



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

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PRESENTATION OF THE THEMATIC REPORT

Mr. Michael FAKHRI, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

The Special Rapporteur (SR) presents his new thematic report dedicated to the right to food, finance and national action plans. Compared to previous thematic reports, this one is the most practical oriented. This report addresses the key question of **how can countries use the right to food to transform their national food system**.

When the COVID pandemic struck in 2020, it immediately triggered a food crisis. There is no obvious reason why a virus and a pandemic would trigger a food crisis. The pandemic finally confirmed what many of us knew for decades - that **most food systems do not serve the people**. Most food systems produce violence. Most food systems violate people's human rights and serve the interests of corporations, financiers and the wealthy. The SR drafted several reports on how to respond to the food crisis triggered by the pandemic.

The dark irony is that **when the pandemic ended, the food crisis got worse**. For some reason, governments did not learn the correct lessons. During COVID, governments implemented



temporary measures that to some degree alleviated the hunger crisis, such as giving people direct cash payments, supporting territorial markets and local producers, focussing on women and other people in communities involved in taking care of families and their community. But instead of turning those programmes into permanent policies, governments ended those programmes, which made the food crisis worse.

Now, several years past the pandemic, the **rates of hunger increase due to climate change** getting worse. The rate of violence, starvation and famine is also increasing. The question is why are countries vulnerable to starvation and famine in the first place. This is because their food systems are not designed to serve the people. Every major powerful country, every permanent member of the Security Council, either directly or indirectly, supports **starvation as a weapon**.

If countries do not change their food system today, most notably small countries, island countries, and developing countries - the majority countries of the world – they are increasing the risk of exposing themselves to starvation, famine and hunger. We are going to see **food used as a weapon of war** more and more going forward. In **Palestine**, we are witnessing the **fastest starvation campaign in modern history**. In **Sudan**, it is the largest, largest number of people facing starvation and famine in modern history. Again, this is due to the fact that their food systems have been designed poorly.

Hunger is not caused by natural causes. For the last 100 years, it is a matter of fact that **hunger is always the result of political failure**, of institutional shortcomings. With this report, the SR provides a concrete way forward, what to do, how to transform food system in light of existing realities. One of those existing realities is the **debt crisis**. Many countries had to borrow money to deal with COVID. This was, of course, coming out of the 2008 financial crisis.

According to an UNCTAD report from June, the global debt rates reached a **historic peak of \$97 trillion in 2023**. This was an increase by \$5.6 trillion from the previous year. To make loan payments, many governments have had to dramatically cut down on public spending, including on critical social services that are vital to ensure access to adequate food for the poorest and most affected segments of society, such as older women and single mothers. Countries are facing a terrible choice. Either they service their debt and people will get more hungry and poor, or countries attend to their people's social needs, to their hunger and poverty, and risk financial instability. In fact, many food systems themselves, as they exist today, contribute to sovereign debt, and they put farmers and food producers into debt.

The main reason is that **food systems are being dominated by corporations and governed by international financial institutions**. Human rights is not playing a central role. So, first, economies are increasingly dependent on the US dollar. The **dominance of the US dollar** makes trade-dependent nations vulnerable to the political economy of the US. The result is that for over decades, many developing countries have designed food systems specialised in **cash crops**. They are producing edible commodities, not food, and they produce them for the purpose of export in order to draw in foreign currency, especially US dollars. This is often **at the expense of diverse food crops** traditionally consumed by local populations.



Governments have also **disinvested from agriculture and social spending**, leaving food system investment to corporations and financial institutions, meaning corporations and financial institutions extract wealth from the food system, leaving people poorer and more hungry.

Furthermore, we are stuck in periods of price volatility and crisis, so-called boom and bust cycles. When **food prices rise, multinational corporations benefit**. For example, between 2020 and 2022, again, this is the COVID pandemic, fertiliser and grain trading corporations profited immensely, with fertiliser companies' profit margins quadrupling at the expense of farmers and governments in the Global South. These companies made money off of people's labour. **Climate change increases the borrowing costs** for low-income countries. Financial institutions and private lenders penalise climate-vulnerable nations with higher interest rates, leading to higher debt. More debt limits states' ability to tackle climate change and structural inequality.

In this thematic report, the SR focusses on the progressive realisation on the right to food. Many know that sometimes the concept of progressive realisation on human rights is used with a dark irony - used by governments to argue why they are not going to do anything. The SR presents the **progressive realisation of the right to food** in a way to look at governments' existing spending as an opportunity to transform their food system in a way they do not have to borrow significant amounts of money and go into more debt.

The SR presents a plan on how to first determine how much are governments already spending on their food system. There is no clear methodology on how to do that. The SR provides a methodology on how to assess how much governments already spending on their **food system from a right to food perspective**. Then the SR provides guidance on how to transform their existing budget, thereby allowing governments to radically change how their food system operates.

On 5 April 2025 in Rome, Italy, the UN Committee on World Food Security will be hosting a collaborative governance dialogue dedicated to **financing for food security and nutrition**. This is an important opportunity for countries, international organisations, and civil society to come together and discuss all the different options and risks and potential avenues of what to do on the issue of finance and food security and nutrition. The SR encourages all to send representatives from Rome-based missions and to bring to the table a **right to food perspective and plan**, or at least questions on how to use the right to food to finance food system transformation. From 30 June to 3 July 2024, the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development will be hosted in Sevilla, Spain. It is important that all stakeholders **put food systems on the agenda**, most notably the right to food. The UN Food Systems Summit +4 will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 27 to 29 July 2025. There will be a focus on financing.

In all these forums, the SR encourages all is to make sure the **debt crisis is on the agenda** during conversations about financing. In the SR's conversations with the World Bank and other international financial organisations and UN organisations, the SR realized they are reluctant to talk about debt. They just want to go straight to financing because they want to put states into more debt, which makes states weak and vulnerable. States shall make sure at every opportunity where there are discussions about financing to put debt on the agenda. States shall also make sure they bring in plans and demands for a **human rights approach to debt and financing**.



PRESENTATION OF COUNTRY VISIT REPORTS

Turning to his country visit to **Venezuela**, the SR was incredibly impressed by the peoples in Venezuela. He met many communities, Indigenous communities, urban and rural communities. Venezuela also has a very strong constitution and has a **tradition of social movement and social consultation**, which up until recently has given Venezuela some very innovative programmes based on the right to food and food sovereignty. However, what the SR did see was the **space for civil society shrinking** quickly. This goes against the spirit of the Venezuelan constitution itself. The SR hopes Venezuela maintains that space for civil society. Because of civil society and because of the strong constitution, Venezuela has one of the **most dynamic and strong laws on seeds**. The SR highlights this as an example for other countries to follow. But that was during a time when Venezuela made a huge amount of space for civil society and participation. Once more, the SR reiterates his call on Venezuela and warmly encourages it to broaden and open up space for civil society.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. Michael FAKHRI, SR on the right to food, appreciates the large number of participants and an overwhelming consensus, a shared commitment that inspires the SR, but also prompts some questions. The SR asks states - 'Are you serious about international cooperation? Are you just performing? Are you just repeating the words sent to you by the capital? Or are you serious? Because if you're not serious, I will be back here in one year, and the world will be more violent and more hungry, and many more countries will be experiencing conflict.' Then the SR stresses that **hunger is the main cause of conflict**, and **conflict is the main cause of hunger**. That is what is at stake. Elaborating on what should be done in the framework of **international cooperation**, the SR points out that states have the duty to act, most notably in two conferences that they need to attend and **put the right to food on the agenda**.

First, the **International Conference on Financing and Development** in Sevilla, Spain, at the end of June and July. States shall put debt and the right to food on the agenda; work together; have a shared agenda, in terms of regions or shared interests. States shall tell international financial institutions what they want and shall **use the language of power** suggested by the SR. Recalling the authority of states' obligations, the SR suggests that states shall tell the World Bank, the IMF, the IFAD and any other international financial institution 'this is my national food plan. This is my legal obligation. We all know - those from developing countries - for all too well, for decades, they tell us what to do, and it has never served our people. Never. We do not need more austerity measures.

On the issue of **blended finance** raised by some states, the SR believes it is too narrow and we cannot rely on the private sector. Why? The SR asks since when has the private sector financing helped the people? The problem is that the private sector is profit-oriented, and is stronger than the governance structures in many countries. With **strong governance structures** in place, then we can regulate the private sector. But then there is the language of de-risking, which means subsidising the banks and the financial institutions. The SR asks why do we need to subsidise them? The SR suggests talking with international financial institutions by putting on their tables their own national food plans and using the **language of human rights**, namely the language of power.



Second, the **UN Food Systems Summit +4** in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia at the end of July. Currently, the UN Food Systems Summit is a jumbled mess, because the right to food is not central and, by design, it is not possible to cooperate and coordinate at the Food Systems Summit process. The obstacles are rich countries, corporations, and financial institutions do not want countries to cooperate together, because if states are divided, they benefit from project financing and all these financing schemes. All they want to do is move capital. They do not care if states realise or not the right to food. They win either way.

The SR recommends attending the Food Systems Summit with a **right to food plan at hand** because human rights is the common language. If the national food plan uses a right to food framework, by definition, it is the common language that enables countries to cooperate and coordinate with each other. The language and framework of **food security and sustainability** is why we are in this confused, jumbled mess. The SR further suggests using the UNHRC to cooperate and coordinate. Ensuring effective accountability rights to rightsholders is essential for the achievement of lasting progress. The right to food is, first and foremost, a fundamental human right.

Placing emphasis on importance of **international cooperation and coordination**, the SR underscores that not a single national food plan will work without international cooperation and coordination. Beyond the UNHRC, one of the most important places where these conversations are happening with a focus on finance is in Rome at the **UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**. The SR encourages all to engage with their colleagues in Rome missions, connect and bring forward their human rights agenda in Geneva with their colleagues in Rome. The right to food is very much alive in Rome and has always been alive in Rome for the last 60 years. If **Geneva connects with Rome**, states can put this right forward and have these conversations on international cooperation and coordination from a right to food perspective.

Turning to the issue of **international trade**, every single report crafted by the SR over the past five years has an element of international trade in it. There are at least 10 reports, while he has held the mandate, that highlight the importance of trade. It is impossible to have a right to food national action plan without a position on trade. We are witnessing the collapse of the existing trade regime. We all know that the **World Trade Organization (WTO) is not working**, and that the agreement on agriculture is outdated, while people are struggling to find a way forward. The SR has done this in his own work and has put forward how **the right to food can provide a new way of thinking about international trade**.

In the SR's view, the Global Alliance Against Poverty and Hunger, currently chaired by Brazil followed by South Africa, is an excellent forum to bring the issue of **international finance** forward. This issue has already been discussed in this setting, but what is missing is putting the right to food at the centre of conversations. Brazil is well positioned because the right to food is anchored in its constitution and has been part of its food policies. All this needs to be put in a global conversation at the Global Alliance. A **human rights-based approach to finance** puts at the centre people's needs, people's power, and it holds financial institutions accountable.

If states develop their own national food plan, work with FAO, OHCHR, the SR and his team, the latter can **help states develop their own national food plan** to go to international financial institutions with a plan at hand to ask them what states want. As many developing countries



know, often international financial institutions come imposing what they think is the right way forward, and the right way forward more often than not has involved austerity measures, restricting social spending, and other policies which undermine and violate people's human rights, serving the banks and the financial institutions.

The SR also welcomes the FAO's International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) mentioned by Colombia, thereby stressing that next year the SR will present to the UNHRC his **final report dedicated to land from a human rights perspective**. It is unconceivable to talk about the right to food without talking about land.

