

ANNEX 1

[This annex includes, for ease of reference, the Secretariat's analysis of the contributions received to inform the Global Thematic Event, which will be part of the background documentation for the CFS Plenary (CFS 2024/52/Inf.19)]

MONITORING THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES TO SUPPORT THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY

I. SUMMARY

1. The Voluntary Guidelines for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security (Right to Food Guidelines) were endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in 2004. Their objective is to provide practical guidance to states and other actors in their implementation of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.
2. Since their endorsement, the Right to Food Guidelines have been used by various actors in multiple countries to inform and guide legislative reform and actions to transform food systems for increasing food security and reducing malnutrition. The Guidelines have served as the basis for the reform of the CFS in 2009 as well as for the subsequent development of CFS policy agreements and other normative tools. Today these are referred to as the advanced normative framework of the right to adequate food.
3. The CFS together with FAO issued a call to its stakeholders to share their experiences in using the Right to Food Guidelines (running for a total of 16 weeks in May-June 2023 and in October-January 2024). The inputs received will inform the Global Thematic Event (GTE) taking place at CFS 52 to review the uptake of the Guidelines on their 20th anniversary of adoption. In this context, 109 contributions were received, of which 46 provided relevant and complete information and were used to compile the analysis presented in this report.
4. Of the 46 relevant contributions, 36 described experiences at national level, three at regional level and six contributions concerned the global level. All the contributions received are available on the CFS 52 web page of the CFS website in their original language. Contributions covered all regions and various stakeholder groups. 20 contributions were received from civil society, ten from academia, four from UN bodies, three from governments, and another three from the private sector.

5. Contributions highlighted how the Guidelines have been used to: raise awareness of the right to adequate food; as a resource in capacity building activities; for advocacy purposes; to formulate specific policies at national and regional levels; to develop projects and programs aimed at the progressive realization of the right to adequate food; and for advancing the recognition and role of the right to adequate food in global governance mechanisms.
6. The main success factors contributing to the adoption and use of the Right to Food Guidelines reflected in the contributions were: awareness among key stakeholders; sufficient capacities and financial resources; applying inclusive multi-stakeholder processes; anchoring the right to adequate food in national laws and global governance mechanisms and the importance of continuous, systematic monitoring and evaluation.
7. The contributions also highlighted a number of challenges in the implementation of the Right to Food Guidelines, such as: a low level of awareness of the Guidelines; weak implementation capacities; a lack of political prioritization of the right to adequate food; an absence of sufficient funding; inadequate data and information on food security and nutrition-relevant domains.
8. This report is based on voluntary contributions which document experiences in using the Right to Food Guidelines. This report does not provide baselines for future monitoring but establishes a reference through sharing information on what is being done, what is foreseen to be done, where and by whom. It is in line with the CFS role of promoting accountability and good practice.

II. BACKGROUND

Context and rationale

9. The importance of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security is reflected in the vision of the reformed CFS to “strive for a world free from hunger where countries implement the Voluntary Guidelines for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security” (Right to Food Guidelines) [[CFS 2009/2.Rev2](#)]. The CFS Reform document recognizes the human right to adequate food is fundamental to achieving food security.
10. The Right to Food Guidelines, endorsed by the Committee at its 30th Session in October 2004 and adopted unanimously by all Member States of the FAO Council at its 127th Session in November 2004, are an important policy tool complementing the right to adequate food legal framework. They cover a full range of actions for governments at national level aiming to build an enabling environment for people to feed themselves in

dignity. They incorporate human rights principles, including equality and non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, accountability, transparency and rule of law, as well as the principle that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent.

11. The guidelines are designed to provide practical guidance to states and other actors in their implementation of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. Since their adoption, they have guided countries and other actors in developing and adopting a wide range of measures towards guaranteeing the availability of food in quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals; physical and economic accessibility for everyone, including groups in vulnerable situations, to adequate food, free from unsafe substances and acceptable within a given culture; or the means of its procurement.
12. The right to adequate food has a multidimensional nature and shares intersectionality with various aspects of human life, society, and nature. As such, the Right to Food Guidelines anticipated the urgency of today's most pressing global challenges to achieving sustainable development, including in the context of conflicts, compounded and protracted crises, persisting inequalities, malnutrition and related health issues, diseases, as well as climate change, biodiversity loss, scarcity and disturbance of water sources, toxic pollution and chemical contamination, deforestation and land degradation.
13. In recent years, key milestones such as the Conferences of the Parties on climate change and biodiversity and the recognition of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment have illustrated the inextricable nexus between nature and its people. In July 2022, the UN Human Rights Council recognized that the adverse impacts of climate change negatively affect the realization of the right to adequate food and adopted Resolution 50/9, which highlighted the critical and urgent need to continue addressing the adverse impacts of climate change for all, particularly for those who are disproportionately affected and at the highest risk of malnutrition.

