



**Human Rights Council  
7th Special Session**

**Resolution S-7/1. The negative impact of the worsening of the world food crisis on the realization of the right to food for all**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Recalling* all previous resolutions and decisions on the issue of the right to food adopted in the framework of the United Nations, in particular by the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/164 of 18 December 2007, and the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 7/14 of 27 March 2008,

*Recalling also* paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 60/251, in which the Assembly stipulates, inter alia, that the Human Rights Council shall be able to hold special sessions, when needed, at a request of a member of the Council with the support of one third of the membership of the Council,

*Recalling further* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including its provision that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself or herself and that of his or her family, including food, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular the first Millennium Development Goal of eradicating hunger and extreme poverty by 2015,

*Recalling* the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, especially its article 11(2), which recognize the fundamental right of every person to be free from hunger, and the duty of States to take, individually and through international cooperation, the measures needed to implement this right by improving the methods of production, conservation and distribution of food,

*Bearing in mind* the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action of November 1996, and the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, adopted in Rome on 13 June 2002,

*Bearing in mind also* the New York Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty, and recommending the continuation of efforts aimed at identifying additional sources of financing for the fight against hunger and poverty,

*Reaffirming* the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004,

*Reaffirming also* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that they must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

*Reaffirming further* that a peaceful, stable and enabling political, social and economic environment, at both the national and international levels, is the essential foundation that will enable States to give adequate priority to food security and poverty eradication,

*Recognizing* the complex character of the worsening of the current global food crisis, in which the right to adequate food is threatened to be violated on a massive scale, as a combination of several major factors, including macroeconomic factors, also impacted negatively by environmental degradation, desertification and global climate change, natural disasters and the lack of the necessary technology to confront its impact, particularly in developing countries and least developed countries,

*Bearing in mind* the situation of one sixth of the world population, mainly in developing and least developed countries, suffering from hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, and alarmed at the particular effects of the current global food crisis on many net food importing countries, and especially on least developed countries in Africa, Asia and Latin American and the Caribbean,

*Stressing* that the international community should provide its assistance to populations in need in an effective and coordinated manner, with the consent and in principle on the basis of the appeal by the affected country, in order to ensure that such humanitarian assistance, including the supply of food, reaches affected populations,

*Acknowledging* the United Nations Task Force established by the Secretary-General, and supporting the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard,

1. *Expresses* grave concern at the worsening of the world food crisis, which seriously undermines the realization of the right to food for all;
2. *Also expresses* grave concern that this crisis threatens to further undermine the achievement of Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 1 aiming at halving by 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger;
3. *Calls upon* States, individually and through international cooperation and assistance, relevant multilateral institutions and other relevant stakeholders, to take all necessary measures to ensure the realization of the right to food as an essential human rights objective, and to consider reviewing any policy or measure which could have a negative impact on the realization of the right to food, particularly the right of everyone to be free from hunger, before instituting such a policy or measure;
4. *Stresses* that States have a primary obligation to make their best efforts to meet the vital food needs of their own populations, especially of the vulnerable groups and households, such as through enhancing programmes to combat mother-child malnutrition, and to increase local production for this purpose, while the international community should provide, through a coordinated response and upon request, support to national and regional efforts by providing the necessary assistance for increasing food production, particularly through transfer of technology, as well as food crop rehabilitation assistance and food aid;
5. *Calls upon* States members of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to participate actively in the High-level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy, to be held from 3 to 5 June 2008, in Rome, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, while taking note of the results of the special meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council on this issue, held on 20 May 2008;
6. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to extend an invitation to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and to the Special

Rapporteur on the right to food to attend and actively participate in the afore-mentioned High-level Conference, so as to help to mainstream a human rights perspective in the analysis of the world food crisis, with a focus on the realization of the right to food;

7. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to make a presentation to the Council at its eighth session on his participation in the meeting mentioned in paragraph 5 above, and on his initial recommendations regarding actions required, at all levels, to promote, respect and protect the right to food and freedom from hunger in the midst of the current food crisis, when actions are called for to promote mid- and long-term food security;

8. *Also requests* the Special Rapporteur to present a report to the Council at its ninth session, inviting comments from States and other relevant actors, on the impact of the global food crisis on the protection of the right to food and the required remedies from a human rights perspective;

9. *Requests* the High Commissioner for Human Rights to bring the present resolution to the attention of all relevant international organizations and agencies;

10. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to continue reporting on further developments on this issue to the Council and the General Assembly;

11. *Decides* to remain seized of the implementation of the present resolution.

*2nd meeting*

*22 May 2008*

Resolution adopted, as orally revised, without a vote.