



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



Side Event: Multi-stakeholder dialogue on the human rights-based approach to food systems transformations as an accelerator of AU agenda 2063 and UN Agenda 2030

I. Introduction

2024 marks the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of the [Voluntary Guidelines for the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security](#) (Right to Food Guidelines) by FAO Council (127th FAO Council 2004). These Guidelines were a first attempt by governments to interpret economic, social and cultural rights and recommend multisectoral actions to be undertaken for its progressive realization. They provide practical guidance to States and other key stakeholders in adopting a wide range of measures – including strategic, institutional, legal and policy frameworks. The Guidelines reflect key human rights principles, including equality and non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, accountability and human dignity and the universality and indivisibility of all human rights. They are based on binding obligations under international law that countries progressively realize the right to adequate food and ensure freedom from hunger for all.

Pursuing the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA), one of the guiding principles of Agenda 2030, in agrifood systems transformations is critical both as a matter of complying with international law and as a potential accelerator of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including SDG2. The human rights framework offers a magnifying lens to identify patterns of discrimination often root causes of hunger and malnutrition, providing normative and policy guidance in putting people and their well-being at the centre and prioritizing the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. Among other solutions, a HRBA would encourage measures to ensure small-scale farmers and fishers, especially women, have financial support, access to credit, land, seeds, natural resources, and technology to ensure their livelihood and shift towards sustainable farming and fishing that deliver fresh and local produce.

II. Alignment with the themes of the 10th session of the annual Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-10)

The event closely aligns with the overall theme of the tenth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-10) to be held on 23 - 25 April, 2024 in Cairo, Egypt as the HRBA, anchored in normative standards and guidance from UN and AU human rights mechanisms, entails focus on ending hunger and eradication of poverty via human rights based food systems transformations that put the well-being of human beings at the center(SDG 2&1). Food systems transformations have been identified as one of the six investment pathways, transitions that can have catalytic effect across the SDGs. (All other SDGs)

III. Overall objective

The side event will seek to unravel the successes and logjams towards meeting SDG2, the Zero Hunger goal, and examine how a HRBA to agrifood systems transformations can strengthen just transitions for food security and nutrition for all within a framework designed to protect the environment and mitigate

the impact of climate change. It will bring together experiences, legislative and policy measures in areas of small-scale fisheries, family farming, healthy diets and achieving sustainable development. The event will feature policy makers, civil society, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and international organizations/expert practitioners in the field.

IV. Expected Deliverable: At the end of the event, key lessons learnt and good practices on measures that member states, other duty bearers and rights holders need to undertake to apply a HRBA to food system transformations will inform outcomes of the ARFSD-10.

V. Partnership: The event will be co-organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO), the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) and the Network of African NHRIs (NANHRI).

VI. Tentative programme with panelists and speakers: The 90-minute hybrid event is designed with attention to gender and geographical balance and the different perspectives of States, UN, NHRIs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Generic Programme:

Programme	Content and Speakers
Opening(10 minutes)	Senior management members from organizers
Introductory session (15 minutes)	OHCHR/NANHRI/FAO/DIHR Establishing the international/regional/domestic human rights framework and HRBA
Moderated session (60 minutes)	<i>Human rights based approach to food system transformations in Africa: good practices</i> Moderator: RTF champion from the region Panelists Botswana,or other PAP(TBC) Tanzania/South Africa/Botswana/Pan-African Parliament – Highlighting legislative/policy/institutional achievements/progress (good practices) Hearing from CSOs – experiences from youth/consumers/NGOs working in food security and nutrition and RTF Hearing from NHRIs – introduce the importance of monitoring RTF by NHRI and their role and functions (NHRI) in region/national examples – good practices Moderator summarizes key points and closes