

Unit 1: Introduction to the Right to Food

Lesson: The concept of Right to Food

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this lesson, the learner will be able to:

- define the concept of Right to Food;
- understand the importance of realizing the Right to Food;
- identify the differences between Right to Food, Food Security and Food Sovereignty; and
- identify the conditions required to achieve Right to Food.

Suggestions for authors: Introduce the concepts of legal obligations and accountability, participation, non-discrimination, empowerment.

Learning Step 1: Definition of Right to Food

Scope Notes: Provide a definition of Right to Food and illustrate it by focusing on the key points (sustainability, dignity, cultural acceptability, non interference with other Human Rights, non-discrimination etc.). Highlight the aspects of the provision of food and the need to create an enabling environment.

Learning Step 2: Why Right to Food is a concern for us

Scope Notes: Describe the reasons for which Right to Food is an important issue from different points of views (international obligation, justified on economic and political grounds, as well as grounds of dignity). Use examples or scenarios to illustrate how individuals are deprived from their Right to Food and the consequences for these individuals and, indirectly, for the state.

Learning Step 3: What is different about the Right to Food?

Scope Notes: Highlight the peculiarity of Right to Food compared to the Food Security concept. Food Security and Food Sovereignty concepts should be briefly introduced.

Learning Step 4: What the Right to Food is not

Scope Notes: The most common misperceptions about the right to adequate food are explained.

Resources:

PPT presentation: Food Security, the Right to Adequate Food and Food Sovereignty (on the CD)

InfoSheet on RTF and Guidelines

Windfuhr (2005), Policy paper on Food sovereignty, Towards a new understanding and a new framework for poverty reduction and to combating hunger in developing countries.

de Haen (2005) Putting the Right to Adequate Food into practice – concepts and lessons

Kerstin Mechlem (2004) European Law Journal. Food Security and the Right to Food in the Discourse of the United Nations