



Item 3: Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the right to food – 3/4 March 2020

Report of the Special Rapporteur - [A/HRC/43/44](#) “Critical perspective on food systems, food crises and the future of the right to food”

M Hilal Elver – Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, presenting the report:

As a conclusion of 6 years of work, the **realization of the right to food remains a distant, if not impossible reality for too many.**

Human rights of food system actors, including agricultural workers and small consumers are often **ignored and their rights violated.**

The **power** in the food system is **concentrated in the hands of a few corporate actors** and measures mostly benefits **multinational corporations** and big land owners over the interests of local producers

Several states adopted **neo-liberal reforms that deregulate and privatise food market.**

Over the past 6 years, **the biggest achievement was the 2018 UN declaration on the right of peasants.**

Food system workers continue to rank among the **world’s most food insecure.**

Biodiversity is diminishing at a concerning rate, threatening food supplies.

Indigenous peoples face severe food insecurity, extreme poverty and other human rights deprivation.

For the 1st time in history, there are **more obese than undernourished** people in the world.

Grave food crisis observed in the past 6 years, threatening over 130 million people:

- In **Syria**, 900.000 persons displaced since December 2019, without sufficient water, food or basic necessities,
- In **Yemen**, world’s worst humanitarian crisis. 15.9m people are experiencing hunger each day.
- Similar food crisis observed in **South Sudan, Gaza Strip and Myanmar.**

Eliminating hunger and malnutrition for all will require a global participation of all actors. However, **states continue to neglect right to food.**

Country visit – Azerbaijan: The country is **focusing its efforts** on the development of food facilities and institutions for **food safety**. But despite positive achievements, agricultural development is **not yet beneficial** to the whole society.

Country visit – Zimbabwe: **Starvation** is slowly making its way in the country. **Social problems** contribute to the storm of insecurity touching the country.

Country visit – Italy: The country demonstrated its commitment and active role in engagement with human rights mechanisms. Italy’s food system exploits **small land owners farmers & workers**. Representing half the total workforce in the sector, **agricultural migrant workers** are one of the most vulnerable groups.

List of speakers – States: **African States:** Zimbabwe (*country concerned*), Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan, Cameroon, Ethiopia. **Asia-Pacific States:** Philippines, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, China, Nepal. **Middle East:** Palestine, Algeria, Iraq, Egypt, Libya. **Eastern European States:** Azerbaijan (*country concerned*), Armenia. **Western Europe and Other States:** Italy (*country concerned*), European Union, Holy See, Turkey. **Latin American and Caribbean States:** Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Venezuela, Brazil.

List of Speakers – Other Stakeholders: Organization of Islamic Cooperation, FAO, UNICEF, WFP, FIAN International; Action Canada for Population and Development; Right Livelihood Award Foundation; China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation; International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations; Organization for Defending Victims of Violence; VAAGDHARA; China NGO Network for International Exchanges; Association d'Entraide Médicale Guinée; International Educational Development, Inc.

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