

# FIAN International Strategic Plan 2018-2023

Approved at IC meeting November 2017 in Nepal

FIAN International



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Preamble

FIAN International was founded in 1986 as the first international human rights organization to advocate for the realization of the right to food and nutrition. It is operating through national sections and seed groups in around 25 countries in Asia, African, Europe and Latin America, and members and partners in more than 60 countries all over the world. Holding a consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, FIAN International works closely with the international human rights system through its International Secretariat (IS) based in Heidelberg with a permanent representation in Geneva. It is financed by state and non-state donor organizations as well as through its membership. Members unite in the International Council (IC) and elect the International Board (IB). All members work along the below mentioned principles and methods, as laid down in our Statutes. With all this, FIAN International's overarching goal, as expressed in this international Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023, is to Strengthen People's Struggle for the Right to Food and Nutrition and related human rights.

The right to food and nutrition (RtFN) is part of the broader human rights framework, which FIAN International sees as a social achievement resulting from the struggles of individuals, social groups and peoples against war, oppression, exploitation, discrimination and abuses of power by governments and other powerful economic, political and religious actors. This framework is not perfect and must continue to evolve to address new threats on peoples' freedoms and reflect new social struggles. FIAN International believes in the evolutionary character of international law. Thus, FIAN International advocates for the human right to adequate food and nutrition on the basis of the International Bill of Human Rights<sup>1</sup> and further human rights conventions such as Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and at the same time works towards the progressive evolution and interpretation of the human right to food and nutrition seeking to respond to the burning challenges and struggles of our times, such as those related to the need of dismantling colonial, patriarchal and imperialistic structures.

Drawing on the struggles of different social movements – such as those for food sovereignty, women's and children's rights, and health and nutrition – in our new statutes adopted in 2014 we updated our approach to the right to food: we incorporated the nutritional dimension into our mandate and recognized the importance of food sovereignty as an overarching vision/framework. Moreover, we reaffirm the centrality of women's rights for the realization of the right to adequate food and nutrition.

FIAN International has identified the following main challenges for the realization of the right to adequate food and nutrition:

Our major challenge is to resist the dismantling of democracy and human rights. We will mobilize and contribute to build people's power by working in a holistic manner and pursuing political and legal frameworks that help to realize peoples' right to food and nutrition and its justiciability. The incursion of transnational, private corporate interests –also known as corporate capture- is degrading regional and national food systems, democratic governance and the human rights system. The corporate sector increases financial control and commodification of land, seeds, food, and water. Governments are retreating from their duties and obligations and there is a rise of authoritarian and repressive regimes. Civil society contends with reduced policy space and faces the criminalization of their social and political struggles both in the

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<sup>1</sup> The International Bill of Human Rights consists of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (adopted in 1948), the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#) (1966) with its two Optional Protocols and the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) (1966).

Global South and the North. FIAN International will work to rebuild democracy and to restore the ecological integrity and social fabric that support healthy and sustainable food systems.

The SP is based on diverse struggles in which FIAN sections are involved at national level as well as on common international struggles that are of strategic importance for the right to food and nutrition. As a response to the above mentioned challenges, the agreed common struggles of the entire organization under this SP are as follows:

**FIAN International will work for:**

**1) Adequate food and nutrition and healthy diets in sustainable and localized food systems**

We prioritize the rights and demands of the most marginalized populations who experience violations of the right to food and nutrition. Governments are subsidizing the production and consumption of low quality “junk” food, which leads to forms of hidden hunger including obesity and chronic health conditions like many cancers, diabetes, heart diseases, and other organ disorders. Ultra-processed products are increasingly linked to intellectual and emotional disability. In many rich and poor countries alike these products are mainstreamed into emergency food systems magnifying public health risks among low income and impoverished populations. The production systems that foreground monoculture threaten bio-dietary diversity. Agricultural and other food systems workers represent the most food insecure population and often are exposed to the most toxic substances. The lack of regulation of the food industry enables the corporate sector to undermine the entitlement of rights holders to know what is in their food.

**2) Peoples’ sovereignty over food systems and natural resources and the promotion of agroecology**

Land, oceans, rivers, forests, and all of nature are much more than means of production; they are the very basis of life, culture and identity, and fulfill crucial social, cultural, spiritual and environmental functions. FIAN International will work for the respect and promotion of the rights of peoples, communities and groups to self-determination, which includes their respective forms of self-organization, and governance of their lands, natural resources, common spaces and territories. Sustainable livelihoods depend upon small-scale, diversified and agro-ecological production, which also yields the majority of the world’s food. We will build alliances with communities struggling to control their lands, water, forests and fisheries. In doing so we advocate the rights of indigenous peoples and the rights of peasants and other people living in rural areas.

