

Role of international organizations in the implementation of the rights related to food and nutrition

Background paper by
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presented at the occasion of the

Second Expert Consultation on the Right to Adequate Food as a Human Right

Organized by OHCHR, co-hosted by FAO

Venue: Rome, 18 and 19 November 1998

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ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIGHT RELATED TO FOOD AND NUTRITION

Part I: Implementing the right to adequate food: Obligations of states, role and responsibilities of international organisations:

1. The right to adequate food is a fundamental human right firmly established in international law. This right flows from the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) of 1966 and has been reaffirmed in many pronouncements of the international community over the last fifty years. The right to adequate food was also reaffirmed and especially mentioned in several of the World Conferences which took place during the 90th, as the World Summit on Children of 1990, the International Conference on Nutrition of 1992, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights of 1993, the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development of 1995, the Beijing Conference on Women of 1995, and especially the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action of 1996.

2. In the Rome Declaration, the heads of states and governments gathered in Rome, reaffirmed “the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.” In commitment 7 of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, Governments committed themselves to implement, monitor and follow-up the Plan of Action at all levels in cooperation with the international community. Objective 7.4 of commitment 7 is especially devoted to the right to adequate food. One of the objectives, as stated in the Plan of Action is:

“To clarify the content of the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, as stated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international and regional instruments, and to give particular attention to implementation and full and progressive realization of this right as a means of achieving food security for all”.

The World Food Summit mentioned specifically several international entities to contribute to the implementation of the right to adequate food. The WFS invited the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to continue monitoring the implementation of the specific measures provided in Article

11 of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and invited relevant treaty bodies and appropriate specialized agencies of the United Nations to consider how they might contribute to the further implementation of this right.

This gives a concrete mandate to international organization to develop a better understanding of means of implementation of the right to adequate food and to discuss how they might contribute to a better implementation of that right as foreseen in the objective 7.4. This can be done through new policies and programmes or if necessary at the same time by changes or amendments in current policies or programmes.

The purpose of this background paper is therefore to contribute ideas, identify important elements of the role of international organizations in implementing the right to adequate food. As an issue paper it will make proposals for the debate on how international organizations can strengthen their work towards a better implementation of the right to adequate food.

3. The Plan of Action from the WFS is giving some first indications, which organizations shall contribute to a better implementation of the right to adequate food and in which areas of work first steps should be done: The WFS specifically invited (objective 7.4 (e)) “the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in consultation with relevant human rights treaty bodies, and in collaboration with relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system and appropriate intergovernmental mechanisms, to better define the rights related to food in Article 11 of the Covenant and to propose ways to implement and realize these rights as a means of achieving the commitments and objectives of the World Food Summit, taking into account the possibility of formulating voluntary guidelines for food security for all. This invitation was later endorsed by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1997/8. This task has been taken up by the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the FAO. The work related to this objective has started and the current expert consultation is part of that endeavour. First part of the work is defining better the rights related to food in Article 11. Second part is to propose ways to implement and realize these rights better. A third step would be to formulate the mentioned voluntary guidelines.

Moreover the WFS invites (objective 7.4 (d)) “relevant treaty bodies and appropriate specialized agencies of the UN to consider how they might contribute, within the framework of the coordinated follow-up by the UN system to the major international UN conferences and summits, including the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna 1993, within the scope of their mandates, to further implementation of this right”.

4. The demand for cooperation of international organizations in the process of implementing the right to adequate food is not a new one. Already in the Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, States parties has recognized in Article 11 the importance of international cooperation for the

implementation of the right to adequate food and the right to be free from hunger:

*Art. 11.1: “The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The State Parties will take appropriate steps, to ensure the realization of this right, **recognizing to this effect the special importance of international co-operation based on free consent.***

*Art. 11.2: the State Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the “the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, shall take, individually **and through international cooperation**, the measures, including specific programmes, which are needed:*
(a) To improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge, by disseminating knowledge of the principles of nutrition and by developing or reforming agrarian systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources;
(b) Taking into account the problems of both food-importing and food-exporting countries, to ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need.” [both emphases are added]

International assistance and cooperation is also mentioned in Art. 2 (1) of the Covenant as an essential support for the full realization of the rights contained in the Covenant.

“Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Covenant by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures”.

International cooperation is both referring to obligations states parties do have with respect to their international cooperation and to the responsibilities and role international organizations have towards the full realization of the rights enshrined in the Covenant.

5. The principle duty-holder of all human rights is the state. The state has to comply with its obligations deriving from the rights contained in the human rights covenants. The full implementation of economic, social and cultural rights requires a state to comply with its human rights obligations. In detail, it obliges the state to respect, protect and fulfill these rights for all citizens. To fulfill its obligations a state must not be rich or extraordinary prosperous, but it has to proof - according to Article 2 of the ICESCR - that

is using the “maximum of its available resources” for that endeavour. States are moreover under the obligation to immediately start with the resources available to guarantee the ESC-rights. All States Parties to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are under the obligation to take immediate steps to fulfill their obligations under the Covenant. The obligation to achieve progressively the full realization of the right to adequate food (Art. 2, ICESCR) requires State Parties to move as expeditiously as possible towards its realization (Limburg Principles). As is true of all other human rights, the right to adequate food imposes three different types of obligations on States: the obligation to respect, to protect, and to facilitate and fulfill. Failure to perform any one of these three obligations constitutes a violation of human rights. Economic, social and cultural rights must be guaranteed without discrimination as to national or social origin, property, race, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion.

6. The role of international organizations starts, when a state is not able to comply with its obligations, independent from the question, if the reason for the non-compliance is grounded in external shocks (economic, climatic ones etc.) or on internal problems caused by political, economic or other developments. There are basically five roles international organizations can take in supporting the implementation of the right to adequate food. The first three roles are linked to positive elements of support the implementation of the right. The last two roles describe responsibilities of international organizations to minimize possible negative outcomes of their own policies on programmes on the ability of states to comply with their human rights obligations.

(1) International organizations *can help states, which are resource poor and unable to guarantee the right to adequate food and the right to freedom from hunger for all its citizens*, may it be temporarily, periodically or for a longer term. The support can be in kind or in cash, as technical or financial support and as advisory service. The possibility of receiving support should not help states -even resource poor ones - to escape from their immediate obligations under the right to adequate food, which are to use the maximum of available resources as expeditiously as possible.

(2) International organizations can *give legal, political or administrative advice* to states, which are not complying with their obligations under the right to adequate food, even if they could adopt adequate policies. The reasons for taken inadequate policies can be manifold, as influential lobby-groups, unwillingness to make necessary changes, missing knowledge about the possible impact of certain policies and programmes etc.

(3) The third role lies in the *active support or promotion* of the right to adequate food. International organizations can promote actively the full

implementation of that right by advising states, by analysing and making known problems with the implementation of that right, by encouraging and supporting important actors inside governments but also inside the societies.

(4) A fourth role would be that international organizations have to *secure that their own policies or programmes do not limit states in implementing the right to adequate food*. The increasing interdependence and interrelatedness of national economies are increasing the sensitivity and vulnerability of every society against international trends and development. These trends can even limit or diminish considerably the ability of states to govern national policies in a way that they are conducive to the implementation of food and nutrition rights.

(5) On a fifth level international organizations should *monitor their own policies and programmes to guarantee that these do not contribute to violations of the right to adequate food*.

Problems with the realization of ESC-rights in general and the right to adequate food in particular through the process of increasing interdependence (or globalization) occur, when the state's ability to implement human rights is changed by international policies and programmes or by general international developments. There are basically three processes which are contributing to a decline in states resources to implement ESC-Rights: (a) the development of a set of new international rules, regulations, policies and developments, (b) the growing influence of policies of other states on national developments, (c) the growing importance of other actors than states, especially in the economic sphere.

