who have been an integral part of the process leading up to the endorsement of the FFA, but were not able to attend this forum due to funding constraints to the Protracted Crises working group.

During this year's CFS we are organizing a side event on the Way Forward for the FFA, to push for its implementation. We are also organizing two working group sessions for the CSM Forum on Resilience and Protracted Crises.

We worked for eight years to introduce this topic to the United Nations organizations. We have been trying hard, in vain, for four years now to convince the CSM coordinating committee of the necessity of creating a constituency for communities living in protracted crises, which has until now been a totally abandoned social group. Unfortunately, we are coming to believe that governments and United Nations organizations might be more revolutionary than the CSM.

We will continue our commitment to this cause, and will continue to exchange solidarity and empathy with those living in protracted crises. I usually end my speeches with a joke but today I would like to say to those who are orchestrating opposition to giving space to this community within the CSM, that the alternative to a 'moderate path' that can be achieved through political engagement and policy reform is a path of extremism; and the extremism of groups like ISIS has global reach. We all have a stake in ensuring that communities in crisis have a voice in forums such as these.

APN President Speech at FAO Regional Stakeholder's Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition – 28 April, 2015, Amman

APN President Razan Zuayter

For the past twelve years, since 2003, we have been aware of the importance of influencing policy related to food security and the growing role of global civil society in this capacity. Our utmost concern has been to bring attention to an issue of high significance and priority for discussion and research: food security in the context of conflicts, wars and occupation. Achievement of this goal has not been easy, as countries and international organizations, including FAO, consider this a sensitive and taboo political issue, and even outside of its jurisdiction to discuss.

Regional civil society did not accept this prohibition, and with the help of global civil society, APN with global partners succeeded in 2005 to form an international civil society working group on food insecurity in conflicts through the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty, and after with the global Civil Society Mechanism. After seven years of voluntary hard work, we succeeded in inserting the issue of food insecurity in protracted crises in the 2010 SOFI report which stressed the need for research on this subject.. The same year, the Committee on World Food Security agreed to convene a high-level expert forum on protracted crises in 2012. Civil society participated as organizers and as panel speakers during the forum, with three speakers from this region and including the presentation of a detailed case study of the situation in Gaza. The most important outcome of the conference was the emphasis on the importance of preparing an action plan that can be implemented to be endorsed later by the Committee on World Food Security. The Civil Society Mechanism was invited to participate in the steering and technical committees to prepare this document.

There are four key points we would like to share with you :

The first point: the need to reconcile the humanitarian approach (short-term) , the developmental approach (long-term) and a human rights- based approach (which is preventive and remedial at the same time). If the third pillar (the human rights approach) is eliminated , then any document becomes merely a temporary response tool and not a remedial or sustainable preventive measure. Therefore we would like to emphasize the seriousness of exclusive consideration of the concept of resilience as a comprehensive principle or an ultimate goal, whereas working in a crisis must be more comprehensive and include the deep understanding of the root causes of food insecurity and nutrition as well as ways to address them.

This includes the need for states to respect international law inside and outside the scope of its own territory, as some countries increase food insecurity or fuel conflicts outside its borders; here we are talking about the concept of the extraterritorial obligations.

The second point: the need to consider all types of crises (conflicts and wars, occupations, and natural disasters) because each has its own specificity, its own definition and relative responsibilities under international law, including the effects on food security. Since we're currently negotiating the third draft of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises, we call upon all our partners in this region to commit to keeping the word "occupation" among the causes of food insecurity in a crisis, especially given that it is consistent with agreed upon CFS language , such as in the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food and the Voluntary

APN President Speech at FAO Regional Stakeholder's Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition – 28 April, 2015, Amman

Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests.

The third point: we must emphasize that all stakeholders, especially donors and humanitarian organizations must respect the framework and the Do No Harm principle – by this we mean that interventions should not cause the exacerbation of food insecurity or sustain the crises. Hence, stakeholders must cooperate and coordinate their support with national policies and actions and must respect the ownership of the states.

The fourth point: the promotion of local food systems shall constitute a key element in all aspects of development and should support resilience, taking into account the strengthening of local production and markets, and the inclusion of possible ways to support local farmers, such as the development of infrastructure and access to productive resources including finance, seeds, energy and land, as well as improving technology and storage capabilities.

We should not forget the importance of establishing food reserves at the local, national and regional levels, which is absolutely essential to areas of conflicts, as well as using innovative methods to secure humanitarian aid such as purchasing from local producers when possible. (example: the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature in Gaza)

We have other detailed points which we will try to present in the session allocated to the Framework for Action, and we would now like to focus on the following two points in conclusion: First, we as civil society realize with deep sadness that conventional wars such as colonial wars and the Cold War still exist in our region, and that we are also seeing new forms of civil wars which are meant to be sustained by certain actors, seeking to fragment and divide the region, and converting this region rich in natural resources to a dependent territory with no food security. We strongly believe that there can be no food security in our region without immediate initiatives to resolve conflicts and stop wars, and the immediate start of dialogue at all levels.

The second and last point, we are confident that it is possible to achieve real food security in our region if there is genuine political will, co-operation and integration in the development of agricultural strategies, with implementation and monitoring within a framework of accountability mediated by communities and in partnership with all stakeholders, including civil society organizations and networks representing farmers. Here we would like to point out the efforts of regional civil society in organizing and unifying its vision within the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty, which includes 49 organizations, institutions, and trade unions representing hundreds of thousands of farmers, fishermen, shepherds, women, young people and consumers and other groups.

APN General Manager Speech at Committee on World Food Security Plenary Session on Resilience Building for Sustainable Food Security and Nutrition – 15 October, 2015, Rome

APN General Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa

There has been a new trend amongst development practitioners in the focus on resilience. However, the level of the value and effectiveness of this approach for communities depends on

1. how resilience is defined, and
2. to which policies and actions it is applied

First, we should understand that the concept of resilience is not a new one. Communities have always developed their own mechanisms of coping, resisting, absorbing, or overcoming vulnerabilities, crises, or their manifestations regardless of under which package or label these are framed.

This calls for a comprehensive approach. Here we identify four essential requirements for building resilience to achieve sustainable food security and nutrition:

- 1) Address the underlying causes of vulnerabilities and follow a human rights based approach

Building resilience must include policies and actions which not only assist communities in coping with or absorbing “vulnerabilities” and “crises” but which act to resolve, resist and prevent them and their manifestations from reoccurring. A comprehensive resilience approach must therefore include:

- Focus on the immediate, underlying and structural causes of vulnerability in general and crises in particular
- Rigorous context analysis given the wide variety of causes, including an analysis of power dynamics, inequality, livelihoods, markets, and others factors that may affect vulnerability
- Recognition that hunger and malnutrition often result from deliberate actions by parties. Methods to erode local food and farming systems forcing populations into relationships of dependency include: the usurping or the destruction of natural resource, the violent targeting of food producers, the enforcement of sieges and asymmetric food trade relationships, and using food or water as coercive tools against populations
- Pathways to realize people’s human rights in cases where they are being violated as well as ways to survive or cope with the manifestations of those violations
- Adherence to do no harm principles by partner organizations, and avoidance of creating competing parallel systems that may heighten the risk of division and conflict
- Challenges to the social, economic, and political institutions that sustain societal inequality, which may lead to further vulnerability or crises (particularly conflict), and which result in the unequal distribution of burden – most often falling on the marginalized. Unequal distribution of risk is particularly true in the case of climate change. Around 50 per cent of global carbon emissions are generated by just 11 per cent of people. But those who suffer the most from climate change have the

APN General Manager Speech at Committee on World Food Security Plenary Session on Resilience Building for Sustainable Food Security and Nutrition – 15 October, 2015, Rome

least hand in causing it: it is estimated that by 2100 the impact on poor countries will be GDP losses of 12–23 per cent, whereas in the richest countries, the impact will be in the range of 0.1 per cent loss to a benefit of 0.9 per cent of GDP. Another example is food speculation: when wealthy investors gamble staple food prices, it is the poorest populations which are often not able to withstand the volatility in food prices this results in.

