

Thursday , 15 October 18:00– 19:30

Philippines Room

### How The Narrow, Binding International Agreement To Eradicate Malnutrition Would Strengthen Broader Campaigns For Right-To-Food And Global Food Security #8

#### ORGANIZERS

International Food Security Treaty Association

Aim – India

FAO—Right to Food

Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

**Abstract:** Panelists and the audience will discuss how adoption of the treaty designed to place the fundamental human right of freedom from hunger under the protection of enforceable international law would bolster food security measures by national and intergovernmental groups and NGOs to catalyze a drastic reduction in world hunger. Presenting the case for the IFST will be John Teton, founding director of the International Food Security Treaty Association and author of ‘The Armless Hand,’ the definitive article on the Treaty published in the Yale Journal of International Affairs. Mr. Teton will also screen Thunder Head Clearing, a new seven-minute animated film about the Treaty that he has produced with an international crew of artists. The Panel foresees the participation of Sanjay K. Rai, director of AIM-India and former National Secretary of FIAN-India, Rep. Lois R. Capps (to be confirmed), a former public health nurse who has served in the United States House of Representatives for more than seventeen years, and Hilal Elver, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (to be confirmed).

**KEYWORDS:** The Right-To-Food , The Human Right of Freedom From Hunger , International Treaty , The right to food, Human Rights Law, Food Security

**Languages:** EN

Refreshments

**Summary:** The discussion of the side event was focused on how the adoption of the International Food Security Treaty (IFST), which aims to place the human right of freedom from hunger under the protection of enforceable international law, would bolster food security measures by national and intergovernmental groups and NGOs to catalyze a drastic reduction in hunger.

The event was moderated by Mr Juan Carlos García y Cebolla, Right to Food Team Leader, FAO, and featured three distinguished panelists:

- Mr John Teton, Director of the International Food Security Treaty Association;
- Ms Hilal Elver, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food;
- Mr Sanjay K. Rai, founding director of the Indian antipoverty and food rights organization AIM.

Examples of support for the IFST from political leaders and experts in human rights, international law, intergovernmental affairs and economics were given.

The event also included two short video statements from United States Representatives, Mrs Lois Capps and Mr Earl Blumenauer, and the screening of Thunder Head Clearing, a high-end animated short film about the Treaty directed by Mr. Teton and produced by Earthlight Pictures with an international crew of artists.

Attention was given to obstacles that might arise from various political sectors as the IFST moves forward and how they might be overcome. The favorable impact of the IFST upon food security concerns in India in particular was addressed. In the interactive portion of the event, additional questions were raised, in particular how international human rights law negotiated through the UN might mesh with “bottom-up” food security endeavors.

The entire Side Event, including the extensive preparations and the connections made between organizers, CFS, the Right To Food Team, and numerous attendees, proved invaluable as a promising source of advances to come in realizing the human right of freedom from hunger.