7. New international rules, policies and programmes can influence the ability of states to implement national policies and programmes needed to fully implement ESC-Rights. The influence of new rules, policies and programmes can have two directions: they can be supportive for the realization of ESC-rights, but they can be at the same time of negative influence on states' capacity to guarantee ESC-rights. It was the Copenhagen Declaration and the Plan of Action that was especially asking the international community to secure that the social and economic impact of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) is minimized. Some endeavour has been realized to minimize the most negative impacts of that programmes, but still the effect are often negative, may it be in the overall amount of government money directed for social priority areas, may it be a too rapid approach to market liberalization, which can put e.g. small farmers to a very high risks to be forced out of production, when they cannot compete with cheap imports. If no adequate support is given to the affected sectors of society of those changes, especially vulnerable groups of the society will be at much higher risks of poverty than before.

8. Human Rights are the centre piece of all endeavours of the United Nations. All its activities have to respect, protect support and promote the full realization of these rights. That was made clear recently by the Secretary General of the UN, Mr. Kofi Annan. Human Rights give therefore guidance to all other areas of international policies. They are providing standards for the work of all international organizations. An orientation of their work toward the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, mean more than increasing the amount of resources available for aid or assistance. It requires to check the impact of own policies and programmes on the enjoyment of the rights of especially vulnerable groups. Moreover it requires directing all support and promotion activities in a way that they support the implementation of the respective rights, in our case the right to adequate food. A better implementation of the right to adequate food requires a *rights approach to food and nutrition* issues in the activities of international organizations. Therefore it is worthwhile to have an in depth look, which guidance a rights approach based on economic, social and cultural rights, especially the right to adequate food, can give. Secondly it is important to discuss the ways in which the Right to adequate Food must be strengthened to end violations of that right via other international policies or disciplines. To define the meaning of a rights approach more precisely we will use the following part to (1) shortly describe the content of the rights to food and nutrition. We will (2) than present briefly the different levels of obligations linked to the right for states. In the third part of the paper several ideas will be listed proposing possibilities for better implementation of the right to adequate food, which can be used by international organizations.

Part II: **Elements of a rights approach towards food and nutrition**

9. In Article 11 (1) the states parties “recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions”. The human right to adequate food is therefore a distinct part of the right to an adequate standard of living. Hence the accessibility of adequate food should not interfere with the enjoyment of other human rights and other components which are necessary for an adequate standard of living, like shelter, education. From Article 11 (2) thus derives the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger. In both parts of the article international cooperation is especially mentioned.

The core content of the rights to food and nutrition can be described shortly as follows: The realization of the right to adequate food requires the availability of food in a sustainable way for everybody, free from adverse substances and culturally acceptable, in a quantity and quality which will satisfy the nutritional and dietary needs of every individual. The ultimate objective of the right to adequate food is to achieve nutritional well being. Nutritional well being is dependent on parallel measures in the fields of education, health and care. In this broader sense, the right to adequate food is to be understood as the right to adequate food and nutrition. Poverty is the major cause of food insecurity and missing access to adequate food and nutrition. Therefore, the availability of adequate food requires that every individual living alone or in community with other to have access to productive resources, e.g. access to adequate land or natural resources like fish or possibilities to gain an income in ways consistent with human dignity.

10. The primary duty-holder under the right to adequate food is the state. States parties to the Covenant of ESC-rights have (1) to **respect** the right to adequate food under all circumstances for everyone under their jurisdiction. That means that states have to respect physical and economic access to adequate food or to a resource base appropriate for its acquisition. The obligation to respect require also that the state must not take political or other measures destroying existing access by vulnerable populations, and must respect ancestral land rights particularly of indigenous peoples. The state must also respect the right of women to breastfeed their babies. Secondly (2) the States parties have to **protect** everyone under their jurisdiction from having their access to food being undermined by a third party. The obligation to protect includes the State's responsibility to ensure that private entities or individuals, including transnational corporations over which they exercise jurisdiction, do not deprive individuals of their access to adequate food. This involves the protection of the freedom to feed oneself and the use of resources to regulate other actors, through, *inter alia* the adoption of legislation and administrative measures that protect the access

to adequate food. It means also to guarantee that the food available is health and cultural acceptable. Protection against nutritional disinformation is also belonging to this level of obligation. (3) Whenever an individual or group is unable to enjoy the right to adequate food, states have the obligation to **fulfill** that right. This requires first that the States parties identify vulnerable populations within their jurisdiction. Secondly the states have to try the utmost by using the maximum of their available resources to ensure the long-term ability of people to realize this right for themselves. This obligation also applies to persons who are victims of natural or other disasters. Nevertheless, there will always be groups or individuals who cannot make use of possibilities to feed themselves. For this group the obligation to fulfill also means providing the adequate food.