Clearly, causes vary significantly between contexts. However, commonly occurring drivers of food and nutrition insecurity in protracted crises, such as political and economic conditions, must be identified and addressed. Hence, policy reform and political action are necessary. We need:

- decentralized governance which is based on rights and participatory decision-making
- to guarantee appropriate accountability mechanisms for all stakeholders
- to promote the compliance with human rights and international humanitarian law for all actors
- to raise the awareness and capacity of local communities

2) Link humanitarian and long term development programmes

If we want to achieve long term resilience within communities we must break down the barriers between humanitarian and development institutions, funding, and programmes. This means bringing together humanitarian and economic responses.

Such initiatives should include:

- strengthening diversified local food production as well as national and local markets; supporting small farmers, particularly through access to productive resources, in order to make communities less vulnerable to food crises, conflict, sieges, and the absence of safe borders among other factors
- prioritizing local procurement in humanitarian response, including the use of cash transfers and vouchers
- establishing and scaling up local, national and regional food reserves
- alternative methods of resource management alternatives such as water harvesting, seed banks, urban agriculture
- comprehensive social protection systems
- mainstreaming risk analysis through DRR approaches and prevention, (including early warning systems, disaster risk management, surge capacity, and climate change projection) .The involvement of local institutions in DRR is necessary. Measuring and modeling resilience is especially helpful when investing in resilience to know both the cost and relative impact of different initiatives.
- Funding streams need to be adapted to be flexible, long term and predictable

3) Combine local knowledge, priorities, and initiatives with research, science and technology

Affected communities should be in the center of planning and implementation. In order to support

APN General Manager Speech at Committee on World Food Security Plenary Session on Resilience Building for Sustainable Food Security and Nutrition – 15 October, 2015, Rome

these communities, there is a need to:

- raise the capacities of local institutions
- focus on mapping and supporting local initiatives and reducing negative strategies that increase future vulnerability
- focus on marginalized populations, including women, youth, small scale producers, indigenous peoples, and those living under occupation.

There are a number of successful local initiatives already striving to increase the resilience of their populations to different obstacles:

- In Palestine, thousands of acres of Palestinian agricultural lands have been razed and trees uprooted by the Israeli occupation, and many farmers' lands are vulnerable to threat of confiscation. The Million Tree Campaign organized by the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature supports the resilience of farmers whose livelihood has been affected by the occupation through the replanting of tree seedlings on damaged land or on lands where the ownership is threatened by the encroachment of illegal Israeli settlements or by the separation wall.
- In Bangladesh, the local grassroots organization Nabolok is helping farmers build resilience to climate change with three important interlinked strategies:
 - first, they support programming to improve practical knowledge and application in communities to limit the impacts of climate change;
 - second, they conduct action research on how the changing climate is impacting different communities within the country
 - third, they advocate to enhance justice for climate vulnerable people in Bangladesh through knowledge dissemination and strengthening civic engagement in political processes
- Agricultural co-operatives are community-driven business models created as a form of resilience to both economic and environmental shocks. In San Agustín, Bolivia, quinoa farmers participate in farmers' co-ops as a local response to global food system processes ensuring that crops are sold locally to support domestic food security in spite of the growth in foreign demand for quinoa, and so that farmers receive fair profits for their crops by circumventing intermediaries.

4) Advance socio-ecological systems and sustainability

Resilience cannot be achieved without environmental sustainability and the sustainable development of communities and economies. This requires an integrative approach between social and ecological systems ensuring that they interact regularly in a resilient, sustained manner. This should include:

- regular feedbacks between the ecological and social systems
- supporting healthy ecosystems through the preservation and sustainable use of natural resources
- a focus on integrating traditional knowledge and practices into sustainability initiatives
- promoting adaptive governance of communities and ecosystems

APN Interventions during the Plenary Session for Endorsement of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises – 13 October, Rome

First Intervention

The CSM is very happy to support the endorsement of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises. The CSM Working Group on Protracted Crises had been deeply involved in the CFS Process since its materialization in 2012. Through its membership in the CFS Steering Committee and Technical Support team and its participation in the e-consultations, Open Ended Working Group meetings and Global Consultation in Ethiopia, the CSM Working Group managed to greatly contribute to the preparation process of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises, bringing on board the experiences, opinions, convictions and needs of communities in protracted crises.

The CSM will support the endorsement of the Framework for Action on Food Insecurity and Nutrition but will stress that there is a urgent need to ensure that its principles are implemented both fully and effectively.

We have to take pride in the FFA, as it goes beyond the conventional understanding of resilience, and adopts a holistic and comprehensive understanding and examination of root and underlying causes of food insecurity and under-nutrition. In promoting implementation, we must ensure that the focus on underlying causes is not lost, and that we assist communities in protracted crises not only in coping, but with preventing and resolving food insecurity.

The framework identifies eleven principles for action, each of which is essential in addressing food insecurity and malnutrition, and each of which requires the commitment of all actors. Building on this framework for action, our approach should be to work not only in crises, but on crises.

Mobilizing political commitment must be the first step. All stakeholders should disseminate the FFA and promote its use in the development, implementation, and monitoring at global, regional, national, local and institutional levels. The CFS should urgently develop a strong communication strategy that advocates the revision of current policies and actions to ensure that they fall in line with the FFA.

Monitoring is another key step in ensuring the proper implementation of the FFA. The use and application of the FFA at the national, regional and global level should be monitored by the CFS. The CFS should attend to its commitment to developing the innovative mechanism to monitor progress toward objective and actions agreed by CFS including FFA. A participatory community based approach is essential.

Second Intervention

In the implementation of the FFA there are important roles to be played by a multitude of actors. To ensure that the specific roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders are clearly identified, the CFS could convene a multi actor workshop where the different roles and commitments can be discussed and agreed upon.

UN specialized organizations, particularly but not limited to Rome-based organizations (FAO, IFAD, WFP), should support voluntary efforts to implement and use the FFA. This includes the provision of policy advice, technical guidance, operational tools and financial assistance to the organs of the

APN Interventions during the Plenary Session for Endorsement of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises – 13 October, Rome

state, local authorities and community-based organizations in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the FFA.

We are happy to know that the Rome-Based Agencies are strengthening their cooperation around the issue of protracted crises, and we hope that they build a partnership with civil society and communities in crises in their planning and implementation.

The entire UN Human Rights System, including the Secretary General, should act as an advocate and catalyst in order to address food security and nutrition in protracted crisis situations; promote the implementation of the FFA through the review and strengthening of policies and actions into broader global and regional initiatives; as well as contribute to monitoring and evaluation of progress.

Regional bodies, through their existing processes, should integrate the FFA into their workstreams given their greater influence on the regions suffering from protracted crisis, and can help affected countries with the provisions of financial technical guidance and operational tools.

As stated in the FFA national governments and regional entities should facilitate and institutionalize multi-stakeholder processes to review, develop, implement, monitor and harmonize policies and actions for addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in protracted crises. Such platforms ensure that both policies and processes are owned and supported by a range of stakeholders, and that information flows between grassroots and policy makers.

On the global level, the CFS could oversee the establishment and work of a multi-stakeholder technical working group to provide and facilitate demand-led support to regions and countries to develop, implement and monitor policies and actions, and to collate and disseminate lessons learnt.

In line with the FFA stakeholders should facilitate the framework “access to, and understanding by, the communities and organizations of protracted crisis affected populations.” The CFS should commit to supporting civil society in producing simplified guidelines on the principles in the FFA, to ensure the free, prior, and informed consent of affected communities.

CSOs have a vital role to play in the promotion and application of the FFA by helping to shape policies, design and implement projects, build institutional and human capacity, and facilitating knowledge and technology transfer. Finally, we, as civil society, celebrate with you here today the endorsement of this courageous and progressive framework which reflects the international commitment to respond to communities living in protracted crises.

APN Advocacy Officer Intervention on the Human Rights to Food and Water during the Plenary Session for Water Negotiations at the Committee on World Food Security – 12 October, Rome

APN Advocacy Officer Heather Elaydi

The CFS is a United Nations space. Its mandate is to contribute to the realization of the human right to adequate food.

