

Who's who in the right to food

The content of this handbook is based on FAO's guide *Right to Food Curriculum Outline*, written by Mauricio Rosales, Arne Oshaug, Maarten Immink and Beatrice Ghirardini.

José María Medina Rey and María Teresa de Febrer (PROSALUS, Spain) adapted it to the "handbook" format. The translation into English of this handbook was done by Stephen Carlin and Beth Gelb.

The purpose of this handbook on STAKEHOLDERS is to provide anyone interested in the right to food with an overview of who is who and what their different roles are in the realization of the human right to food in order to facilitate not only coordination and collaboration, but also accountability.

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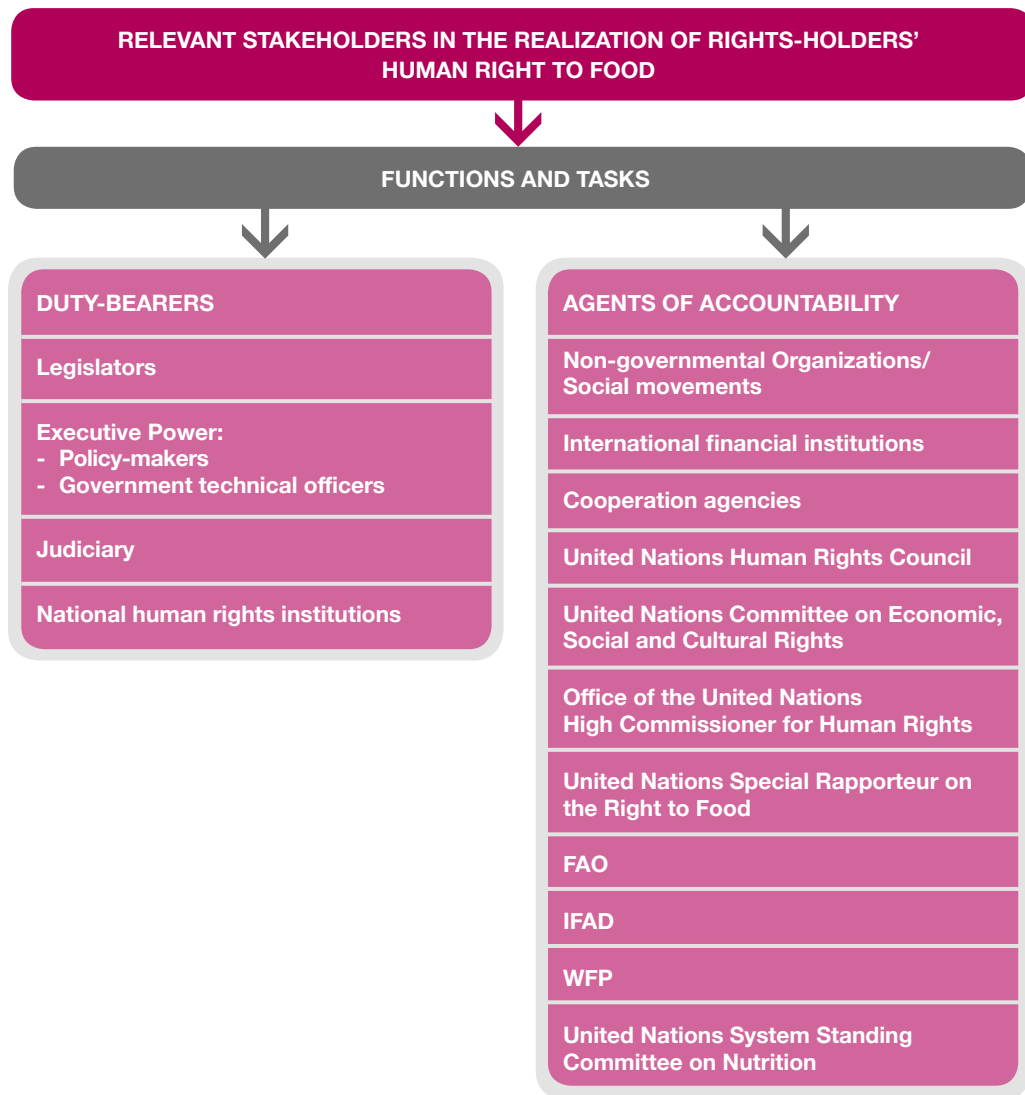
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The FAO glossary on the right to food is available at:
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THREE TYPES OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE REALIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The first major international crystallization of legal thinking on human rights was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, approved in 1948. Because the Universal Declaration did not have the legal standing of a treaty, it required the subsequent development of the two international covenants, one on civil and political rights (ICCPR) and the other on economic, social and cultural rights (ICESCR). These covenants are binding international instruments that entail obligations for the states who ratify them to ensure the effective application of these agreements in their national law.¹