Even in the case where a state faces severe resource constraints, whether caused by a process of economic adjustment, economic recession or other factors, vulnerable persons are entitled to be protected through social programs directed to facilitate their access to adequate food and fulfill their nutritional needs. All states have the duty to satisfy a minimum core obligation, which means that everyone is, as a minimum, free from hunger. Additionally governments should devise policies and programmes oriented to the full realization of the right to adequate food. Priority should be given, as far as possible, to local and regional sources of food in planning food security policies, including under emergency conditions.

11. A rights approach for the work of international organizations does require to orient the own policies on programmes in a way that they become fully supportive to the requirements of the implementation of the right to adequate food in a double sense. First the international organizations should guarantee that the majority of their resources invested in the food and nutrition field is directed towards the requirements mentioned above. Additionally all programmes and policies should be developed in a way consistent with the standards deriving from the right to adequate food. On the second level a rights approach requires to use the resources available by supporting states to fully guarantee the right to adequate food. A rights approach does also mean to develop a dialogue with states that are not complying with their obligations under the right to adequate food.

The tasks and activities under a rights approach can be summarized in defining the role of international organizations in the implementation of the rights to food and nutrition as respecting, protecting, supporting and promoting these rights concerning the own policies and programmes and by assisting and promoting states compliance with their obligations.

Part III: **Role of international organizations in the implementation of the rights related to food and nutrition**

Monitoring:

12. A first element for a strategy to strengthen the implementation of the right to adequate food is to identify the mostly affected individuals and groups and especially vulnerable groups. In the follow-up of the World Food Summit the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has got the mandate to set out the process for developing targets and verifiable indicators of national and global food security. Linked to that process the FAO is developing the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System. For purpose of the implementation of the right to adequate food, a regular monitoring of vulnerable groups is of utmost importance. The new FIVIMS is clearly an important step in the direction. To be sufficiently specific such a monitoring should be guided (amended) by monitoring those groups which are especially vulnerable to violations of one of the three levels of organizations. Such a monitoring would be more meaningful, if it would also register the violations occurring with respect to the right to adequate food. This would help tremendously to learn about the prevalence of violations of the right to adequate food and it would help to identify the specific groups, or specific regions of states or specific states which are constantly worse in implementing the right to adequate food. In the light of above mentioned definition of the content of the right to adequate food focusing on access to productive resources is important to start a precise monitoring with identifying problems of vulnerable groups to destruction or losses of access to productive resources. The recent food security matrix is more closely looking to access of individuals or groups to adequate food (supply), which is a very important part of the game. It should be amended to include those vulnerable groups at high risk of losing access to productive resources.

13. All the information gathered by the different international agencies (and many are monitoring aspects of the right to adequate food, as UNICEF the state of the children, as WHO with identifying nutritional deficiencies). The information shall be given to the respective treaty bodies in the Human Rights system, inter alia the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Convention of the Rights of the Child and other relevant treaty bodies. This will help to strengthen their capacities for assessing the realisation of the right to adequate food in the context of examining country reports on the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights.

14. The specialised UN agencies, programmes, and funds as well as the international financial institutions and the World Trade Organisation, shall,

within the sphere of their mandates, assess the impact of their activities in member countries on the realisation of the right to adequate food and take corrective measures as required. This internal monitoring will be of utmost importance to guarantee that no measures of international organizations are hindering states in complying with their obligations under the right to adequate food. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights could facilitate coordination among the United Nations bodies concerned with the right to adequate food, and to this end facilitate the exchange of reports and other relevant information among these bodies. Moreover, the High Commissioner could report regularly to the Commission on Human Rights, to the FAO Committee on Food Security, and to the UN Administrative Committee on Coordination on progress made towards the realisation of the right to adequate food for all.

