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Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food

9 October 2018

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This is the first in a new series of newsletters that will report recent and upcoming activities in connection with the right to food mandate. These newsletters¹ are part of a greater initiative to improve the visibility of the work carried out under the mandate and to ensure that this work is inclusive and accessible to all stakeholders. As always, I welcome any feedback that you may have on the work described below by writing to me at srfood@ohchr.org I also encourage you to forward this newsletter to any relevant counterparts and to ask them to send me an e-mail if they wish to receive the newsletter on a regular basis.

Website Launch. I have launched a new blog: <https://hilalelver.org>. This website serves as an information hub on the right to food, and as an access point for the work I have conducted in relation to the mandate. The site hosts summaries and full-text links to mandate-related reports, media coverage of breaking and critical issues relevant to the right to food, and a calendar of my upcoming events, among other items. I invite you all to explore the new website, sign up to receive updates, and to share the site link with colleagues and friends. Newsletters will also be made available on the website, and will be distributed to those who sign up to receive updates.

You can also follow me on Twitter @Hilalelver.

Country Visit to Argentina. From 12 to 22 September 2018, I conducted an official visit to Argentina at the invitation of the Government. The objective of the mission was to evaluate the realization of the right to food in Argentina and barriers to the full enjoyment of this right. The mission took place in a situation of financial crisis and led me to assess the more direct impacts on the Argentinean population's right to food as well as other more structural and long-term issues. The report on the mission will be presented to Human Right Council in March 2019. See, the [press release](#) and [the end of mission statement](#).

Committee on World Food Security 45th Session. From 15 to 19 October 2018, I will be attending the 45th session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS45) at FAO headquarters in Rome. CFS45 will feature “discussions on policy convergence on food security and nutrition in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, convene a Global



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Thematic Event on the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, and celebrate World Food Day.”

On Thursday, 18 October, I will be giving the keynote address on monitoring the use and application of the Voluntary Guidelines. I will also be participating in side events on fisheries and the right to food and on the challenges facing migrant agricultural workers. A full schedule of events will be available on the [CFS website](#). For those who were unable to register for the event by 21 September, resources from CFS45 will also be posted on the site.

Presentation of Agricultural Workers Report to United Nations General Assembly. I will be in New York from 22-25 October 2018, in order to present my most recent report to the United Nations General Assembly, which focuses [on agricultural workers and the right to food](#). The report addresses the progress in recognizing the right to food for this population and provides an in-depth assessment of the barriers to enjoying this right in a changing global food system. The report calls for States to, *inter alia*, implement binding rules introducing due diligence mechanisms to allow affected workers to hold accountable supply chain enterprises that profit from human rights abuses, and to implement the rules of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security.

Calls for Expression of Interest: Fisheries and the right to food. Over the next few months, I will be writing a thematic report that focuses on fisheries and the right to food, which will be presented at the UN Human Rights Council in March 2019.

Recent Highlights. The past year has presented several opportunities through which I was able to assess and promote the progressive realization of the right to food. Of particular note was my presentation of a [thematic report on the right to food in the context of natural disasters](#) (A/HRC/37/61) in March 2018. The issues raised in this report, and its sister [report on the right to food in conflict settings](#) (A/72/188) presented in November 2017, are especially timely given the intensification of food insecurity in conflict-ridden areas, and the increased frequency of climate change-induced weather events. Summaries of both reports – [natural disasters](#) and [conflict settings](#) -- are available on my new website.

Following the presentation of the natural disasters report at the 37th Human Rights Council, I conducted an official country visit to Indonesia from 9 to 18 April 2018 to assess the country's progress in respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the right to food. At the end of the visit, I



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presented my [preliminary observations](#) and issued a [press release](#). The ten-day visit in April will inform a final country visit report, which I will be presenting at the Council in March 2019.

In addition, I attended several conferences and meetings and made a number of presentations in my official capacity as the Special Rapporteur. For example, in March this year, I intervened at a workshop organized by the Friends of the Right to Food and the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) for relations with the CFS on monitoring the use and application of the right to food guidelines. Most recently, I provided a keynote address at a side event to the UN Human Rights Council's 39th Session on "Mass starvation: analysis and accountability for the international crime of starvation."

For a more detailed account of all recent activities relevant to the mandate, please visit my [new website](#) and the mandate's OHCHR website.

Thank you all for your work in promoting the universal right to food and for defending those for whom it is not yet fully realized.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilal Elver". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Hilal Elver
UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food

ⁱ If you think you are receiving this newsletter by mistake and would like to unsubscribe, please write to srfood@ohchr.org with subject "Unsubscribe".