The Right to Food Guidelines Policy Process:

14. In the context of the CFS, striving to be the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all, the Right to Food Guidelines were the result of an inclusive, participatory and agreement-driven approach and the first intergovernmental negotiations in Rome to actively involve civil society actors. Through the Guidelines, an agreement was reached on the meaning of the right to adequate food amongst states for the first time. They were a breakthrough in achieving consensus among countries on key issues and

highlighted the centrality of human rights principles and standards to the fight against hunger and malnutrition in all its forms.

15. This process saw the involvement and technical support from the three Rome-based Agencies – Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and World Food Programme (WFP) – as well as governments, other UN agencies, civil society, non-governmental organizations, international agricultural research institutions, private sector associations, private philanthropic foundations, international and regional financial institutions.
16. The Guidelines provide states with 19 practical recommendations for the realization of the right to adequate food relating to the establishment of an enabling environment, assistance, and accountability. These include measures related to democracy and good governance, economic development policies, transparent, inclusive, non-discriminatory and comprehensive national strategies, improved institutions, legal frameworks, access to resources and assets, nutrition and dietary diversity, national financial resources, international food aid, including national food and nutrition security plans, monitoring mechanisms, and international cooperation.
17. The Right to Food Guidelines offer a roadmap for achieving sustainable and equitable food systems, ensuring non-discrimination, inclusivity, and respect for the environment. Under the Millennium Development Goals of 2015, they were an important tool for countries in meeting the hunger eradication target (MDG 1). The Guidelines continue to offer concrete practical guidance on the ways to make notable progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
18. The right to adequate food is at the heart of the reformed CFS, referred to as a model for inclusive decision-making – the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to ensure food security and nutrition for all - which benefits from the participation of civil society and Indigenous Peoples’ constituencies representing those most affected by hunger and food insecurity. The realization of the right to adequate food, and its related norms, are also part of the foundation and overarching frameworks of CFS, as outlined in the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) and CFS-endorsed policy guidelines and recommendations such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI).

19. At CFS 45 in October 2018, a first Global Thematic Event (GTE) was held, taking stock of the use and application of the Right to Food Guidelines. The GTE provided an opportunity for an inclusive, multistakeholder dialogue to share national, regional and global experiences and good practices in the use and application of the Guidelines. A total of 56 contributions from CFS stakeholders (governments, UN Organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations and academia) were captured in a [report](#), which informed the event. These contributions documented experiences in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighting the following use of the Right to Food Guidelines:

- awareness raising activities to sensitize stakeholders to the existence and/or implementation of the Guidelines;
- capacity development to strengthen the ability of stakeholders to implement the Guidelines;
- establishment of multistakeholder mechanisms to leverage synergies of multistakeholder partnerships;
- reform of legal and policy frameworks to better and more sustainably contribute to the realization of the right to adequate food;
- addressing violations of the right to food including establishing public remedy mechanisms; and
- initiatives to monitor the right to food through assessment and monitoring.

20. This first GTE on the Right to Food Guidelines illustrated a series of good practices in the application of the Guidelines. These included: empowering stakeholders through increased awareness of their right to adequate food and capacity building amongst other activities; facilitating development of multistakeholder mechanisms where stakeholders, especially those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition, are involved in the dialogue and decision-making process; forming partnerships with key institutions, encouraging the establishment of multistakeholder dialogue forums, and monitoring elements related to achieving the right to adequate food; fostering community-based food security and nutrition programmes; and making healthy, nutritious and low-cost food available, with adequate information to the population.

21. The GTE at CFS 45 also highlighted a number of challenges various stakeholders faced in their use of the Guidelines, including: the absence of a conducive enabling environment or legal framework, socio-economic vulnerabilities, lack of sufficient funding, unequal or insufficient access to markets, land and natural resources, a lack of awareness of the

Guidelines or capacities to implement them, discrimination, as well as a lack of accountability and the absence of recourse mechanisms.