Both the right to food and the right to water derive from the same basic human rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The right to water has been clearly recognized by the UN through a number of instruments, many of them legally binding, including:

- the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- and International Labour Organization Conventions 110 on Plantation Workers and 184 on Safety and Health in Agriculture

The Additional Protocols to the Geneva Convention also emphasize the importance of water for food production, stating that irrigation works are indispensable to the survival of the civilian population.

General Comment 15 of the UN Center for Economic and Social Rights is considered the authoritative interpretive statement of the binding rules on the human right to water. The document identifies the multiple dimensions and uses of water, and the inextricable linkages between the right to water and all other human rights, including the right to adequate food and the right to health.

These linkages were reaffirmed through Resolution 64/292 of the UN General Assembly.

In particular, General Comment 15 emphasizes that sustainable and equitable access to water for agriculture – especially for those engaging in subsistence food production – is vital to realizing the right to adequate food.

These aspects are also clearly set out in the High Level Panel of Experts report. But the report also shows the reality: we are still a long way from realizing the human right to water for all. The reality that communities face is the increasing pollution, unsustainable use, and poor management and governance of this common good. Water is increasingly being privatized and treated as a commodity. Rivers are diverted and groundwater is extracted in unsustainable and unjust ways. We are also seeing a wave of water grabbing by large corporations and occupying states.

The result is widespread violation of the human right to water, particularly for poor people, women, and other marginalized groups – such as small-scale food producers and communities living in protracted crises.

APN Advocacy Officer Intervention on the Human Rights to Food and Water during the Plenary Session for Water Negotiations at the Committee on World Food Security – 12 October, Rome

For these reasons, the decision box to be adopted by the CFS must include human rights framing, setting out clear rules for inclusive and participatory governance.

The UN General Assembly just set itself ambitious targets with the SDGs. It also highlighted the importance of both food and water within that context. The decision box is the opportunity to reaffirm the right to water in the context of the CFS, and of the human right to adequate food; and to make the management and governance of water for food security more democratic, sustainable and just.

Thank you.

Letter of Objection to the Global Civil Society Mechanism – October, 2015

Open Letter to Civil Society Mechanism

We are writing this letter to the Coordinating Committee (CC) of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) and to all who participated in the CSM Forum to address the information gaps on concerns raised about the election of the Advisory Group members and the new constituency of people under protracted crisis that was discussed in the CC meeting and later in the CSM Forum.

We would like to document our objections and provide information about these objections.

Selections of Advisory Group Members

The selection of Advisory Group Members has been done by consensus in the past through consultations with the regions and constituencies to ensure constituency, regional and gender balance and it is in CSM document, “Terms of Reference for the Selection of Advisory Group”.

The present selection process was done by elections. The final results show that there was no one from Asia in the 8 member Advisory Group elected. Asia having the largest population particularly of the highest numbers of hungry people is missing in this very important structure of CSM. The Advisory group provides inputs to the CFS bureau agenda and provides other programme and institutional support to the secretariat and the absence of an Asian (group) is very worrying.

The election process was rammed through even though there were suggestions that it is done by consensus and consultation to ensure constituency, gender and regional balance. In addition, the process was not allowed to be discussed thoroughly nor the paper on the process provided before the CC meeting.

After the result was announced, there were objections of this process and again these objections were ignored and there were no attempts to address them and to see how to move this forward. There was even a suggestion of including an additional person in the Advisory Group to ensure regional balance. There was another suggestion that the eighth person who was not even in the meeting be replaced by an Asian to ensure regional balance.

There was no attempt to address these objections, there was no attempt to achieve consensus, there was no attempt to discuss a way forward and there was no respect for a proper balance. The CC process is really now a process of “majority rule” and all objections are ignored.

The Need for a New Constituency of People living in Protracted Crisis

People living in protracted crisis live not only in poverty, hunger and malnutrition, lack of access to jobs and resources but also in tremendous vulnerability as their livelihoods are completely destroyed; they live in fear for their lives and their children’s lives, threatened by imprisonment, torture and death. In this situation they have difficulties to continue their farming, fishing and pastoralist’s activities to feed themselves. Their voices and participation in CFS is weak and therefore a new constituency will further help to strengthen their movements and to bring their urgent issues of

Letter of Objection to the Global Civil Society Mechanism – October, 2015

survival, livelihoods, access to resources and their struggle to the CSM and CFS.

However, last year this constituency was suggested in the CC meeting and objected to. So this year, a proposal was developed to identify the constituency, the need for such a constituency and what the process would be. And the paper was distributed prior to the meeting. Although there was support to discuss this inclusion, the CC meeting concluded formally that this will not be considered. There has been no formal decision about discussing this further or considering this by the CC.

Again we are facing a domination of a block that prevents discussions of issues raised by marginalised minorities and the objections of the marginalised minorities are the source of this paranoia.

We would also like to add that we have no issues with the CSM secretariat, they are working hard and they have difficulties to facilitate in a situation where attempts to build consensus fails due to the burden of domination.

We are bringing this to the attention of the CC and all those who participated in the CSM forum to provide further information to these issues.

With best wishes,

Present CC members:

Tony Tujan, People's Coalition Food Sovereignty (PCFS), Philippines
Mariam Al Jaajaa, Arab Network for Food Sovereignty, Jordan
Sylvia Mallari, Asian Peasants Centre (APC), Philippines
KarimAkrou, Tunisian Farmers Syndicate, Tunisia
Jamal Talab, Land Rights Centre, Palestine

Previous CC members:

Sarojeni V. Rengam, Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC), Malaysia
RazanZuayter, Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN), Jordan

Letter of Objection to Committee on World Food Security Chair and Secretariat organised by APN – December, 2015

H.E. Amira Gornass
Chair of CFS

We would like to grab the opportunity to felicitate you on the position you hold as the Chair person of CFS.

We are writing this letter to you to raise our concerns regarding alarming developments taking place in the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) of the CFS, particularly the selection process for CSM Advisory Group members.

We appreciate the reform of the CFS, enabling an inclusive space open to all civil society organizations free from the domination of any block.

The need for regional and gender balance within the CSM Advisory Group was affirmed in the CSM Guidelines of Internal Functioning adopted in 2015. This year, the CSM moved away from the process of consensus used in previous years, which ensured both regional and gender balance. The last selection process took place in October 2015, and was done by election. With prior planning, the final result deliberately excluded any members from Asia, the biggest continent with the largest population, from the eight-member Advisory Group. Asia, having the highest number of hungry people in the world (exceeding 65%) is completely absent from this very important body within the structure of CSM. The CSM Advisory group provides input to the CFS bureau agenda and provides other programme and institutional support to the secretariat. The absence of an Asian member in such a visible and influential group is unacceptable.

The new selection process was not discussed with all Coordination Committee (CC) members prior to the Coordination Committee meeting, nor was a draft of the proposed process distributed. While there were many objections and suggested changes during the CC meeting, the process was not allowed to be discussed. After results were announced, further objections to the process were made, but again there was no attempt to achieve consensus, nor to discuss a way forward. No respect was given to the previously agreed upon 'regional balance'.

The Asian organizations have since attempted to re-open this subject within the CSM but failed (See attached our previous letter to the CC members and CSM Secretariat). Lack of transparency and democratic representation have been recurring issues, and the root problem behind the discrepancies between CSM policy and practice must be resolved.

An urgent meeting to discuss the basis of our concerns with your good selves and the CSM Secretariat would be highly appreciated.

For the AG, we are proposing to CSM the inclusion of a ninth member for this particular run (because the ninth member in the last election was from Asia). For the next run we hope to return to consensus and regional balance. Otherwise direct communication channels should be opened between us and the CFS away from the domination and control of one block in CSM.

