

SUMMARY OF CFS SIDE EVENT SE36

Human rights-based approaches to global challenges and climate action for the right to adequate food for all

Held on 27th October 2023 Iran Room 13h30-14h45 in hybrid format

At a time of compounded and multiple crises where armed conflicts, COVID-19, the climate crisis and loss of biodiversity put high pressure on countries, humans and nature, this side event highlighted how a human rights-based approach driven by the right to adequate food, has the potential to provide game changing solutions.

It brought together expert international guidance relating to human rights, the right to adequate food and action on climate change, including experiences from those whose work and livelihoods is currently gravely impacted; and the adaptive and mitigating practices of conservation and preservation learned from traditional, peasant, rural community, and Indigenous knowledge systems.

The side event was developed within the context of the approaching 20th Anniversary of the [Right to Food Guidelines](#) and co-organized by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), the Office of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, the Right to Food Team at FAO and the governments of Germany and Switzerland.

Run of the show:

The side event opened with **2 keynote speakers** who set the international stage relating to human rights, the right to food guidelines, the global climate context, and how they relate to the right to adequate food.

Mr. Michael Fakhri, [UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food](#), set out the international framework in relation to the right to adequate food, the challenges and diverse and innovative measures to tackle climate change impact, and the degradation of our ecosystems, and the need for rights-based approaches.

Ms. Inkar Kadyrzhanova, Senior Natural Resources Officer, at the [FAO Office of Climate of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment](#) provided an overview of the international climate context and global policy framework, COPs, human rights, and the right to food in a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

The Side Event then moved onto **panel presentations** hearing from the government in Fiji, from international and national Civil Society organizations, including from Kenya and Peru, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The panelists were:

Dr. Tekini Nakidakida, Fiji's acting Head of Agriculture Operations & Services, and Deputy Secretary from the Ministry of Agriculture through pre-recorded video message, set out the grave impact of climate change on Fiji and its people's right to food, the policy and legislative actions and strategies underway, including financial mechanisms to mitigate effects on farmers and other measures brought in to mitigate and adapt to secure the right to food for all

Ms. Sofia Monsalve Suarez, Secretary General of [FIAN International](#), spoke from a global and local perspective on climate impact and mitigation measures for the right to adequate food for all, including what we can learn from agroecology and local fisher communities, with a focus on Honduras, as part of FIAN's work strengthening peoples' struggles for the right to food and related human rights.

Ms. Judy Kipkenda, Executive Director of Kenya's [Koibatek Ogiek Women and Youth Network](#), Africa focal point for the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus and a member of the Indigenous Peoples National steering committee on Climate Change, explained how her organization is acting to strengthen the rights and roles of Indigenous Peoples to enrich climate action and realize the right to adequate food at community, national and global level.

Ms. Iris Oliveira, Lawyer at [Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales](#), project leader and coordinator of a joint project with [Welthungerhilfe](#), joined virtually, speaking to the experiences and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples and communities of Peru's Amazon region in conservation, forest tenure, sustainable use of natural resources, and promoting socio-environmental governance for the right to adequate food.

Mr. Franco Sanchez-Hidalgo, Director of Programmes at the [International Development Law Organization \(IDLO\)](#) spoke to country experiences promoting environmental justice, effective institutions and fair legal environments to advance the right to food, by adopting a human-rights-based approach to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, and enhancing the rule of law as a catalyst for Food Systems Transformation.

Mr. Chafik Ben Rouin, human rights officer and right to food specialist at the [Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#), shared the latest Secretary General Report on [Adverse Impacts of Climate Change and the Right to Food](#) as well as the report currently being drafted on Measures to Minimize Adverse Impacts of Climate Change on the full realization of the Right to Food to be presented at Human Rights Council at its 55th Session.

There followed a general audience and panel dialogue finding ways to forge enhanced commitment and action to secure the right to adequate food for all, leveraging the 20th Anniversary of the right to food guidelines in 2024 as a renewed call to action.

The Side Event was moderated by **Ms Claire Mason**, advisor from FAO's [Right to Food Team](#) and closed by **Ms. Lauren Phillips**, Deputy Director of the [Inclusive Rural Transformations and Gender Equality Division \(ESP\)](#) who summarized the session and spoke to FAO's commitment to the Right to Food, the importance of the [20th Anniversary of the Right to Food Guidelines](#) and inclusive and rights-based Climate objectives for next biennium, including a gender focus.

We invite you to watch the [video of our side event](#) and to get engaged, standing up for human rights and making the right to food a reality for all. Passcode: SE362023+

The **Right to Adequate Food** is realized when everyone always has physical and economic access to adequate food or means for its procurement. Fundamentally, the realization of the human right to adequate food encompasses and depends on a healthy climate and stable environment.

The [Right to Food Guidelines](#), adopted almost 20 years ago, are as relevant today, amidst the challenges of inequality, diseases, conflicts, climate change, and loss of biodiversity. Their implementation for the fulfilment of the right to adequate food for all contributes to meeting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, themselves grounded in human rights. They also remind us of the importance of international cooperation and collaboration towards the collective public good of ending hunger, malnutrition in all its forms, poverty and inequality and sustaining a life in dignity for future generations.