

GLOBAL RIGHT TO FOOD AND NUTRITION NETWORK

A Call for Joint Action

1. What we want

The network is an initiative of public interest civil society organizations and social movements (peasants, fisherfolk, pastoralists, landless people, consumers, poor urban people, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, and indigenous peoples) that recognize the need to act jointly for the realization of the human right to adequate food and nutrition. The network opens a space for dialogue and mobilization of its members to hold States accountable for their obligations in the realization of this right; it supports the struggles of social movements and groups fighting against the violation of this right; it supports and does its best to protect human rights defenders against repression, violence and criminalization; and it moves to end the impunity of state-condoned violations and of non-state human rights abusers.

2. How we understand the right to adequate food and nutrition

All human beings, without discrimination, are entitled to enjoy the full realization of the human right to adequate food and nutrition. This right guarantees informed people's participation in the decision making and elaboration of public policies assuring an economically, politically, socially, and ecologically sustainable supply of adequate and nutritious food within the frameworks of food and of people's sovereignty; it also guarantees the enjoyment of regular access to food for all while respecting both cultural traditions and the principle of non-discrimination.

For the Network, this right encompasses nutritional wellbeing and the principles of food sovereignty.

3. What we do

The network will:

- i) Hold States, as duty bearers, accountable for their general and specific obligations under International Human Rights Law, as well as under the Maastricht Principles on extraterritorial obligations. As a general obligation, States must abide by the principles of non-discrimination, equality, non-retrogression, transparency, participation, accountability and rule of law. Specific obligations call on States to respect, protect, and fulfill (facilitate, promote and provide), in our case, the right to adequate food and nutrition. This implies that governments must make all their policies, such as agricultural, food, trade, economic, environment, social, energy and others coherent with the realization of human rights.

- ii) Develop monitoring and advocacy materials and methods that members and other partners can use when placing demands in front of States.
- iii) Engage to protect human right defenders and support their work.
- iv) Act as a watchdog making sure:
 - the principles of non-discrimination and equality are respected;
 - the State complies with its human rights obligations and non-state actors do not abuse them. Impunity must end;
 - the State discharges their extraterritorial obligations.
- v) Promote the highest possible standards of nutritional well being for all age groups and actively foster local sustainable food systems that support those standards including breastfeeding.
- vi) Work towards the strengthening of the human rights system at all levels, guaranteeing the binding nature of human rights law and the redress of violations.
- vii) Mobilize in support of the struggles of social movements when affected by violations of the human right to adequate food and nutrition and related rights.

4. How we work

Central to the functioning of the network is the promotion of exchanges and dialogue among its members. Each member has its own area of work concentration; in being members of the network they agree to work together on to advance issues of common interest deemed of great relevance for the furthering of the human right to adequate food and nutrition. The network does not speak on behalf of itself, but provides an avenue for members to express themselves on shared concerns.

The members of the Network engage in debates, in advocacy campaigns and/or action days to demand redress of violations and abuses, as well as in alerting other network members and the general public on specific themes in need of attention. To this is added making policy recommendations and monitoring their implementation. The publishing of the *Right to Food and Nutrition Watch* every year is an additional key contribution.

On the basis of these principles, the members of the Network call on all interested public interest civil society organizations and social movements to join, and individuals to support the work of the Network.

This appeal is backed by a charter of principles of the network which expands on the networks aims; it can be had from (email address or website).