

Message from the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Sofía Monsalve Suárez

October 28, 2026

Today, a combination of factors is seriously threatening food security in several regions of the world.

The first is climate. The 2026–27 El Niño has already reached "super" status and is expected to be the most intense ever recorded.

The second factor is war, which is disrupting supply chains.

But why does this convergence of climatic, geopolitical, and economic factors loom so threateningly over so many countries? Because their food systems are already fragile. Decades of neoliberal policies have encouraged excessive dependence on imports; industrial monocultures that depend heavily on global supply chains for inputs based on oil or gas; the overexploitation of ecosystems and workers; and extreme inequalities in access to and control over the resources needed to feed ourselves.

In this context, I welcome the letter that African Faith Leaders addressed to the Gates Foundation demanding reparations. Powerful actors such as private foundations must be held accountable — especially when their interventions have failed to achieve declared purposes such as reducing hunger, improving nutrition, and making food systems more resilient and sustainable.

The looming food crisis makes more urgent than ever transition pathways towards agroecological and territorial food systems, which center human dignity and protect life. More than ever we need the ingenuity of peasant farmers, artisanal fishers, pastoralists and Indigenous Peoples to adapt food systems to climate change.