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**Dear Theresa,**

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to share our experiences and recommendation to Climate Change and Human Rights during the consultation last Friday. As promised, below receive more Submission from COTFONE.

**COTFONE Submission from Uganda Re: [Global R2HE] Call for consultations - Secretary-General’s report on the impacts of climate change on the human rights of people in vulnerable situations**

**Climate Change and Human Rights: COTFONE Promotes Agroecology and Alternative Food Systems in Uganda.**

COTFONE has been promoting agroecological practices for many years, achieving significant results and making a name for itself as one of the most reliable partners in the vulnerable Communities in South Western Uganda. Through this initiative we aim to improve the livelihoods of local farming communities in Uganda by promoting a transition towards an agroecological food system, building alliances and strengthening the contribution of COTFONE Climate Change and Agriculture initiatives to making agroecology the agriculture of the future.

The Agroecology and Alternative Food Systems in Uganda initiative continues to invest in partnerships with agroecological networks by developing links and synergies with other projects and organizations, strengthen COTFONE projects such as school and Community food gardens, Presidia and Earth Markets as successful cases of agroecological approaches, increase the COTFONE presence in local policy platforms which work on agroecology, and finally raise awareness among consumers of the benefits of agroecological products.

The Uganda' rich agricultural biodiversity is at risk, and with it the capacity of food systems to provide food security and dignified livelihoods. Despite an increasing global recognition of the importance of agroecology, it has received insufficient attention from policymakers and researchers, who have instead focused on expanding the yields of a few select crops with the use of improved seeds, hybrids and GMOs, as well as large quantities of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

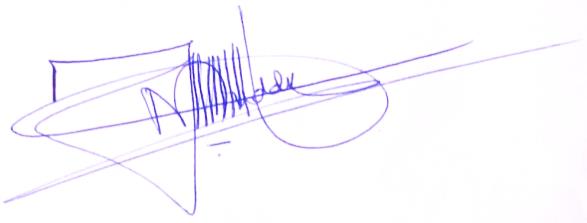
In Uganda, the effects of climate change are affecting local communities with alternating periods of drought and localized flooding. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated a range of long-standing challenges such as the dependence of small-scale farmers on the purchase of seeds and fertilizers, limited access to markets and scarce availability of local, healthy and nutritious food at affordable prices.

COTFONE hold a set of promising approaches for strengthening the recognition of agroecology with a strong focus on networking, capacity building among farmers, the scaling-up of grassroots initiatives, promoting the benefits of eating agroecological food and advocating for agroecology with local governments and institutions.

Along with the Agenda 2030 and SDGs, The COTFONE Agroecology and Alternative Food Systems in Uganda initiative purpose is in line with the aims of the Paris Climate Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Agroecology has been spearheaded by the FAO in recent years and is receiving more interest worldwide from different institutions as an effective answer to climate change and the interrelated challenges facing food systems.

Over the years, policies in Uganda and East Africa at large have focused mostly on crop agriculture and intensive livestock breeding systems, neglecting the importance of indigenous crops, wild food plants and livestock breeds; rural communities have benefited little from the strong focus on agricultural growth. In Uganda, in 2019, a process for the development of a national strategy for scaling up of agroecology was started.

For more about our work on our Environment and climate change work visit <https://www.cotfone.org/environmental-conservation/>

Until further Engagements,

**Kayinga Muddu Yisito**

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**Community Transformation Foundation Network (COTFONE) is non-profit community driven network of rural organisations (state and non-state) working together to address the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable people for healthy and Self-reliant communities in the areas of Greater Masaka Sub-region in South Western Uganda.**

**Watch COTFONE Video Now!**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72Ax7pLJPzY**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72Ax7pLJPzY)