22. Preceding the GTE, during the 41st Session of the CFS in October 2014, three Member States (El Salvador, India and Jordan) shared their national experiences on the application of the Right to Food Guidelines. During the same year, a ten-year 'Retrospective on the Right to Food Guidelines' was produced aimed at taking stock and understanding what has worked, identify bottlenecks and outline how governments and their partners can be most effective in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

The Right to Food Guidelines GTE Process:

23. At its 44th session in 2017, the CFS decided to hold Global Thematic Events (GTE) during Plenary every two years to share experiences and take stock of the use and application of CFS' main policy agreements. The Multiyear Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2024-2027, identified a second GTE on the Right to Food Guidelines for October 2024, at CFS 52, coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the Guidelines.
24. The objectives of the GTEs, as per their Terms of Reference¹ (TOR) endorsed by the Committee in 2016, are to:
- Foster the adoption, adaptation and scaling up of good practices and learning from experiences in implementing CFS policy guidelines;
 - Monitor progress (qualitatively and quantitatively) in implementing CFS policy guidelines at national, regional and global levels;
 - Draw lessons to improve the relevance and effectiveness of CFS work, including for the achievement of food security and nutrition national goals; and
 - Increase awareness and understanding of CFS and CFS-endorsed policy guidelines.
25. The TORs recommend the organization of events that are country-owned, participative and inclusive (involving the full range of stakeholders concerned with food security and nutrition, in particular food insecure and vulnerable communities). They promote collaboration with existing CFS-like platforms and coordination mechanisms and joint reporting of the results of the events in consultation with all groups of stakeholders participating in these events. The recommended approach is consistent with the Principles

¹ More information available at: [CFS 2016/43/7](#)

defined in the [CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition](#) (last update GSF-2021).

26. The GTE TOR clarify that practices should be consistent with the values promoted by CFS, as applicable, including:
- Inclusiveness and participation: all main relevant actors were involved and participated in the decision-making processes related to the practice, including all those who have or could have been affected by the decisions;
 - Evidence-based analysis: the effectiveness of the practice in contributing to the objectives of CFS products was analysed based on independent evidence;
 - Environmental, economic and social sustainability: the practice contributed to achieving its specific objectives, without compromising the ability of addressing future needs;
 - Gender equality: the practice promoted equal rights and participation for women and men and addressed gender inequalities;
 - Focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized people and groups: the practice benefitted the most vulnerable and marginalized people and groups;
 - Multi-sectoral approach: all main relevant sectors were consulted and involved in implementation;
 - Resilience of livelihoods: the practice contributed to building households and communities resilient to shocks and crises, including those related to climate change.
27. In preparation for CFS 52 in October 2024, CFS together with the FAO Right to Food Team issued a call for inputs between May 2023 and December 2023. This call invited all CFS stakeholders to contribute their efforts towards the realization of the right to adequate food as well as the adoption and adaptation of the Right to Food Guidelines. The purpose was to inform the preparation of the GTE, ensuring a comprehensive, inclusive and transparent review of all actions related to the implementation of the Right to Food Guidelines. See Section IV on inputs received.
28. The call for inputs invited stakeholders to document individual experiences in applying the Right to Food Guidelines as well as those implemented by a group of stakeholders (e.g. a member state, civil society, or the private sector).

29. This report summarizes the inputs received from stakeholders and will be made available to delegates attending the GTE at CFS 52. It outlines experiences in using, adapting and applying the Right to Food Guidelines; key catalysts, constraints and challenges; good practices to be shared with CFS stakeholders; and anticipated future uses of the Right to Food Guidelines.

III. CONTEXTUAL DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 2004

30. Amidst enduring governance challenges in the context of international efforts to address global hunger and food insecurity in 2004, the Right to Food Guidelines offered a multi-dimensional approach, fostering political commitment, enhancing collaboration among stakeholders, strengthening institutional capacity, promoting transparency and accountability, and addressing the underlying structural causes of hunger and malnutrition.

31. Since their adoption, they have provided a roadmap for inclusive and sustainable food systems transformation anchored in human rights.

32. Twenty years after their adoption, the Guidelines remain highly relevant as a guidance and reference frame today. Food systems require urgent and sustainable transformation and the right to adequate food provides a legal framework that cohesively responds to multiple and interdependent demands of food security and nutrition, justice, improved and sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as equitable trade and finance.

33. The right to adequate food emphasizes the importance of inclusive and participatory decision-making processes, ensuring that those directly affected by food insecurity and malnutrition have a voice and meaningfully contribute to shaping policies and strategies to address it.

34. It encompasses the interconnected dimensions of food availability, accessibility, acceptability, adequacy, and sustainability, and calls for a holistic approach to food security. It underscores the interconnectedness of food systems including agriculture, health, environment, education, social protection, and labour rights and calls for coordinated efforts and policy coherence.

35. It also provides a framework for assessing states' compliance with their human rights obligations as well as accountability mechanisms and monitoring.

