**28th session of the Human Rights Council**

**Full-day discussion on human rights and climate change**

**Friday, 6 March 2015**

**Video statement by Ms. Hilal Elver, Special Rapporteur on the right to food**

*(for the afternoon panel)*

Distinguished panelists, ladies and gentlemen, my apologies not being able to be with you in such an important event. First, I would like to thank the organizers of the event for giving me this opportunity to address you.

The link between food security and climate change is complicated. **First of all, m**odern agriculture is unsustainable. Fossil fuel and chemical intensive food systems have profound impact on natural resources, while producing 40 % of GHG emissions.

**Secondly, while** modern agriculture is producing more food than the world populations is needed, still almost 1 billion is chronically hungry and another 1 billion is malnourished. Those are already food insecure and hungry, small holder farmers, fish folks, indigenous peoples, and urban poor, felt the severe impact of climate change.

**Thirdly,** climate change mitigation and adaptation policies are not respectful to human rights. Those mechanisms further reduces food availability, such as bio-fuel as clean energy alternative and Clean Development Mechanisms, like REDD+ forest preservation, shift land use from agriculture threatening right to food. Clean fuel for cars in the West means less food in Africa and South Asia.

**Why is that?** Because until very recently Climate Change policies were not focusing on neither **food security and agriculture, nor human rights principles.** Alternative to industrial agriculture, women’s and indigenous peoples knowledge of biodiversity and agro-ecology help to mitigate climate change, and build resilience to adapt it. Small-scale farmers must be the cornerstone of any global strategy to address climate change and hunger.

**Profound societal change is needed in coming decades.** The most recent meeting of the UNFCCC in Geneva gave a positive spin reminds us **that we can still have hope.** With the ‘Geneva spirit,’ the leadership of Costa Rica, together with several like-minded 18 countries proposed a Geneva pledge on human rights and climate action.

Right based approach could provide both practical, conceptual, and more importantly moral framework to UNFCCC for effective action especially in time of “voluntary commitments.” Universal Declaration Human Rights was born as voluntary promises, but civil society took seriously and transformed these hortatory principles into enforceable rights.

Now, we are hoping that human rights approach will be included into Paris document to reach just and equitable climate change system that much more needed for a long time. Thank you very much.