# UN Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights

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# FAO Contribution to Guidance on human rights impact assessments for economic reform policies

The Contribution relates mainly to items 1 and 2 of the call for contributions, i.e., relevant reports, materials and tools.

FAO’s engagement in policy processes in the areas of food and agriculture, at the national and international levels, may have direct and indirect relevance to economic reform and financial consolidation policies. The organization has developed normative instruments that provide guidance to States in the human rights dimensions of food and agriculture-related policies, strategies, programmes, laws and institutions.

The [Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security](http://www.fao.org/3/a-y7937e.pdf) recommends that States:

* adopt a national human-rights-based strategy for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food based on a careful assessment of existing national legislation, policy and administrative measures, current programmes, systematic identification of existing constraints and availability of existing resources (Guideline 3).
* conduct “Right to Food Impact Assessments” in order to identify the impact of domestic policies, programmes and projects on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food of the population at large and vulnerable groups in particular, and as a basis for the adoption of the necessary corrective measures (Guideline 17).

FAO has published the following documents to support the implementation of the above provisions of the Voluntary Guidelines:

## **Guide to Conducting a Right to Food Assessment**

## [**Methods to Monitor the Human Right to Adequate Food**](http://www.fao.org/righttofood/our-work/assessment-and-monitoring/en/)

* **Budget Work to Advance the Right to Food**

As part of the 10-year retrospective on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Adequate Food, FAO published a series of 7 thematic studies. One of the studies explored the [international dimensions of the right to adequate food](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3896e.pdf) by reviewing the impacts of policies and practices in international trade and investment, development cooperation and development loans and debts on the realization of the right to food at the national level.

FAO’s interventions in national level processes are based on technical cooperation programmes and projects. The organization has adopted a number of instruments that provide guidance on its involvement in food and agriculture-related policy, legal and institutional processes, which incorporate the human rights-based approach as one of the UN Common Country Programming Principles or other human rights-related standards. These include:

* Guide to the Formulation of the Country Programming Framework
* [Guide to the Project Cycle](http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/ap105e/ap105e.pdf)
* [Environmental and Social Management Guidelines](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4413e.pdf)

Among the policy areas under item 5 of the call for contributions, the Guidance should place focus on the impact of economic reform policies on food security and nutrition at the national level from the perspectives of the right to adequate food.

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