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## Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 71 (b)

**Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms**

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2023

[on the report of the Third Committee ([A/78/481/Add.2](#), para. 139)]

### 78/198. The right to food

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the Charter of the United Nations and its importance for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

*Reaffirming also* previous resolutions and decisions on the right to food adopted within the framework of the United Nations,

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>1</sup> which provides that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for her or his health and well-being, including food, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition,<sup>2</sup> the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>3</sup> in particular Millennium Development Goal 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>4</sup> in particular the Sustainable Development Goals on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture and on ending poverty in all its forms everywhere,

*Recognizing* that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals can help to ensure the end of hunger in all its forms by 2030 and to achieve food security,

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5–16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution [55/2](#).

<sup>4</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).



*Recalling* the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>5</sup> in which the fundamental right of every person to be free from hunger is recognized,

*Bearing in mind* the importance of the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, adopted in Rome on 13 June 2002,<sup>6</sup>

*Reaffirming* the importance of the recommendations contained in the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004,<sup>7</sup>

*Acknowledging* that the right to food has been recognized as the right of every individual, alone or in community with others, to have physical and economic access at all times to sufficient, adequate, nutritious food, in conformity with, *inter alia*, the culture, beliefs, traditions, dietary habits and preferences of individuals, that is produced and consumed sustainably, thereby preserving access to food for future generations,

*Reaffirming* the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security contained in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, adopted in Rome on 16 November 2009,<sup>8</sup>

*Recalling* the proclamation by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session of 2019–2028 as the United Nations Decade of Family Farming and the close links between family farming, the promotion and conservation of historical, cultural and natural heritage, traditional customs and culture, halting the loss of biodiversity and the improvement of the living conditions of people living in rural areas,

*Reaffirming* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that they must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, as enshrined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>9</sup>

*Welcoming*, in this regard, that 25 June 2023 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by the World Conference on Human Rights, and that 10 December 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and stressing the need to further strengthen efforts towards their implementation,

*Reaffirming* that a peaceful, stable and enabling political, social and economic environment, at both the national and the international levels, is the essential foundation that will enable States to give adequate priority to food security, improved nutrition and poverty eradication,

*Reiterating*, as set out in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, the Declaration of the World Food Summit and the Rome Declaration on Nutrition,<sup>10</sup> that food should not be used as an instrument of political or economic pressure, and reaffirming in this regard the importance of international cooperation and solidarity, as well as the necessity of refraining from unilateral measures that are not in accordance with international law and the Charter and that endanger food and nutrition security,

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<sup>5</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>6</sup> [A/57/499](#), annex.

<sup>7</sup> [E/CN.4/2005/131](#), annex.

<sup>8</sup> See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

<sup>9</sup> [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

<sup>10</sup> World Health Organization, document EB136/8, annex I.

*Expressing appreciation* for the work of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme, aimed at ending hunger and achieving food security and improved nutrition,

*Convinced* that each State must adopt a strategy consistent with its resources and capacities to achieve its individual goals in implementing the recommendations contained in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, as well as in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action,<sup>11</sup> and, at the same time, cooperate regionally and internationally in order to organize collective solutions to global issues of food and nutrition security in a world of increasingly interlinked institutions, societies and economies where coordinated efforts and shared responsibilities are essential,

*Recognizing* that, despite the efforts made and the fact that some positive results have been achieved, the problems of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition have a global dimension, that there has not been sufficient progress in reducing hunger and malnutrition and that these problems are increasing dramatically in some regions in the absence of urgent, determined and concerted action,

*Recognizing also* the importance of traditional sustainable agricultural practices, including traditional seed supply systems, as well as access to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care, social services, education, training, knowledge and appropriate and affordable technologies, including efficient irrigation, the reuse of treated wastewater and water harvesting and storage for Indigenous Peoples and others living in rural areas,

*Recognizing further* the complex character of food insecurity and its likely recurrence due to a combination of several major factors, such as the effects of the global financial and economic crisis, environmental degradation, desertification and the adverse impacts of climate change, as well as poverty, natural disasters, armed conflicts, drought, volatility in commodity prices and the lack in many countries of the appropriate technology, investment and capacity-building necessary to confront its impact, particularly in developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, and the need for coherence and collaboration between international institutions at the global level,

