



**Statement of the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian  
Federation to FAO Mr. Vladimir V. Kuznetsov  
at the International Forum “Right to Food”  
(FAO, 1-3 October, 2008)**

1 October 2008

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are grateful to the organizers of this International Forum for such an opportunity to exchange different views of national governments, experts from private sector and NGOs and promote the discussion on the topical issue of “right to food”, particularly with regard to the worsening food security situation in the world and global food crisis, which affected negatively the realization of the right to food at different levels (country, regional and global).

The Russian Federation views the “right to food” among fundamental human rights objectives, deriving from universal multilateral agreements and international law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the “right to food” principle as an additional effective instrument in the context of combating global hunger and poverty and thus achieving the goals of the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the first Millennium Development Goal of eradicating hunger and extreme poverty by 2015 (MDG-1). In this regard I would like also to dwell specifically on the need of ensuring the “adequate” right to food, which means not only the sufficiency, but also the high quality of nutrition. Therefore, in our point of view, the implementation of the “right to food” is interlinked directly with the issue of food safety and food standards, and FAO is to play a major role in these processes.

The Russian Federation recognizes the need for collective efforts of all interested players, including governments, UN, other multilateral institutions, NGOs etc. in order to mitigate the negative impact of the current world food crises on the realization of the right to food. This topic should be carefully reviewed by the world community in the context of long-term solutions. Meantime we emphasize the primary obligation of National Governments to meet the food need of their own vulnerable population. The necessary measures to be taken by States to ensure the realization of the right to food can be various: from enhancing national strategies against hunger and malnutrition to promoting sustainable agricultural development.

We commend the activities undertaken by Mr. Shutter, UN Human Rights Council (HRC) Special Rapporteur, for his impartial and clear assessments, reflected in the last report to the Ninth session of HRC in September 2008. The Russian Federation agrees with the main outcomes of this document, recognizing the complex character of the current global food crises, highlighting the topicality of the realization of the “right to food” and calling for coordinated action of international community. Russia is among the co-authors of a corresponding resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council at its session on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September, which encourages all international institutions to bring to their studies, research and reports on the issue of food security a “human rights perspective”. With respect to FAO activities we are convinced that this Organization with a huge expertise has to play a greater role on this issue, including, inter alia, the mapping of the food insecure regions and the monitoring of food safety and quality.