Turning to the issue of **conflict** raised by many delegations, the SR recalls one of his dedicated reports and is glad to further discuss on the issue bilaterally. On the **situation in Gaza** raised by several delegations, the SR recalls his **report on starvation** with an emphasis on the Palestinian people's food sovereignty, delivered to the General Assembly in October 2024. This report was incredibly well received. Recalling what countries in New York outlined, the SR reports that Israel is not only starving the Palestinian people as the fastest starvation campaign in modern history, but it is also attacking the UN system. Israel has killed a record number of UN staff more than in any conflict in history. It has shot at UN peacekeepers. It has declared the UN Secretary-General as *persona non grata*. It has attacked individual mandate holders and the Special Procedures branch. What the SR heard from ambassadors in New York is that when Israel attacks the UN, it is attacking the world. That is what is at stake.

When states think about what to do about Gaza, it is in their self-interest, because **starvation and violence in food systems is on the rise**. The international community has witnessed this in Nagorno-Karabakh, Ukraine, Haiti, and Sudan. Small developing countries are vulnerable to being a victim of starvation. It is in their interest to stand up to starvation campaigns everywhere. The way to do it is, according to the International Court of Justice and the UN General Assembly, is not thinking about reconstruction of Gaza, but reparations. Israel owes the Palestinian people **reparations**. The only way to see a permanent ceasefire is through **wide-scale economic sanctions**. The only way to achieve this is to make countries coordinate and cooperate together. If countries are going to sanction Israel, they are also going to have to deal with its allies, and they have to reposition their own place in the global economy. This is going to be difficult, but it is necessary to protect themselves and their own people.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Country Concerned

The delegation of **Venezuela** thanks the SR for visiting one year ago the country and takes note of today's presentation. The SR met with national authorities of the highest level, Vice-Presidents, ministers, and other authorities. He also went through a broad agenda with civil society. However, for balance and transparency sake, it should be noted that part of the non-state agenda of the SR was done secretly without knowledge of the country's authority. This particularity meant, as was expected, access to politically motivated sources and with interests different than those of the right to food. Many times the SR decided not to hold meetings with the Venezuelan State for various pretexts. Maybe this explains why the delegation notices the absence in the SR's report of important information such as the fact that Venezuela now produces 90 percent of the foods



eaten by their population. The SR's report also contains no reference to the growing export of foods, which is an industry in the country, and the agricultural component includes small producers and large businesses alike.

In the SR's report, Venezuela notes the section devoted to the negative and criminal **impact of unilateral coercive measures (UCMs)** imposed by the United States and the European Union on the right to food of the people of Venezuela. In paragraph 23, the SR states that he was able to see firsthand how UCMs as economic sanctions have limited the Government's fiscal authority to implement its social protection programme and to provide basic public services. In paragraph 24, the SR states that sanctions are creating obstacles to the economy's recovery.

The SR further states that between 2014 and 2020, the **GDP reduced by 78 percent**, which is the greatest collapse registered by a country that is not at war, which is why Venezuela, before the International Criminal Court, has stated that sanctions are a type of war, that sanctions have a negative impact on the whole Venezuelan food production system and the resources available to guarantee and protect human rights. The SR further points to serious obstacles in importing essential services and goods due to the banks and foreign providers' actions. In paragraph 27, the SR notes that **humanitarian exemptions are inefficient and insufficient**, and they do not cover covering replacement or essential machinery for the economy's operations and vital public services.

Food is a human right which deliberately has been prevented by countries that have imposed sanctions on Venezuela. The sanctions were developed as a non-conventional weapon of war to collectively punish a people and to bring about a change in regime. In spite of many sanctions, the national Government has been recovering the social protection system. **Venezuela's economy, still besieged, has been growing sustainably**, 15 percent in 2020, 5.5 percent in 2023, and more than 8 percent in 2024. This trend is expected to hold in 2025, particularly in the food sector, the local provisioning committees known as CLAP (*Comités Locales de Abastecimiento y Producción*). Our 7.5 million households, usually with high-quality products manufactured in Venezuela. The delegation recalls that the US also sanctioned the CLAP food programme. There is no doubt that the US intention is to create food insecurity in order to bring suffering to the people in Venezuela.

For these reasons, the delegation of Venezuela welcomes the appeal of the SR on all relevant countries to review and **immediately withdraw sectoral sanctions** on Venezuela, including the secondary sanctions against third parties. Venezuela remains convinced that the best way to guarantee food security is by giving power to the people. Venezuela will hold six electoral consultations this year to ensure that communities approve their own projects and manage their own resources. In line with the **National Economic and Social Development Programme 2025-2031**, also known as the Seven Transformations Plan, Venezuela reiterates its willingness to work with food security according to the principles in the UN Charter. Venezuela supports 11 recommendations on the right to food during the third UPR cycle.

Lastly, Venezuela urges the SR to review the methodology used in some sections of the report. With all due respect, the delegation of Venezuela invites the SR to avoid politically motivated sources as well as statements devoid of scientific rigour, as this undermines the impartiality and good faith of this mandate.



Views Expressed by State Delegations

The **Netherlands jointly with the Benelux countries** (Belgium and Luxembourg) appreciates the SR's insightful report and guidance it provides for the transformation of national food systems. However, the Benelux countries voice concern at the alarming deterioration of global food security, with the most vulnerable populations bearing the heaviest burden. They remain profoundly concerned by persistently high levels of food insecurity worldwide, which in certain contexts are reaching famine-like conditions. As rightly outlined by the SR, short-term emergency measures do not adequately address the deep structural causes of hunger. To ensure a sustainable transformation, and considering an increasingly uncertain financial environment, both at the national and international level, the Benelux countries fully support the SR's call to direct funding towards strengthening national systems and capacities in nutrition. They also welcome the SR's commitment to participatory, inclusive, transparent and accountable approaches throughout the transformation process.

Norway jointly with the Nordic-Baltic countries thanks the SR for his report on how to develop national action plans for the right to food, which is a human right essential for survival. Preventing hunger and providing nutrition is fundamental for human dignity and social equality, stability and prosperity. Governments, therefore, must make it a priority in their budgets to ensure their people have access to adequate food. Committed to the multilateral system and international law, the Nordic-Baltic countries will step in to help people in vulnerable situations when governments fail to provide or even actively prevent people from access to food. They will continue to finance UN agencies and other organisations, providing humanitarian assistance to avoid famine and alleviate suffering. Those using starvation as a method of warfare should be held accountable. The Nordic-Baltic countries also agree with the need to make food systems more socially equitable, sustainable and climate friendly. To conclude, they ask the SR to elaborate on the positive role that the private and business sectors can play, including in blended finance.

Jordan jointly with the Arab Group welcome the report and share the SR's view that the debt crisis has restricted countries' ability to fulfil their obligations with respect to the right to food. The Arab Group welcomes the SR's efforts focussing on the conduct of Israel, the Occupying Power which uses hunger as a weapon of war. The Arab Group firmly condemns the Israeli decision to suspend food supplies to Gaza and to restrict UNRWA's ability to act in the occupied Palestinian territories. The Arab Group calls on the SR to examine the impact of this decision. It rejects the activities of the Israeli maritime forces against Palestinian fishermen, many of whom have been killed or injured or whose boats have been destroyed. Moreover, the Israelis have been shrinking the space available for fishing. There are also other areas that have been subjected to destruction, such as agricultural lands and other sites. This obliges the international community to take measures to ensure that pressure is exercised on Israel to stop subjecting Palestinians to hunger as a weapon of war.

Ghana jointly with the African Group commend the SR for his report focussing on guiding states to develop national plans to improve food resilience within existing budgets. Many states are currently grappling with the dire impacts of multiple crises, including the debt crisis, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and insecurity. Those challenges impact the ability of states to ensure the realisation of the right to food. Indeed, faced with these numerous challenges, several states have had a significant reduced public spending, including those devoted to social interventions



to guarantee access and adequate food for vulnerable social groups. The African Group remains concerned about the rise in inflation in several countries, making food less accessible for low-income households and increasing the number of people affected by hunger. Given the magnitude of the situation, it is essential that states establish national plans to assess the crisis, adopting a coordinated, structured and multilateral approach. It is also important to look at industrial food systems that are responsible for about a third of greenhouse gases, impacting climate change and reducing biodiversity. Agroecology is also an approach that must be promoted. Furthermore, the African Group believes that there needs to be a paradigm shift in order for states to fulfil their obligations. This includes supporting territorial markets over global markets.

On behalf of an informal **Group of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**, the **Maldives** stresses that food security is not just a policy challenge for SIDS, but a fundamental test of their resilience. The SR's report illustrates a well-known reality. Rising inflation, fiscal shocks and market disruptions continue to strain their fragile food systems. The unique vulnerabilities of SIDS amplify these risks, making food insecurity not just a matter of availability but also of accessibility and sustainability. They welcome the SR's emphasis on redesigning national budgets to prioritise the right to food. While national action plans are vital, the structural challenges faced by SIDS demand more than domestic reallocation of resources. Addressing food insecurity in SIDS requires tailored approaches. SIDS need climate-resilient solutions, global agricultural trade rules that support net food import in developing countries, technology transfer and capacity building to strengthen food production and reduce reliance on volatile markets. The global financial architecture must also evolve to provide SIDS with adequate levels of development resources and fiscal space to implement sustainable food policies without undermining broader economic stability.

Taking the floor on behalf of the **CARICOM Group, Jamaica** thanks the SR for his report, which is particularly important given the lagging progress on the SDGs, specifically SDG 2 on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture by 2030. The CARICOM Group remains committed to achieving food, nutrition and livelihood security in the region. This commitment led to the establishment of the Special Ministerial Task Force on Food Production and Food Security and formulation of a regional agri-food security framework. Within this context is a multi-stakeholder 25% by 2025 Initiative, which aims to reduce CARICOM's over \$6 billion food import bill by 25% by next year. For developing countries like the CARICOM ones, food security is often impacted by exogenous factors, such as geopolitical conflicts, high debt-to-GDP ratios and rising inflation. With consideration for the sustained threats of natural disasters and uncertainties in the multilateral trading system, CARICOM Heads of Government decided last month to extend the **CARICOM's 25% by 2025 Initiative** to 2030, focused on a holistic framework for resilient, sustainable and competitive food system, which ferments the participation of youth and women and enhanced use of technology. These efforts will be supported by an investment of \$14 million in a regional food hub in Guyana. In conclusion, the CARICOM Group underscores the role of international cooperation to promote and protect the right to food and reiterates its commitment in this regard.

Iran jointly with the Like-Minded Group of Countries take note of the SR's report and fully supports the mandate and related resolution. As a result of the unfair, unequal and anti-



democratic international order, global financial and economic crisis, foreign debts, UCMs and the impact on the use of the economic resources, millions of people are driven into hunger and malnutrition. For people in lower and middle-income countries, this has resulted in a loss of livelihood, dignity and well-being that may not be necessarily visible or quantifiable and mostly with long-term and irreversible consequences. Halting rising global food insecurity requires concerted efforts from the international community, especially those more involved with supply chain. It is crucial to address the root causes of food insecurity, mainly uneven resources distribution, non-development, poverty, inequality and conflict. Overcoming global food challenges necessitate implementing policies that promote economic development, social inclusion and peace-building efforts. Forcing international cooperation, capacity building and technical assistance is also essential for combating food insecurity on a global scale. As we discuss today, millions of civilians in Gaza face the immediate possibility of starvation. The Group strongly condemns any action that leads to the expansion of food insecurity and malnutrition anywhere and by whoever in the world, especially among defenceless people of the occupied territories.

