

Unit 1: Introduction to the Right to Food

Lesson: The Voluntary Guidelines

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this lesson, the learner will:

- Understand the relevance of the Voluntary Guidelines as a tool to support efforts to achieve the Right to Food.
- What the Voluntary Guidelines mean for different users (government officials, UN agencies, civil society, NGOs, etc)

Suggestions for authors: The objective is to clarify that this concept has not been invented by FAO: the recognition of the Right to Food as a fundamental human right dates back to the early years of the UN. Stress the fact that, as a human right, the Right to Food is not a new approach and is not for discussion.

Learning Step 1: Articulation and Adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines

Scope Notes: Explain the nature of the Voluntary Guidelines as an operational tool to guide the implementation of the Right to Food. Expand on the History of the negotiation and why it was necessary to elaborate the Voluntary Guidelines.

Learning Step 2: The Importance of the Voluntary Guidelines

Scope Notes: What the Voluntary Guidelines are meant for and how they can be used? Explain the fact that the Voluntary Guidelines focus on state policies can contribute to the realization of the Right to Food. Provide an overview of the 3 sections (Enabling Environment, Assistance and Accountability) and the 19 Guidelines. Expand on the contribution of the Voluntary Guidelines to the Millennium Development Goals.

Learning Step 3 Relevance of the Voluntary Guidelines for Development Practitioners

Scope Notes: Besides the Voluntary Guidelines were elaborated by states for government officials, they constitute a useful tool for civil society and NGOs. Elaborate on the limitations of the Voluntary Guidelines.

Resources:

Voluntary Guidelines

UN Wider paper

Brief No.1 plus Overview

SCN "closing the gap

Vidar (2003) FAO's work on the Right to Food since 1994.