15. A very important step towards a better implementation of the right to adequate food could be programmes to help states in the monitoring their respective national situation concerning hunger and malnutrition. If such a national monitoring would be based on an instrument helping to identify especially vulnerable groups and to detect problem areas in the implementation of the right to adequate food, it could be a strong tool to start a dialogue with states about these problem.

Documenting violations of the right to adequate food and identifying problem areas in the implementation of the right, require to take into consideration carefully information coming from non-state actors as non-governmental organizations and social movements. This is valid both for national monitoring supported by international organizations as well as for the international monitoring.

Means of implementations

16. The implementation of the right to adequate food requires steps to be taken by all appropriate means, including in particular the adoption of legislative measures, supported by the necessary administrative capacity. The international organizations are already taken a bunch of measures to promote food security at different levels. But very few measures are designed explicitly to support the implementation of the rights to food and nutrition. The following list of means and measures which can help to better implement these rights is focusing on those measures which could be explicitly linked to a rights approach. The list is not a comprehensive one; it is an illustrative list, highlighting some very important areas.

The international organizations can support and advice states in both the legislative measures as well as the administrative capacity. These measures shall address all aspects of the food system, including the production, processing, distribution and consumption of food, as well as parallel measures in the fields of health, care and education. To be effective, the all these measures shall strengthen communal organisations and the

empowerment of civil society.

17. The role of international organizations in fostering the implementation of the right to adequate food can be described more precisely by following the different levels of state obligations. The FAO has presented in their background paper to the day of general discussion related to the right to adequate food in the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in December 1997 a food security matrix which also follows the three levels of obligations. The FAO has used the food security matrix also to assign its own policies and programmes to the different levels of obligations. Along the lines of the matrix additional measures and means will be mentioned above that could be added.

(A) Concerning the obligation to respect:

Production-related:

- Steps to ensure access to food producing resources require establishing and maintaining of land registries, respecting the usage of ancestral lands particularly by indigenous peoples, and preventing forced eviction or resettlement. International organizations can help to develop a national monitoring system, do identify the most important regions and areas with problems of access to productive resources. If forced evictions have occurred international organizations can support states in relocating the affected group of the population and in paying an adequate rehabilitation.
- Change and innovation in farming systems must give due respect to traditional farming practices. Measures must be adopted to ensure sustainable patterns of production, preventing soil and water pollution and protecting the fertility of the soil, the biodiversity of genetic resources and the climate. International organizations can support states in complying with these obligations.
- Access to productive resources shall exist without discrimination to work with remuneration which provides for a decent living for wage earners and their families. Women should have the full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technology, if necessary by legislative and administrative reforms. All these measures can be promoted by international organisations.

Distribution-related:

International organizations can become active both on the national as well as the international level. At the national level it can support, advice or recommend policies with objectives like:

- Ensuring that local food producers must have access to markets for their products.
- Steps to ensure satisfactory distribution of access to food should include measures to respect and protect self-employment.

- The rights of vendors (like street vendors, hawkers, petty traders etc.) should be strengthened.
- Ensuring that tax-policies are not negatively affecting people living at the subsistence level.

At the international level the can document and challenge possible negative effects of trade embargoes jeopardizing the vital food supply of other state's population.

Consumption-related:

Steps to ensure adequate consumption of food should include measures to respect and promote traditional food (production) patterns. The role of international organization in respect to this objective can be high by giving technical (knowledge) and financial support.

(B) Concerning the obligation to protect:

Production-related:

- The special tasks of international organizations under the obligation to protect could be manifold: Support or promotion of land registers, of minimum wage policies for workers and their families, of traditional farming, of the protection of the right to adequate food of future generation by helping to safeguard the conservation of soil, fertility, biodiversity of genetic resources etc.
- A very important part of the problems of the non-agricultural population are issues like the right to organize collectively and to join and establish trade unions. International organizations can help to create an atmosphere conducive to civil-society participation.
- In their own policies and programmes international organizations should guarantee that no measures are implemented leading to resettlement without equivalent compensation.