Letter of Objection to Committee on World Food Security Chair and Secretariat organised by APN – December, 2015

Sincerely Yours,
With best wishes,

Present CC members:

Mariam Al Jaajaa, Arab Network for Food Sovereignty, Jordan

Tony Tujan, People's Coalition Food Sovereignty (PCFS), Philippines

Sylvia Mallari, Asian Peasants Centre (APC), Philippines

KarimAkrou, Tunisian Farmers Syndicate, Tunisia

Jamal Talab, Land Rights Centre, Palestine

Previous CC members:

Sarojeni V. Rengam, Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC), Malaysia

RazanZuayter, Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN), Jordan

Recommendations of Confronting Public Private Partnerships in Agriculture in the Arab World through Regional Networks and South-South Cooperation

Workshop – 19-20 December, 2015, Amman

Background

On December 19th and 20th 2015 civil society representatives from the food and agricultural sectors in Jordan, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, and the Philippines gathered in Amman, Jordan, to discuss the impacts that public-private partnerships (PPP) are having in the region. Though the concept of PPP in agriculture is new to many countries in the Arab region, it was acknowledged that these partnerships are a continuation of the neo-liberal privatization agenda which invaded developing countries from the early 1990s. As part of the strategy to confront the negative impact of PPPs, participants agreed to focus on promotion of food sovereignty and strengthening of both regional and south-south cooperation. Recommendations for future actions are below: Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

- In assessing PPPs there is a need to distinguish between the participation of large and multi-national companies, and small-scale food producers
 - Must assess if the project supports local development and benefits local food security (the difference between cash crops for exports and local staple crops). Most contract farming is for export.
 - Work against the major multi-national companies that are threatening the interests of young and peasant farmers
 - Fight corruption and monitor selected projects (e.g., to know if they are actually selling or contracting with public investments)
 - Support authentic peasant cooperatives and small farms in agricultural value chains, and socio-economic support approaches
 - Civil society should be involved in determining the form of partnerships and contracts between the public and private sectors
 - Need to establish national and regional strategies to address privatization and its effects
 - Monitor and lobby for the implementation of laws that support food sovereignty
 - Support projects that support food sovereignty:
 - Support local production, food processing, value-added activities in the food sector and protection from dumping
- o Support small-scale and family farming and the right of access to productive resources
 - o Support diverse and sustainable local production
 - o Preserve the local food system
 - o Prevent fragmentation of land ownership
 - o Prevent countries from selling land to foreign companies
 - o Support projects that conserve natural resources, such as water harvesting

Role of civil society in promoting food sovereignty

- Awareness and experience sharing:
- o Dissemination of the concept of food sovereignty in:
 - Social media

Recommendations of Confronting Public Private Partnerships in Agriculture in the Arab World through Regional Networks and South-South Cooperation Workshop – 19-20 December, 2015, Amman

- ☐ Writing articles
- ☐ Lectures at universities and colleges
- ☐ Develop educational material

- o Building expertise to build output, productivity, and quality, especially preservation of seeds
- o Exchange experiences and lessons learned amongst Arab countries
- o Work on documentation and studies
- o Determine the status of agriculture in the Arab region, and the objectives of Arab civil society organizations: what is the value of the Arab region in the global food system? What is the level of food system integration between the Gulf and other Arab countries? What is the impact of conflict and occupation on food sovereignty?
- o Highlight the role of hard-working peasants and family farmers in food production, and support preservation of the environment

- Work to Influence Policies:
 - o Develop a project to build the capacity of civil society in influencing policy
 - o Pressure governments to promote food sovereignty and support agriculture
 - o Organize movements from various specialized sectors which can represent themselves under one umbrella (e.g., farmers, fishermen, rural women, consumers)
 - o Ensure the presence of representatives on consumers, not only producers, in setting priorities
 - o Need to identify local, regional and global platforms that have a relationship to agriculture and food security, and identify how to exert influence in them
 - o Work to increase permanent presence and participation in these platforms

- Support for Arab regional integration strategies

Declaration Signed by APN Amongst 317 Organisations from 84 Countries Against the Use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides

Sign this appeal!
The more organizations sign the stronger we are.



Appeal for a ban of highly hazardous pesticides

Decades of experience has shown that, despite numerous 'safe use' programs, the 'safe use' of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) is not possible. People, farmanimals, wildlife and the environment continue to suffer considerable harm from HHPs. After decades of failure which have seen millions of deaths worldwide, new policies are needed to stop pesticide poisonings. A progressive phaseout and ban of HHPs, along with new policies for supporting alternatives, can make a change towards a healthy and sustainable world for all.

We, the undersigned organizations, call on governments and corporations to take concrete steps towards a progressive ban of HHPs and their substitution with ecosystem-based alternatives.

Organizational signatories

(317 organizations from 84 countries / 22 July 2015)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Asociación Civil Árbol de Pie, Bariloche, Argentina | 10. SA Consultores & Servicios Asoc., Argentina | 19. Global 2000, Austria |
| 2. Asociacion Civil Be Pe, Argentina | 11. Taller Ecologista, Argentina | 20. Bangladesh Krishok Federation, Bangladesh |
| 3. Ecos de Saladillo, Argentina | 12. Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE), Armenia | 21. BARCIK, Bangladesh |
| 4. EDIPA Equipo Diocesano Pastoral Ambiental, Pastoral Social, Obispado de San Isidro, Argentina | 13. Alliance for a Clean Environment , Australia | 22. SHISUK, Bangladesh |
| 5. Familias Semilleras (MAELA), Argentina | 14. FOODwatch, Australia | 23. Center of Environmental Solutions, Belarus |
| 6. LLASTAY- para la defensa del medio ambiente, Argentina | 15. National Toxics Network (NTN), Australia | 24. ADALIA asbl, Belgium |
| 7. Nogal de Vida, Argentina | 16. Tasmanian Public & Environmental Health Network (TPEHN), Australia | 25. European Water Movement, Belgium |
| 8. Paren de Fumigar las Escuelas, Argentina | 17. Pesticide Action Group Western Australia, Australia | 26. Food & Water Europe, Belgium |
| 9. Pesticide Action Network Latin America (RAPAL - PAN Latin America), Argentina | 18. Ärztinnen und Ärzte für eine gesunde Umwelt (AeGU) - Doctors for a Healthy Environment, Austria | 27. Inter-Environnement Wallonie, Belgium |
| | | 28. International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies, Belgium |
| | | 29. Nature & Progrès Belgique, Belgium |
| | | 30. Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe), Belgium |
| | | 31. Velt vzw, Belgium |
| | | 32. Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative , Bhutan |

.....
A healthy world for all. Protect humanity and the environment from pesticides. Promote alternatives.

Resolution 3.046: APN's First Contribution in Putting Conflict, War, and Occupation on the World Policy Map at the International Union for Conservation of Nature

ES 3.046 Conservation in regions in violent conflict of West Asia – strengthening IUCN's presence to protect the natural and human environment

NOTING with concern the detrimental impacts of war and violent conflict on natural and human environments;

TAKING into account in particular the use of internationally banned weapons and radioactive material such as depleted uranium, and the erection of segregating walls;

ALARMED at the continued violence, disastrous environmental impacts and loss of human life in West Asia;

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the resulting degradation of land and biodiversity in the region, including

globally significant wetland areas and some of the richest sources of world agro-biodiversity, and its severe impacts on the food sovereignty and food security of the people;

AWARE that conflict-related activities (destruction of homes, infrastructure, habitats, forests and agricultural lands and pollution of water) have equally detrimental impacts on ecosystems, including

soil, water and biota and seriously compromise the livelihoods and welfare of present and future generations;

RECOGNIZING that socio-economic and political stability are necessary for ensuring environmental

security and ecological integrity in the region;

AFFIRMING that only just peace processes lead to opportunities to protect the environment and human life in the region;

RECALLING Principles 23, 24 and 25 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992);

REMINDED of Recommendation 2.98 To secure the environment of Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Jerusalem adopted by the 2nd World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000); and

CONSIDERING that the Vision of IUCN is to create “A just world that values and conserves nature”,

and that this Vision includes peace and respect for human rights; and

TAKING into account the Observer Status of IUCN within the United Nations;

The World Conservation Congress at its 3rd Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November 2004:

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General, in collaboration with relevant IUCN Commissions, members and other partners, to strengthen the influence and activities of the Union in war-torn West Asia through:

Resolution 3.046: APN's First Contribution in Putting Conflict, War, and Occupation on the World Policy Map at the International Union for Conservation of Nature

(a) arranging a comprehensive and participatory assessment of the environmental impacts of violent conflicts in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait, within available resources and the prevailing security situation;

(b) highlighting and disseminating information concerning the consequences of conflicts and occupation on biodiversity, natural resources and sustainable livelihoods in the region, with particular reference to the segregating wall in Palestine, declared as illegal according to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice;

(c) promoting capacity-building for official conservation agencies and non-governmental organizations, and developing field programmes for the restoration of biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods in the region, in collaboration with interested members and other partners;

(d) convening relevant actors at local, national, regional and international levels to develop and implement solutions to the problems of transboundary ecosystems in the region;

(e) appealing to the international community to prevent further deterioration of biodiversity and natural heritage in the region; and

(f) collaborating with the United Nations and other international organizations to promote respect for human life and environmental principles and to ensure the protection of livelihoods, life-supporting ecosystems and biodiversity consistent with international law; and

2. CALLS UPON donors, specifically those focusing on West Asia, to provide financial support for the above activities as well as for other environmental restoration programmes in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page x).