Within the modern notion of human rights, a distinction is generally made between **three major groups of stakeholders** involved: rights-holders, duty-bearers and agents of accountability.

Rights-holders are all human beings. Any person, because of the mere fact that he or she is a person, is subject to human rights and can therefore claim minimum standards of treatment, coverage, services and opportunities. It is important for rights-holders to be

1. For further details, see Handbook 1 of this collection.

able to develop their own capability to exercise their rights, to be aware of their situation, and to be able to take decisions on their own development. However, there are events and circumstances varying in nature – be they political, economic, cultural or social – that may influence, pose determining factors on, or limit rights-holders’ exercising of human rights. It is therefore advisable to develop a participatory, demanding citizenry that is aware of its rights and has the capability of claiming them.

In the specific sphere of human rights treaties, **duty-bearers** are the institutions in each state that have ratified these treaties, because human rights obligations must mainly be fulfilled by states.² As is the case with rights-holders, there are several factors that may influence or pose contingencies for duty-bearers in being unable to fulfil these duties. This is why the capacity of institutions (duty-bearers) must be bolstered so that they may become transparent, aware of their obligations, respectful of human rights, and may also develop both legislation to protect and safeguard citizens’ human rights and the inclusive, participatory human rights policies to promote their realization.

The notion of **agents of accountability** is broader and less precise. Nevertheless, the texts of the human rights instruments give us clues as to who can be considered an agent of accountability and why.

In this regard, the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights indicates that the United Nations Organization engages to cooperate with Member States in order to ensure universal, effective respect for fundamental rights and freedoms. Therefore, although the ensemble of bodies, programmes and institutions under the UN umbrella do not hold obligations -the obligations are incumbent on the Member States – they do have the responsibility of cooperating with the Member States.

Furthermore, Article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights establishes that in the exercise of his or her rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others, and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society. Likewise, the preambles of the ICCPR and the ICESCR indicate that the individual, having duties to other individuals and to the community to which he or she belongs, is under a responsibility to strive for the promotion and observance of the rights recognized in the present Covenant. It is thus understood that individuals, the family, the community, and social organizations are human rights agents of accountability.

2. Further details on states’ obligations regarding the right to food may be seen in Handbook 1 of this collection.

2 THE MAIN STAKEHOLDERS WITH DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD

This section includes a presentation of the major stakeholders intervening in one way or another in the realization of the right to food, and describes each one's main functions and tasks.

CLARIFICATION OF TERMS	
FUNCTION	TASK
Set of actions or activities incumbent upon either an institution or entity or its bodies or persons.	A given part of work that an institution or a person must perform in order to fulfil its functions. Normally, this must be done in a limited amount of time and must give rise to a specific result.

2.1. DUTY-BEARERS

As we have indicated, human rights obligations are incumbent on States Parties to the two major covenants on civil and political and on economic, social and cultural rights.

In modern states underpinned by democratic systems embodied in their constitutions, a separation of the legislative, executive and judicial powers is set forth. The major stakeholders for realizing the right to food can be found in these three powers.

The functions and tasks that they perform will depend on the political model consecrated in their constitution. In this handbook, general ideas to be adopted in each national theatre are put forward.

2.1.1. Legislators

The legislative power may take on different forms and receive different names, e.g. parliament, congress, senate, assembly, and so forth. Its members are normally elected periodically by the population through an elections system. Together with those who collectively represent the legislative power (deputes, senators, assembly members, members of parliament) a set of technical experts and advisers work to provide them with support.

Their main functions are related to the drawing up and approving of legislation and budgets subject to checks from the executive power.