36. For decades, collective action and cooperation around the right to adequate food has played a pivotal role in tackling the interconnected issues that affect the people and the planet and in building a more just and equitable world for present and future generations.
37. Over the past two decades since the adoption of the Right to Food Guidelines and despite significant remaining gaps, the world has witnessed a progression of the right to adequate food in national and international contexts, including policy advancements connecting the right to adequate food to agroecology, food safety, school feeding programmes and political advancements, including through the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP). It can be found in many constitutions in the form of explicit or implicit reference, directive principles of state policy, and ancillary provisions. (See FAO, [The right to food around the globe](#)). It is also relevant in national contexts by the nature of the applicability of international legal obligations. Right to adequate food elements can be found in many national legal context through legislation, policy or judicial recognition, creating government obligations as well as personal entitlements for food system actors.
38. Not only did the right to adequate food influence the reformed CFS' principles, objectives and overall structure, but the Right to Food Guidelines are considered to be the basis of subsequent CFS guidelines and have inspired the development of additional policy tools. They have contributed to the development of a comprehensive normative framework towards food security and nutrition and support the drive towards the sustainable, inclusive and human rights-based transformation of food systems.
39. The Right to Food Guidelines spearheaded and inspired the creation of subsequent international policy and legislative instruments as well as normative documents and fostered participatory decision-making processes contributing to normative instruments related to numerous rights. Amongst others:
- Rights of **persons with disabilities** with the adoption of the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** in 2006, which explicitly provides that states recognize the right of persons with disabilities to adequate food, reinforcing the obligation upon states to ensure the realization of the right to adequate food for all, without discrimination of any kind. Articles 25(f); Article 28(1).
 - Rights of **Indigenous Peoples** with the adoption of the **UN Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)** in 2007, which sets out specific and collective rights for Indigenous Peoples, and the need to recognize, respect and sustain their knowledge, heritage, culture and interconnection with natural resources for their livelihoods,

health, spirituality, dignity, and wellbeing. It confirmed the importance of self-determination, cementing their right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).

- Rights to **water and sanitation** with the adoption of the UN General Assembly **Resolution 64/292** in 2010, recognizing “the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights”, as adequate food depends upon access to water and sanitation. (Right to Food Guidelines, Guideline 8C).
- Right to equal and equitable access to healthy diets through sustainable food systems with the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, which also recognize the need for resilient food systems across the continuum of the humanitarian response and development, particularly local development taking into account the CFS Framework for Action on Food Security in Protracted Crises.
- Rights of **peasants** with the adoption of the **UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other Working People in Rural Areas (UNDROP)** in 2018, which highlights the specific challenges faced in rural communities and the need for special provisions to promote and protect peasants’ rights, incorporating fishers, pastoralists, and agricultural workers, among others. It explicitly recognizes the right to adequate food and expressly refers to the Right to Food Guidelines as a vital component in their development. (Article 15)
- Rights of **women** with important recommendations which serve to further highlight the situation related to women and girls in relation to their rights to food and natural resources by the **UN Committee charged with the monitoring of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**, adopted in 1979), especially for rural and Indigenous women. **General Recommendation No. 34 on the rights of rural women**, developed in 2016, which refers explicitly to the Right to Food Guidelines for the development of policies that will strengthen the right to adequate food and nutrition for rural women. (Paragraph G on land and natural resources). **General Recommendation No. 39 on the rights of Indigenous Women and Girls**, published in 2022, set out additional guidance for ensuring the specific recognition and protection of their rights. (Paragraph H on rights to food, water, and seeds, Articles 12 and 14).
- **Land rights**, with the adoption of the **CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries, and forests in the context of national food security** in 2012 and the **General Comment No. 26 on Land and Economic, Social**

and Cultural Rights, developed in 2022 by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), which highlights the critical importance of productive resources for the realization of the right to adequate food, underlining the rights of peasants, pastoralists, fisherfolks and communities in rural areas. It makes reference to the Right to Food Guidelines.

- Rights of **small-scale fishers and fish workers** with the adoption of the **CFS Voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication (SSF Guidelines)** adopted in 2014, which makes reference to the Right to Food Guidelines.
- **Right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment**, recognized in 2022 by the UN General Assembly following adoption of the **UN Human Rights Council Resolution 48/13**, which clearly highlights the nexus between the health of our environment and the full enjoyment of human rights, including the right to adequate food. It acknowledges the threats caused to our existence by contamination of our natural resources, and the grave impacts of climate change, the loss of biodiversity and nature, and pollution, while highlighting how the global environmental crisis is disproportionately impacting the world's most marginalized communities.

40. Additional CFS policy agreements have also been negotiated and adopted with the overall objective of achieving the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, including the **Principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems** (2014); the **CFS Framework for action for food security and nutrition in protracted crisis** (2015); the **CFS policy recommendations on connecting smallholders to markets** (2016); the **CFS policy recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to improve decision-making in support of the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security** (2023) and the **Voluntary guidelines on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition** (2023).

