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

**Call for submission**

**Country visit to Argentina, 12 to 21 September 2018**

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| In connection with an official visit to **Argentina,** to take place from **12 to 21 September 2018**, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Ms. Hilal Elver,[[1]](#footnote-1) would like to take your feedback into account.  The Special Rapporteur will present a public report on the country visit to the United Nations Human Rights Council in March 2019.  Any responses you provide to the questions below would be greatly appreciated. You need not answer all of them – you can focus on the ones that are relevant to you.  If you would like your submission to be considered *during* the visit as well as after it, please send any responses to the questions to [srfood@ohchr.org](mailto:srfood@ohchr.org) *and* [vaberg@ohchr.org](mailto:vaberg@ohchr.org) **as soon as possible** but no later than **20 July 2018**. All submissions will also be considered for the Special Rapporteur’s report to the UN Human Rights Council.  Please feel free to share this message and the questions with anyone who might be interested in contributing.  **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, even if the Special Rapporteur raises issues that you brought to her attention.**  Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.  ATTN: Special Rapporteur on the right to food  Special Procedures Branch  Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  Mailing address: UNOG-OHCHR, CH-1211 Geneva 10  Tel: +41 22 917 9267  Fax: +41 22 917 9006  Email: srfood@ohchr.org |

**Background information**

*Purpose of the visit*

The general purpose of the mission of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food will be to collect information and examine issues relevant to the mandate and to hold a series of dialogues with Government authorities and other relevant stakeholders in the realization of the right to food.

The general objectives of the Special Rapporteur’s mission will be:

1. To examine and report on the enjoyment of the right to food and other related rights in the country;
2. To engage in dialogue with the Government, civil society and other interested stakeholders in their efforts to realize the right to food;
3. To identify practical solutions and best practices in the realization of the right to food and other rights related to the mandate;

*On 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)); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (art. 11), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (art. 24(2)(c) and (3); art. 27(3)), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (art. 12(2)), and the 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 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; and (c) adequacy. 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 fees, 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.

**Questions**

1. Argentina has ratified many **international human rights treaties.** How well are these agreements implemented on the ground?
   * 1. Are there any good examples? Why are these good examples?
     2. Are there any challenges? What are the causes? How can these be improved?
2. What are the major **domestic laws and institutional framework** that are placed to realize the right to food? How well are they implemented?
   1. What are the strengths? What are the weaknesses?
   2. Are there any challenges? What are the causes? How can these be improved?
3. What are the most **urgent human rights issues with respect to the right to food** that would require the attention of the Special Rapporteur?
   1. What are the specific topics that should be looked into? Are they limited to certain region?
   2. Please elaborate if you have any specific cases of concerns.
   3. Are there any populations particularly affected by right to food issues?
   4. Are there any programs that have been particularly effective in improving access to food that could serve as models to others?
   5. How can the Special Rapporteur contribute in making the situation better?

Based on information gathered so far here are examples issues that could be of interest to the Special Rapporteur:

- The agricultural policy and strengths and weaknesses of the agricultural sector.

- The institutional framework on the right to food and the existence of efforts to design and coordinate the implementation of inter-sectorial food and nutrition strategies.

- Nutrition (triple burden referring to under/malnutrition, overweight/obesity and micro nutrition deficiencies).

- Chronic food insecurity (what areas are more affected).

- The situation of small-holders and efforts to improve their livelihoods including issues of access to markets, international trade, forced evictions, large-scale land acquisitions and security of land tenure.

- The situation of specific communities (pastoralists, fishing communities, forest people).

- The situation of agricultural workers on plantations.

- The impact of climate change on the right to food.

- The impact of the use of pesticides and or other chemical substances on right to food and on right to health.

- The situation of specific vulnerability, such as those faced by indigenous groups, children, refugees/displaced persons, women.

- Social protection and what measures are taken to address the needs of persons below the poverty line, in order to ensure that these persons will not be denied access to food?

1. How would you evaluate practices of **businesses** whose activities have impact on the right to food (e.g., mining, forestry, fishing, palm oil plantation, agricultural businesses, etc.) in Argentina, including multinational, domestic and state-owned businesses?
   1. How well do the businesses respect and protect human rights?
   2. What role does the Government play in addressing human rights violations perpetrated by business enterprises?
2. Are there any **specific questions** that you would like the Special Rapporteur to raise with a particular government body/ministry?
3. Following the visit, the Special Rapporteur will submit an official report of the visit to the Human Rights Council which will include her **recommendations** to the Government of Argentina and possibly to other relevant stakeholders (e.g., UN agencies, CSOs, businesses, etc.). Are there any specific recommendations that you wish the Special Rapporteur to consider? If so, please indicate and explain why.
4. Please provide contact details of any **key persons and/or civil society organizations** (e.g. academics, government officials, research institutes, human rights organizations, victims’ organizations, etc.) who you think it would be useful for the Special Rapporteur to be in touch with, either in Argentina or elsewhere.
5. Please let us know if there are **any other issues** that you want to bring to the attention of the Special Rapporteur.

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