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record: The United States believes that the World Conservation Congress should not consider this resolution. Whereas the resolution contains some useful elements related to some very real conservation needs, these elements are unfortunately lost in political rhetoric that is outside the mandate of IUCN. State and agency members United States voted against this motion.

Resolution 4.097: APN's Second Contribution in Putting Conflict, War, and Occupation on the World Policy Map at the International Union for Conservation of Nature

4.097 Liability and compensation mechanisms for environmental crimes during armed conflicts

CONSIDERING that armed conflicts and wars are still raging worldwide with detrimental effects on the environment and natural resources;

FURTHER CONSIDERING the absence of accountability for damage to the environment, intentional or otherwise, during armed conflicts;

DRAWING UPON the basic tenets of the World Charter for Nature (1982), where it is recognized that "Mankind is a part of nature and life depends on the uninterrupted functioning of natural systems which ensure the supply of energy and nutrients";

RECALLING Principles 13, 23 and 24 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)¹;

RECALLING Principles 16, 16.b and 16.f of the Earth Charter²;

NOTING that a world of absolute non-violence and peace is still an ideal and that the principles that guide conduct with regard to the environment and natural resources in times of peace are all but ignored in times of war;

ACKNOWLEDGING the wealth of IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations calling for the protection and conservation of nature and the environment during armed conflicts and times of war; and

NOTING IUCN's role in influencing standards and practices and its aim to enhance environmental and human security as per its Programme 2009-2012;

The World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008:

1. EXHORTS the United Nations to:

(a) establish an international organization empowered to monitor, report and prosecute any damages to the environment and natural resources during armed conflict; and

(b) create a compensation mechanism, reminiscent of the Polluter Pays Principle, for any transgressions and violations against the environment during armed conflicts; and

2. CALLS ON IUCN's members to adopt and comply with previous Resolutions and Recommendations to ensure the integrity and protection of nature and the environment during armed conflicts;

In addition, the World Conservation Congress, at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5- 14 October 2008, provides the following guidance concerning implementation of the IUCN Programme 2009-2012:

Resolution 4.097: APN's Second Contribution in Putting Conflict, War, and Occupation on the World Policy Map at the International Union for Conservation of Nature

3. CALLS ON IUCN's Commissions to develop a set of environmental best practices to serve as a code of conduct during times of war, armed conflict and occupation.

State and agency members of the United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the U.S. General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process.

1 Principle 13: "States shall develop national law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage. States shall also cooperate in an expeditious and more determined manner to develop further international law regarding liability and compensation for adverse effects of environmental damage caused by activities within their jurisdiction or control to areas beyond their jurisdiction." Principle 23: "The environment and natural resources of people under oppression, domination and occupation shall be protected." Principle 24: "Warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development. States shall therefore respect international law providing protection for the environment in times of armed conflict and cooperate in its further development, as necessary."

2 Principle 16: "Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace." Principle 16.b: "Implement comprehensive strategies to prevent violent conflict and use collaborative problem solving to manage and resolve environmental conflicts and other disputes." Principle 16.f: "Recognize that peace is the wholeness created by right relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part."

Civil Society Conclusions from Workshop on Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries organised by APN – 26-28 March, 2012, Oman

**The Near East and North Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Bringing Together Responsible Fishing and Social Development
Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 26-28 March 2012**

Summary of discussions and main conclusions

ADOPTED 28 MARCH 2012

The Near East and North Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Bringing Together Responsible Fishing and Social Development was held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 26-28 March 2012. It was co-organised by FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Wealth of the Sultanate of Oman. The workshop was attended by over 30 participants representing governments and CSOs from 17 countries. Staff from FAO headquarters, regional and subregional offices, and projects participated as resource persons.

The workshop was convened to allow for the sharing of policies and practices in support of small-scale fisheries in the region and thereby contribute to the small-scale fisheries (SSF) Guidelines, currently under development by the FAO Secretariat in close collaboration with its partners.

The workshop confirmed the importance of small-scale fisheries in the region as a contributor to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, and socio-economic development, and that SSF Guidelines will be an important tool for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries governance and development.

In this context, the workshop recognised that:

- Small-scale fisheries in the region are characterised by great diversity between sub-regions and countries with regard to, for example, the type and numbers of actors involved, the production and market structure and the resources and means of the sector.
- Many countries are currently going through a period of transition which may have implications also for the small-scale fisheries sector.
- There is a need to promote small-scale fisheries and secure their access to the resources necessary for sustainable livelihoods. Small-scale fisheries often represent traditional values and a way of life. Achieving sustainable governance and development of the sector will require concerted efforts, including organizational development and strengthening of capacities at all levels.

Four working groups discussed the topics of (i) Governance of access to resources, resource management and stewardship, (ii) Social and economic development and equity and equality, (iii) Disaster risk management and climate change and (iv) Policy coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration. The two last working groups also integrated aspects of research, information and capacity needs.

Declaration of the Arab Civil Society Consultative Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition organised by APN – 4-5 May, 2012, Beirut

The Arab Civil Society Consultative Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition was held in Beirut, Lebanon on May 4-5, 2012 under the current conditions and crises affecting the international community in general and the Arab community in particular as a result of wars misuse of natural resources, increasing poverty and starvation.

More than 35 participants who attended the Workshop representing 16 countries adopted a host of recommendations and proposals aimed to motivate minds and souls as well as the societal and political will whose roots emanate from humanitarian values, religions, constitutions and local and international charters, in order to work towards enhancing respect of the humans, alleviate their suffering and provide them with food as a fundamental right and not as a donation or endowment. The participants emphasized the important role undertaken by the civil society organizations (CSOs) toward achieving food sovereignty, stressing the need for a strategic integration among Arab states in this field, noting that wars and crises are major reasons behind the deterioration of food security and nutrition in the Arab region.

Major recommendations reached by the participants to be presented to FAO Regional Conference for the Near East due to be held in Rome on May 12-14, 2012.

First: Regional Recommendations:

Arab Integration

1. Achieving Arab integration requires developing a joint strategy to realize pan-Arab food security aimed at limiting reliance on imports while being based on the principle of achieving food sovereignty through the following:

- A. Increasing joint investments in the sector of agriculture and food production and working to develop a law on unified Arab agricultural investment that takes into account local laws and regulations relating to agriculture, with a view to achieving food self-sufficiency.
- B. Increasing scientific research funding in the field of food security.
- C. Creating a unified mechanism to regulate imports of products.
- D. Building joint strategic food reserves.
- E. Working to activate a joint Arab market and eliminate customs tariffs.
- F. Holding strategic and fair agreements with the countries owning water resources to protect agriculture and ensure availability of potable water.

2. Emphasizing the role of Arab CSOs as a major partner in developing priorities, planning, implementation and accountability.

3. Adopting a unified developmental strategy based on a sustainable development methodology to reduce disparities among Arab states and support countries that need investments on its lands within the principles of fair dealing, partnership and international laws in order to achieve food security and sovereignty. Investments that do not comply with this methodology should be banned.

