

## **Collaborative Governance Dialogue on food security and nutrition in protracted crises**

**Razan Zuayter**

**Arab Group for the Protection of Nature/ Arab Network for Food Sovereignty  
24 July 2025**

We gather here, haunted by death in Gaza and wonder, is it only them, or are we more dead in our humanity and integrity?

Ten years ago, after a long struggle, we celebrated the CFS Framework for Action, endorsed by all countries, delegitimizing the weaponization of food in the context of protracted crises.

The same countries now not only stand silent in the face of genocide, ecocide, starvation — they actively enable it.

Should we allow everything we have built to remain a delusion?

**To the US:** Is the extermination of over 900 Palestinians seeking the crumbs of survival at Gaza Humanitarian Foundation death traps consistent with your ambition to be a peacemaker?

**To the EU:** Who and how many must be killed before reviewing trade agreements?

**To corporate actors:** Is genocide worth market competition?

**To CSOs:** Isn't it timely to break donor conditionality?

**To WFP:** Why are you unable to get a single tomato seed into Gaza?

**To FAO:** why did not you work on reviving the local food system since the beginning of the genocide?

These are the ABCs of the FFA.

**In fact to the UN and all CFS actors:** Why did you paralyze the FFA which advances sovereign food systems grounded in lasting and just peace?

The world order is not designed to concretely address military or settler colonial occupation.

The genocidal and ecocidal tactics seen in their most depraved face in Gaza are also deployed across the rest of historic Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria, and in extractive colonial projects in Congo and Sudan.

Food aid is also weaponised, seen in Yemen, Haiti and many other places.

These are profound violations of the right to food—but how can the right to food be realised in the absence of the right to life itself?

UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese's recent report reveals the global network of corporate actors and charities bankrolling genocide and settler colonialism in Palestine. Corporations continue to operate in a space of impunity.

The potential of the UN decades and conventions is to ensure justice is handicapped by donor conditions, or rather instructions.

Orientalist narratives recycled through media, education, and foreign policy recast colonial domination as a divine right, lending moral legitimacy for states to neglect their extraterritorial obligations to prevent and redress crimes. This is shockingly displayed in how the UN security council veto power is used to protect regimes that genocide, starve and displace.

Yet, we are not powerless. Power works through us: how we speak, how we remember, how we resist and how we act.

Nothing should keep those here from calling for an immediate end to genocide in Gaza now.

Let us reclaim international law as a tool that strikes at the roots of structural injustice.

How have we not yet recognised ecocide as an international crime?

We can pursue food sovereignty and support farmers, even during conflicts.

It is possible. Our organization, the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature, and without any foreign funding has supported 35,000 farmers in Palestine with agricultural inputs, planting 3.1 million fruit trees that support a quarter of a million people. We salute the organizations and families doing this critical work everywhere.

We need to disseminate and translate the FFA as a viable framework to revive food systems via roots-cause redressal, rights-based peace-building and development. All actors must also assess and actualise their alignment with the FFA.

We urge CFS not to only coordinate policy but serve as a platform for international accountability. This must extend to demonstrating support for the international court of justice.

States must cease all trade that sustain genocide and enforce corporate accountability. We salute here the Hague Group who are taking concrete action to enforce international law against genocide.

We should be accurate in the terminology that informs policy. Genocide is not a dispute and 'resilience-building' is not 'shock' absorption but structural transformation. This is part of a broader project of decolonising the production of knowledge.

Civil society can play an instrumental role in restoring food sovereignty in conflict, occupation, and genocide.

Look now to Gaza. Farmers continue to sow seeds in the face of systematic starvation. APN's green resistance succeeded in supporting 600 farmers to grow food and supply Gaza's markets with 6 million kilograms of food during the genocide, imagine what could be realised if all actors mobilised in defense of life.