**FIAN International will work against:**

**3) Corporate take-over of the food systems and food governance, and financialization and commodification of resources**

Transnational companies obstruct local and national patterns of food production, markets and economies. Together with global financial and multilateral institutions, they are monopolizing public spaces of food governance. Governments have relinquished the capacity and formal authority to shape the limits of transnational business practices associated with land concentration and territorial dispossession, the deterioration of food quality, and the erratic behavior of international markets. We oppose financialization which is the growing power and influence of the finance industry and its way of operating in all sectors of the economy as well as society by placing a monetary value on nature itself. FIAN International will continue the struggle for dismantling corporate power and for establishing binding mechanisms to regulate TNCs and other business monopolies. We will fight for the democratization of both economic and political aspects of the food systems to overcome the concentration of food markets.

**4) Dismantling of democracy and human rights, both individual and collective, and the criminalization of social and political struggles and actors**

FIAN International fights the obstruction of public accountability and the dismantling of the democratic promise that governments will respect, protect and fulfill human rights. The intentional weakening of public

institutions in charge of social wellbeing and redistribution of wealth exacerbates inequality and destabilizes social peace. Chronic poverty, structural violence and internal and cross-border conflicts result in migrants and refugees, destroy the social fabric and the belief of the youth in a decent life. Resistance to these injustices has been criminalized and met with brutal repression, and the realization of a human right to adequate food and nutrition has been severely compromised.

## **5) Environmental and climate destruction**

FIAN International opposes extractive activities, contaminating manufacturing, and industrial agriculture that pollute and degrade water, soils, air, and biodiversity. Fertile land has been lost and fisheries decimated. The synergistic effect of these practices ruin the reliability of the earth's ability to heal itself. They directly contribute to green house effects, disrupt ecological interactions, and destroy the integrity of sustainable environments that sustain human livelihoods.

### **1.2 FIAN International's Vision and Mission (Mandate)**

FIAN International envisions a world free from hunger and malnutrition, in which every person fully enjoys all human rights, particularly the human right to adequate food and nutrition, alone, in association with others, or as a community, in dignity and self-determination.

In pursuit of this vision, FIAN International's mission is to contribute throughout the world to the implementation of the provisions of the International Bill of Human Rights and other relevant human rights documents by working for the respect, protection and fulfilment - defined as facilitation, promotion and provision - of the human right to adequate food and nutrition of persons or groups threatened by or suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

### **1.3 Nature of the Strategic Plan:**

- i. The international Strategic Plan serves as the guiding framework for all entities of FIAN International – IC, IB, IS, Sections, and seed groups in their development to become a section
- ii. Sections will have national strategic plans, aligned with the International Strategic Plan.
- iii. Sections will work on all objectives of the Strategic Plan taking into account their national context, resources and capacities.
- iv. The Strategic Plan includes an overarching and three specific objectives, which are defined through sub-objectives and related strategies and lines of activities. The Strategic Plan furthermore includes a matrix with concrete activities, timelines, responsibilities and indicators to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of each objective. IS and Sections detail in this matrix who will carry out which activities, providing indicators of process or achievement.

### **1.4 Monitoring of the Strategic Plan:**

- v. Sections and IS will report on the basis of the matrix including responsibilities, timeframe and indicators, to the IB in the second semester of 2019 as a basis for a mid-term evaluation at the International Council meeting in 2020.

### **1.5 General principles**

- vi. The Strategic Plan is based on the human rights principle of non-discrimination, among others. Priority attention is given to advancing the rights of the most disadvantaged and marginalized people in society suffering from and threatened by hunger, malnutrition, food insecurity, and violations of their human rights.
- vii. In this line, particular attention is given to the condition of women and children, especially girls, and the struggle for women's rights as an integral part of our mission.

