



**Concept Note of the Joint Workshop on
“Monitoring the Use and Application of the Right to Food Guidelines”**

Input to the CFS Global Thematic Monitoring Event on the Right to Food Guidelines

**Convened by the Friends of the Right to Food in Rome and the Civil Society
Mechanism (CSM) for relations with CFS**

**Friday, March 23: 9:00 – 13:00
German Room, FAO HQ**

Background:

The 2004 adoption of the *Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security*, or better known as the Right to Food Guidelines, was followed by a wave of framework laws and policies at national level, along with the targeted support provided by FAO to build such frameworks.

The CFS 44 decision on *Monitoring the Effectiveness of CFS* agreed to share experiences and take stock of the use and application of the Right to Food Guidelines through a Global Thematic Event (GTE) in 2018. The GTE is an opportunity to have an in-depth analysis based on the experiences of states and other actors in using the Right to Food Guidelines in different countries.

This workshop builds on the great interest raised by the event *“Right to Adequate Food: Promoting accountability of food security actions to the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition”*, organized by Norway and the CSM, and co-hosted by Brazil, South Africa and Switzerland, in January 2017, as well as the CFS 44 side event *“The role of FSN governance in promoting the Right to Food”*, organized by Brazil, Germany and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, in October 2017.

The informal group “Friends of the Right to Food in Rome” works to promote the realization of the right to adequate food amongst Member States and within the Rome-based Agencies and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The CSM is the Civil Society Mechanism for relations with the CFS.

Objective:

Taking the opportunity of the CFS Global Thematic Event on the Right to Food Guidelines, the informal half-day workshop will examine how the Guidelines have been used for the implementation of the right to adequate food at the national level (challenges, successes, barriers, etc.) and provide the lessons learned about the role of UN agencies, particularly the Rome-based Agencies, in the use and application of the Guidelines at the national level.

Through this lens, the dialogue will bring together experiences and inputs from governments, civil society, and Rome-based Agencies in order to:

- explore the achievements, challenges and gaps in the use and application of the Right to Food Guidelines;
- discuss and explore the different methodologies for participation in right to food policy making and monitoring;

- explore how the Right to Food Guidelines have contributed to foster accountability of governments and policies towards the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition;
- build understanding on what kind of support is effective and needed in the future to strengthen implementation of right to food frameworks.

Participants:

In order to have such an exchange, the participants will include:

- Representatives from national governments with right to food legislation and/or policies, and other interested delegates from permanent representations in Rome
- Diverse civil society representation, particularly the participants of the CSM Right to Food Consultation in Rome, 21-23 March
- UN institutions providing right to food support to states - FAO, IFAD, WFP, Office of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR)
- UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food and UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

Expected outcomes:

- Summary report on key achievements, challenges and barriers towards implementing the Right to Food Guidelines at national level;
- Clear indications on the needs of countries and requests to relevant UN agencies, especially the RBAs, to support the effective use and application of the Right to Food Guidelines on the national level in the future.

Proposed Format and Agenda:

The workshop will use a roundtable format, in order to encourage an interactive dialogue.

After the opening remarks, the event will consist of two subsequent roundtable discussions to which all participants are invited to share their experiences and views. All contributions to these two roundtables follow the guiding questions as outlined below.

The moderators will facilitate the discussions during the workshop, and the rapporteur will provide a preliminary summary of the debate in her closing remarks.

Report:

The preliminary summary of the event will be further elaborated and revised after the workshop by the rapporteur and the organizers. The final summary report from this workshop will serve as an input to the preparation process of the Global Thematic Event on the use and application of the Right to Food Guidelines at CFS 45.