Distribution-related:

- Dumping of food products from other countries which undermine market opportunities for local producers must be prevented.

Consumption-related:

International organizations should help states and guarantee that their own programmes and policies are pursued in a way to establish and implement legislation for food safety control and for the protecting of consumers from nutritional misinformation and commercial fraud.

- Products included in international food aid programs must be nutritionally safe and culturally acceptable to the recipient population.

(C) Concerning the obligation to fulfill:

Production-related:

International organizations can help considerable to better the access to productive resources of groups currently having problems with this access or which are excluded:

- Agrarian reforms must provide vulnerable smallholders and landless peasants with access to land. Linked to agrarian reform are measures like offering credit facilities, marketing support etc. to producers.
- Any support for economic activities creating self-employment of persons and families living in the informal sector.

Distribution-related:

- Local food storage and distribution should be promoted and enhanced.
- The development of local and regional agro-industries stimulating the rural economy is an important step towards the realisation of the right to adequate food.
- Helping states and securing in the own work to end corruption and commercial fraud.

Consumption-related:

International Organizations can support states and can guarantee that in their own policies the infrastructure for local food storage and distribution is functioning to allow rural and urban food systems to function effectively

Additional responsibilities and tasks for international organizations

18. An international organization must never pressurize a state or other international organizations to violate the human right to adequate food. International organizations should be accountable under the international provisions relevant to the human right to adequate food and should submit to similar standards of transparency, public control and freedom of information as individual states. International organizations must not take any measure which would presuppose a violation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by any of its member states duty-bound under the this Covenant. People's access to adequate food must be respected and protected by international organizations. Moreover, international organizations must support states in protecting and fulfilling people's access to adequate food.

19. Moreover, international organizations shall guarantee that nothing in international treaties establishing international organizations or regarding other international matters such as international finance and trade, shall be construed to override the obligations of international organizations under the right to adequate food.

20. One of the biggest challenges to international organization in a strategy towards a better implementation of the right to adequate food will be to create better coordination and coherence between the different programmes and policies promoted by each organization. Problems with coherence can occur on all levels, may it be macroeconomic policies or in regional or sectoral policies. An increasing role in that respect could play in

future the Sub-Committee on Nutrition of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, which has already intensified its work related to food security. A new global contract for food and nutrition rights (similar to the discussion in the ACC-SCN about a new global contract on nutrition) could be a starting point. Many ACC-SCN-members are having already programmes or are starting programmes with a rights approach to food and nutrition. Moreover the SCN has since a short time a working group in nutrition, ethics and human rights, which could function to further develop the coordination and cooperation in the field. A common rights approach to the hunger and malnutrition problems could become a central element in achieving coherence.

21. Complaint procedures are a core element in any strategy to better implement the right to adequate food. A complaint procedure allowing individual complaints of citizens (under certain conditions) actions states violating economic, social and cultural rights is currently under discussion in the Human Rights Commission (in the form of an optional protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights). Victims of violations of the right to adequate food and other ESC-Rights still have few possibilities to challenge international organizations in case they have a co-responsibility. The World Bank has established an “inspection panel”, which functions under certain limitation as a complaint mechanisms. Generally there should be a complaint possibility (or an ombudsman-system) in the UN-system offering support in cases of individual or group complaints against any policy of programme of an international organization.

22. An important part in a strategy for a better implementation of the right to adequate food would be an active promotion of the rights approach. This include publications, a regular documentation of violations of the right to adequate food, support to the respective monitoring bodies of the UN human rights system, the support for new international legal instruments to strengthen the rights to food and nutrition. Still economic, social and cultural rights at all are facing an important portion of neglect, inside the UN-system but also outside. To promote the right to adequate food in the respective environments can help to change the understanding of that right considerably. The national implementation (e.g. in terms of legislation) is of utmost important to strengthen the implementation of the right to adequate food. Especially in this respect the international organizations can help states profoundly in developing an adequate legislation and the respective administrative skills. International organizations can also widen the support to civil society groups, which are working in favour of implementing the right to adequate food.

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