41. The above-mentioned examples illustrate how the Right to Food Guidelines have significantly contributed to the formation of an advanced normative framework of the right to adequate food. They highlight the interrelatedness of the right to adequate food with several other highly important policy areas and underline the importance of comprehensively using these instruments to transform food systems towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food for all.

42. The implementation of the Guidelines is also promoted by FAO, through dedicated resources focusing efforts on increased awareness and understanding among duty-bearers and rights-holders on the value and importance of integrating human rights principles and the right to adequate food at the core of food systems transformation, including those implemented by its Right to Food Unit.

IV. SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER CONTRIBUTIONS ON THE USE AND APPLICATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD GUIDELINES

Overview of the inputs received

43. A total of 109 contributions were received in response to the call for inputs. 46 of the contributions provided relevant and complete information (submitted using the requested template) and were used to compile the analysis presented in this report.

44. The list of contributions is provided in Annex 1.

45. Of the 46 contributions received to document experiences on the use and application of the Right to Food Guidelines, 36 were at national level, three at regional level and six contributions were submitted at global level. All the contributions received are available on the CFS 52 web page of the CFS website.

46. The most represented region providing contributions on national and regional experiences was Africa with 15 contributions followed by Latin American and the Caribbean with 14 contributions and Europe and Central Asia with a total of seven contributions, Asia and the Pacific with two contributions as well as the Near East and North Africa Region and North America with one contribution each.

47. 20 contributions were received from civil society, ten from academia, four from UN bodies, three from governments, and three from the private sector. One contribution was jointly submitted by FAO Senegal and the Pan-African Parliament.

48. Three contributions were received from “other” constituencies, specifically: one from the Chamber of Commerce of Cameroon, one from the European Commission (DG INTPA), and one from the Human Rights Ombudsman’s Office in Guatemala.

Results - how the Right to Food Guidelines were used

49. The experiences documented in the contributions had different objectives, and showed that the Right to Food Guidelines were used in different ways:

- **Awareness raising:** many awareness-raising activities were implemented, including holding small to large-scale events as well as information and dissemination activities such as communication campaigns, workshops, seminars and lectures in schools and universities, technical group discussions and consultations, platforms, academic publications, and policy briefs.

Some specific examples include:

The development of guidance notes and studies that contextualize the Right to Food Guidelines within the relevant national context. In Australia, for example, a report on the application of the Guidelines to the national context was published by academia. Similarly, in Germany a guidance note for the use of the Guidelines at country level was developed by a civil society organization.

Other relevant awareness raising activities included the organization of events on the right to adequate food, where the Guidelines were used as a reference point. For example, in Brazil, where about 4,000 people were reached through online and face-to-face workshops. Similarly, civil society stakeholders in Germany used the 10th anniversary of the Guidelines to raise awareness about them through a dedicated celebration event.

- **Capacity building:** a broad range of stakeholders implemented capacity building activities and trainings on the right to adequate food and the use of the Guidelines aimed at various target groups including local government officials, civil society and farmers organizations, students and teachers, parliamentarians as well as consumers.

Examples include:

In Colombia, the Right to Food Guidelines were used in a project implemented by FAO, which targeted twelve departments across the country. The Guidelines were used to develop capacity building activities for representatives of the local administration as well as civil society aimed, among others, at identifying violations of the right to adequate food in Colombia.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a civil society organization used the Right to Food Guidelines for trainings of farmers, which enabled them to self-organize into community-based organizations capable of advocating for the implementation of the right to adequate food at local level.

- **Advocacy:** the Right to Food Guidelines have been widely used for advocacy purposes. In addition to raising awareness on the importance of the right to adequate food, the Guidelines have been used to inform lawmakers and advocate for policy change.

Furthermore, the Guidelines have been a tool used by civil society and rightsholders organizations to hold governments accountable for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

Examples include:

A successful example towards the application of the Right to Food Guidelines as an advocacy tool comes from France, where a group of NGOs used the Guidelines by contributing to the country's review by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights from a right to adequate food perspective, which resulted in the recommendation of the Committee for France to adopt a national legislative framework on the right to adequate food.

In Malawi, the Right to Food Guidelines were used to analyze existing legislation with relevance for the right to adequate food, to identify gaps and advocate for legislative reform leading towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food for all.

- **Policy formulation:** the Right to Food Guidelines have also been used in developing various policies at national, local, and regional level as well as in drafting legislative frameworks that help enable the realization of the right to adequate food.

Examples included:

In Ecuador, the national government has used the Guidelines to formulate the Organic Law on School Feeding in the framework of the Interinstitutional Committee, which forms the basis of a national school feeding program benefitting 2.9 million students in public schools across the country.