Declaration of the Arab Civil Society Consultative Workshop on Food

Security and Nutrition organised by APN – 4-5 May, 2012, Beirut

4. Activating the role of the Arab League in fostering all forms of Arab integration and achievement of food sovereignty to enable Arab CSOs to fulfill their roles and engage them in the work of its agencies such as the Arab Organization for Agricultural development.
5. Opposing any decision to impose food or medicine blockade on any country for humanitarian and ethical considerations.
6. Encouraging and emphasizing the need to direct Arab investments towards underdeveloped Arab countries.
7. Acquiring benefits of successful experiences of other countries and promoting inter-country trading among the nations of the South.

Second: National Recommendations

1. Supporting the ministries of agriculture and relevant institutions in the Arab homeland to enable them to commit to their responsibilities in achieving food security.
2. Emphasizing the principle of the security of land tenure and ensuring access of small farmers to markets and all kinds of productive resources without discrimination which is bound to enable them to sell their produce to the consumer directly.
3. Creating a fund to finance small and medium categories of farmers to help them deal with risks and providing interest-free loans and advances with a long repayment period.
4. Promoting the role of developmental media tools in order to spread and raise awareness among farmers.
5. Advocating the right to empower small farmers towards organizing their own unions and societies.
6. Underlining the need to take into account incorporation of articles in the constitution and legislations that guarantee achievement of the principle of the right to food and food sovereignty.
7. Using all forms of sustainable development that take into account the needs of local communities.

Third: Recommendations on the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition

1. Adopting the principle of food sovereignty as a fundamental principle.
2. Eliminating recommendations for application of the trade liberalization agreements.
3. Supporting the principle of agricultural diversity versus monoculture.
4. Adopting the concept of greening the economy and not a new green economy.
5. Crises and wars are major causes of the deterioration of food security and nutrition in the Arab region, therefore, we call for the following:
 1. Adopting the concept of impartiality and justice in dealing with crises.
 2. Stressing the need to engage specialized CSOs and other affected sectors in developing priorities and criteria as well as in the analysis process by using a systematic method.
 3. Refraining from setting any humiliating terms and conditions in the developmental support under situations of blockades and wars.
 4. Separating between natural disasters and those created by humans such as wars and conflicts which should be considered part of conditions of extended crises.
 5. Incorporating an article in the Strategic Framework that calls for a search for the root causes of wars and conflicts in order to arrive at just solutions to them while binding the party behind the damage with legal consequences and adopting the principle of compensations.

Declaration of the Arab Civil Society Consultative Workshop on Food

Security and Nutrition organised by APN – 4-5 May, 2012, Beirut

Fourth: Recommendations on Arab CSOs:

1. Emphasizing the need to strengthen the role of the civil society in achieving food security and sovereignty and enable its organizations to carry out their duties as an independent and active partner in defining priorities and in the planning and decision making process within a framework of transparency, participation, accountability and monitoring, alongside representatives of other sectors.
2. Working to adopt a proposal by the Arab Food Sovereignty Network as a civil society mechanism aimed to promote food security in Arab countries and communities.
3. Promoting all forms of cooperation and constructive dialogue with the civil society in the South and with sectors of the western civil society that share the same priorities based on the principle of respect and equality.
4. Working to gain support for the establishment and launch of the Arab Food Sovereignty Network.

Declaration of the Second Arab Society Consultation Workshop on Nutrition and Food Security organised by APN and ANFS – 11-13 September, 2013, Amman

More than sixty participants from all Arab countries took part in the Second Arab Society Consultation on Nutrition and Food Security held in Amman on September 11-13, 2013. The participants adopted recommendations reached by the First Arab Society Consultation Workshop on Food Security held in Beirut in May, 2012, in addition to other proposals that call for invigorating the will and capabilities of the Arab society towards enhancing respect of human dignity, alleviating the suffering of people and ensuring food as a fundamental right of human beings. The Consultation was held amid continued tensions in some Arab countries resulting from wars and conflicts threatening their social fabrics with fragmentation as well as partition of their lands, abuse of natural resources and growing levels of hunger and poverty.

Concerned by such developments, the participants emphasized the need for both the governments and the civil society to join hands to extinguish the near conflagration facing the region in order to be able to achieve food security and sustainable development.

Other Major Recommendations

Responsible Agricultural Investment

- ☐ Considering the criteria for responsible agricultural investment as elements embedded in the human rights framework.
- ☐ Emphasizing the need for a long term agricultural strategy including an agricultural calendar that should guide farmers to identify local market requirements, in addition to the need to organize and gear types of investment (public, private, foreign) towards the agricultural sector.
- ☐ Calling for the need to evaluate laws and regulations dealing with the issuance of licenses to investors in partnership with local civil society bodies in a transparent manners in order to be able to face up to investments that overlook addition of value to the domestic food product, prevent illegal investments and boycott their products such as those produced by Jewish colonies.
- ☐ Documenting verbal history and local knowledge of farmers, working and networking between traditional and scientific knowledge.
- ☐ Invigorating activities of movements seeking to strengthen cooperative work in agriculture, building capabilities of farmers and preventing small farmers from becoming agricultural workers. Cooperatives should be varied and capable of developing agricultural industries, increasing productivity and ability to manage available resources (inputs, natural resources), integrate services costs (storage, transportation...etc)and carry out active marketing.
- ☐ Affirming the need to study the effects of non-food crops on food security such as the bio-fuel, qat plant and tobacco.
- ☐ Encouraging products set for local markets and giving them some privileges over those targeted for export.
- ☐ Halting all patents on biological assets (living plants, animals and fish) and maintaining ownership of original seeds in their country to ensure their free use by farmers.
- ☐ Rejecting any decision to impose a blockade on food or medicine to any country.
- ☐ Governments are requested to:
 - (a) a- Shoulder responsibility to build agricultural infrastructure (irrigation systems, soil protection, storage, transportation....etc.).
 - (b) b- Develop tax, legal, organizational and labor mechanisms suitable for responsible agricultural investment.

Declaration of the Second Arab Society Consultation Workshop on Nutrition and Food Security organised by APN and ANFS – 11-13 September, 2013, Amman

- (c) c- Establish banks to keep original seeds and strengthen seed multiplication bodies to ensure farmers can obtain them at subsidized prices.
- (d) d- Help small farmers by providing all agricultural inputs, developing agricultural industries and access to markets.
- (e) e- Develop mechanisms to cope with price fluctuations and streamline them when necessary.
- (f) F- Build social safety nets to protect male and female workers in the agricultural sector and reduce the impacts of crises and disasters.
- (g) G-Develop systems to reduce food waste by directing the surplus towards those who suffer food insecurity, and work to develop systems to deal with agricultural operations composting, in addition to water treatment and reuse.
- h- Study national land tenure laws and adapt them to international laws, conventions and guidelines including voluntary guidelines on governance of land tenure, fisheries and forests in partnership with all stakeholders.
- (h) I- Avoid exclusive focus on tourism, industry and construction sectors at the expense of the agricultural sector which government should work to increase budgets allocated to it.
- (i) J- Allow for the strengthening of agricultural unions and alliances and pave the way for participation of all marginalized groups such as workers, women, youth and people under occupation.

☐ Work to achieve pan-Arab integration by:

- (a) Building a clear strategy for coordination among Arab states to focus on agriculture and its development, support the farmer and help him towards achieving food security.
- (b) Developing a data base on requirements, needs, and complementing of requirements of Arab countries to encourage inter-Arab investments coupled with a study on climate change and its effect on agricultural crops.
- (c) Studying the impact of the liberalization of world trade on agriculture and food security in the Arab world and developing countries from a national interest perspective and that of the small producers, in addition for the need for such a system to produce trade laws specific to Arab countries taking fair trade into consideration.
- (d) Setting up a research body grouping Arab experts to look for profitable investment avenues that can attract private sector capital.
- (e) Creating academic programs in Arab universities to discuss food security and locate specialists in the food security field.
- (f) Calling for a regional focus point for Arab fishermen.
- (g) Introducing and defining principles of responsible agricultural investment in regional institutions such as the Arab League and Funds.
- (h) Assigning the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty as an accredited platform for coordination between the Arab local societies concerned with agriculture and public bodies and institutions provided the Network publish annual reports on the condition of the Arab agricultural security.