*Noting with great concern* that millions of people are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine or are experiencing severe food insecurity in several regions of the world, and noting also that poverty, armed conflicts, drought and the volatility of commodity prices are among the factors causing or exacerbating famine and severe food insecurity and that additional efforts, including international support, to respond, prevent and prepare for increasing global food insecurity are urgently needed,

*Noting* the unprecedented surge in international food commodity prices which, according to the Food Price Index of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, reached their highest peak in March 2022 since its inception in 1990, in particular the rise in global prices of vegetable oil and grain, including wheat, further affecting people in vulnerable situations,

*Recalling* its resolution [76/264](#) of 23 May 2022, entitled “State of global food insecurity”, in which the General Assembly welcomed the initiative by the Secretary-General to establish a Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, with a Steering Committee chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, while also taking note of other relevant initiatives aimed at promoting food security and improved nutrition, including for those in vulnerable situations,

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid., annex II.

*Noting* the rise in fertilizer prices and the shortages caused by supply chain disruptions, affecting crop yields and threatening future agricultural productivity and production, especially of wheat, maize, millet, rice, sunflower oil and essential food,

*Noting also* the rise in energy and fuel prices, which is increasing food commodity prices, narrowing fiscal space at a time when the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing debt vulnerabilities and exposed fragilities in the global financial architecture, with many developing countries at high risk of or already in debt distress,

*Recognizing* that the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern its impact on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies and environments, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries, reversing hard-won development gains and hampering progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and all its Goals and targets,

*Recognizing also* that the poorest and those who may be vulnerable or in vulnerable situations are the hardest hit by the pandemic and that the impact of the crisis has reversed hard-won development gains and the fulfilment of the right to food for all, and hampered progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 2, which aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture,

*Recognizing further* that the COVID-19 global pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation,

*Expressing its deep concern* over the negative effects of armed conflicts on the enjoyment of the right to food,

*Recognizing* that armed conflict impacts on food security can be direct, such as displacement from land, livestock grazing areas and fishing grounds or destruction of food stocks and agricultural assets, or indirect, such as disruptions to food systems and markets, leading to increased food prices or decreased household purchasing power, or decreased access to supplies that are necessary for food preparation, including water and fuel,

*Stressing* the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians, in accordance with international humanitarian law, and calling upon Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take further steps to provide a coordinated emergency response to the food and nutrition needs of affected populations, while aiming to ensure that such steps are supportive of national strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security and nutrition,

*Reaffirming* that starvation of civilians as a method of combat is prohibited under international humanitarian law and that it is therefore prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless, for that purpose, objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, agricultural areas for the production of foodstuffs, crops, livestock, drinking water installations and supplies and irrigation works,

*Resolved* to act to ensure that the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and the human rights perspective are taken into account at the national, regional and international levels in measures to address the realization of the right to food,

*Stressing* the possible benefits of international trade to improve food and nutrition availability,

*Stressing also* that improving access to productive resources and investment in rural development is essential for eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular in developing countries, through, *inter alia*, the promotion of investments in appropriate small-scale irrigation and water management technologies in order to reduce vulnerability to droughts and tackle water scarcity, as well as in programmes, practices and policies to scale up sustainable agroecological practices,

*Recognizing* the importance of sustainable food systems that are fit to meet environmental, economic and social challenges, in order to guarantee food security and nutrition for all,

*Expressing its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters, diseases and pest infestations, as well as the negative impact of climate change, and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in substantial loss of life and livelihood and threatened agricultural production and food and nutrition security, in particular in developing countries,

*Concerned* that the adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters are harming agricultural productivity, food production and cropping patterns, thus contributing to food availability shortfalls, and that such impacts are expected to increase with future climate change,

*Emphasizing* that a multisectoral approach that integrates nutrition across all sectors, including agriculture, health, water and sanitation, social protection and education, as well as a gender perspective, is critical to achieving global food security and improved nutrition and the realization of the right to food,

