

Dear Ambassador Arvelo,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your new position as chairperson of CFS. I was at the plenary in last October, but I was not able to stay until the last day to congratulate you personally. I am very pleased to work with you as much as possible during your period of leadership. I am unfortunately not able to participate in many meetings in my role as a members of the Advisory Group due to budgetary constraints, and logistical complications. UN Human Rights Council and my mandate do not have any budget item to participate in the AG meetings. As you might know Special Rapporteurs are independent experts and I am a law professor at the University of California and live in Santa Barbara. However, I do my best to maintain contact with the secretariat and other members of the AG to make necessary written contributions to the meetings, and to participate in important discussions from afar. It would be very good if we had more technological tools to make it easier for people to take part in the more important discussions. I am hoping that these tools will become available in the near future. Meanwhile please do not hesitate to get in touch with me on any issues that you think my contribution and advice as the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food might be helpful. I am more than happy to assist in producing a stronger impact on CFS's work in relation to the right to food, and the promotion of the human rights approach in general.

I am writing to you from Vietnam while I am conducting official mission trip. Please find some short preliminary comments on the agenda item below:

- Agenda item 1: Feedback on the CFS 44: During the last plenary, I observed that several times human rights approach came to the discussion especially in relation to indivisibility of the human rights and string connection between right to food and women rights. I am pleased that the importance of ensuring women's rights, gender equality and women empowerment are mainstreamed in the CFS, as the Plenary decided. I am specifically dedicate to this issue during my mandate and ready to work with the CFS if there will be any further articulation on that. I am also very pleased that in CFS 45 right to food will be a thematic subject and we are working with some governments, CFS and the CSM to make sure that there will be a good preparation and effective discussion.
- Agenda item 2, especially on Agenda item 2.e Draft work plan on monitoring: I would like to reiterate the importance of the monitoring process towards the Global Thematic Event 2018 on the use and application of the Right to Food Guidelines, encouraging members states to hold national monitoring events and need your support and commitment with this process.

I am looking forward to meeting you in person in the near future.

My warm greetings from Vietnam

Hilal Elver

