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

**Call for submission**

**Country visit to Italy, 20 – 31 January 2020**

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| The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Ms. Hilal Elver,[[1]](#footnote-1) will make an official visit to **Italy from** **20 – 31 January 2020.** The Special Rapporteur and her team will collect information and hold a series of dialogues with Government authorities, civil society organizations, and other relevant stakeholders in order to analyze and assess the progressively realization of the right to food. The Special Rapporteur will present a public report on the country visit to the United Nations Human Rights Council in March 2020.  She is currently seeking the views of all relevant stakeholders to inform the thematic and geographical focus of the visit and subsequent reporting.  Please send any responses to the questions to [srfood@ohchr.org](mailto:srfood@ohchr.org) or [foodconsultant@ohchr.org](mailto:foodconsultant@ohchr.org) **as soon as possible** but no later than **30 December 2019**. Submissions received after this date will be considered for the Special Rapporteur’s report to the UN Human Rights Council.  Please feel free to share this call for submissions with all stakeholders.  **Your responses will be kept confidential.** Neither you nor your organization will be identified, and your response will not be attributed to you or your organization, under any circumstances.  Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: [srfood@ohchr.org](mailto:srfood@ohchr.org). Further background information about the mandate is available below. |

**Background information**

**Visit objectives**

* Examine and report on the enjoyment of the right to food and other related rights in the country;
* Engage in dialogue with the Government, civil society and other interested stakeholders in their efforts to realize the right to food;
* Identify practical solutions, make recommendations and support best practices in the realization of the right to food and other relevant rights related to the mandate.

**The right to food**

The right to food has been recognized as a distinct and fundamental human right within a wide range of international legal instruments including the:

* Universal Declaration of Human Rights (art. 25(1));
* International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (art. 11),
* Convention on the Rights of the Child (art. 24(2)(c) and (3); art. 27(3)),
* Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (art. 12(2))
* Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (art. 25(f); art. 28(1)).

The right to food requires the possibility either to feed oneself directly from productive land or other natural resources, or ability to purchase food, and includes various elements. In its General Comment No. 12, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has defined these elements: (a) availability; (b) accessibility; (c) adequacy, and (d) sustainability. Availability relates to there being sufficient food on the market to meet the needs. Accessibility requires both physical and economic access: physical accessibility means that food should be accessible to all people, including the physically vulnerable such as children, older persons or persons with disabilities; economic accessibility means that food must be affordable without compromising other basic needs such as education, medical care or housing. Adequacy requires that food satisfy dietary needs (factoring a person’s age, living conditions, health, occupation, sex, etc.), be safe for human consumption, free of adverse substances and culturally acceptable. Sustainability requires adequate production methods without compromising the need of future generation, as well as protection of environment and ecosystem.

**Call for submissions**

While all submissions are welcome, and the below is by no means exhaustive, the Special Rapporteur would be grateful for comments that address topics such as:

* The extent of Italy’s implementation of its **human rights obligations** under international law, including relevant examples of good practice and challenges relevant to right to food.
* The major challenges and human rights-related issues relating **to the right to food** in Italy.
* **The role that the agricultural sector** plays in realization of the right to food, including examples of good practice and challenges.
* **People disproportionately impacted by right to food violations and related human rights issues**, including women, children, minorities or refugees.
* **Protection of small scale farmers, poverty and development in rural communities;**
* The relationship between **civil and political rights** and economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to food, in Italy.
* **The role of private sector actors**, on the right to food. Including, where relevant, information about good practices, challenges and the efficacy of the Government in ensuring non-state actors’ compliance with human rights obligations.
* The impact of **environmental issues, ecosystem protection and climate change** on right to food issues.
* Issues relating to **nutrition, especially for infants and young children, food quality and/obesity**.
* **Regions, provinces, districts, or cities in Italy** that the Special Rapporteur should visit because of their particular relevance to the right to food.
* **Individuals and organizations** with whom the Special Rapporteur should meet during her country visit.

1. For more information on the mandate, please see <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Food/Pages/FoodIndex.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)