

Joint statement at the Interactive Dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (EMRTD)

FIAN and IT for Change

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This statement is made on behalf of FIAN International and supported by IT for Change.

We welcome the Expert Mechanism's study, which identifies serious risks and challenges arising from the use of artificial intelligence. AI risks further homogenizing food systems in ways that favor industrial, corporate production models, to the detriment of small-scale food producers, peasants, Indigenous Peoples, rural women and youth, and their diverse and sustainable production, management and food systems. This entails an exacerbation of exclusion and marginalization, undermines the right to food and self-determination, and erodes the diversity of collective knowledge, practices and innovations developed by food-producing communities, with impacts on several social and cultural rights.

Growing concentration of technological and economic power through increasing convergence among "Big Agriculture," "Big Technology," and "Big Finance,"[TC5.1] and the use of intellectual property laws, particularly patents and trade secrets, turns rural communities into mere sources of extractable data and knowledge. It also constrains open innovation and entrenches corporations' monopolistic control over digital infrastructures and AI development. Proprietary rights must be balanced with safeguards to ensure transparency, accountability, and the public interest.

We support the Expert Mechanism's call for strong, human rights-based regulatory protections, particularly for marginalized groups. Such regulation should address corporate concentration, ensure accountability for human rights and environmental impacts, and safeguard the rights of present and future generations.

We also urge states to recognize data as a 'knowledge commons' and to establish obligations for dataset transparency, common standards on AI data provenance and use, equitable benefit-sharing, and preferential access for communities whose data is used to train AI.