Protracted Crises, Wars and Occupation:

- ☐ There is a need to include occupations as one of the types of protracted crises on the agenda of the protracted crises of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).
- ☐ Immediate action is required to put an end to wars and conflicts by all means available through

Declaration of the Second Arab Society Consultation Workshop on Nutrition and Food Security organised by APN and ANFS – 11-13 September, 2013, Amman

the establishment of just peace, without which there will be no food security and sustainable development.

□ A study of the root causes of protracted crises is required to facilitate the process of finding sustainable solutions to them. It is also important to discuss the effects of the following factors on conflicts:

- a- Abuse of natural resources
- b- Monopoly of resources and production processes
- c- Seizure or confiscation of resources, such as land and water
- d- Discrimination policies in all its political, ethnic and sectarian forms,
- e- Foreign ambitions to control local resources and strategic sites
- f- Foreign powers igniting seditions and seeking to prolong them for purposes of control and weakening of states especially through armament, financing rival parties and military intervention.

G- Tyranny and absence of justice, freedom and balanced development, as well as rampant corruption.

• The need to examine the reasons for the low food security in protracted crises in order to reach to ways to deal with them. They include the following:

- a - Failure to meet the productive type of the consumption pattern
- b- Lack of integration in the policies of the various international institutions
- c - The destruction of infrastructure and services (no electricity, power or water)
- d - Rising prices
- e - the closure of border crossings and airports
- f - The exploitation of conflicts by merchants (raising prices and smuggling of goods)
- g - Lack of commitment to quality and quality specifications as well as public health requirements.
- h – Weak governance due to frequent changes of governments, non-application of the law and double standards on the local and international levels
- i - Lack of education and delivery of information and facts
- j - The absence of civil society and marginalization of small farmers
- k - The impact of crises on neighboring countries because of the refugees, pressure on resources and shut- down of roads and commercial markets
- l- The use of food and water as tools of pressure and collective punishment against the peoples
- m- Reconstruction or rehabilitation in a manner beneficial to capitalist parties or certain large companies
- n - Terms of donor countries and international financial institutions to adopt certain policies threatening food sovereignty

• The need to develop a careful long -term strategy to include the following:

- a - The provision of basic needs such as water, food, medicine and sanitation, and security for women and children , along with a ban on the use of food and water as weapons or tools of control and persecution.
- b- Preference for development aid over other aid that creates dependency and does not meet the actual needs.
- c - Access to the population in all areas of conflict and help them to continue production through access to land, water and national wealth.

Declaration of the Second Arab Society Consultation Workshop on Nutrition and Food Security organised by APN and ANFS – 11-13 September, 2013, Amman

- d – Supporting community innovations to hold on to the land, protection of natural resources, identifying ways to reduce consumption and promote self-reliance through the creation of employment opportunities for household members and development of traditional crafts and manual labor, in addition to the development of alternatives to food stuffs, encouraging urban agriculture and “ home economics “, as well as encouraging barter programs.
- e -Spreading awareness about the effects of conflicts by documenting cases of human rights violations during fact - finding and international protection missions.
- f- Asking United Nations bodies to monitor violations of livelihoods and enforce respect for international laws and conventions, impose the right of return and relocation of displaced persons along with a rehabilitation of resources.
- g – Creating a fund to protect against risks along with early warning systems and funds to fight droughts and ensure physical protection and nutrition.
- h - Create scientific and research centers specialized in issues of protracted crises and food security.
- i – Resort to the judiciary to obtain rights.

Monitoring the decisions of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the extent of their application in the countries:

- As a first step, governments and communities must be alerted to the importance of the role played by the CFS, the significance of engaging in its programs and the need for them to work on activating its decisions.
- The involvement of civil society with all its sectors and geographic diversity to establish priorities in the topics that will be subject to monitoring.
- Development of indicators for the achievement of food security should not be limited only to the abundance of and access to food, but should also include indicators that reflect the level of food security in the long term, such as reliance on local production instead of imports and sustainability of productive resources in addition to the size of the strategic food reserve.
- Issuing annual reports showing the degree of implementation of policies and their results and the reasons for their success or failure to be a guide for states to improve.
- Monitoring work should include the United Nations, governments and civil society.
- Monitoring efforts should cover marginalized groups such as those forced to migrate as a result of wars and disasters, expatriate workers, women, young people, small farmers and people who are subject to military occupation.
- Ensuring harmony between the decisions of the global civil society mechanism and other international resolutions in order to avoid duplication with other systems.
- Attention should be paid to simplifying methodologies to ensure their applicability and helping civil society morally and financially to be able to develop its own monitoring and participation methods.

Civil Society Assessment of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis – 2015

CSM involvement in the FFA process

The CSM Protracted Crises Working Group had been deeply involved in the CFS Protracted Crises Process since its materialization in 2012. Through its membership in the CFS Steering Committee and Technical Support team and its participation in the e-consultations, OEWG meetings and Global Consultation in Ethiopia, the CSM Working Group managed to greatly contribute to the preparation process of the Agenda for Action for Addressing Insecurity in Protracted Crises (CFS-A4A), bringing on board the experiences, opinions, convictions and needs of communities vulnerable to protracted crises.

While the CFS-A4A was meant to be endorsed in CFS 41, the lengthy discussions in the July 2014 negotiations made it impossible for the A4A to be finalized in 2014. A revised draft of the now called CFS Framework for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) was made available in December 2014.

The CSM Coordination Committee meeting in October 2014 defined protracted crises as a priority work stream for the CSM for 2015 and asserted that full support should be given for the Protracted Crises Working Group during this last period of the negotiation process.

For this purpose, a series of activities were carried out in the first months of 2015, including a strategy workshop of the CSM Working Group and a CSM organized public event with civil society voices from protracted crises countries, well attended by CFS members and participants; participation to the OEWG meetings on FFA; written submissions to the new drafts; bilateral meetings with CFS actors; preparation and participation in the final negotiations from 7-8 and 18-22 May 2015.

The adoption of the FFA is scheduled for the 42nd session of the CFS, from 12-16 October 2015. Key aspects CSO assessment of the FFA:

The CSM Working Group was a highly committed and active actor in the three years of elaboration and negotiation of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises, as it is now presented for approval to the 42nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Throughout the process, the CSO delegation successfully negotiated with states, specialized Rome-based UN agencies, private sector and other stakeholders, making great strides in a three-year effort to define more-appropriate standards for concerted actions in the field and the bureaus for all parties involved in ongoing—and likely future—protracted crises.

The CSM WG welcomes that many fundamental concerns and substantial proposals from civil society were accepted after sometimes-long debates and included into the text. In this regard, the CSM WG highlights the following achievements as enshrined in the different chapters of the final draft of a framework document dealing specifically with the issues of food insecurity in protracted crises. The CSM Working Group also flags the shortcomings of the document, and stresses the challenges for the future.

The Character of the Document

- The FFA departs from a holistic and a comprehensive understanding and examination of root and underlying causes of food insecurity and under-nutrition, without narrowing the scope to resilience only.

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- The FFA is based on a human rights approach that shall lead all action taken to address food insecurity and nutrition in Protracted crisis, and shall complement the developmental and humanitarian approaches.
- The concept of Prevention is now well-established throughout the document, as CSM delegates insisted to integrate it in the relevant parts.

Introduction

- Inclusion of foreign occupation as a root cause for food insecurity and undernutrition in crises areas and as a situation that needs particular attention when ensuring safe and unimpeded access to humanitarian and food aid
- Inclusion of climate change as an underlying cause of food insecurity and undernutrition
- Clear identification of the main reasons behind the failure of policies and programs in protracted crises situations including the undermining of local capacities, institutions and priorities by externally driven interventions; a lack of commitment to support small-scale food producers, and vested commercial, political and institutional interest

Stakeholders

- Ensuring that all relevant stakeholders are clearly listed in the FFA
- Addition of the words “ or impacting” to the chapeau: “The Framework is intended for all stakeholders who may have a role in improving or impacting food security and nutrition in protracted crises...”
- Recognition of the central role of smallholders, although state delegations resisted adding “landless” to its definition in the relevant footnote.