A further example of an application of the Guidelines at the regional level was submitted by the Pan-African Parliament and FAO, who jointly established the Pan-African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. The Alliance made use of the Right to Food Guidelines for the development of the Model Law on Food and Nutrition Security, which serves as a blueprint for countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region to develop national legislation to facilitate the realization of the right to adequate food.

- **Project and program design:** various stakeholders reported using the Right to Food Guidelines in the development and design of specific projects and programs at country level aimed at facilitating the realization of the right to adequate food. This included donors, development partners such as the Rome-based Agencies as well as civil society and private sector organizations involved in the implementation of projects.

Some examples included:

Germany has included the Right to Food Guidelines as a key guiding principle in its development assistance, including the setting up of the Bilateral Trust Fund with FAO, which aims at promoting food security and agriculture in rural areas through project cooperation work.

In Argentina, UNICEF has used the Right to Food Guidelines across multiple activities carried out, including in their work with the national government to develop programs for reducing food insecurity and malnutrition among children.

- **Global governance mechanisms:** the Right to Food Guidelines have served as a tool for different stakeholders to further advance global governance on the right to adequate food and other related rights frameworks. Reported activities in this area have included the use of the Guidelines to advocate for the endorsement of further international agreements as well as the strengthening of the right to adequate food in international fora.

Examples include:

The government of Germany for example reported using the Right to Food Guidelines in negotiations in various international fora, including the G7 and G20. Furthermore, it facilitated the inclusion of an explicit mention of the Right to Food Guidelines in the ministerial declaration of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture 2023, which was hosted by its Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Reported key catalysts to successful adoption and/or adaptation

50. In reporting their experiences with the use and application of the Right to Food Guidelines, stakeholders highlighted some of the key catalysts for the successful adoption and adaptation of the Guidelines, including:

- **Awareness** of the right to adequate food and the Guidelines among rightsholders and civil society as well as government officials and parliamentarians was identified as a pre-requisite for adoption, thus highlighting the importance of awareness raising among these stakeholder groups. In this context, making the Right to Food Guidelines accessible for the respective audiences, for example through case studies, graphical presentation, or the involvement of local celebrities, was pointed out as an important catalyst.
- **Capacity building** was named another driver of success, targeting both rightsholders to enable them to claim their right to adequate food as well as those tasked with implementing national policies, programs, and projects on the right to adequate food

such as government officials and administrators to respect, protect and fulfil the right to adequate food or civil society organizations to advocate for it.

- **The availability of sufficient financial resources** for the implementation of programs and policies aimed at realizing the right to adequate food are key for success. Stakeholders reported it as crucial for governments to make sufficient resources available for the implementation of new policies and for international donors to lend support.
- **Inclusive processes and strengthened multi-stakeholder approaches** are important factors for ensuring that the adoption of the Right to Food Guidelines can have lasting and sustainable impact on the ground. Involving those most affected by food insecurity and targeted by support programs as well as other key actors such as the private sector and civil society was reported as significantly catalyzing.
- **The inclusion of the right to adequate food into national law**, particularly at constitutional level, was highlighted as another key factor influencing the success of the adoption of the Right to Food Guidelines. Considering that the Guidelines are voluntary, the transposition into national law was reported to significantly increase commitment among all stakeholders.
- **An integration with other international initiatives** such as the UN Food Systems Summit, the SDG Summit, or other rights frameworks such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) can further enhance the efficacy of the Right to Food Guidelines and catalyze their adoption.
- **Mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation** of existing programs and policies against the Right to Food Guidelines can help ensure continuous improvement and holding duty bearers accountable.
- **Integration of the Right to Food Guidelines into donors' requirements** can facilitate access to financial resources for projects aimed at realizing the right to adequate food and incentivize the adoption of the Guidelines at all levels.

Reported key constraints and challenges to uptake and/or use

51. On the other hand, the reported cases where the Right to Food Guidelines have been used in practice also revealed some of the challenges that can impede the uptake and use of the guidelines, which included:

- **A lack of awareness of the Right to Food Guidelines** among key constituencies. This included rightsholders, who in many cases are not aware of the concept of the right to adequate food, as well as policy makers, who often did not have knowledge of the Guidelines as a tool available to support them in promoting positive change.
- **Low political prioritization** or a lack of willingness among political leaders to implement the Right to Food Guidelines was reported as an obstacle by some stakeholders. Firstly, other political and economic challenges often take precedent, for example economic crises, a high national debt burden, conflicts or trade disruptions. Secondly, the voluntary nature of the Guidelines was reported to make it politically less attractive for policy makers to implement them.
- **Adverse impact of lobbying activities by political interest groups** on policy makers was reported by some stakeholders as being a barrier to the successful uptake of the Right to Food Guidelines.
- **Lack of capacities at different levels of government and administration**, including for example limited digitalization, limited understanding of the right to adequate food, and the absence of local structures to facilitate the implementation of programs, were further named as obstacles to the adoption and use of the Guidelines.
- The **absence of the right to adequate food in national legislation** was mentioned as a challenge for adoption of the Right to Food Guidelines at country level given their voluntary nature.
- **A lack of sufficient funding** for right to adequate food-related activities was pointed out by several stakeholders as a barrier to adoption and use of the Guidelines.
- **Insufficient data and information** on right to adequate food-related indicators represented another barrier reported by some stakeholders. Measuring the status quo of food insecurity as well as the implementation of programs and policies based on the Right to Food Guidelines was described challenging in the absence of sufficient, coherent, or high-quality data and information. In addition, the absence of a systematic monitoring processes made it difficult for some stakeholders to determine whether interventions were successful or not.

Highlights on some good practices

52. The contributions highlighted several good practices that contributed to making their experiences of using the Right to Food Guidelines successful. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Applying inclusive multi-stakeholder approaches**, ensuring that the voices of all stakeholders are heard and considered, with particular focus on:
 - Grass-roots level engagement to involve those most immediately affected by hunger and food insecurity;
 - Developing public policies jointly between policy makers and those to be addressed by programs and policies to ensure that needs and demands are adequately met;
 - Creating networks among various civil society organizations, which enable them to actively engage with other stakeholders, including policy makers; and
 - Involving civil society and the private sector to share their best practices.
- **Making use of existing local structures for targeted awareness raising campaigns**, for example:
 - Working with schools or religious institutions;
 - Engaging local celebrities and authority figures for enhanced communication; and
 - Using those communication channels most relevant for the local audience.
- **Establishing a solid data baseline** before the implementation of a project as well as implementing regular monitoring and evaluation processes to facilitate accountability and tracking of progress towards the realization of the right to adequate food.
- **Creation of accountability instruments and processes** that enable rights holders to monitor adherence to and violations of the right to adequate food, including capacity building for rights holders, which equip them with the skills to make use of such instruments.
- **Awareness raising of the right to adequate food** among government stakeholders underlining its roots in the international human rights framework and advocating for the constitutional recognition of this right.
- **Regional networking among civil society organizations** focusing on the right to adequate food to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and sharing of best practices.
- **Using the Guidelines to identify right to adequate food violations**, which can then be used to advocate for the reform of policies and the introduction of programs to advance their implementation.
- **Systematic advocacy activities addressing policy makers with evidence-based arguments** and employing a specific and strategic advocacy plan.

Next steps to enhance further use of the Guidelines

53. The contributions illustrated the commitment of various stakeholders towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and the important role of the Right to Food Guidelines in achieving this goal. Building on activities implemented over the past 20 years, a number of stakeholders plan to continue their engagement, by:

- **Taking advantage of the 20th anniversary of the Guidelines** to catalyze awareness raising activities. Several stakeholders are planning events, multi-stakeholder dialogues and conferences.
- **Using the Right to Food Guidelines for advocacy activities** aimed at the legal recognition and implementation of the right to adequate food at country level.
- **Specific projects implementing the Right to Food Guidelines**, including, among others, the upscaling of successful pilot projects to other regions.
- **Facilitating the cooperation between the CFS and other UN institutions** in the context of the 20th anniversary of the Right to Food Guidelines and beyond.
- **Finalizing the development of specific policies** for the realization of the right to adequate food at the country level as a result of undertaken awareness raising and advocacy activities.
- **Continuous monitoring and assessment of the right to adequate food situation** at national and regional level as well as tracking the success of right to adequate food projects and programs.
- **Capacity building activities for right-holders and government representatives**, including the trainings and the updating of existing education programs.

Conclusions and recommendations

54. The contributions highlighted the important role of the Right to Food Guidelines in promoting the human right to adequate food for all. Specifically, the Guidelines have been used to raise awareness of the right to adequate food, as a tool for capacity building activities, for advocacy purposes, to formulate specific policies at national and regional levels, to develop projects and programs aimed at the right to adequate food as well as for advancing the recognition and role of the right to adequate food in global governance mechanisms.