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD	
MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
Formulation and approval of legislative bills	Ratify international instruments for the right to adequate food.
	Include in the national legislation pertinent provisions on the right to adequate food in the ratified international instruments.
	Ensure that either current or proposed pertinent legislation properly takes into account the obligations to respect, promote and fulfil the right to adequate food as declared in the ratified international instruments.
	Evaluate provisions in current right to food legislation on the right to adequate food in order to identify the need for further legislation or amendment of current legislation, and to make appropriate legislative proposals.
	Formulate and enact legislation to include the respect and protection of the right to adequate food for all persons through public education and programmes leading to awareness raising on this issue.
	Formulate and enact legislative provisions that introduce mechanisms for recourse and accountability <i>vis-à-vis</i> the right to adequate food into the national legislation.

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD (cont.)

MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
	Significantly ensure free and effective public participation in debates on right to adequate food policies and in formulating the related legislative proposals.
	Formulate legislation including the respect and protection of the right to adequate food in the implementation of extraterritorial agreements (such as international trade agreements).
	Formulate and enact legislation ensuring the independence of the judicial system.
	Ensure that there is proper legislation regarding the establishment and effective functioning of human rights institutions, in conformity with the Paris Principles on the status and functioning of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights.
	Formulate and enact legislation to promote the respect and protection of both human rights defenders and other members of civil society.
Revision of bills on the public budget, budgetary approval and budget implementation monitoring	Revise and approve budget proposals that ensure public funding will be used as effectively and efficiently as possible in the implementation and protection of the right to adequate food.
	Monitor approved budgetary expenditures for the implementation and protection of the right to adequate food and identify the spending gaps.
Checks on the executive power	Debate and on occasion approve major government policy initiatives that impact the right to food.
	Monitor government policies to ensure that they are suited to the legal framework and are consistent with the realization of the right to food. Information from the competent ministries is to be requested for this purpose.
	Receive and study reports from national human rights institutions and follow up on their recommendations.
	Perform parliamentary hearings on the right to food and lend a voice to rights-holders, civil society organizations and government representatives.

2.1.2. Executive power

The government’s power is exercised through policy, with the assistance of technical corps of government technical officers. Normally, it is the government that has decision-making responsibility while government technical officers are in charge of applying and developing policy through administrative action and procedures. At times, however, the line between the two is somewhat blurry.

The executive power is responsible for developing policies and programmes that contribute to realizing the right to food and the eradication of hunger.

Policymakers

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD	
MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
Formulation and implementation of public policy	Ratify the ICESCR and other international and regional instruments involving the right to adequate food (if this has not yet been done) and disseminate, among both the public and private sector and civil society, information on the instruments regarding the right to adequate food that have been ratified.
	Promote and use the right to food guidelines in political decisions, and promote and protect the right to adequate food and other economic, social and cultural rights in extraterritorial agreements (such as trade agreements) in policies related to private sector activities.
	Ensure that policies, programmes and the providing of public services are free from discrimination and that the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes is carried out with full participation of rights-holders and their representatives.
	Ensure that national policies and programmes duly take into account the obligations to respect, promote and protect the right to adequate food, as declared in the international instruments ratified.
Establishment of institutions and capacity building	Establish and bolster inter-institutional coordination mechanisms in the governmental sector for the right to adequate food.
	Provide proper training for staff in the institutions on the right to food and its implementation through the Right to Food Guidelines.

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD (cont.)

MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
Establishment of institutions and capacity building (cont.)	Formulate policies aiming to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Establish or bolster mechanisms of recourse and accountability for the implementation of political measures. (ii) Safeguard respect for the independence of the judicial system. (iii) Provide protection to human rights activists and defenders and NGO staff working on the right to adequate food.
Responsibility in preparing periodic human rights reports	Prepare periodic reports to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regarding progress made in the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.
Formulation and monitoring of national budgets	Ensure adequate funding in the national budget for the right to adequate food measures and the monitoring and implementation of that budget.