*Recalling* the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security<sup>12</sup> by the Committee on World Food Security at its thirty-eighth session, held on 11 May 2012, and by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its 144th session,

*Recalling also* the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems,<sup>13</sup> which were endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security at its forty-first session, held from 13 to 18 October 2014,

*Stressing* the importance of the Second International Conference on Nutrition, hosted by the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014, and of its outcome documents, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action,

*Stressing also* the need to increase official development assistance devoted to sustainable agriculture and nutrition,

*Recognizing* that small and medium-sized farmers in developing countries need to receive technical, technology transfer and capacity-building support,

*Recognizing also* the importance of the protection and preservation of agrobiodiversity in guaranteeing food security and nutrition and the right to food for all,

*Noting* the cultural values of dietary and eating habits in different cultures, and recognizing that food plays an important role in defining the identity of individuals

<sup>12</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

<sup>13</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2015/20, appendix D.

and communities and is a cultural component that describes and gives value to a territory and its inhabitants,

*Recognizing* the role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as the key United Nations agency for rural and agricultural development and its work in supporting the efforts of Member States to achieve the full realization of the right to food, including through its provision of technical assistance to developing countries in support of the implementation of national priority frameworks,

*Recognizing also* the role of the Committee on World Food Security as an inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, convened by the Secretary-General and held on 23 and 24 September 2021, and of the Nutrition for Growth Summit, held in Tokyo on 7 and 8 December 2021,

*Acknowledging* the contribution of parliamentarians nationally and regionally to the reduction of hunger and malnutrition and ultimately to the realization of the right to food, and in this regard recognizing the convening of the first Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition, held in Madrid on 29 and 30 October 2018,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and recalling the commitment therein to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [66/288](#) of 27 July 2012,

*Recalling also* the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>14</sup> and its guiding principles, which, *inter alia*, recognize the importance of promoting regular disaster preparedness and response and recovery exercises, with a view to ensuring rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, including access to essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate to local needs, as well as of fostering collaboration across global and regional mechanisms and institutions for the implementation and coherence of instruments and tools relevant to disaster risk reduction, such as for climate change adaptation, biodiversity, sustainable development, poverty eradication, environment, agriculture, health, food and nutrition and others, as appropriate,

*Recalling further* the proclamation at its seventieth session of 2016–2025 as the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, and stressing the opportunity the Decade represents to bring together initiatives and efforts to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition,

*Acknowledging* the work done by the High-level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security established by the Secretary-General, and supporting the Secretary-General in his continuing efforts in this regard, including continued engagement with Member States and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food,

1. *Reaffirms* that hunger constitutes an outrage and a violation of human dignity and therefore requires the adoption of urgent measures at the national, regional and international levels for its elimination;

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<sup>14</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

2. *Also reaffirms* the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient, nutritious and sustainably produced food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities;

3. *Expresses its concern* at the fact that the effects created by the world food crisis still continue to have serious consequences for the poorest and most vulnerable people, particularly in developing countries, which have been further aggravated by the impacts of the world financial and economic crisis, and at the particular effects of the crisis on many net food-importing countries, especially the least developed countries;

4. *Expresses particular concern* at the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fulfilment of all human rights for all, including the right to food, underlines that the pandemic has exacerbated existing high levels of acute food insecurity, and calls upon Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider the fulfilment of the right to food as part of the response to and recovery from the pandemic by, *inter alia*, keeping food and agriculture supply chains functioning, ensuring the continued trade in and movement of food and livestock, products and inputs essential for agricultural and food production to markets, minimizing food loss and waste, supporting workers and farmers, including women farmers, in agriculture and food supply chains to continue their essential work, including cross-border, in a safe manner, mobilizing and allocating adequate resources and enhancing institutional and training capacities for an accelerated implementation of sustainable agriculture and food systems, providing continued access to adequate, safe, affordable and nutritious food, and providing adequate social safety nets and assistance to minimize the negative effects of loss of livelihoods and increasing food prices on food insecurity and malnutrition;