55. Based on the contributions, a number of key factors for success in the adoption and use of the Right to Food Guidelines stood out, including awareness among key stakeholders, sufficient capacities and financial resources, applying inclusive multi-stakeholder processes, anchoring the right to adequate food in national laws and global governance mechanisms as well as the importance of continuous, systematic monitoring and evaluation.
56. At the same time, the contributions also highlighted challenges in the implementation of the Right to Food Guidelines, such as a low level of awareness of the Guidelines among different actors, weak implementation capacities, a lack of political prioritization of the right to adequate food, an absence of sufficient funding or inadequate data and information on food security and nutrition-relevant domains.
57. Some of the CFS stakeholders whose contributions are reflected in this report recommended continuing the collaboration between CFS stakeholders and partners to provide enhanced support to countries in the dissemination, uptake and implementation of the Right to Food Guidelines and to monitor the use of the Right to Food Guidelines and other CFS policy products to measure progress in achieving the CFS vision to strive for a world free from hunger where countries implement the Voluntary Guidelines for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

Annex 1: Contributions documenting the use of the Right to Food Guidelines at different levels

CONTRIBUTIONS DOCUMENTING EXPERIENCES IN THE USE AND APPLICATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES TO SUPPORT THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY
Country level contributions
Africa
A 1. Benin: RIGHT TO FOOD IN BENIN: Status report on the application of some FAO voluntary guidelines
A 2. Cameroon: Implementing the import-substitution policy to ensure food sovereignty and security in Cameroon
A 3. Cameroon: A collection of practices proposed by BEDELOR to help clean up policies or the agro-sylvo-pastoral environment and ensure effective food security in Cameroon
A 4. Congo: GLOBAL FORUM ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD IN PRODUCING AREA
A 5. Democratic Republic of the Congo: Alimentation mal saine de la population déplacé interne
A 6. Ethiopia: Right to Food and Compliance of the Ethiopian State to Its Obligations
A 7. Gabon: Implementation of the Right to Food Security Guidelines in Gabon
A 8. Kenya: Rights to food among Kenyans
A 9. Kenya: Analysis of the status of the Right to Food In Kenya against the Voluntary Guidelines and the UN Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems
A 10. Malawi: Advocacy for the Right to adequate Food (RtAF)
A 11. Mali: Mali, integration of the right to food in the draft constitution. Successful advocacy by civil society
A 12. Mozambique: Promoting the right to food through effective public finance management systems
A 13. Zimbabwe: The Consumer Council of Zimbabwe (CCZ) and the Right to Adequate Food
Asia and the Pacific
P 1. Australia: The right to food in Australia
P 2. India: Right to Food Campaign in Jharkhand, India
Europe and Central Asia
EcA 1. France: Civil society and the right to food in France
EcA 2. Germany: Input by the German Federal Government on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Right to Food Guidelines (Germany's answer to the Call)
EcA 3. Italy: Food Insecurity Observatory. A research observatory to study food insecurity at the local level.
EcA 4. Italy: Bologna Urban and Metropolitan Food Policy
EcA 5. Switzerland: Land, Genetic Resources, Sustainable Food Systems and Localized Market Systems – key pillars for implementing the right to food in rural areas using the FAO Voluntary Guidelines
EcA 6. Türkiye: Spatial and Operational Tools for (re)definition of City-Region Food System
EcA 7. United Kingdom: Realising Older People's Right to Food in Scotland
Latin America and the Caribbean

L 1. Argentina: Public Policies for the Implementation of the Human Right to Adequate Food in Argentina
L 2. Argentina: Contribution to public policies to ensure the right to food in Argentina
L 3. Bolivia: Contribution to the implementation of the right to food in Bolivia
L 4. Brazil: Development and implementation of integrated regulatory policies to guarantee the right to food (RtF)
L 5. Brazil: Sustainable attitudes in food and nutrition: using public policies to promote agroecological food procurement
L 6. Brazil: Cozinhas & Infâncias Kitchens & Childhood
L 7. Brazil: [No title] Dirce Marchioni, Instituto Nacional de Ciencia e Tecnologia Combate a Fome
L 8. Colombia: Ongoing research project entitled: Assessment of the realization of the right to food in vulnerable populations in the Caribbean region in 2022 2023.
L 9. Colombia: Participatory formulation of public policies for ensuring the right to food in Colombia
L 10. Ecuador: [No title] Ministerio de Educación de Ecuador, Ecuador
L 11. Guatemala: Reports of the Guatemalan Human Rights Ombudsman and use of the Voluntary Principles in human rights indicators
L 12. Mexico: Transforming food environments for children
Near East and North Africa
N 1. Palestine: Community Led Solidarity Marketing in crisis (campaign)
North America
NoA 1. Canada: No closer to Right to Food realization in Canada: a failure of implementation and political will.
Regional level contributions
R 1. The right to food in Peru and Bolivia
R 2. [No title] Tracy Muwanga, University of Pretoria, South Africa
R 3. Innovation and commitment: Latin America's food and beverage industry reinforces the right to food
R 4. Parliamentarians enabling the Right to Food in Africa