China jointly with the Group of Friends in Defence of the UN Charter are deeply concerned at the high volatility in global food prices which challenges the right to food. Guaranteeing food security requires the elimination of all market distortion measures. Therefore, the Group strongly calls for the immediate elimination of UCMs which run against the UN Charter and international law. The Group appreciates that the SR's report on his visit to Venezuela made ample mention of the highly negative impact of criminal UCMs on the right to food. The Group highlights the tireless efforts made by the Venezuelan Government to guarantee access to food for its people despite the application of more than 1,000 UCMs. The Group reaffirms its strong support to the resolution on the right to food, which will be presented to this session. Finally, the Group calls upon states to actively engage in the promotion and protection of the realisation of the right to food in all countries.

Kuwait thanks the SR for his comprehensive study following a rigorous methodology. Kuwait spares no effort to provide food and to assist countries to address famines, thereby cooperating with all UN mechanisms to address these challenges. Kuwait hardly has any resources for drinkable water or irrigation and however it worked to achieve food security for citizens, nationals and residents overcoming all these challenges, including the pandemic. Acknowledging that international cooperation has become a necessity, Kuwait asks to the SR how to promote international cooperation through agreements or mechanisms to address these challenges.

Germany thanks the SR for his comprehensive overview about the measures to transform food systems based on the right to food. Germany remains committed to the right to food and its progressive implementation. Domestically, Germany strives towards climate-friendly, regional and seasonal production and consumption, reducing resource intensity and food waste. This goes in line with its efforts to improve nutritional value. Internationally, Germany is one of the largest donors supporting rural development and food and nutrition security, including in humanitarian crises. Annually, Germany provides 2 billion euros to support states in realising the right to food for their citizens. Despite collective efforts, climate change and conflicts continue to have a devastating effect on food security worldwide. Sudan is a case in point where another famine was declared last year caused by a violent power struggle in a region that would be and



should be able to feed its people. Germany asks the SR how could the international community do concretely to ensure food systems are designed sustainably.

Jordan is keen to consolidate its status as a regional hub for food security and humanitarian platform to deliver assistance for conflict affected zones, notably Gaza. Jordan continues to provide food assistance and medical assistance in cooperation with regional partners and international organisations. It also provides logistical support to ensure the delivery of this assistance to the zones most affected. Jordan is also committed to the humanitarian principles and to promote international and regional solidarity. The country believes that the fulfilment of this right requires promoting international partnerships and sustainable financing, especially in the states suffering from conflicts and humanitarian crises. The international community needs to adopt a comprehensive approach, including promoting local production, improving supply chain and improving social protection for the most vulnerable. Jordan asks how could the UNHRC address the ever-increasing crises and using food as a weapon.

Saudi Arabia commends the efforts of the SR and the method that he adopted to shed light on the importance of national plans and the coordination of international efforts to combat food crises and to also propagate best practises. Emphasizing the importance of this right of food for all and everywhere, Saudi Arabia has undertaken institutional and legislative measures to ensure everyone's enjoyment. The law of 2014 in the country insists on the importance of food safety and food quality and the preservation of the consumer's health through dedicated work plans, awareness campaigns, and the protection of consumers from unsafe food. Saudi Arabi has also launched a food strategy as part of its 2030 development agenda to ensure nutrition and curb any risks from unsafe food. The Kingdom has also established a dedicated authority for food safety in 2020 to regulate food and ensure the best possible outcomes. Despite the achievements of the Kingdom in this area, Saudi Arabia's Government reaffirms its continuing efforts to protect and promote all human rights with particular focus on the right to food.

Cognizant of the fact that access to enough and good quality food is a fundamental right, **Costa Rica** reiterates its commitment to the right to food. In this respect, it recalls states' obligations to respect, protect, and guarantee fundamental rights. Therefore, Costa Rica strongly believes that the right to food is first and foremost a right to be fed in dignity and not a right to be fed, period. This right goes hand-in-hand with social development, as outlined in the report on the sentence referring to 'repeated financial shocks are not an anomaly, but rather the symptom of underlying structural issues.' That means that there is an increase in the gaps to have access to the fundamental right to food. It is also well-known that global challenges, such as the triple planetary crisis, the economic crisis, and armed conflict altogether call for a collective response with solidarity. Costa Rica urges states, with international assistance, to bring about a change to the food systems in a fair, sustainable way, ensuring that no one is left behind in our struggle and fight against malnutrition.

According to **Viet Nam**, transforming food systems is essential to addressing the triple global crisis of food security, climate change, and biodiversity loss. Recognising this urgency, Viet Nam has recently adopted the National Action Plan for transforming the country's food system by 2030, which prioritises the right to food, particularly for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. This action plan reflects its unwavering commitment to ensuring a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food system. A well-transformed food system not only improves food security, but also



reinforces other human rights and accelerates progress towards the SDGs. To achieve this transformation, Viet Nam underscores the importance of international cooperation, particularly through concessional financing that avoids creating further debt burdens, technology transfer, and capacity-building to effectively support developing countries in this endeavour. Praising the SR for his insightful report and recommendations, Viet Nam remains committed to fostering public-private partnerships, mobilising domestic and international resources, and leveraging science, technology, and innovation to build a transparent, responsible, and sustainable global food system, ensuring that no one is left behind.

In **Morocco's** view, protracted crises profoundly exacerbate food systems and hunger. They highlight structural inequalities and the failure of governments. Morocco has placed food security at the heart of its development policies with a view to modernising agriculture and providing for sustainable rural development through the 'Generation Green 2030' strategy and projects to improve food supplies and natural food production by taking into account climate change. Morocco is also engaged in South-South cooperation which is exemplary. It cooperates with brotherly African countries such as the Initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA) aiming to reduce the Africa's agricultural vulnerability to climate change and the Sustainability, Stability and Security (triple S) Initiative to promote food security and sustainability. Morocco has 46 agricultural projects underway and innovative projects such as the *Agribooster* and Lighthouse initiatives in order to support farmers, thereby contributing to African solidarity and the sustainable development of the continent. Morocco asks the SR how the responsibility of host countries especially in situations of protracted crises can be combined with their international obligations to provide for food security while avoiding humanitarian aid to be diverted or used for military purposes.

Switzerland is engaged in its strategy for sustainable development 2030 to accelerate a transition towards sustainable food systems in Switzerland and beyond. The country agrees that the priorities in terms of public policy and financing must be determined in an inclusive and participatory fashion. Thus, Switzerland upholds the FAO's department dedicated to the right to food, which organises awareness-raising workshops on the right to adequate food in the context of the transformation plans of national agrifood systems. Switzerland calls on all stakeholders to adopt this human rights-based approach during the UN Summit to be held in Addis Ababa at the end of July 2025. During this Summit, Switzerland also wishes to pursue the reflections on the corollaries of the right to food. Switzerland is carrying out studies nationwide to understand how to internalize negative external costs throughout the value chain and enable investments to be re-evaluated on national action plans. In closing, Switzerland asks the SR as part of his analysis of financial flows, how to integrate the real costs of food on the environment and health as a lever for change in food systems.

Iraq praises the SR's report which tackles promoting and protecting the right to food as an integral part of human rights. It also highlights the international challenges facing the right to food given the financial crises. Stressing the importance of the right to food as a fundamental human right, Iraq works to fulfil this right through national policies to improve agriculture production and to support farmers. Iraq also provides safe food for everyone. In this respect, Iraq enacted a number of laws and developed a number of policies such as the Agriculture Investment Law of 2010 and the 2030 National Strategy, with the aim of ensuring that everyone can have access to adequate,



safe and sustainable food. Iraq faces immense challenges, including desertification and water scarcity which affect food security and agriculture production. For these reasons, Iraq calls upon the international community to support its efforts to address these challenges and to build a sustainable and more prosperous future for everyone.

Through its long-term Development Plan Malawi 2063 pursuing the goal of a self-sustaining and resilient economy, **Malawi** has taken steps to achieve food security and nutrition sovereignty by 2063. Key aspects of food security in Malawi 2063 include sustainable agriculture production, diversification of food sources, resilient food systems and climate adaptation, agro-industrialisation, improved market access and trade, nutrition and food safety, policy and institutional support, youth and women empowerment in agriculture. In order to deal with adverse effects of climate change and improve on food security, Malawi is moving away from subsistence farming by establishing mega farms, reviving education schemes and providing soft loans for education farming through the Farm Input Loan Programme administered by the National Economic Empowerment Fund. Malawi welcomes the recommendations of the SR and engages with him on the implementation.

The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** stresses that global food security undergoes many challenges including water scarcity, climate change and ever increasing prices. As mentioned in the SR's report, food is part and parcel of life. With a firm belief in this right, the UAR spared no effort to provide humanitarian and development assistance to LDCs to ease their suffering. The UAE has a socio-economic policy in place to ensure food security and ensure equality for everyone. The Government also took a number of measures to achieve food security, including the establishment of a Council for Food Security and a Council in charge of making sure the UAE has enough reserves of strategic commodities in cases of emergencies. The UAE also launched a comprehensive strategy to produce food sustainably by using modern technology and promoting local production. The UAE believes there is a need to support innovation and set a roadmap to support global food security.

Thanking the SR for his report, **Djibouti** stresses its accession to ICESR in 2022 and believes that building institutional capacity and legislative frameworks to fight hunger and malnutrition is crucial to achieve food security. In order to achieve these aims, several initiatives have been implemented, including the National Programme for Food Security, aiming to reduce poverty and food insecurity through various projects in the primary sector. From 2020 to 2024, a strategic plan was implemented to support the Government's priorities in terms of food and nutritional security to build national capacities in areas such as school meals, nutrition, social protection and emergency preparation. Djibouti asks the SR in which ways could international cooperation and the mobilisation of technical and financial support for developing countries be improved in order to support them in developing their national action plans.

The **State of Palestine** welcomes the SR's report and its focus on how financial constraints affect the right to food. However, in occupied Palestine, starvation is not just an economic consequence, but a deliberate and systematic war tactic aimed at the destruction of an entire people. Israel is weaponizing starvation as a tool of war and genocide against the Palestinian people. Today, we are witnessing yet another escalation of this crime. For 10 days, Israel has completely blocked humanitarian aid, depriving Palestinians of food, water and medical supplies, pushing them deeper into famine and suffering. At the same time, cutting electricity has



paralysed Gaza's soil desalination plant, leaving hundreds of thousands without clean water and compounding the humanitarian catastrophe. The UN warns of an imminent collapse, yet the blockade continues unabated. These are not isolated incidents, but part of Israel's long-standing policy of collective punishment, designed to dismantle Palestinian food sovereignty and undermine self-determination. By systematically eroding control over land, water and food systems, crippling agriculture and fisheries, the enforcing dependence on aid, Israel has turned the siege on Gaza into a weapon of war, an undeniable violation of international law, a war crime that must not be tolerated. Beyond Gaza, Israel's colonial policies continue to expropriate Palestinian land, destroy livelihoods and entrench apartheid in blatant violation of international law. The international community's failure to act only emboldens Israel's impunity and further undermines the global legal system. Palestine calls on the international community to take urgent action to ensure the immediate resumption of humanitarian aid.

Indonesia recognises that transforming the food system is crucial to fulfil the people's right to food. Indonesia's new administration has enacted 77 new national strategic projects for 2025 to 2029, including those highlighting our commitment to food security. We have also launched community-based forestry initiatives, as well as a free nutritious meal programme for children, which now benefits 80 million children daily. These projects are key to achieving food security, reducing import dependency, and mitigating global disruption such as climate change. Indonesia remains committed to transforming its food system for the well-being of future generations. In the occupied Palestinian territory, the ceasefire enabled vital assistance to reach the population's temporary easing starvation. However, Indonesia is deeply concerned about the renewed restriction blocking aid, which once again puts civilians at risk of starvation. In light of the Gaza reconstruction plan, Samoa seeks for the SR's initial recommendations for integrating food security into its implementation.

