



**Statement by Dr. Florence Chenoweth,  
Director of the FAO Liaison Office with the United Nations**

**Third Committee  
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**Agenda Item 73 (b): Right to Food**

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Mr. Chairperson,

Last year FAO reported to the General Assembly that the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security had recently been adopted by the Council of FAO. The Voluntary Guidelines have been widely disseminated and can be obtained from FAO and from its website.

FAO highly appreciates the active participation of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food in the process of elaboration of the Voluntary Guidelines and welcomes his announcement of referring to them now in his country visits. FAO views the Guidelines as a highly practical instrument that States that wish to improve the implementation of the right to food can refer to in reviewing their policies, legislation and institutions.

FAO encourages all States, developed and developing, to acquaint themselves and disseminate the Voluntary Guidelines. Implementing the Voluntary Guidelines is the surest way of ensuring that a State is taking the best steps towards implementing the right to food.

FAO is taking internal steps to mainstream the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines in accordance with the Secretary General's Agenda for Reform and in cooperation with other relevant UN bodies. The Organization is grateful for the support of Germany to allow it to take the initial steps to build up its capacity to support FAO Member Nations in implementing the Voluntary Guidelines.

FAO would like to draw attention to the efforts of Brazil and Sierra Leone to implement the Right to Food. Both countries have established innovative institutional mechanisms: In Brazil a national rapporteur on food, water and rural land monitors the right to food situation and participates in the broad-based Food Security Council (CONSEA) which advises the President directly on policies. Sierra Leone has established a Right to Food Secretariat within

the Office of the President to advice on policies and monitor progress towards the realization of the right to food, which is a top government priority.

Other countries are adopting different institutions and legislative work is ongoing in a number of them. FAO looks forward to sharing the lessons learned regarding the implementation of the right to food and the Voluntary Guidelines in different countries that can be used to inspire others.

Mr Chairperson,

FAO welcomes the attention given to indigenous peoples and their right to food in the latest report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food to the General Assembly. In this regard we would like to note that the Voluntary Guidelines stress respect for cultural values in food security and food aid policies, and draw attention to the close links of many indigenous groups to the land they inhabit. In addition, FAO is pleased to participate in the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the UN Focal Points Network supporting the Permanent Forum. Representatives of indigenous groups participated in the elaboration of the Voluntary Guidelines and FAO has held briefings on the right to food for representatives of the Permanent Forum.

Thank you Mr Chairperson.