5. *Expresses its deep concern* that, according to the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations entitled *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023: Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural–urban continuum*, in 2022 between 690 and 783 million people in the world faced hunger and 2.4 billion people did not have access to nutritious, safe and sufficient food all year round;

6. *Considers it alarming* that, as estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in 2022, 148 million children under 5 years of age continued to suffer from stunting, 45 million from wasting and 37 million from overweight;

7. *Expresses its deep concern* that, while women contribute more than 50 per cent of the food produced worldwide, they also account for 70 per cent of the world's hungry, that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food insecurity and poverty, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination, that in many countries girls are twice as likely as boys to die from malnutrition and preventable childhood diseases, and that it is estimated that almost twice as many women as men suffer from malnutrition;

8. *Encourages* all States to mainstream a gender perspective in food security programmes and to take action to address *de jure* and *de facto* gender inequality and discrimination against women, in particular when they contribute to the malnutrition of women and girls, including measures to ensure the full and equal realization of the right to food and that women have equal access to resources, including income, land and water and their ownership and agricultural inputs, as well as full and equal access to health care, education, science and technology, to enable them to feed themselves and their families, and in this regard stresses the need to empower women and strengthen their role in decision-making;

9. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food to continue to mainstream a gender perspective in the fulfilment of his mandate, and encourages the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and all other United Nations bodies and mechanisms addressing the right to food and food insecurity and malnutrition to continue to integrate a gender perspective into their relevant policies, programmes and activities;

10. *Reaffirms* the need to ensure that programmes delivering safe and nutritious food are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

11. *Stresses* that the primary responsibility of States is to promote and protect the right to food and that the international community should provide, through a coordinated response and upon request, international cooperation in support of national and regional efforts by providing the assistance necessary to increase food production and access to food, including through agricultural development assistance, the transfer of technology, food crop rehabilitation assistance and food aid, ensuring food security, with special attention to the specific needs of women and girls, and promoting innovation, support for agricultural training and the development of adapted technologies, research on rural advisory services and support for access to financing services, and ensure support for the establishment of secure land tenure systems;

12. *Calls upon* all States and, if appropriate, relevant international organizations to take measures and support programmes that are aimed at combating undernutrition in mothers, in particular during pregnancy and breastfeeding, and in children, and the irreversible effects of chronic undernutrition in early childhood, in particular from birth to the age of 2 years;

13. *Also calls upon* all States and, where appropriate, relevant international organizations to implement policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity, as a result of malnutrition, of children under 5 years of age, and in this regard urges States to disseminate the technical guidance prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in collaboration with the World Health Organization,<sup>15</sup> and to apply it, as appropriate, in the design, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of laws, policies, programmes, budgets and mechanisms for remedy and redress aimed at eliminating preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age;

14. *Encourages* all States to take steps, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to food, including steps to promote the conditions for everyone to be free from hunger and, as soon as possible, to enjoy fully the right to food, and to create and adopt national plans to combat hunger;

15. *Recognizes* the advances made through South-South cooperation in developing countries and regions in connection with food security and the development of agricultural production for the full realization of the right to food;

16. *Stresses* that improving access to productive resources and responsible public investment in rural development, taking into consideration the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, as endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security, is essential for eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular in developing countries, including through the promotion of investment, including private investment, in appropriate small-scale irrigation and water management technologies in order to reduce vulnerability to droughts and to tackle water scarcity;

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<sup>15</sup> [A/HRC/27/31](#); see also Human Rights Council resolution [33/11](#) (see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum ([A/71/53/Add.1](#) and [A/71/53/Add.1/Corr.1](#)), chap. II).

