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Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food

Position of the United Nations Special Rapporteur presented at the OEWG on MYPoW, held in Rome on 25 January 2019

Dear CFS Chair, friends and colleagues,

Greetings and a happy new year to you all!

Following up last week's OEWG on the MYPoW, I would like to compliment all colleagues who have made efforts to prepare and present these very interesting preliminary proposals of which many, to a great extent, touch on relevant aspects of the mandate of the CFS.

Complementing of what a number of colleagues also mentioned during the meeting, many of these elements bring up prominently specificities of a human rights-based approach (HRBA), which is very much welcome. Participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency, human dignity, empowerment, equality and the rule of law are human rights principles and the backbone of the reformed CFS and should be the practice of how this unique forum conducts its work and activities.

First of all one general comment: I believe that together with a HRBA (which for example asks for socio-economically and culturally disaggregated data gathering analysis and monitoring), gender equality and women empowerment, youth, and climate change should be cross-cutting issues that should be dealt within the entire MYPoW. We should always be encouraged to ensure we deliver against these issues, no matter what the focus of the future MYPoW will be.

Having said that, I particularly welcome the proposals on inequalities (which in my view should encompass also gender inequalities) and the one on conflicts, migrations and FSN. A few specific comments on these:

1. I fully support the proposal of joining the two preliminary proposals on inequalities that were presented. I believe inequality is and should remain at the core of the work of CFS, and fighting all forms of inequalities are essential to achieve the SDGs. Recalling what some colleagues also mentioned on the day, the issue of inequality is not new to the CFS. These proposals, if joint, should start with making a special effort to ensure policy coherence and converge with previous reports and CFS policy products - including all Voluntary Guidelines that already exist and are being implemented at the national level, albeit still not fully - which discuss openly issues of inequalities in general and women empowerment, before necessarily

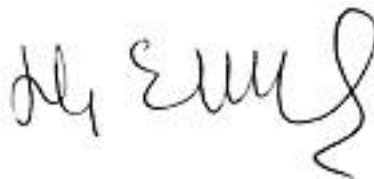
embarking on a new VG journey. The Right to Food Guidelines are a clear example of that, as well as the VGGTs.

2. The question of access is extremely important, access to services is an issue within an issue and it is critical to the elimination of inequalities. Guaranteeing access is not just political, it is a socio-economic and cultural issue and should be treated as such, because it often means ensuring people's self-reliance and making food security and nutrition sustainable. Why? Because it makes us think also about the impact that our actions can have on other areas, which are all interlinked, such as health, education, housing, decent work, water, which as highlighted by Spain, it is also a human right. This brings us back to the important concept that all human rights are universal, interdependent, interrelated and interconnected. I hence welcome inequalities as a priority to commit to in the next MYPoW.

3. As part of my focus on conflicts and migrations, I have produced three thematic reports which touch on either issue: Right to food in the context of conflict situations ([A/72/188](#)), Agricultural workers and the right to food ([A/73/164](#)), and the upcoming Fisheries and the right to food (A/37/61). If interested, you can read them on my webpage hilalerver.org. These reports heavily discuss the impact of migration on workers. They echo what CSM was saying, that there are other important aspects of migration which need to be assessed, and therefore I encourage the positive response from the presenters to broaden the scope of such proposal. A question which can be also be discussed later, is to what extent this proposal will centre on the most vulnerable people and groups.

I look forward to actively participate and engage with you in this process.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hilal Elver', written in a cursive style.

Hilal Elver
UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food