Samoa points out that the SR's report emphasises the importance of transparency in food systems, and that through national conversations and genuine engagement with stakeholders, a collective understanding, ownership, and response to the challenges faced can be achieved, including with our international partners. The report complements the goals and plans Samoa has laid out in its national Food Systems Pathway 2030, which were drawn from our conversations in 2021 during the Samoa Food Systems Summit. Food and nutritional security remains a priority for Samoa and the Pacific. In fact, the 2024 FAO's report on the state of agricultural commodity markets reaffirms that the highest levels of obesity in the world are consistently found in the CIDs, especially in the Pacific region. The cause is attributed to a number of factors, including vulnerability to food shortages and weather extremes, globalisation, trade, and rapid social change. Traditional knowledge and culture have an important role in transforming food systems. Access to finance is important to have access to technological innovations to boost access to nutritious food. Samoa therefore encourages partnerships through investment in agriculture and fisheries as the backbone of food and nutritional security.

With a view to achieving food security and nutritional security, the Government of **Burkina Faso** has adopted several tools, in particular the National Policy for Food and Nutritional Security, the Multisectoral National Policy for Nutrition, and the Strategic Nutrition Plan. With a view to achieving food sovereignty, Burkina Faso launched the Agro-Pastoral and Fisheries Offensive 2023-2025, based essentially on our own resources. In 2024, this has allowed for, amongst



others, the mobilisation of over 325 billion CFA francs to implement seven projects and programmes over five years, the implementation of a single fund for the agro-pastoral and fishery sector, and the implementation of an operational plan to support the campaign for dry production of a sum of 10.6 billion CFA francs. Moreover, safety nets have been consolidated for disadvantaged groups through food safety support to 500,000 vulnerable persons in 45 provinces of the country. To conclude, Burkina Faso reaffirms its commitment to cooperate with the SR within the framework of his mandate.

Togo thanks the SR for the presentation of his report on the right to food, financing, and national action plans. Indeed, resolving food security issues in the light of the service of the dead requires the drafting of national action plans in order to achieve the transformation of food systems. Aware of this, the Government of Togo has implemented several projects and programmes in order to achieve genuine food security. Firstly, amongst these, Togo mentions the creation of the National Agency for Food Security of Togo with a goal of stabilising the food market through promoting and marketing during periods of abundance and using stocks in cases of food shortages within and outside the country. Secondly, the implementation of an incentive mechanism for agricultural financing based on risk sharing, which compensates for the poor funding of agriculture. Thirdly, the implementation of agricultural planning zones or ZAP according to their French acronym, which are sites which are developed from a surface ranging between 100 to 500 hectares with facilities for mechanisation, irrigation, and good agricultural practises, as well as the marketing of production. These ZAP are being progressively implemented throughout the country with the aim of installing 400 of those by 2030.

Zimbabwe notes with concern the rising number of food insecure people across the globe and the multiple crises of climate change, conflict, and inequality that are making SDG 2 to end hunger a distant reality for many. The Constitution of Zimbabwe guarantees every person the right to sufficient food and Zimbabwe is embarked on several programmes that mitigate the effects of climate change and droughts such as the Food Deficit Mitigation Programme. The latter leverages on the cultivation of drought-resistant crops and climate-proof agriculture techniques, boosts the production of traditional grains in dry regions, resuscitation of irrigation schemes and drilling of pools, as well as the promotion of community gardens and livestock income, generating projects to ensure food security across the country. The Government, working jointly with development partners, has also embarked on a school feeding programme which ensures that each child from early childhood development to secondary school receives a hot meal a day at school. An effective multilateral system remains key to enhancing cooperation towards addressing the root causes of global hunger and poverty. Zimbabwe also calls for the immediate and unconditional lifting of UCMs which are a barrier to the realisation of the right to food for all citizens.

Welcoming the SR's report, **Egypt** insists on the importance of the right to food as a fundamental human right. Egypt pushes forward programmes that support sustainable food production and social safety nets and the access of the most vulnerable to sufficient food and works to alleviate the effects of the climate crisis and to improve our agricultural processes. There are multiple challenges across the world in this regard, particularly in light of economic crises and the varying market prices of commodities. On this issue, Egypt insists on social justice and the adoption of policies that are based on human rights and guarantee the right of all to access to food in an equitable and balanced way while serving sustainable development. Egypt takes into account



the report's content with regard to the impact of foreign debt and its impact on the ability of states to fulfil their obligations when it comes to the right to food and the need to undertake measures to counter this scourge of foreign debt. Egypt insists on the importance of international cooperation in the financial sector in a way that does not disproportionately hurt developing countries. We need to further regulate international food commodities markets.

Malaysia reaffirms its strong commitment to the right to food and the broader objective of ensuring food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture for all. The country thanks the SR for the positive recognition of Malaysia's efforts, particularly the integration of human rights considerations in our national food pathway. Malaysia has taken concrete steps to strengthen its agri-food sector through the National Agri-Food Policy 2.0 2021-2030, which prioritises modernisation, sustainability and resilience. Under this policy, Malaysia has enhanced financial mechanisms to facilitate the adoption of the fourth industrial revolution technologies, such as smart farming and digital value chains, to improve productivity and accessibility. Recognising the crucial role of smallholders farmers, Malaysia has implemented targeted initiatives to increase production capacity, improve market access and strengthen post-harvest management. In addition, the Cabinet Committee on Food Security Policy is driving a holistic multi-stakeholder approach to address long-term challenges, including climate adaptation, sustainable consumption and disaster risk management. Malaysia asks how could international cooperation be further strengthened to ensure financial mechanisms are more accessible and inclusive for all food producers, particularly in developing countries.

Nigeria agrees with the SR that now, more than ever, a new approach is needed in international trade, one that prioritises people's right to food. This is particularly crucial given the precarious situation that several developing economies face due to global debt crisis, forcing many countries to make impossible choices between feeding their population and servicing them. Food is a basic necessity of life and serves as a foundation for survival. The Nigerian Government is actually aware of this and the recognition of this urgent need to address food insecurity led to the enlightenment of the right of food in 2023. This act not only focusses on alleviating hunger but also addresses the root causes by mandating that government policies align the right to food. Furthermore, in light of current global economic challenges and to demonstrate its efforts to efficiently address food insecurity, the Government increased agricultural and food security funding in the 2005 budget to boost local food production and create a sustainable food ecosystem. Finally, Nigeria asks the SR which international trade reforms he recommends to ensure that trade policies prioritise people's right to food amid the global debt crisis.

Algeria agrees with the SR in saying that reducing socially driven budgets, particularly in developing countries, as a result of exacerbating security and financial and economic crises has led to the expansion of malnutrition and hunger among millions. Algeria stresses the issues of foreign debt, poverty, inequality and the inequity in supply chains as well as wars and displacement as outlined in the SR's report. All of these need to benefit from global efforts to build peace equitably and to build capacities within poor countries. This is why Algeria prioritises the right to food and ensures that all of the national and local resources are mobilised in support for employment and undertaking social measures, particularly for the most vulnerable. Algeria cannot neglect the suffering of the Palestinian people under the ongoing inhuman genocide and the spread of hunger and malnutrition and the prohibition of the work of UNRWA, in addition to

the targeting by the Israeli occupation forces of fishermen and mills and bakeries as well as water stations. The international community must mobilize itself to put pressure on Israel.

The **Maldives** thanks the SR for his report whose emphasis on national action plans for food security aligns closely with its national priorities in safeguarding the livelihoods of its people, given that the Maldives has one of the highest fish consumption rates per capita. Widespread issues such as climate change are already significantly threatening fisheries and agricultural resources, both regionally and nationally. A recent study has highlighted steep projected declines in Maldivian fisheries net revenue with an average decrease of 78% by the end of this century. This will have devastating economic and social impacts on its communities. The Food Safety Act introduced by the Government in May 2024 is primarily concerned with the enhancement of food security. In essence, by reducing food waste and fostering public awareness regarding safe food practises, this legislation significantly contributes to strengthening food security. In parallel, the Maldives has established a national hotline for the public to report food safety and hygiene concerns, reinforcing its commitment to ensuring food security and safety for all. In closing, the Maldives asks the SR how can international initiatives better support SIDS in building more self-sufficient and resilient food systems.

Ecuador agrees with the SR that, in order to guarantee the right to food, states must develop a national strategy that tackles production, processing, distribution and marketing of foodstuffs and cease to the eradication of hunger as soon as possible. To that end, since 2021 Ecuador has an institutional framework aimed at eradicating chronic child malnutrition which ensures that Ecuadorian households receive the necessary support over the course of the first years of children's lives by implementing innovative solutions and public policies that protect the complete development of future generations. Ecuador has extensive regulation to effectively and properly guarantee the development of individuals, communities, and to develop healthy nutrition and culturally appropriate food on a permanent basis. The Ecuadorian Government continues to work with various sectors in order to promote agroecological practises, water harvesting systems, the management of minor species, or the development of bio inputs in order to improve soil quality, which would help us develop peasant methods that respect traditional harvesting and cultivation methods.

Brazil thanks the SR for his insightful report and appreciates the references to Brazil as an example of effective food security and nutrition policies within a human rights-based framework. The Brazilian system is unique in its institutionalised approach to food security and nutrition, integrating civil society participation and social control at all levels. The recreation of the National Council for Food and Nutrition Security, at the beginning of the current Government, corroborates this perspective. Recognising the urgent need to accelerate progress in the eradication of hunger and extreme poverty, Brazil proposed the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty during its 2024 G20 Presidency. This initiative aligns sustainable financing with targeted policies and enhances knowledge sharing to support evidence-based interventions. Brazil would appreciate the SR's perspective on how the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty can be incorporated into his work.

Eritrea has carefully aligned its national strategic plan for the agricultural sector for the years 2024 to 2028. The goal is to ensure the provision of safe and nutritious food for every Eritrean, in line with FAO's 10-year strategy aimed at achieving four key objectives by 2031, better production,



better nutrition, better environment, and better lives. Eritrea is dedicated to combating poverty, particularly through initiatives within the agricultural sector, understanding that agriculture is vital to the nation's economy and is a primary source of livelihood for many citizens. The government has launched various programmes focused on improving food and nutrition security as well as increasing agricultural productivity. Eritrea acknowledges the report's emphasis on the state's responsibility regarding the right to food and the importance of implementing strategies that address food production, processing, and distribution. These efforts are critical in ensuring that hunger is eradicated swiftly and that no one is left behind. The harsh reality remains that approximately 733 million people around the world still suffer from hunger. This is an unacceptable situation, especially considering that global farmers are capable of producing sufficient food to feed the world population. In light of this, Eritrea asks the SR to indicate the necessary steps to sustainably feed the global population with the means available.

Oman states that the right to food does not just mean food security, but it is a cornerstone for ensuring human dignity and enabling a healthy and safe life. Despite the abundance of agricultural production, millions still suffer from malnutrition due to conflicts and other factors which disrupt the supply chain and increase the suffering of the most vulnerable and undermine their right to food. There are challenges such as public debt inflation and policies imposed which complicate the issue of ensuring the right to afford food. Debt-burdened countries need to divert resources allocated to social sectors in order to service the debt. Inflation reduces the purchasing power and makes access to food more difficult. Restrictions imposed on governments affect their ability to fight hunger. It is therefore imperative to strike a balance between financial obligations and the needs of citizens. There is a need to adapt policies to take into consideration human rights. This requires radical reforms in the international financial system to ensure effective strategies to combat hunger and ensure food security.