Government technical officers

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD

MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
Support in formulating, implementing and monitoring public programmes and policies	<p>Assess food and nutrition security conditions as a contribution to formulating policy and setting political priorities.</p> <p>Monitor policy and programme implementation and its impact on the right to adequate food.</p>
Collaborate in preparing the national human rights report	Generate information for monitoring and preparing periodic reports on the progress in realization of the right to adequate food.
Support in formulating and monitoring the national budget	<p>Gather, process and organize the information required for budget preparation related to the right to food.</p> <p>Gather, process and organize the information required for monitoring budgetary implementation related to the right to food.</p>

2.1.3. Judiciary

The judiciary plays a very important role in establishing and applying mechanisms for recourse in the event of violations of the right to food. The very complexity of the protection system for economic, social and cultural rights makes the role of judges and courts crucial in defining the justiciability of the right to food within the national legal system, as well as validating administrative, quasi-judicial and judicial mechanisms for recourse.

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD	
MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
Establish, provide and monitor access to legal recourse for human rights violations	Recognize that the right to adequate food is a right that can be taken to a national court of law and that legal provisions may be applied according to this recognition.
	Comparatively apply cases on the right to food and other related rights (right to life, human dignity, work, and so forth) in regional and international courts.
	Apply pertinent decisions taken by national courts to further the right to adequate food.
	Assess practices in proceedings and identify legal obstacles preventing the right to adequate food from being broadly recognized as a justiciable right.
	Protect human rights defenders and other members of civil society undertaking activities that promote the right to adequate food among vulnerable groups.

2.1.4. National human rights institutions

In an increasing number of countries there are national human rights institutions that may take on the form of national human rights commissions, ombudsmen, human rights prosecutors, and so forth. Their general function is to monitor and promote the realization of human rights, and in certain cases they exercise quasi-judicial power. As is the case for the judiciary, it is advisable for these institutions to be independent of the government.

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD

MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
Contribute to the formulation and monitoring of national laws, policies and programmes	Participate in the formulation and revision of national laws (including the framework law on the right to adequate food) and national and local policies and programmes.
	Monitor the implementation and impacts of national laws, policies and programmes on the right to adequate food.
Monitor the realization of human rights	Monitor progress towards the realization of the right to adequate food for everyone.
	Provide progress reports on the realization of the right to adequate food.
Provide information and human rights education to the public	Provide education and information to different groups of society on their right to adequate food and on the rights and means at their disposal for claiming this right.
Establish, facilitate and monitor access to judicial, quasi-judicial and administrative recourse systems	Receive, research and provide effective reparations for claims and complaints regarding violations of the right to adequate food.
Provide protection for human rights activists and workers	Ensure that all of those who work on the realization of the right to adequate food can do so without any of their individual human rights being violated.

2.2. AGENTS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

The institutions that take on responsibilities in the realization of human rights without being state duty-bearers are highly varied. This handbook will focus on two major groups: civil society organizations and movements, and international stakeholders.

2.2.1. Non-governmental Organizations and social movements

Civil society organizations, NGOs and social movements play an important role in the realization of human rights through a variety of types of action, for instance public awareness raising, advocacy and lobby work, lodging complaints, social mobilization and protest, drafting of alternative proposals, campaigns and research, and so forth. This empowers rights-holders both to be better prepared to stand up for and claim their rights, and to seek accountability from duty-bearers.

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD	
MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
Provide information of public interest and defend human rights	Provide education on the notion and practical meaning of the right to adequate food (according to General Comment 12 and the Right to Food Guidelines), addressing both state and non-state decision-makers and the various stakeholders.
	Support capacity building work in networks and alliances, including networks that do not work directly with the right to adequate food, marginalized community organizations, women's groups, organizations of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, Dalit groups, groups of the elderly, disabled, persons living with HIV/AIDs, etc.
	Exercise advocacy and exert pressure on political decision-makers and legislators to achieve the ratification of international tools on the right to adequate food, and to include this right in legislation, policy and programmes.
Participate in the formulation of policies and programmes and in the revision of laws to promote human rights	Participate in the implementation and development of a national strategy for the realization of the right to adequate food.
	Participate, in partnership with other stakeholders, in the revision of legislation and in formulating policies and programmes related to the right to adequate food.

