

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Ms Hilal Elver's comments on the 0 draft of the HLPE Report "Agroecological approaches and other innovations for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition"

General comments:

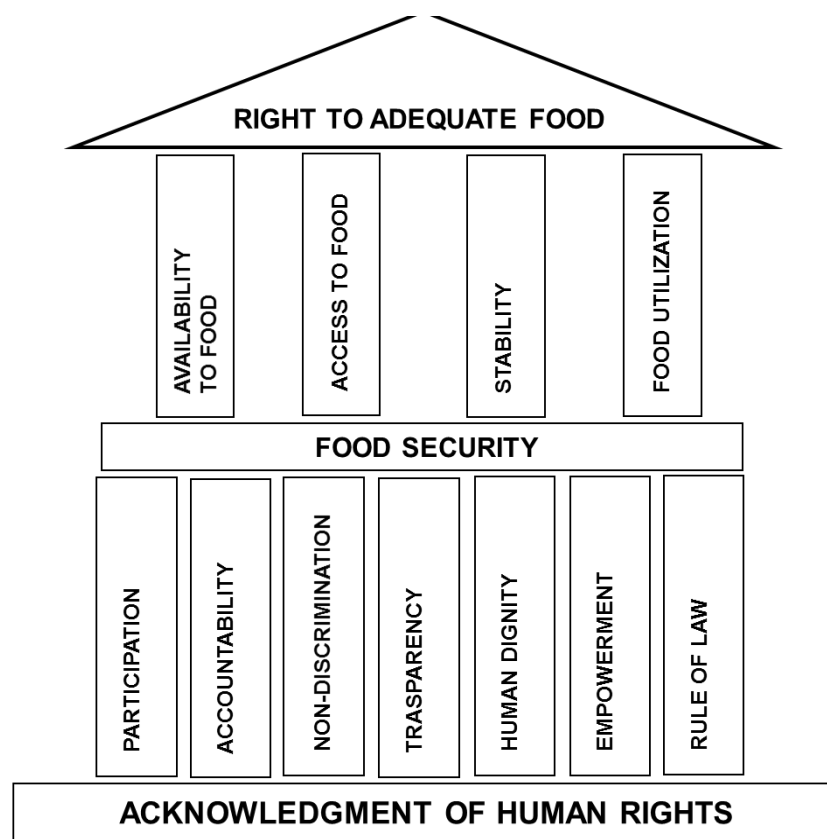
- Please refer to human rights and human rights-based approach, as opposed to just *rights* and *rights-based approaches* throughout the document.
- Overall how agroecology shows strong connections with the principles of the human rights-based approach to food security and nutrition, which aims to realize the right to adequate food, is not properly described. It impacts availability, sustainability, accessibility, adequacy and sustainability of food by raising productivity at field level especially for the most vulnerable people, by reducing overall rural poverty and targeting most vulnerable smallholders, by improving nutritional standards, and by mitigating climate change shocks. Agroecology also calls for human rights principles, such as participation (of farmers) to be at the center of policies for FSN.
- The report should better highlight what is intended by most vulnerable groups and should make explicit reference to historically marginalized sectors of society.
- The report should make reference to the dimension of *adequacy* which is at the core of the right to adequate food. Adequacy encompasses socio-economic and cultural as well as nutritional issues which are fundamental to agroecology.
- There is too little emphasis in the report on monitoring and accountability, which are at the core of the human rights-based approach. This is the responsibility of duty-bearers, to ensure sustainable agriculture and food systems can really enhance FSN, and therefore should be mentioned in the report.
- The report could mention some of the specific challenges which impact agroecology, and could hamper these approaches: political will/commitment, profit-oriented global trade rules, lack of investment, research and development, not focusing on small-scale solutions, and lack of land tenure regulations.

Specific comments:

- Figure 1, pg. 15, the human rights-based approach calls for human rights to be the overall objective of food security and nutrition action. Therefore the impact should be the realization of the right to food, through human rights-based food security and nutrition action. The right to food is not a specific principle or method, it is a universal, indivisible and fundamental human right which calls, just like all other human rights, for an approach, the human rights-based approach, to be adopted in an integrated and holistic manner in order for it to be realized.
- Pg 16. Line 4, you may wish to say the 'former'
- Pg. 34, line 16-19, while the premise that a fifth FSN pillar (agency) is encouraging, the human rights-based approach already encompasses the 4 pillars of FSN, but it calls for a paradigm shift on how FSN action is conducted. In a HRBA, the human rights principles (participation, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment, equity, equality, rule of law, transparency, human dignity) guide FSN action, to address the four pillars of FSN, and achieve the right to food.

The temple here follows:

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- Pg. 34, Box 7, here too the premise is reversed: the human rights-based approach guides the discussion on FSN through the human rights principles already mentioned. These include also equity and equality.
- Table 3 page 36: the human rights-based approach is used in a comparison with other approaches whereas the HRBA simply asks for certain principles to guide action, in fact should apply to all other approaches, which are addressing technical issue related to FSN. Human rights are universal and the approach which looks towards its realization is overarching to all others, because we should all strive towards this, no matter what technical approach we are implementing.
- Figure 6. Page 37, see above.
- Chapter 2.3.1: see comment above. Also, please know that the HRBA addresses also civil rights. According to the international normative, food sovereignty, food justice and women's empowerment are not human rights. Having said that, freedom, justice and peace are the foundation of the UDHR. Also, empowerment is a principle, not a human right. But equal rights of men and women are also part of the preamble of the UDHR. The CEDAW also strongly reinforces the equality of men and women. Food sovereignty is an alternative paradigm or a broad political vision, but does not constitute a human right. Important issues which are linked to food justice, are accountability, monitoring and recourse mechanisms for right to food violations.
- Page 40, it is great that here is mentioned that the Right to Food Guidelines have spearheaded all other CFS policy products, and COFI guidelines, such as the SSF. It is

important to be reminded that all these Voluntary Guidelines, are built under the premise that the overall objective is the realization of the right to food.

- Contribution of right to food to FSN section on page 41 can be expanded!
- Pg 49, line 43: see above. Also a HRBA seeks to find the root causes for hunger and malnutrition and addresses the issues of the most vulnerable people and groups: women are among these groups. Therefore a HRBA's core is women empowerment and gender equality.
- Chapter 3.1.2., line 18: HRBA seeks to promote an enabling environment (and therefore institutional, political, social, economic, etc.) for FSN, not only for institutional change. The HRBA calls for a paradigm shift from food seen as charity, into entitlement, among other. There is a list of factors which the HRBA calls for:
 - o Food is a matter of rights, not of charity
 - o States as duty bearers and individuals as rights holders
 - o Entitlements, rather than needs
 - o Claim mechanisms (judicial, administrative, political)
 - o Focus will be on the outcome, and equally on the process
 - o Tackling the root causes of hunger and focusing on the most vulnerable in a multi-sectoral and -stakeholder approach
 - o Process marked by the PANTHER principles
 - o Enabling environment to FSN