As the Special Rapporteur points out in his report, the right to food provides a specific framework for the transformation of food systems, if they are understood as a network of consumers, distributors, and producers, all connected through value chains. **Colombia** is pushing for a comprehensive agrarian reform in order to guarantee equal access to land, promote sustainable production, and strengthen rural development in compliance with the 2016 Peace Agreement. Colombia is addressing the agrarian reform and the right to food from a sustainable, inclusive point of view, promoting the participation of Indigenous peoples, people of African descent, and peasants' organisations in the process of taking decisions, along with the content of Articles 2 and 11 of the ICCPR. The Pact for Land and Life, signed at the end of last February, proposes the development of a 10-year plan for agrarian reform in Colombia on the following pillars, the redistribution of land, modernisation of the countryside, and the democratisation of resources. Colombia will also hold the next Conference on Agrarian Reform in 2026, currently at the preparatory stage. Colombia and FAO will be sharing details in the near future, thereby extending a cordial invitation to all states to participate as of now.

The **Russian Federation** as carefully read the SR's report and agrees that governments must respect, protect, and promote the enjoyment of the right to food, in particular by ensuring affordable access to food to everyone. At the same time, Russia believes that a number of recommendations to state are excessively intrusive. Russia recalls that policies carried out in this area rest first and foremost on available technical resources, and also on the specificities of



different legal systems. The right to sufficient food is a prerequisite for a normal, active economic life of the individual, and it is essentially the role of governments ensuring food security. The Russian doctrine defines food security as that socio-economic state of development of a country where everyone is guaranteed sufficient and affordable food of quality which satisfies not only the basic nutritional needs, but also all the essentials for a healthy and fulfilled life. Russia has developed appropriate infrastructure to allow everyone to autonomously acquire quality food, and also has a number of organisational and legal measures to satisfy the basic food needs of everyone. Russia is ready to share its national experience in this area.

Cote d'Ivoire thanks the SR for his report that proposes a method for the development of national action plans on the right to food which would allow for a transformation of food systems and the progressive enjoyment of this right. Cote d'Ivoire is of the view that the international financial system currently impedes the ability of governments to live up to their obligations to the right to food. Given the worldwide debt crisis, high inflation and the rising price of foodstuffs, many countries face an impossible choice either to feed the population or service the debt. To remedy this situation, Cote d'Ivoire has made major investments and conducted several programmes to ensure its security and food sovereignty. These are the covenant for the delivery of foodstuffs and agricultural goods based on its national development plan, the national agriculture investment plan and the national plan for the development of cattle raising, fisheries and aquaculture. The aim in the long run is to drastically reduce the imports of basic foodstuffs in order to ensure food sovereignty and improve food security. Cote d'Ivoire invites all stakeholders to create an international financial system which allows governments to live up to their obligations with respect to the right to food.

China takes note of the SR's focus on national action plans and food systems transformation. China is the world's largest food producer. With just 9% of global arable land and 6% of freshwater resources, China successfully feeds nearly one-fifth of the global population. The Chinese Government has always prioritised people's food security in state governance and has established a food security strategy featuring self-sufficiency based on domestic production, guaranteed production capacity, moderate imports and technological support. China's grain productivity has been raised and food supply structure improved. Currently, the global food security situation remains dire, with one in every 11 people worldwide suffering hunger. President Xi Jinping has proposed a global development initiative making food security one of the eight key areas of cooperation. Within the framework of G20 and South-South cooperation, China has launched food cooperation initiatives, and it is the developing country providing the highest financial assistance, deploying the most experts and implementing the most projects. China is concerned that a handful of countries manipulate the global food trade system for exorbitant profits, and hopes that the SR will continue to monitor this closely.

Cameroon congratulates the SR on his report and recalls that the right to food guarantees that every individual has a regular and free access to sufficient, adequate and acceptable food to lead a healthy life. In order to achieve this right, Cameroon has established a robust institutional framework involving the Ministry of Agriculture, Research, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries. The integrated plan for import substitution for agropastoral and fisheries activities 2024-2026, of a cost of 54,674,000,000 CFA francs, is a catalyst for its import substitution policy. In cooperation with the World Bank, the project for adapted safety nets has allowed for monetary transfers to

58,500 households in 2024. Cameroon agrees with the parallel that the SR establishes between the world debt crisis, high inflation and the food crisis in several regions of the world. Reiterating its support to the SR, Cameroon takes note of his recommendations and suggestions, in particular the method proposed to develop national action plans on the right to food by using existing national budgets to transform food systems and to gradually fulfil the right to food.

Bangladesh thanks the SR for his thematic report on the right to food highlighting global debt crisis and challenges of public finance in the context of growing food insecurity. Bangladesh appreciates his in-depth analysis on the current global food crisis and proposed comprehensive guidelines for transforming national food system, taking into consideration human rights obligations. It is undeniable that inequality within and between countries is the key driver of global food insecurity. For climate vulnerable countries like Bangladesh, another significant problem with existing food system is the massive loss of biodiversity, deforestation, land degradation and shrinking of wetlands and freshwater bodies. Bangladesh believes that food distribution system lies at the heart of global food crisis, and not necessarily the production method or their inefficiency. At the same time, Bangladesh stresses that technical and scientific knowledge must be embedded in traditional and Indigenous knowledge systems to ensure better health and nutritional food for all. While it is imperative for developing countries to redesign their national food systems to ensure affordable food for its citizens, developed countries along with development partners must come forward to support developing countries in their efforts through financial resource mobilisation and capacity-building.

Cuba stresses that no government should engage in a policy that causes hunger in other nations. Yet, the United States insists on depriving the Cuban people of their right to food. Four months of the United States blockade caused Cuba losses amounting to 1.6 billion US dollars. That money could ensure a whole year's supply of the basic rationed food basket for Cuba's population. The blockade also has a very severe impact on food production in Cuba, hindering the availability of food, seeds, fertilisers, animal feed, and other inputs. The Government is working relentlessly to find solutions to this adverse challenge with a commitment to leave no one behind or excluded. As established by Cuba's constitution, all individuals have the right to healthy and adequate food. Worldwide, enough food is produced to feed the entire world population. However, 343 million people went hungry in 2024. On the SR's visit to Venezuela, Cuba commends Venezuela's efforts to implement policies that ensure access to food, despite the negative impact of UCMs. During this Human Rights Council's session, Cuba will present a draft resolution on the right to food.

According to **Panama**, the worldwide debt crisis, high inflation, and high prices of foodstuffs, along with climate change, conflicts, and the disruption of global production chains, are all exacerbating food insecurity. Currently, the international financial system places significant pressure on states' ability to materialise the right to food. Given that in order to meet the payment of their debts, they turn to austerity measures and cutbacks in public expenditures, including in vital social services to eradicate malnutrition and hunger, which has impact on women and girls. Panama agrees with the SR on the need to have action plans that would redesign public budgets in order to overhaul the food systems to make them fairer and more sustainable. The importance of international cooperation in this area was noted. These initiatives would include a human rights approach and ensure that present and future generations have access to proper food.



Panama asks to the SR to elaborate on the relationship between the concept of a human rights economy and the right to food, notably at times of debt and financial crisis.

Paraguay is grateful to the SR for his report outlining the fundamental importance of the right to food and potential avenues that states might follow in order to guarantee access to this right without discrimination. Bearing in mind the challenges of redesigning financing to ensure full, fair foodstuffs for all the population, Paraguay appreciates the framework provided and the recommendations, for they are all tools that will help thinking about ways to fully secure the right to food. Proper financing and effective implementation are essential to guarantee this right and to draft national action plans that are effective and impactful, which is why Paraguay notes with interest the SR's recommendations. Food security, increasingly impacted by economic crises, by structural inequalities and by climate change, calls for collaborative change, one that benefits from full cooperation and guarantees the right to education, bearing in mind the particularities of vulnerable groups and improving food systems. Paraguay asks the SR which mechanisms would be most fitting to guarantee long-lasting food security, namely in developing countries that are affected by social, economic and climate challenges more than other countries.

Italy thanks the SR for his comprehensive report and joins his call to urgently address food insecurity in the face of rising food prices, inflation and global debt crisis affecting developing countries. The situation is further exacerbated by the environmental crisis, which imposes increasing financial burden for the most affected states. Food security is a priority of the Italian international agenda. Italy attaches the highest importance to the development of food systems that can provide safe, affordable, nutritious and quality food for all, as recently restated in the context of last year's G7 Presidency. Through the Rome UN agencies, Italy will pursue its commitment to reducing poverty and hunger in the world's most disadvantaged areas. Furthermore, Italy believes that financial instruments and private investments can play a crucial role in ensuring the right to food by fostering sustainable agricultural development, supporting smallholder farmers and facilitate access to markets, recalling that blended financial models can drive inclusive growth and climate smart practises. Italy recognises the need for international cooperation to help countries to implement their right to food action plans and aims at collaborating with the private sector in its initiative in the food security sector.

Ethiopia recognises that the right to food is an integral to its national policy, legal frameworks, and development goals. Ethiopia's constitution guarantees the right to food, emphasising the well-being of all citizens, particularly vulnerable populations, such as women, children, and persons with disabilities. In alignment with our international commitments, Ethiopia is resolute in addressing food insecurity, malnutrition, and hunger. The country is implementing national action plans that prioritise sustainable food systems, equitable access to food, and the empowerment of local communities, especially small-scale farmers and rural populations, in accordance with the principles of food sovereignty. As part of our economic reforms, Ethiopia has made significant strides in agricultural transformation with a focus on improving food production systems. A key initiative has been the massive expansion of wheat production, aimed at reducing dependence on food imports and ensuring greater self-sufficiency. This effort is central to realising the right to food by enhancing food availability and economic resilience. Ethiopia's commitment to realising the right to food is supported by a focus on enhancing food production,



promoting food security, and ensuring equitable trade. In conclusion, Ethiopia calls on the international community to renew its support for sustainable development.

Ireland shares the SR's concerns about the impossible choices some countries face in terms of either feeding people or servicing debt, about increases in the cost of food, which push low-income households further into hunger, and about the unsustainability and inequality of contemporary food systems. Ireland remains committed to preventing hunger through our development and humanitarian action. A food systems approach that tackles the underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition supports the fulfilment of the right to food and can accelerate the achievement of all SDGs. A human rights-based approach to food and nutrition security requires action in multiple dimensions. This includes improving the governance of food systems, ensuring inclusive and responsible investments in agriculture, rural areas, health and education, empowering small producers and strengthening social protection mechanisms for risk reduction. Finally, Ireland stresses the need to complement domestic resource mobilisation efforts with greater international financial support, particularly for net food-importing countries exposed to global commodity price volatility. As we approach the UN Food Systems Summit +4 stocktake moment, discussions need to be informed by human rights norms and standards as a central element of food systems transformation. Ireland invites the SR to elaborate on how international financial institutions can assist governments in redirecting budgets towards prioritising investments that have a positive impact on the right to food.

Belarus agrees with the SR's conclusions that the global debt crisis and high inflation are undermining, are exacerbating the food crisis and the problem of the right to food. On the positive side, Belarus notes his attention to the negative impact of UCMs on the right to food and the recommendations he made to review and lift sanctions against Venezuela during his visit to the country. The negative impact of UCMs has a global dimension. One example is the Western ban on fertilisers from Belarus, which has exacerbated the problem of access to fertilisers themselves as well as to food, especially in low-income countries. Belarus further draws the SR's attention to the fact that unlawful Western sanctions cannot resolve the problem in the world and, in fact, exacerbate the problem and spread hunger in the world. Belarus calls on the SR to maintain his focus on the negative impact of UCMs on the right to food.

Bahrain attaches special attention to this right, which is a fundamental right of human beings. Bahrain is endeavouring to create food security through its national policies, notably through the adoption of measures to enhance food security and increase its national production in order to ensure resilience despite international crises. Bahrain is also endeavouring to diversify resources and sources of food. It has also adopted projects to support fishermen and to support investment projects relating to agricultural land. In the light of climate change and effects which affect food supply, Bahrain asks to the SR which measures need to be taken to ensure the resilience of the most vulnerable.