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD (cont.)	
MAIN FUNTIONS	MAIN TASKS
Monitor access to judicial, quasi-judicial and administrative recourse systems	Provide capacity building support to individuals and representative groups so they can claim the right to adequate food.
	Monitor the functioning of the legal system and of human rights institutions to ensure their independence.
Monitor the realization of human rights and prepare monitoring reports	Monitor progress towards fulfilling the right to adequate food for all.
	Inform on progress made in the realization of the right to adequate food.
Perform social and political mobilization; promote human rights	Actively participate together with all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in developing, implementing and monitoring the strategy for realizing the right to adequate food.
	Constructively act on behalf of vulnerable groups to achieve the human rights goals in socio-economic, political and cultural spheres as well as in specific institutions.
Monitor state action and foster human rights	Document and help to correct specific human rights violations among vulnerable groups.
	Demand that the state fulfil its obligations to realize the right to adequate food for all.

2.2.2. International financial institutions

The international financial institutions (International Monetary Fund, World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, regional development banks) provide their support to states, in certain cases through advice on states' economic and financial policy and in others via concessional loans. It has been quite normal for financial bodies to attach their loans to the achievement of certain adjustments in the finances and expenditures of the state beneficiary. Depending on the type of conditionalities, there may be either a positive or negative impact on the realization of the right to food.

In this regard, the General Comment 12 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) indicates that:

“The international financial institutions, notably the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, should pay greater attention to the protection of the right to food in their lending policies and credit agreements and in international measures to deal with the debt crisis. Care should be taken, in line with the Committee’s General Comment 2, paragraph 9, in any structural adjustment programme to ensure that the right to food is protected.”

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD	
MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
Provide policy assistance and advice on policies	Promote the integration of human rights-based interests in economic policies, and programmes.
	Help countries assess how the main problems in economic development may have an impact on the right to adequate food as a basis for formulating development policy options.
	Provide policy advice in order to fully consider the way in which economic, monetary and fiscal policies impact the realization of the right to adequate food.
Provide assistance in monitoring national budgets	Monitor national budgets to assess whether budget allocations and expenditures make the most efficient use of financial resources to promote the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, and specifically the right to food.
	Foster budgetary processes at all levels so that they are participatory and accessible, and that they provide both full disclosure and dissemination of all approved budgets and access to budget data and ongoing implementation information.

2.2.3. Cooperation agencies

Through their advice and funding, donor countries and their cooperation agencies are other relevant stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes related to the right to food and capacity building.

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD

MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
Provide assistance and advice on policies and programmes	Fully incorporate the human rights-based approach when providing assistance and consultation on development and poverty reduction policies and programmes.
	Incorporate the right to adequate food and other economic, social and cultural rights in common planning processes among United Nations bodies.
	Provide technical support to both national governments and other stakeholders in order to integrate the right to adequate food in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of development strategies, in food and nutrition security, and in policies and programmes in that area.
	Provide technical and legal advice to countries in order to effectively tackle violations of the right to adequate food.
	Provide technical support to governments and other national actors involved in order to include the right to adequate food in both education and formal training.
	Provide technical and legal support in establishing human rights institutions.
	Provide technical, legal and financial support in building the capacity of existing human rights institutions in order to promote and protect the right to adequate food.

2.2.4. The United Nations Human Rights Council

The United Nations Human Rights Council, with its seat in Geneva, is made up of 47 Member States elected directly and individually by a majority in the General Assembly. The Human Rights Council was established by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006. Its main responsibilities are to promote the respect of human rights, address human rights violations, make appropriate recommendations and promote the coordination and mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations System.

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD

MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
<p>Promote the universal respect for all human rights</p>	Promote education and learning on human rights.
	Provide advice and technical assistance in consultation with Member States and foster capacity building.
	Serve as a forum for dialogue on human rights issues.
	Promote the full compliance with human rights obligations contracted by states and monitor objectives and commitments to promote and protect human rights emanating from United Nations summits and conferences.
	Perform a universal, periodic review based on objective, reliable information on each state's compliance with its human rights obligations.
<p>Take care of human rights violations, including grave and systematic violations, and make appropriate recommendations</p>	Contribute, through dialogue and cooperation, to preventing human rights violations and promptly responding to human rights emergency situations.
	Formulate recommendations on the promotion and protection of human rights.
	Present an annual report to the General Assembly.
<p>Promote effective coordination of human rights in the general activities of the United Nations System</p>	Formulate recommendations to the General Assembly to continue to develop international human rights law.
	Cooperate closely with governments, regional organizations, national human rights institutions and civil society in the sphere of human rights.