## 1.6 Working towards change:

- FIAN International promotes human rights education and raises awareness about the human right to food and nutrition.
- FIAN International responds to requests from people - individuals as well as people organized in communities or movements- whose human right to food and nutrition is threatened or has been violated.
- FIAN International researches, analyzes and documents concrete cases of violations of the human right to food and nutrition.
- FIAN International works for the inclusion of the right to food and nutrition within the legal and political frameworks and instances that help realize its recognition and justiciability.
- FIAN International denounces and demands investigation and punishment of the actors responsible when informed of infringements of the physical and mental integrity of individuals, related to violations of the human right to food and nutrition, and violence against those defending this right.
- FIAN International holds governments and other actors accountable for their human rights obligations and their responsibility to prevent and stop violations, and to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights for all. This includes monitoring of public policies, advocacy and recourse to the law in close cooperation with people struggling for their human rights.
- FIAN International contributes to the strengthening of existing and the development of new instruments for the protection of human rights and related State accountability within the United Nations system and other legal regimes.
- FIAN International identifies and analyses global causes, policies and challenges which pose a threat to the full enjoyment of the RtFN and proposes alternatives in compliance with a human rights based approach.
- FIAN International actively seeks to build strategic alliances to strengthen peoples' organizations engaged in the transition towards more sustainable and equitable food systems and in the defense of the human rights of all, and to promote the convergence of struggles across constituencies and issues.

## 1.7 Constituencies:

When talking about "people", FIAN International refers to rights holders, organized in social movements, associations, communities or individually: Children, women, peasants, indigenous peoples, consumers, urban food insecure people, LGTBIQ, fishers, forest communities, pastoralists, landless, rural workers, migrant workers, informal workers, trade unions, people with disabilities, elderly, people affected by natural disasters; asylum seekers and refugees.

Other actors FIAN International engages with are

- duty bearers: governments, public authorities, parliaments, judiciary, intergovernmental organizations, regional human rights mechanisms etc
- partner NGOs, academia, donor agencies, media representatives, general public.

## 1.8 Struggles and topics:

The Strategic Plan is grounded on the fact that the struggles for the Right to Food and Nutrition are manifold and interlinked, although often fragmented. Some people struggle against environmental/climate destruction and for the control over natural resources to feed themselves and their communities; other people struggle against exploitative conditions of work and for living wages; other people struggle against aggressive marketing and promotion of ultra-processed foods making people sick and for healthy, sustainable diets. One key challenge of FIAN International is to contribute to the convergence of these different struggles and make the interconnections among them and with the right to food and nutrition visible, and to reinforce and strengthen the building of these movements.

Moreover, FIAN International recognizes the integral role of the full realization of women's rights as a pre-condition for the realization of the RtFN in all struggles: women produce the majority of food grown and perform most of the unpaid care work, yet account for the majority of the world's hungry, own less than 2%

of the land, have limited access to education and decision-making, and their rights and priorities remain insufficiently addressed in legal frameworks, policies and programs and practices – with implications for everyone's RtFN, including children.

Supporting manifold struggles for the RtFN poses the challenge to improve our ability to apply the RtFN to diverse situations as well as the challenge to bring these struggles to converge and to keep our unity and profile as one organization. Under this SP the agreed common struggles of the entire organization were mentioned above.

## 2 STRATEGIC PLAN – OBJECTIVES

### Overarching Goal:

**People's struggle for the Right to Food and Nutrition (RtFN) and related human rights is strengthened.**

### Specific Objective SO1:

**People have an increased understanding of the RtFN and use it more effectively in their struggles**

**SO1.1** Knowledge co-construction and capacity development for action are in place – People (affected, partners, FIAN International, etc.) know and understand the RtFN in the framework of food sovereignty and its relevance in the light of contemporary challenges

**SO1.2:** Case documentation and analysis as basis for accountability work (SO2) are developed – FIAN IS, sections and partners apply their knowledge in analyzing and documenting concrete cases of human rights violations of RTFN and related human rights as solid basis to take legal, political, public and communication accountability actions.

**SO1.3** State Policies are monitored and analyzed - People and their organizations (FIAN International, partners, as well as affected communities with whom FIAN International has working relations) apply their knowledge and skills in action-oriented research and data collection for the monitoring and analysis of policies and ensure public dissemination widely.

### Specific Objective SO2:

**People have an increased capacity to claim for the respect, protection and realization of the RtFN and related human rights**

**SO2.1** People use more effectively existing accountability mechanisms to claim their RtFN

**SO2.2** FIAN International together with people's organizations contributes to the further evolution of the RtFN and human rights in order to make it more adequate and responsive to contemporary challenges

### Specific Objective SO3:

**FIAN International is strengthened as an international organization with a coherent and cooperatively articulated work among its sections, and with strategic alliances with peoples' movements that struggle for the realization of the RtFN and related human rights and for food sovereignty**

**SO3.1** FIAN is strengthened through an active and diverse membership base, financial consolidation and sustainable growth

**SO3.2** FIAN is strengthened as one international organization through better visibility, communications and transparent governance mechanisms

**SO3.3** FIAN is strategically cooperating among its sections, particularly at the regional level, as well as with people's movements and CSO partners