The **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** congratulates the SR on his report and his promotion of national action plans for the right to food, which allow countries to transform food systems and to gradually realize this right. The DRC shares the SR's suggestions on the way in which countries can develop such plans and the SR's view that the general trend is a cycle of crises with periods of a high increase in malnutrition, hunger and famine. The DRC is currently the theatre of one of the most serious food crises in the world, with hundreds of thousands suffering from a shortage



of food. Its efforts to fight this are undermined by armed conflicts, which has lasted for over three decades, making it all the more essential to have a national action plan for food security. To conclude, the DRC asks the SR how to adopt a coordinated policy in the face of such a crisis.

Recalling the fundamental right to food as recognised in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, **Georgia** remains committed to food security and agricultural policies. Georgia is diversifying our resources and sources of food and adopting sustainable policies. Georgia is a leading country in the world to implement a structural plan for food security. Since 1 January 2005, agricultural products have been exonerated from certain types of taxes with a view to ensuring food security. With the support of the EU and FAO, Georgia is also developing its first agricultural provisions bank in order to redistribute food to the vulnerable. Unfortunately, some of the local populations do not have access to these governmental policies due to foreign intervention. In conclusion, Georgia reiterates its commitment to food security and the right to food in line with its international obligations and the SDGs.

The **Gambia** stresses that ensuring food security remains a pressing priority for many developing countries, including the Gambia. Despite recent progress, rising food prices, climate change and structural constraints in agricultural production remain as key challenges. The Gambia agrees with the SR on the need for a more sustainable and equitable food system, particularly through supporting territorial markets, enhancing local production and reducing over-reliance on global supply chains. It believes that building sustainable food systems requires a pragmatic and inclusive approach combining investment in agricultural infrastructure and stronger international cooperation. In addition, addressing undue debt burdens and concessional financing are key to ensuring that developing countries have the fiscal space to strengthen food production systems without compromising other pressing national priorities. The Gambia is committed to expanding domestic food production, enhancing climate adaptation strategies and improving market access for smallholder farmers. The Gambia seeks guidance from the SR on strategies to be adopted to better support territorial markets and smallholder farmers whilst ensuring food affordability and sustainability.

Lesotho welcomes the SR's report which aptly highlights the challenge posed by the sovereign debt crisis on the right to food. Lesotho believes that no state should be forced to choose between repaying their debt and feeding their population. In light of the connected debt and food emergencies, Lesotho reiterates the need for international cooperation between states to ensure that all populations are guaranteed the right to be free from hunger, a necessity for ensuring human dignity. Lesotho remains firmly committed to eliminating hunger. This is reflected by His Majesty King Letsie III's dedication to addressing food insecurity at the national, regional and global levels as the FAO's Special Ambassador for Nutrition and an African Union's Nutrition Champion. Recognising the importance of a national plan to tackle food insecurity, Lesotho has developed a comprehensive food and nutrition policy to implement nutrition interventions throughout the country, with a focus on ensuring adequate nutrition for women and children. Despite ongoing efforts to recover from a food crisis driven by natural disasters and price inflation, this policy continues to guide Lesotho's strategy towards zero hunger. In closing, Lesotho welcomes the SR's call for an urgent transformation of contemporary food systems to eradicate hunger and safeguard the environment. Lesotho looks forward to continuing to engage in national, regional and global efforts to create equitable and sustainable food systems.



Qatar thanks the SR for his report and his role in order to promote the right to food, which is part and parcel of the right to live in decent living conditions and the right to life. There are still challenges hindering the enjoyment of this right. This includes famine, malnutrition, environmental pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change, let alone the ever fluctuating prices of food items because of conflicts and crises which affect this negatively. Qatar hosted last year the International Conference on Food Justice from a Human Rights Perspective. The Doha Declaration calls for building sustainable, healthy and fair food systems anchored in human dignity and protecting the most vulnerable and sustainable agriculture. It further calls for building markets that are fair and stable, that do not prioritise growth and profits over human rights. Qatar strongly condemns the Israeli destructing food systems, let alone using blockades and starvation as a method of war in an all-out, genocidal war against Palestinians. Qatar calls upon the international community to take all measures to protect the Palestinian people and to hold those responsible for crimes and violations accountable.

Thanking the SR for his very timely and comprehensive report, **Bolivia** notes that the SR's report provides useful guidance in how address the very complicated situation that many countries are facing in trying to guarantee the right to food in the current context of debt and other current challenges. In 2021, looking forward to the Summit on Food Systems, Bolivia developed a national road map, conceived through a domestic participatory and inclusive approach in alliance with agencies, funds, and programmes of the United Nations system. The Bolivian proposal is based on strengthening the food production system, which itself is based on traditional agriculture with production and distribution methods led by small producers, farmers, Indigenous communities, and local networks of production and warehousing, all based on household and community-based production units. Bolivia underscores the importance of supporting and financing the traditional food production system, as well as small producers. They are the foundation of an approach to protect the life systems of Mother Earth and a way of moving forward towards food security and sovereignty. On the visit to Venezuela, Bolivia welcomes a respectful dialogue.

The **Dominican Republic** thanks the SR for the very thorough report highlighting the importance to strengthen sustainable food systems that are also inclusive. The Dominican Republic reiterates its commitment to the promotion of the fundamental right to food as an essential pillar for human dignity, the eradication of poverty and sustainable development. The country's strong commitment to food security is demonstrated by specific initiatives such as improving agricultural production, promoting climate resilience, and ensuring equal access to nutritious food. In 2024, the national food programme benefited over one million families nationwide, thereby ensuring access to a basic basket of quality foodstuffs, on top of other efforts to reduce poverty and to promote social inclusion. However, the Dominican Republic recognises general challenges that affect access to food, as are volatile markets and international crises, which is why it underscores the importance of international cooperation, innovative agricultural systems and access to productive resources. The Dominican Republic reiterates its commitment to the 2030 Agenda and SDG 2 to eradicate hunger and guarantee adequate nutrition for all.

Thanking the SR for his thematic report, **Venezuela** stresses that tackling the structural causes of food insecurity, hunger, and poverty are fundamental, not just to understand the phenomenon in all its dimensions, but also to develop effective actions that will put an end to the scourge of



hunger and to save the lives of millions of people. Venezuela agrees with the SR that changes in the right to food require international cooperation, and cooperation should be provided without increasing the debt burden, without strings attached either. One of the main obstacles that Venezuela faces in guaranteeing the full enjoyment of the right to food is the imposition of UCMs. With all due respect to the SR, Venezuela requests the SR to continue to raise his voice emphatically, calling for the elimination of any and all measures that runs counter to international law and undermine human rights. In closing, Venezuela asks which measures would the SR suggest to avoid impacting the right to food from countries that impose sanctions.

Armenia concurs with the SR that food serenity signifies the right to healthy and adequate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods. In conformity with this principle, the agricultural sector in Armenia is making significant strides in green practises to align with global environmental goals for food security and sustainability. This endeavour is supported by the development of a national roadmap in Armenia and the establishment of a regional green agricultural network aimed at enhancing policy coherence and agrifood system resilience. Armenia also shares the view of the SR that hunger, malnutrition and famine have always been caused by political actions and not by a shortage of food supply. The deliberate denial of food to civilian populations is a violation of one of the most fundamental human rights, as it happened in Nagorno-Karabakh. The 10-month-long blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh led to severe food and basic supply shortages, resulting in malnutrition and instances of starvation. Armenia strongly convinced that human rights systems should be empowered with more effective tools to address major impediments for realisation of right to food, such as obstruction of humanitarian access.

Benin thanks the SR for the quality of his report and recognises the relevance of his proposals aiming to transform national food systems to foster the full enjoyment of the right to food. Benin aims to ensure that every citizen has appropriate levels of food. Therefore, it adopted an agricultural law for food security and promulgated several measures at a governmental level, in particular the National Policy on Food and Nutrition and the National Programme for Adaptation to Climate Change to consolidate the performances of the agricultural sector and support seed producers and access to seed and agricultural inputs. Focussing also on the rights of the child, Benin's policies in the area have increased access to food in primary schools, have provided food to pupils in rural areas, and have enhanced food security. Moreover, Benin has other projects for social safety nets, in particular credits to women in rural areas and a special programme which provides nutritional additives to pregnant women as well as supplements to small children, enhancing the right to life and maternal, prenatal and infantile health.

Pakistan appreciates the SR's report and his steadfast support to the Palestinian people's dignity, sovereignty over their natural resources, and the right to food. Pakistan further takes note with appreciation of the SR's ambition to see transformative change in food systems at the global and national levels. The country shares the concern that vast improvements in production and distribution in recent decades have not translated into food and nutrition security for far too many in the world. Pakistan echoes the conclusion that progressive realisation of the right to food can neither be relegated to corporations' pursuit for profit nor a Sisyphean search for productivity at the expense of future generations and the planet itself. Pakistan has witnessed firsthand the combined effects of rising debt and climate change on food insecurity and nutrition, especially for children who are particularly at risk. It has responded with a national emergency that

encompasses a comprehensive national nutritional programme to achieve children's health and nutrition. Yet much more needs to be done. A new approach to the right to food that gives centre stage to local communities and international solidarity is undeniably appealing for a world in need of solutions. On this point, Pakistan asks the SR to explain the most major obstacles to realising such transformative change and how to overcome them.

Mozambique emphasizes that ensuring the right to food remains a key priority for the country, particularly in the face of challenges such as climate change, economic constraints and global food price volatility. In this regard, Mozambique has taken concrete steps including strengthening the national policies such as national strategy for food and nutrition security, investing in smallholder farmers by expanding access to credit, technology and climate resilient agricultural practises, enhancing partnerships with international financial institutions and developing partners to mobilise resources for food security programmes. As part of efforts to ensure food security, Mozambique has adopted in 2024 the Action Plan for Transformation of Food Systems as an instrument to harmonise the main strategic actions needed for the rapid transformation of food systems and, with the support of partners, it has developed the first national nutrition security policy and strategy. However, financial constraints continue to hinder the full realisation of the right to food. Mozambique therefore emphasises the need for increased international cooperation including concessional finance and technical support to enable effective implementation of national plans. In closing, it affirms its commitment to working together with the SR and Special Procedures.

Ukraine remains a significant world exporter of several important agricultural products. The lives of about 400 million people in more than 100 countries around the world depend on the Ukrainian food exports and our interrupted supplies. For over three years, Russia has relentlessly attacked Ukraine's civilian infrastructure and agriculture. Hundreds of missile strikes have damaged 321 port facilities, food storage and over 20 civilian vessels. Just last week, a ballistic missile strike on Odessa destroyed port infrastructure and a Panama-flagged merchant ship. These attacks are not just an assault on Ukraine, they are an assault on global food security, putting millions at risk of hunger. Yet, despite these unprecedented challenges, Ukraine continues to seek new logistical solutions to ensure uninterrupted agricultural exports. Prioritising the most vulnerable, Ukraine is expanding grain hubs in Africa and advancing the Grain from Ukraine Initiative. This effort is now evolving into the Global Food from Ukraine's Programme with the first successful supplies of essential foods to the Syrian people. The delegation calls on the international community to stand with Ukraine in countering Russia's weaponization of food. It is crucial to ensure that Ukraine's agricultural lifeline remains intact and secure to prevent famine and protect the right to food worldwide. Ukraine also counts on the continued and unwavering attention of the SR to the devastating repercussions of Russia's aggression not only on Ukraine but on food security across the globe.