2.2.5. United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

The CESCR is the body in charge of monitoring the compliance of States Parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Unlike the other five human rights bodies established by virtue of the treaties, the CESCR was not established by virtue of a corresponding instrument. It was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1985 following the less than ideal performance of two previous bodies entrusted with monitoring the Covenant.

Rather than being composed of government representatives, it is made up of 18 independent experts with recognized competence in the field of human rights and who serve in their personal capacity. Through a secret ballot from a list of nominees proposed by States Parties to the Covenant, they are elected by the Economic and Social Council and serve four-year terms.

The Committee meets in Geneva and normally holds two sessions per year, including one three week plenary and a working group meeting prior to the one-week session.

All States Parties must present periodic reports to the committee on how they are advancing in the progressive realization of the rights in the Covenant. Initially, they must present reports two years after accepting the Covenant, and subsequently every five years. The Committee examines each report and expresses its concerns and recommendations to the State Party in the form of concluding observations. Its recommendations are not legally binding.

The Committee also publishes its interpretation of the provisions in the Covenant in the form of general comments. It may help governments fulfil their obligations by virtue of the Covenant by formulating suggestions and specific legislative, policy, and other recommendations for more effective realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

With the approval and entry into force of the ICESCR Optional Protocol, the door has been opened for individuals, groups or organizations from states having ratified the Protocol to seek justice internationally on their own behalf with regard to violations of economic, social and cultural rights, by submitting formal complaints to the CESCR.

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD

MAIN FUNCITONS	MAIN TASKS
<p>Promote and supervise the correct application of the rights in the ICESCR (including the right to food)</p>	Provide advice for States Parties to the ICESCR in the fulfilment of their obligations.
	Issue general comments providing details on the content of the human rights falling under the ICESCR.
	Receive and analyse reports issued by both United Nations bodies in their areas of competence and NGOs with consultative status.
	Receive and examine periodic reports that the States Parties to the ICESCR must present. They may suggest additional information and issue suggestions and recommendations.
	Present an annual report to the Human Rights Council with their concluding observations on the periodic reports examined that year as well as general recommendations stemming from these reports.
<p>Attend to notifications of violations by states that have ratified the ICESCR Optional Protocol</p>	Receive and examine notifications from victims or groups of victims of violations of any of the economic, social and cultural rights.
	Establish provisional measures to prevent irreparable damage while a case is being examined.
	Issue recommendations to the state involved and monitor these recommendations.
	Implement a research procedure when there is knowledge of situations that could constitute violations of rights contained in the ICESCR.

2.2.6. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The OHCHR is the main office of the United Nations in charge of promoting and protecting human rights. It was established by the General Assembly after the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993. It leads global efforts in human rights and speaks out objectively in the face of human rights violations around the world. The OHCHR provides a forum to identify, highlight and develop responses to the current human rights problems and acts as the principal focal point of human rights research, education, public information and advocacy activities in the United Nations System. Its working method hinges around three major dimensions: standard setting, monitoring, and implementation on the ground.

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD

MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
<p>Promote and protect the effective realization of all human rights, including the right to development</p>	<p>Promote the ratification and universal application of the main human rights treaties.</p>
	<p>Support compliance with universally recognized human rights standards through greater involvement in countries and presence on the ground.</p>
	<p>Receive and analyse reports in its areas of competence issued by both specialized United Nations bodies and NGOs with consultative status.</p>
	<p>Support the respect for the rule of law.</p>
	<p>Provide assistance to governments to facilitate the application of international human rights standards on the ground, by providing specialized knowledge and technical capability in the administration of justice, legislative reform, the electoral process and so forth.</p>
	<p>Support other entities in charge of protecting human rights so that they can fulfil their obligations.</p>
	<p>Support individuals so that they can exercise their rights.</p>
<p>Coordinate the mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations System</p>	<p>Support the work of United Nations human rights mechanisms by offering the best specialized knowledge as well as substantial support to the secretariat.</p>
	<p>Coordinate United Nations activities related to human rights education and public information.</p>
	<p>Act as the Human Rights Council secretariat.</p>
	<p>Bolster human rights throughout the United Nations System.</p>

2.2.7. United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

The expression “special procedures” refers to the mechanisms established by the Human Rights Council to tackle certain specific situations in countries or thematic issues around the world. There are currently 36 thematic mandates and 13 country mandates.