Principle 1

- Integration of policies that foster local food systems as a main component of supporting resilience including through local procurement and building food reserves
- Removing an article that encourages sustainable adaptation for people’s displacement and including one that supports durable solutions in general, including return to place of origin if possible.

Principle 2

- CSM managed to include stress on the importance of food safety regulations, as well as the need to strengthen the capacity and participation of local food producer and consumer organizations to improve food safety in protracted crises.

Principle 3

- Integration of the principles of consistency with international human rights law, the prohibition to use food as a tool for political or economic pressure, and the obligation to refrain from adopting unilateral actions incompatible with international law, including the UN Charter, which endanger nutrition and food security, as stated by the 1996 Rome Declaration.

Principle 4

- The full recognition that States shall fully observe their human rights obligations under international law in order to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security
- The obligation to respect, and to ensure respect to International Humanitarian Law
- States, parties involved in conflict, and other stakeholders should consider how their policies and actions could impact food security and nutrition in other regions and countries affected by protracted crises and consider relevant appropriate actions.
- The recognition of the special protection of indigenous peoples affected by, or at risk of protract-

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ed crises.

Principle 5:

- The obligation to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in support of food security and nutrition in protracted crisis situations, as recognised by relevant international legal instruments, in particular the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Principle 6

- The recognition of the need to analyse and examine the underlying determinants of food insecurity and malnutrition and the need for analyses to be country owned

Principle 7

- The recognition of the need for affected countries to own programs and oblige cooperation partners to work through country institutions to avoid undermining them or creating parallel systems.

Principle 8

- The recognition of the need of debt reduction and relief as a key measure to ensure food security and nutrition in protracted crises

Principle 9

- The importance of the link between peacebuilding and tenure rights: “Taking steps by all stakeholders, and in all types of protracted crises, to respect the existing rights under international law of members of affected and at risk populations, and their ability to access and use their natural resources.”

Principle 10

- Reinstating the reference to the CFS Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (Tenure Guidelines), and the the FAO Guidelines on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries, emphasizing the respect to the legitimate tenure rights of individuals, farmers, smallholders, small-scale food producers, indigenous peoples and members of affected and at risk populations

Challenges and Omissions

- The original Action Plan was replaced with another, shorter, diluted section titled “Dissemination, Use and Learning.” The terms application and implementation are used in other parts of the document, but not in the last one.
- Although the commitment for monitoring is recognized in other parts of the document, there was a strong unwillingness by governments to add monitoring to this section. There is no section on roles and responsibilities, as in previous CFS major decisions on governance of tenure and responsible agricultural investment. Reference to “extraterritorial obligations” was not possible to include explicitly; however the following statement was included in principle 4: “states, parties involved in conflict, and other stakeholders should consider how their policies and actions could impact food security and nutrition in regions and countries affected by protracted crises and consider relevant appropriate actions.”
- Reference to the “do no harm” principle was equally not possible to include as such. However, a statement was included in principle 8: “Working to ensure that food security and nutrition related interventions do not exacerbate tensions or conflict”
- No references to the concepts of agroecology and transitional justice were included, due to strong opposition of some delegations. No reference to the Universal Health Coverage and the World Health Assembly nutrition targets was included, due to the opposition of several delegations.

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In spite of these shortcomings, the CSM WG considers the FFA and all the essential elements listed above as an extraordinary achievement. The main challenge is the path ahead.

The path ahead

The CSM WG on protracted crisis suggest to focus energy and discussions now on the necessary steps to ensure implementation, use and monitoring of the FFA at the national, regional and international levels. This includes the following challenges and tasks:

- Defining the roles, responsibilities and key actions that should be taken by stakeholders in different contexts, stressing the importance of putting communities in crises at the centre of planning and implementation mechanisms.
- Discussing how the FFA can be used to guide more effective policies and actions at national and regional levels
- Establishing a process for monitoring, evaluation and review of the application and impact of the FFA.

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On the Way Forward

Following the endorsement of the Framework for Action on Food Insecurity and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA) there is a need to ensure that its principles are implemented both broadly and effectively. To do this, a number of actions need to be taken.

Mobilize Political Commitment

All stakeholders should disseminate the FFA and promote its use in the development, implementation, and monitoring of more effective policies and actions at global, regional, national, local and institutional levels. The CFS should develop a communication strategy for the FFA.

Define Roles and Responsibilities

There are important roles to be played by a multitude of actors. To ensure that the specific roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders are clearly identified, the CFS could convene a high-level multistakeholder workshop where the different roles and commitments can be discussed and agreed upon.

Integrate the FFA into the work of different UN Bodies

UN specialized organizations, particularly but not limited to Rome-based organizations (FAO, IFAD, WFP), should support voluntary efforts to implement and use the FFA. This includes the provision of policy advice, technical guidance, operational tools and financial assistance to the organs of the state, local authorities and community-based organizations in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the FFA.

The UN Secretary General (UNSG) through existing mechanisms (e.g. High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, the UNSG's Special Representative for Food Security and Nutrition, or the Chief Executives' Board) should act as an advocate and catalyst in order to: address food security and nutrition in protracted crisis situations; promote the use of the FFA in reviewing and strengthening policies and actions; promote integration into broader global and regional initiatives; work together to mobilize high level commitment and action amongst all stakeholders.

The UN Human Rights System and Special Procedures, particularly the Special Rapporteurs on the Right to Food, on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, and other relevant offices under the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, should integrate the FFA into their work and contribute to its implementation, monitoring and evaluation of progress, as well as to develop the capacity of States and other stakeholders for this purpose.

Develop and Strengthen Multi-stakeholder Platforms

National governments and regional entities should facilitate and institutionalize multi-stakeholder processes to review, develop, implement, monitor and harmonize national and regional policies and actions for addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in protracted crises. Such platforms ensure that both policies and processes are owned and supported by a range of stakeholders, and to ensure the flow of information between grassroots and top-level actors.

On the global level, the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group could oversee the establishment and work of a multi-stakeholder technical working group (TWG). The TWG will provide and facilitate demand-led support to regions and countries to develop, implement and monitor policies and ac-

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tions, and to collate and disseminate lessons learnt.

Greater benefits can also be gained through increased regional and South-South cooperation. Enhance the role of Civil Society Organizations.

CSOs have a vital role to play in the promotion and application of the FFA by helping shape policies, design and implement projects, build institutional and human capacity, and facilitating knowledge and technology transfer. CSOs must also be pro-active in monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

In line with FFA Paragraph 36 (ii) stakeholders should facilitate the framework “access to, and understanding by, the communities and organizations of protracted crisis affected populations.” The CSM could commit, with the support of other stakeholders, to producing simplified guidelines on how civil society should act to advance the principles in the FFA.

Revise Current Policies and Actions

There is a need to revise current policies and actions to ensure that they fall in line with the FFA. All stakeholder including donors, cooperation partners, international organizations, civil society and the private sector should facilitate reviews of their own policies and actions. Lessons learnt and plans for advancing the FFA principles should be shared amongst stakeholders.

Development of Materials to Support the FFA

Additional materials should be developed to support the application of the FFA, including:

- A user-friendly guide to existing human rights norms applicable to food insecurity and malnutrition in protracted crisis situations, and an accessible policy reform kit to assist CFS stakeholders in developing informed and legally compliant policies and actions. This will allow all parties, both within bureaus and in the field, to benefit from a common, accessible reference tailored to meet their need to make informed and legally compliant decisions.

Monitoring

Monitoring the progress of the implementation of the FFA is another key step. The CFS should be responsible for this at the global, regional, national, and local level, ensuring that monitoring is in line with the five principles set out in the GFS (vii) and is informed by the CFS endorsed Framework for Monitoring CFS Decisions.

The CFS could create a Multi-stakeholder Monitoring Committee with the aim of receiving, compiling, and synthesizing feedback, field reports and case studies relevant to the progress of the FFA implementation, and preparing and disseminating an annual report on the use and effectiveness of the guidelines, including lessons learnt.

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