17. *Recognizes* the critical contribution made by the fisheries sector to the realization of the right to food and to food security and the contribution of small-scale fishers to the local food security of coastal communities;

18. *Also recognizes* that 70 per cent of hungry people live in rural areas, where nearly half a billion family farmers are located, and that these people are especially vulnerable to food insecurity, given the increasing cost of inputs and the fall in farm incomes; that access to land, water, seeds and other natural resources is an increasing challenge for poor producers; that sustainable and gender-sensitive agricultural policies are important tools for promoting land and agrarian reform, rural credit and insurance, technical assistance and other associated measures to achieve food security and rural development; and that support by States for small farmers, fishing communities and local enterprises, including through the facilitation of access for their products to national and international markets and empowerment of small producers, particularly women, in value chains, is a key element for food security and the provision of the right to food;

19. *Stresses* the importance of fighting hunger in rural areas, including through national efforts supported by international partnerships to stop desertification and land degradation and through investments and public policies that are specifically appropriate to the risk of drylands, and in this regard calls for the full implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;<sup>16</sup>

20. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to favourably consider becoming parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>17</sup> and to consider becoming parties to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture<sup>18</sup> as a matter of priority;

21. *Recognizes* the important role of Indigenous Peoples and their traditional knowledge and seed supply systems, as well as the important role of new technologies, in the conservation of biodiversity and in aiming to ensure food security and improved nutrition;

22. *Recalls* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,<sup>19</sup> acknowledges that many Indigenous organizations and representatives of Indigenous Peoples have expressed in different forums their deep concerns over the obstacles and challenges they face in achieving the full enjoyment of the right to food, and calls upon States to take special actions to combat the root causes of the disproportionately high level of hunger and malnutrition among Indigenous Peoples and the continuous discrimination against them;

23. *Also recalls* the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held on 22 and 23 September 2014,<sup>20</sup> and the commitment to developing, in conjunction with the Indigenous Peoples concerned and where appropriate, policies, programmes and resources to support Indigenous Peoples' occupations, traditional subsistence activities, economies, livelihoods, food security and nutrition;

24. *Notes* the need to further examine various concepts, such as "food sovereignty", and their relation to food security and the right to food, bearing in mind

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<sup>16</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., vol. 2400, No. 43345.

<sup>19</sup> Resolution 61/295, annex.

<sup>20</sup> Resolution 69/2.

the need to avoid any negative impact on the enjoyment of the right to food for all people at all times;

25. *Requests* all States and private actors, as well as international organizations, within their respective mandates, to take fully into account the need to promote the effective realization of the right to food for all;

26. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen national commitment, as well as international assistance, upon the request of and in cooperation with the affected countries, towards the full realization and protection of the right to food, and in particular to develop national protection mechanisms for people forced to leave their homes and land because of hunger or humanitarian emergencies affecting their enjoyment of the right to food;

27. *Takes note with appreciation* of the growing movement, in different regions of the world, towards the adoption of framework laws, national strategies and measures in support of the full realization of the right to food for all;

28. *Stresses* the need to make efforts to mobilize and optimize the allocation and utilization of technical and financial resources from all sources, including external debt relief for developing countries, and to reinforce national actions to implement sustainable food security policies;

29. *Calls for* a successful, development-oriented outcome of the trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization, in particular on the remaining issues of the Doha Development Round, as a contribution to the creation of international conditions permitting the full realization of the right to food;

30. *Stresses* that all States should make all efforts to ensure that their international policies of a political and economic nature, including international trade agreements, do not have a negative impact on the right to food in other countries;

31. *Recalls* the importance of the New York Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty, and recommends the continuation of efforts aimed at identifying additional sources of financing for the fight against hunger and poverty, as well as non-communicable diseases;

32. *Recognizes* that the promises made at the World Food Summit in 1996 to halve the number of persons who are undernourished are not being fulfilled, while recognizing the efforts of Member States in this regard, and once again invites all international financial and development institutions, as well as the relevant United Nations agencies and funds, to give priority to and provide the funding necessary to realize the right to food, as set out in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, and to achieve the aims of Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other food and nutrition-related targets;

33. *Reaffirms* that integrating food and nutritional support, with the goal that all people at all times will have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, is part of a comprehensive effort to improve public health, alongside the response to the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases;

34. *Urges* States to give priority in their development strategies and expenditures to the realization of the right to food;

35. *Stresses* the importance of international cooperation and development assistance as an effective contribution to the sustainable expansion and improvement of agriculture and, in particular, its environmental sustainability, food production, breeding projects on diversity of crops and livestock and institutional innovations such as community seed banks, farmer field schools and seed fairs, and to the

provision of humanitarian food assistance in activities related to emergency situations for the realization of the right to food and the achievement of sustainable food security, while recognizing that each country has the primary responsibility for ensuring the implementation of national programmes and strategies in this regard;

36. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation, as well as their support for multilateral efforts and for the central role of the United Nations system, in order to mobilize a coordinated global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse social, economic and financial impact on all societies, including on the right to food, that contributes to the full realization of this right for all and leaves no one behind;

37. *Stresses* that States parties to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights should consider implementing that agreement in a manner that is supportive of food security;

38. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to support national efforts aimed at responding rapidly to the food crises currently occurring across different regions, and expresses its deep concern that funding shortfalls are forcing the World Food Programme to cut operations across different regions;

39. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant actors to urgently and effectively respond to, prevent and prepare for rising global food insecurity affecting millions of people, especially those who are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine, including by enhancing humanitarian and development cooperation and providing urgent funding to respond to the needs of the affected population, and calls upon Member States and parties to armed conflicts to respect international humanitarian law and ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access;

40. *Calls upon* States to heed the urgent United Nations humanitarian appeal to assist countries facing drought, starvation and famine with emergency aid and urgent funding;

41. *Invites* all relevant international organizations, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to continue to promote policies and projects that have a positive impact on the right to food, to ensure that partners respect the right to food in the implementation of common projects, to support strategies of Member States aimed at the fulfilment of the right to food and to avoid any actions that could have a negative impact on its realization;

42. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur,<sup>21</sup> which is focused on emerging issues with regard to the realization of the right to food, in particular in the context of the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

43. *Recognizes* the importance of giving due consideration to the adverse impacts of climate change and to the full realization of the right to food, recalls the Paris Agreement, adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015,<sup>22</sup> and also recalls the holding of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016;

<sup>21</sup> A/78/202.

<sup>22</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

44. *Also recognizes* the impacts of climate change and of the El Niño phenomenon on agricultural production and food security around the world and the importance of designing and implementing actions to reduce its effects, in particular on vulnerable populations, such as rural women, bearing in mind the role that they play in supporting their households and communities in achieving food and nutrition security, generating income and improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being;

45. *Reiterates its support* for the realization of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, and requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for its effective fulfilment;

46. *Welcomes* the work already done by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in promoting the right to adequate food, in particular its general comment No. 12 (1999) on the right to adequate food (article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights),<sup>23</sup> in which the Committee affirmed, *inter alia*, that the right to adequate food is indivisibly linked to the inherent dignity of the human person, indispensable for the fulfilment of other human rights enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights and inseparable from social justice, requiring the adoption of appropriate economic, environmental and social policies, at both the national and the international levels, oriented to the eradication of poverty and the fulfilment of all human rights for all;

47. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work done by the Committee on World Food Security in order to contribute to achieving and guaranteeing global food security;

48. *Recalls* general comment No. 15 (2002) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the Covenant),<sup>24</sup> in which the Committee noted, *inter alia*, the importance of ensuring sustainable access to water resources for human consumption and agriculture in realization of the right to adequate food;

49. *Reaffirms* that the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004, represent a useful tool to promote the realization of the right to food for all, contribute to the achievement of food security and thus provide an additional instrument in the attainment of internationally agreed development goals and to support national Governments in the implementation of food security and nutrition policies, programmes and legal frameworks;

50. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in his task, to supply all necessary information requested by him and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to the requests of the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries to enable him to fulfil his mandate more effectively;

51. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session an interim report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue his work, including by examining the emerging issues with regard to the realization of the right to food that are within his mandate, including in the context of the international financial architecture, while taking into consideration relevant legal frameworks;

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<sup>23</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*, 2000, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum ([E/2000/22](#) and [E/2000/22/Corr.1](#)), annex V.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, 2003, Supplement No. 2 ([E/2003/22](#)), annex IV.

52. *Invites* Governments, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies, civil society actors and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector, to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his mandate through, inter alia, the submission of comments and suggestions on ways and means of realizing the right to food;

53. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its seventy-ninth session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

*50th plenary meeting  
19 December 2023*

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