The Special Rapporteurs are one of the United Nations special procedures falling within the thematic mandates. These rapporteurs are independent experts appointed by the Human Rights Council.

The establishment of a Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food stands out as one of the measures taken in the context of the growing concern that developed during the 1990s regarding this right. At its 56th session, the UN Commission on Human Rights approved resolution 2000/10 dated 17 April, whereby it decided to respond to the need to adopt an integrated and coordinated approach to promoting and protecting the right to food and to appoint, for a three- year period, a Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. This was ratified through Decision 2000/219 of the Economic and Social Council. The mandate was later reviewed and extended by the Human Rights Council.

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD

MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
<p>Promote the full realization of the right to food and the adoption of national, regional and international measures</p>	<p>Work in close cooperation with all of the states, intergovernmental organizations and Non-governmental Organizations, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and other relevant stakeholders, representing the broadest possible number of interests and experiences within their respective mandates, in order to fully take into account the need to promote the effective realization of everyone's right to food.</p>
	<p>Present recommendations regarding potential measures to progressively achieve the full realization of the right to food.</p>
	<p>Present proposals that can contribute to the realization of Millennium Development Goal 1.</p>
	<p>Participate in pertinent international conferences and meetings aimed at promoting the realization of the right to food, and contribute by providing input at these meetings.</p>
<p>Examine the situation of the realization of the right to food</p>	<p>Urgent appeals in which the rapporteur receives information on potential human rights violations of the right to food and implements a thorough investigation.</p>
	<p>Missions in countries where the Special Rapporteur examines the status of the realization of the right to food, follows up on the situation of vulnerable groups (especially those finding themselves discriminated against or suffering from violations of the right to food), and supervises the State Party compliance with the obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the right to food.</p>
	<p>Presentation of general periodic reports to the United Nations Human Rights Council and General Assembly, dealing with conceptual issues to try and generate an understanding of the right to food and the challenges that prevent the realization of this right in the world.</p>

2.2.8. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO is one of the United Nations' largest specialized agencies. It was established in 1945, nearly at the same time as the United Nations itself, with the objective of combatting hunger through collaboration with governments to increase food production. At that time, there were several hundreds of millions of people around the world who went hungry, and hunger was perceived to pose a major challenge to humankind.

Over the last few years, FAO has reiterated its goal to free humankind from hunger in three goals whose means and ends are top ranking priorities for the organization:

- reduction of the number of persons suffering from chronic subnutrition to half of current levels by the year 2015;
- uninterrupted contribution of sustainable agriculture and rural development, including fisheries and forestry, to economic and social progress and welfare for all;
- conservation, improvement and sustainable use of natural resources, including land, water, forests, fisheries, and genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The final declaration of the “World Food Summit: five years later” held in Rome in 2002 extends an invitation, in paragraph 10, to “the FAO Council to establish at its One Hundred and Twenty-third Session an Intergovernmental Working Group, with the participation of stakeholders, in the context of the WFS follow-up, to elaborate, in a period of two years, a set of voluntary guidelines to support Member States’ efforts to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security; we ask the FAO, in close collaboration with relevant treaty bodies, agencies and programmes of the UN System, to assist the Intergovernmental Working Group, which shall report on its work to the Committee on World Food Security”.

Based on the global consensus regarding the need to step up efforts in combatting hunger contained in the final declaration of the “World Food Summit: five years later” subtitled “International Alliance Against Hunger”), the three food agencies based in Rome and Biodiversity International created the International Alliance Against Hunger in 2003 to draw attention to the need for greater political will able to turn national and global commitment into action to end hunger and malnutrition, in fulfilment of the first Millennium Development Goal.

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD	
MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
Offer information on food security and the right to food	Gather, analyse, interpret and disseminate information on nutrition, food and agriculture.
	Generate knowledge and understanding among rights-holders, duty-bearers and agents of accountability, including civil society and the general public, on the right to food, through studies, advocacy and capacity building materials on different aspects of the right to food.
Provide support and advice to member countries in designing policies, planning and legislating, and in strategies to combat hunger taking the human right to food approach	Develop methods and instruments to provide assistance on the implementation of the right to food.
	Offer technical assistance and capacity building to states for the implementation of the right to food.
	Contribute to national and international debate on the right to food and on action required for its effective realization.

