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| DATE: | 12 April 2018 | |
| A/TO: | All Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office and  other international organizations in Geneva | |
| DE/FROM: | Beatriz Balbin  Chief  Special Procedures Branch | |
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| REF: |  | |
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| COPIES: |  | |
| OBJET/SUBJECT: | **Letter and questionnaire from the Special Rapporteur on the right to food** | |

**Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food**

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| REFERENCE: | SPB/SHD/VA/ff |

12 April 2018

Excellency,

I am writing in my capacity as Special Rapporteur on the right to food, pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolutions 6/2, 31/10 and 32/8. I intend to focus my report to the 73rd session of the General Assembly (October 2018) on agricultural workers.

A questionnaire is annexed to this letter, the results of which will be used to prepare the above-mentioned report. Unless otherwise requested, all submissions will be posted on my webpage.

I wish to thank you in advance for your cooperation and I hope to continue a constructive dialogue on issues related to my mandate.

Given the timeliness of this subject, I would respectfully request that any available information be provided by email to [srfood@ohchr.org](mailto:srtoxicwaste@ohchr.org), copying [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org) not later than **14 May 2018**. To identify your response, please indicate “QUESTIONNAIRE – Agricultural workers – [Country name]” in the subject line.

Should you have any question regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact Viktoria Aberg (email: [vaberg@ohchr.org](mailto:vaberg@ohchr.org); tel.: 022 917-9790).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Hilal Elver

Special Rapporteur on the right to food

**Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food:**

**Questionnaire for Governments to inform her report to the   
73rd Session of the General Assembly on agricultural workers**

The Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Ms Hilal Elver, is writing her upcoming report to the General Assembly on the topic of agricultural workers.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) an estimated 1.1 billion people worldwide are engaged in agriculture. This figure includes around 300-500 million waged workers. Unpaid family members including women, children and young adults further carry out agricultural work as unrecognized farm labour often in plantation and in support of small-scale family farming. Large numbers of casual, seasonal and temporary workers, often migrants, are engaged in agricultural work world-wide. Agricultural workers carry out a vital role in the global food production yet they tend to be unable to access adequate nutritious food for themselves and their families.

The report will describe the main international and national legal and institutional instruments relevant to the protection of the human rights of agricultural and food system workers. It will outline the responsibility of States, in terms of guaranteeing these rights; including the right to a living wage and to decent and safe working conditions. The State is further responsible for monitoring the compliance with labour, environmental and human rights-legislation both at the in international and national level.

The report will assess the gap between the existing regulatory system and its implementation. It will further discuss to what extent States abide by key human rights principles of non-discrimination, participation and effective remedy.

The Special Rapporteur kindly requests that any available information be provided by email to [srfood@ohchr.org](mailto:srtoxicwaste@ohchr.org), copying [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org) not later than **14 May 2018**. (Please indicate “QUESTIONNAIRE – Agricultural workers – [Country name]” in the subject line).

The purpose of this questionnaire is to help receive information on government laws and policies that ascertain the situation of the right to food of agricultural workers.

We would be grateful for your input on the following questions:

1. Please list any laws (both domestic and international) that are being enforced by your Government in order to protect and promote the right to food of agricultural workers. This can include a provision of existing national laws and regulations that:
2. establish the right to a safe and healthy working conditions;
3. guarantee the right to a living wage;
4. protect from hazardous substances;
5. guarantee their freedom of association.
6. Please provide us with information on **policies** put in place for the protection of and promotion of the rights of agricultural workers.
7. Please indicate the main authorities tasked with**monitoring the compliance of the working conditions** with labour legislation and describe their mandates.
8. What **mechanisms** exist with regards to access to information on the rights of agricultural workers and on access to effective remedy in case of human rights violations?
9. What **laws and policies** are put in place for the protection of the rights of **particularly vulnerable groups** of agricultural workers, including women, children, migrants and seasonal workers, plantation workers and fish workers? What about food chain workers?
10. Please provide any **good practices** that your Government has initiated to protect and promote the rights of agricultural and plantation workers?
11. Please provide any **additional information** you believe would be useful to understand the **challenges** confronting your Government in its efforts to protect and promote the rights of agricultural workers.