Dominica commends the SR for underscoring the urgent and complex challenges associated with food security, in particular, the critical need to reduce reliance on food imports and to foster resilient, equitable and self-sustaining national food systems. Dominica recognises food insecurity as an escalating threat exacerbated by climate change and high dependence on imports. Dominica believes that strengthening food security is essential not only for ensuring consistent access to nutritious food for our people but also for building climate resilience,



mitigating socio-economic risk and safeguarding long-term sustainability for future generations. It is imperative that financial systems both domestic and global support rather than hinder the realisation of the right to food. This includes implementing inclusive national policies that empower and incentivise local producers as well as increasing access to low interest finance at the international level to enable governments to invest in long-term strategies that promote food security such as building resilient agricultural infrastructure. Dominica remains steadfast in its commitment to enhancing food security and sustainability and calls for greater global cooperation to support these efforts.

India thanks the SR for the comprehensive report highlighting structural challenges to global food security and proposed food system transformations. India emphasises the need for resilient country-led approaches that ensure food security while addressing global challenges. India has prioritised food security through the National Food Security Act, benefiting over 813 million people. One targeted programme serves 117 million school children daily, enhancing dietary diversity, while the Poshan Abhiyaan or National Nutrition Mission strengthens nutrition security for women and children. India has promoted sustainable agriculture through initiatives such as the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture focussing on soil health and organic farming, and by promoting milk-based products and climate-resilient crops. The recently launched National Mission on Natural Farming promotes natural farming for providing safe and nutritious food for all, following local agroecological principles rooted in local knowledge, location-specific technologies, and evolved as per the local agroecology. Other initiatives strengthen food distribution and ensure food entitlement portability. Community seed banks and farmers' rights protection further empower local food systems. India remains committed to sharing its experiences with partners and strengthening international cooperation based on equity and solidarity. It asks the SR to elaborate on how financial institutions can better support developing countries in redesigning food budgets without increasing debt burdens.

Sudan agrees with the SR that the problem of the world debt crisis has exacerbated issues relating to access to food, as well as with his comments on smallholder farmers that there is an increasing gap between those who have and those who do not, and this is due to the exacerbation by climate change and other factors. The security situation also has an impact on food security in Sudan, as the Rapid Support Forces have launched systematic campaigns against farmers in the Gezira region. They have systematically looted stocks and pillaged the World Food Programme storage sites as well. Sudan condemns these terrorists and criminal acts.

Lebanon commends the SR for his dedication and the courageous and impartial way he carries out his mandate. Lebanon shares his views that people must have as much power as possible within their food system, power over their own destiny, and that governments should prioritise the right to food and more adapted, equitable, environment-friendly food systems for more resilient, just, and stable societies. In Lebanon, the food system is stymied by many adverse factors like wars, economic downturns, inflation, weak agricultural systems, and over-reliance on food imports, and the huge public debt coupled with a dysfunctional banking and financial sector. The new President and Government are nevertheless adamant on implementing big and necessary reforms that would, when successful, bolster social and economic rights, including the right to food. Lebanon thanks the SR for his recommendations and framework as they are linked to Lebanon's current priorities. Moreover, they foster global solidarity as they combine action at



both national and international levels. They consolidate partnerships, especially with development actors, and they provide financial support and expertise to ensure sustainable solutions to food insecurity.

Kenya thanks the SR for this critical report, which underscores the urgent need to address the systemic barriers preventing states from fulfilling the right to food. The report rightly identifies the global debt crisis as a structural obstacle, forcing states to choose between servicing debt and feeding population. This contradiction undermines the right to food, particularly in the Global South, where austerity measures and financial shocks exacerbate hunger. The assistance to distribution of power in food systems, away from industrial agriculture, corporate monopolies and profit-driven trade perpetuates inequality. Current international frameworks often prioritise trade and corporate interests over solidarity, defending dependencies rather than fostering food sovereignty. Kenya echoes the report's call to ground food systems transformation in human rights law, including Kenya's constitutional guarantee of right to food under Article 43, sub-article 1c, and its National Food and Nutrition Security Policy 2012, aligned with these principles. However, as the report notes, implementation can persist due to fiscal constraints and fragmented governance. This report is a stark reminder that hunger is not inevitable. It is a political failure. Given the prevalence of PPPs in agricultural development, Kenya asks the SR how can governments effectively ensure that these partnerships genuinely prioritise the rights and needs of small holders, farmers and local communities. Kenya would like to know what concrete measures can be put in place to prevent these partnerships from inadvertently reinforcing existing power imbalances within food systems, especially in light of the current financial constraints.

Mauritius expresses its appreciation to the SR for his report and has taken good note of the recommendations therein. Mauritius is a SIDS and a net food importing country. In addition to its vulnerable and inherent difficulties faced by SIDS such as having small domestic market, high reliance on external trade, extreme vulnerability to natural hazards, ever-rising costs associated with our remoteness, the rigidities of global supply chains, the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical instabilities have increased its frailty with regard to food supplies. The government of Mauritius, a welfare state, remains committed to upholding its obligations to ensuring the right to food under Articles 211 of the ICESCR. Following its national elections of November 2024, the new Government and its programme 2025-2029 informed of the launch of an ambitious food security programme to *inter alia* improve food efficiency to make food more accessible, affordable and safer for the population. Mauritius would appreciate some insights of the SR on how to enhance food security for SIDS within existing budgets and without increasing public debt.

Sierra Leone appreciates the SR's report and its the focus on aligning funding from financial and development institutions with national priorities while avoiding increased debt burdens. In his second term, His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio launched the Feed Salone programme, a strategic initiative to achieve food self-sufficiency. Its objectives include reducing food imports and increase local production, boosting agricultural exports, jobs creation for women and youths, alleviating hunger and malnutrition, building resilience and economic and climate-related shocks. Sierra Leone recognises that food security is not just about emergency responses, but requires long-term transformation through targeted policies, sustainable investment and innovative agricultural practises. The SR's report underlines a fundamental challenge faced by



many developing countries in the impossible trade-off between debt servicing and ensuring food security. Sierra Leone joins the call for financing mechanisms that do not add to the debt burden, but instead support long-term food system transformation. In the implementation of the Feed Salone programme, Sierra Leone calls on the international financial institutions and development partners to align their funding with national priorities, ensuring that resources are used effectively to empower local farmers and strengthen food security.

Praising the SR's report, [Iran](#) agrees with the SR that the global debt crisis, high inflation and rising food prices are deeply interconnected with food security. While the international community seeks to mobilise resources to address food insecurity, many nations face systematic barriers that prevent them from accessing essential financial mechanisms. One of such barriers are UCMs that have a negative impact on the realisation of the right to food. UCMs impair the government's ability to invest in critical public service, including social welfare programmes. Such measures are often justified under the pretext of promoting human rights. The actual consequences undermine fundamental rights, including the right to food, development and health. Furthermore, claims of humanitarian exemptions have proven to be ineffective and misleading. In conclusion, Iran expresses deep concern over the plight of thousands of innocent Palestinians, particularly women and children in the Gaza Strip, who are suffering from famine and hunger as a result of the use of starvation as a method of warfare by the occupying forces of Israel. This practise is explicitly prohibited under Article 54 of the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions.

[Views Expressed by intergovernmental Organizations and UN Agencies](#)

Thanking the SR for his report, the [European Union](#) states that food insecurity and malnutrition are global challenges exacerbated by global debt crisis, high inflation and food prices. Food insecurity has reached unprecedented levels in scale and severity, the situation mainly owing to conflicts, economic shock and climate change. Many countries face the choice of either feeding people or servicing debt. The only option for some countries is to use public funds ensuring that people have access to adequate food. We must continue to strive to implement the 2030 Agenda and strengthen the human right to food globally. The EU is committed to strengthening multilateral institutions and inclusive and participatory multi-stakeholder governance structures. It is important to ensure that the international financial system helps countries. The EU and its Member States are among the largest providers of food security financing globally and will continue to work actively to ensure that all persons and especially children have access to adequate food, including through multilateral initiatives such as the school meals coalition. Beyond transforming national food systems as presented in the report, the EU asks the SR to provide recommendations for alleviating malnutrition in the context of the global crisis.

[FAO](#) stresses that food is not only essential for life, but also for the quality and dignity of life. Thanking the SR for his report and welcoming his reference to FAO guidance, tools, and technical support, FAO states that the right to adequate food is core to its work to end malnutrition in all its forms and raise living standards. In transforming agri-food systems to be inclusive, resilient, and sustainable, measures that address root causes of hunger and poverty are key. The human right to food provides a right-based framework for action for food security and nutrition for all. FAO works to strengthen implementation of this right with tools including the right to food guidelines. FAO supports national and local capacity, right to food policies, monitoring and accountability



and strengthen the capacity of states to fulfil their obligations individually and through international cooperation. FAO stands alongside its UN partners for a better life for all through dignity and rights.

UN Women commands and fully aligns with the SR's call to reconfigure power relations in food systems in the spirit of solidarity, care and respect for all life. This echoes UN Women's feminist approach to dismantle historical patterns of unequal power relations between men and women that perpetuate gender inequalities and deny women's right to food. Women, particularly small case food producers including peasants, fisher folk and Indigenous peoples are central to global food systems, food security and nutrition. Yet they face systemic discrimination and barriers to realising land rights and accessing finance, resources and decision-making spaces, exacerbating food insecurity, income and time poverty and climate vulnerability. UN Women strongly supports the SR's call to integrate gender-responsive financing in national action plans and ensure that decisions on financing debt are not taken at the expense of food security, perpetuating structural inequalities and deprivations. Investing in women's access to finance, land, technology and markets not only strengthens food security but also enhances climate resilience, sustainability, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation and equitable resource management. Women's leadership is essential in shaping climate-adaptive food systems that nourish communities, protect ecosystems and uphold women's right to food. UN Women asks the SR how to collaborate to implement the right to food in times of financial and debt crisis from a gender perspective.

UNICEF welcomes the SR's report, including its guidance to state on how to analyse domestic food systems and develop action plans to transform them. Food systems bear critical responsibility for the nutritional quality, safety, availability, and affordability of children's diets. The cost of nutritious foods puts them out of reach for many households, whereas ultra-processed and less nutritious foods may be widely available, affordable, and marketed. There is urgent need to address all forms of malnutrition facing the world's children. Food systems need to create healthy food environments that are child-centred rather than profit-driven. UNICEF supports the SR's emphasis on the need for measures grounded in human rights. States' obligations to protect, respect, and fulfil the right to food are critical for children. The SR's report importantly highlights how states may develop a national strategy that addresses the production, processing, distribution, and marketing of food. UNICEF calls on states to take up the SR's call for legal and budget analysis and reform to transform food systems and realise the right to food for all children. UNICEF stands ready to support.

The **World Food Programme (WFP)** thanks the SR for his report and welcomes the broader support to global food security. With acute hunger on the rise, it is now affecting 343 million people in 74 countries. Famine was confirmed in Sudan last year, and some 1.9 million people worldwide are estimated to be on the brink of catastrophe. In 2025, conflict is exacerbating acute hunger and malnutrition. Conflict not only disrupts agricultural production, food systems, and markets, but also hampers humanitarian access. As the largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger, the WFP urges all states and non-state actors to uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law. It is imperative that all parties to conflicts respect food systems and facilitate safe and unimpeded humanitarian access. The WFP call for the full implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 2417, which condemns the use of starvation as



a method of warfare and recognises the link between conflict and hunger. It is our collective responsibility to address the root causes of food insecurity, promote peace, development, and ensure that every individual has access to adequate and nutritious food. Let us work together to turn the tide against hunger.

UN Habitat welcomes the SR's report and the importance he attaches to access to land and the role of local and regional governments. UN Habitat notes that access to land, and perhaps also extending to land tenure and the use of land, are fundamental to food security outcomes. It further notes that land policies in many countries have become more progressive in the last 20 years. However, land laws and outcomes remain generally conservative. Land is also rarely considered in a systematic manner in universal periodic review recommendations, and there is no global forum with a holistic mandate on land. UN Habitat asks the SR whether land would benefit from multilateral concern, and how might this best be approached.