2.2.9. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

IFAD is an international financial institution belonging to the United Nations System. It was established in 1977 as an outcome of the 1974 World Food Conference, organized in response to the very severe food crisis at the beginning of the 1970s that particularly hit the Sahel region. It has a total of 172 Member States including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members, developing countries and middle-income countries.

IFAD’s aim is to give the rural poor the opportunity to improve their food and nutrition security, increase their income and bolster their resilience. In order to do so, it grants low interest loans and donations to developing countries in order to finance innovative agricultural and rural development projects. It also actively promotes the rights of poor women and men in rural areas. Its multilateral orientation provides a solid global platform for debating issues related to rural policies and fosters greater awareness of how crucial investment in agricultural and rural development is to reducing poverty and increasing world food security.

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD

MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
Finance agricultural development projects for the production of foods in developing countries in order to combat hunger and poverty by increasing productivity and incomes	Grant loans with different degrees of concessionality to developing countries in order for them to fund agricultural development projects in rural areas.
	Grant donations to institutions and organizations in order for them to fund technical and institutional capacity building activities linked to rural and agricultural development.
	Provide assistance to governments in formulating and designing agricultural projects and other development policies.

2.2.10. World Food Programme (WFP)

WFP is part of the United Nations System. It is a joint United Nations and FAO programme established in 1962 and governed by an executive board made up of 36 Member States. WFP is led by an executive director who is appointed jointly by the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO for a period of five years. WFP depends entirely on voluntary contributions for its financing. Its main donors are governments although it also receives funding from the private sector and private individuals.

WFP's five strategic objectives are to:

1. Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies.
2. Prevent acute hunger and invest in disaster preparedness and mitigation measures.
3. Restore and rebuild lives and livelihoods in post-conflict, post-disaster or transition situations.
4. Reduce chronic hunger and undernutrition.
5. Strengthen the capacities of countries to reduce hunger.

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD	
MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
Provide both food assistance for economic and social development and food relief	Provide relief food assistance in coordination with the relief assistance provided by other humanitarian organizations and avoid negative effects on local food production, consumption patterns and dependency on food assistance.
	Promote the self-reliance of poor people and communities, particularly through labour-intensive work programmes.
	Provide services such as advice, good offices, information and support to countries in establishing and managing their own food assistance programmes.

2.2.11. United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition

The Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN) is a forum for harmonizing policies, where United Nations Agencies, bilateral partners and NGOs and CSOs exchange information and debate issues involved with nutrition. It was established in 1977 as a nutrition subcommittee within the Administrative Committee on Coordination and changed when this committee was remodelled.

Its mandate is to promote cooperation between United Nations Agencies and other social organizations in order to support local, national and regional efforts to put an end to all forms of malnutrition in this generation. The application of the human rights-based approach is among its principles.

FUNCTIONS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD	
MAIN FUNCTIONS	MAIN TASKS
Mainstreaming the human rights approach in nutrition	Integration of the human rights approach in its thematic groups.
	Promote Right to Food Guidelines and other international right to food instruments.

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This collection of RIGHT TO FOOD HANDBOOKS has been compiled from publications forming part of the Right to Food Methodological Toolbox prepared by FAO's Right to Food Team.

The RIGHT TO FOOD HANDBOOKS have been developed under the project entitled "Coherent Food Security Responses: Incorporating Right to Food into Global and Regional Food Security Initiatives", co-funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).



For more information on the Right to Food Methodological Toolbox, visit the website: www.fao.org/righttofood or contact us at: righttofood@fao.org

RIGHT TO FOOD HANDBOOKS

1. The right to food within the international framework of human rights and country constitutions
2. Development of specific right to food legislation
3. Review of the compatibility of sectoral laws with the right to food
4. General aspects regarding monitoring the right to food
5. Procedures for monitoring the right to food
6. Information for monitoring the right to food
7. Assessment of the right to food
8. Advocacy on the right to food based on the analysis of government budgets
9. Who's who in the right to food
10. Right to food training

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