The **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** commends the SR on his insightful report and appreciates his commitment to promoting the full realisation of the right of everyone to adequate food. The OIC remains particularly concerned at large numbers of people facing hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. The OIC is also deeply alarmed by the amount spent by developing countries on servicing for in-depth which is constraining their ability to realise the right to food. In the occupied Gaza Strip, the illegal Occupying Power is deliberately using starvation of civilians as a weapon of war and genocide. The OIC strongly condemns the decision of the Israeli occupation authorities to halt the entry of humanitarian aid and close all crossings leading to the Gaza Strip. The illegal Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip constitutes collective punishment and a crime against humanity that requires accountability and prosecution under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The OIC categorically rejects all Israeli measures and illegal laws targeting the existence of UNRWA and calls on all states to provide increased political, legal and financial support to UNRWA. The international community must fulfil its obligations and ensure the adequate, permanent and unhindered access of humanitarian aid to all parts of the Gaza Strip without any delay.

Views Expressed by National Human Rights Institutions

The **National Independent Human Rights Commission of Burundi** recalls that the Constitution of Burundi and regional and international instruments relating to human rights do recognise the right to food. Projects within the National Development Programme and the National Integrated Food and Nutrition Programme aim to improve nutrition, especially amongst children, women and vulnerable communities through awareness raising and emergency assistance. However, the Commission has noted certain challenges, notably due to climate change and the degradation of arable land as well as food price volatility. Therefore, it addresses three recommendations. First, strengthen the support to agricultural communities to provide them with new technologies and to seeds which resist climate change. Second, review the policy for the distribution of chemical fertilisers to foster access to rural populations to agricultural inputs in a timely fashion. Third, establish food banks to meet the needs of the vulnerable. The Commission encourages Burundi to increase its budget for agricultural activities.



Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations

The **Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund** jointly with Franciscan International give the floor to an Indigenous person from Maya K'iche' people, a human rights defender and a defender of Mother Earth in Guatemala. Indigenous peoples and farmers have historically survived the discrimination and exploitation, living without access to most individual and collective human rights. Working for development through large monocrop projects and extractive projects is destroying their land by pillaging the resources. The only option they have available is to accept these levels because they have no place to harvest and no way of surviving. In Guatemala, the struggle for the land does not have a true response that would guarantee farmers access to their land in order to live and grow crops. In recent months, there has been a greater number of forced displacement of agrarian communities that are asking for their right to remain on their land to be respected or those who call for their ancestral land to be returned to them. Unfortunately, the rights established are not guaranteed, nor is there any foreseeable political will to address that. The right to food is a utopia because though the country is economically growing, the vast majority of the population, mainly Indigenous peoples and farmers, live in extreme poverty and in hunger.

Centre Europe - Tiers Monde explains that the world is faced with a dysfunctional international financial system that hinders the ability of governments to guarantee the right to food, a transition towards sustainable ecological practises applying the principles of food sovereignty is highly needed. In this sense, the Centre urges the UNHRC and its mechanism to build on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas and to integrate it as a compass in all initiatives aimed at this much-needed transition in food systems. In the light of the recommendations of the report focused on social and solidarity-based economy, eliminating the structural obstacles to the realisation of the right to food, the Centre recommends that the SR delves into the initiatives promoted by peasants organisations in Switzerland and France proposing the creation of food social insurance mechanisms. Despite an overabundance of food on the markets, a growing proportion of the world's population is suffering from malnutrition. This initiative seeks to give all citizens access to healthy and local food, regardless of financial means. The proposal is based on the principle of universality. All citizens would benefit from the food social security services according to their needs. It is also based on participatory democracy. The choice of the products and practises will be managed collectively and democratically, enabling people and communities to take local control of food systems.

FIAN International stresses that the report on the right to food, financing, and national action plans look at an uncomfortable truth. It is a political situation, and as a human right defender working in the right to food, the speaker can attest to the importance of democratic practises in institutional development by securing tangible results in efforts to attain this right. With that in mind, FIAN International reiterates the need to broaden and diversify the budget to take on new activities to combat hunger and malnutrition. The success of actions in the Brazilian case is limited currently due to financing limitations and fiscal adjustment measures which are incompatible with the principle of the best use of available resources for the attainment of this right. Robust financing for the agricultural transition must gain importance in national plans. Industrial food systems generate a third of global emissions, and they exacerbate rural violence and it affects Indigenous communities.

Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23) thanks the SR for the report. Feeding people or servicing debt, this impossible choice pointed out by the SR, is a tragic symptom of the structural injustice at the core of global economy, resulting in recurrent financial shocks and increasing hunger and malnutrition, further affecting those already strangled by the inequities of contemporary food systems. APG23 appreciates the roadmap outlined towards transforming food systems through nationally determined action plans, especially by redesigning national budgets within a right to food enacted perspective. In the context of debt crisis-induced fiscal constraints, the proposed pathways at the local and national level are essential steps. At the same time, we believe that advancing more just participatory and solidarity based food systems cannot be decoupled by a radical and human rights-orientated transformation of the entire financial and debt architecture to be put at the service of people and planet needs, instead of corporate interest and financial profits. The forthcoming conference on financing for development is a crucial opportunity to reshape and democratise the global economic governance and address the drivers of systemic inequities that lead to the impossible choice between feeding people or servicing debt. APG23 asks the SR for concrete possible connection between the financing for development process and the building of an enabling environment for the national food system transformation.

The **Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy** states that today, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity due to Israel's deliberate tactics of starvation. The Gaza Strip has experienced the targeted destruction of farmlands and farmers, such as 24-year-old Yusuf Abu Rabieh, who was killed by an Israeli airstrike for defying Israel's food blockade by growing food to feed starving Palestinians. Israel's tactics have wiped out 90% of Gaza's cattle and destroyed 80% of its cropland. The long-term impact is even more devastating as the use of chemical and explosive weapons has poisoned Gaza's soil, making future farming impossible for years to come. This has forced people into total dependency on external aid, which Israel has systematically blocked since October 2023. As the SR stated, this is not a ceasefire. It is a slowing of Israel's genocide and starvation campaign. Even after a fragile ceasefire was put in place, Israel continues to obstruct humanitarian aid, weaponizing starvation against an entire population. It is a clear violation of international law, including the right to food and food sovereignty. The international community must take immediate action to stop these starvation tactics. The Palestinian Initiative calls on states to exert pressure on Israel to fully open border crossings and allow the unconditional entry of humanitarian aid and ensure the protection and sustained funding of UNRWA, a lifeline for millions of Palestinians. Starvation is not collateral damage. It is a deliberate weapon of war. The international community must act now to uphold the right to food and human dignity in Gaza and the rest of Palestine.

Welcoming the SR's report, **Caritas Internationalis** stresses that transforming food systems is not merely about increasing food production, but about reconfiguring structures to fulfil the right to food with equity and sustainability. This requires prioritising agroecology, food sovereignty, territorial markets, and the redistribution of resources to local communities and smallholder farmers over industrial agriculture and corporate-controlled supply chains. Many governments face the impossible situation of trying to ensure food security for their populations while



simultaneously juggling economic crises, debt payments, their dependency on global markets, and cuts in global aid, not to mention sanctions. Governments must develop national action plans to fulfil the right to food and be able to reallocate resources to implement them. The international community must not only ensure international financial institutions support these plans without exacerbating debt dependency, but it must also urgently commit to alleviating untenable debt burdens, restructuring the international finance architecture, seeking to establish equitable terms of trade, and ensuring robust food security monitoring systems remain in place. Finally, Caritas is gravely concerned about the implications for food security of the drastic recent cuts in overseas development assistance. Caritas urges governments to reconsider their difficult choices to ensure people do not suffer from extreme hunger.

Geneva for Human Rights, a training and policy study NGO, welcomes the SR's report, which shed the light on the impact of the current international system of finance and trade on the right to food. His call for a transformation of the food systems, possible within existing budgets, provides a path to develop national right to food policies that enable and realise the right to food for all. Producers and consumers, victims and defenders all share a call for systemic and transdisciplinary approaches, participatory progresses and the inclusion of marginalised voices in the shaping of solutions to actual and future challenges. The ethical, political nature of food system transformation, from industrial agriculture to agroecology and from a multilateralism based on multi-stakeholderism to one based on solidarity and food sovereignty for all, requires strong states' commitments. Paying attention to food workers, who are among the most exploited categories of workers, as well as regulating corporate power and ensuring that power and wealth in food systems are shared equitably, are part of the strategy to solve the planetary food emergency. Finally, traditional and Indigenous knowledge has not been sufficiently included in the development of international food systems. Technical and scientific knowledge must be embedded with traditional and Indigenous knowledge to enable a comprehensive understanding of the full range of health and nutritional elements of food.

Centre d'Encadrement et Développement des Anciens Combattants (CEDAC) thanks the SR for his report and draws his attention to the alarming situation relating to the right to food in the Tindouf camps in Algeria. For decades, thousands of people have been living there in precarious situations, entirely dependent on international humanitarian aid. Unfortunately, this aid is regularly diverted by the armed group Polisario, with the complicity of the Algerian government. Reports such as that of the European Anti-Fraud Office, have noted a systematic diversion of humanitarian aid that is destined to the most vulnerable, exposed to malnutrition in the camp. The lack of transparency and the absence of an official census deprive these populations from the assistance they need. The Centre urges the SR to examine this situation and to ask the Algerian Government to guarantee fair and safe access to humanitarian aid and food aid. This is necessary to ensure that humanitarian aid come to the actual beneficiaries without being exploited for political ends or profiteering. It is imperative that food be provided without discrimination and for the populations of the Tindouf camps to stop being taken hostage by illegal practises which exacerbate their precariousness.

The **Disabled Women's Association** stresses that today's discussion on the right to food reaffirms the Association's commitment to ensuring access to adequate nutrition, self-sufficiency and sustainable food systems, in line with international frameworks protecting this



fundamental right. French colonists face challenges with food sovereignty due to the lasting effects of colonialism, which disrupted local food systems and fostered dependency on external resources. Economic exploitation during the colonial era left these regions vulnerable to outside control of their food systems, limiting local agricultural development and creating ongoing reliance on imported goods, including food. In Mayotte, 80% of children live in poverty, while in French Guyana this figure stands at 60%. Economic hardships result in many families struggling to afford nutrition meals, leading to widespread food insecurity. The lack of access to nutritious food has also contributed to significant health issues among children, exacerbating the under-nutrition rates in these territories. Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights guarantees the right to food, but colonial policies have left local populations in these territories dependent on France and global trade, hindering their ability to manage food production. Food security in these territories is about empowering local populations to manage their food systems, build sustainable production, and control their resources, essential steps to ensure their right to food for all.

OCAPROCE Internacional states that the problem of food security in the Tindouf camps cannot be attributed to a lack of generosity by international donors. There has been a shrinkage, it is true, and this has struck people in situations of conflict where they are greatly vulnerable. However, the explanation is the corruption of the armed group Polisario, which has been involved and has run the humanitarian security and all other situations relating to the Tindouf camps. OCAPROCE wonders what prevents the UNHRC to take a decision to conduct an investigation on the food situation in the camps in order to shed light for the international community to verify the serious allegations of the acts committed by Polisario with the support of the Algerian Government. OCAPROCE calls on the Algerian Government to cooperate with the UN and its specialised agencies in order to put forward information on the humanitarian assistance that is intended for the residents there.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

71 State Delegations

7 Inter-Governmental Organizations and UN Agencies

1 National Human Rights Institution

10 Non-Governmental Organizations