



Human Rights and Food



UN Economic Social Rights Related to Food

Article 1

All peoples have the right to **self determination** – to **freely choose** their economic, social and cultural growth, and how best to use their natural resources.

Article 2

Each government commits itself to work towards ensuring the rights of this Covenant, **especially through creating new laws, using the maximum available resources**...Each government also commits itself to guarantee these rights are achieved for all persons no matter who they are.

Article 7

Everyone has the right to **fair working conditions** including:

- Fair wages and equal pay for work of equal value
- Wages that provide a decent living for people and their family
- Safe and healthy working conditions
- Equal opportunity for promotion and time for rest, including holiday with pay.

UN Economic Social Rights Related to Food

Article 9

Everyone has the right to **social security**, including social assistance, **in times of need**, to meet their basic needs

Article 10

The family unit should be protected and provided with assistance, especially while raising children.

Article 11

Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living including **adequate food**, clothing and housing, and the on-going

improvement of living conditions, especially the right to **freedom from hunger.***

UN Economic Social Rights Related to Food

Article 12

Everyone has the right to the **highest possible standard of physical and mental health**. Particular consideration should be given to the following areas:

- The promotion of healthy child development
- Improvement of environmental and industrial hygiene

* see detailed UN guidelines on the right to food

UN Right to Food: Key Quotes from Definition

From Intro: The right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman, and child, alone or in community with others, have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement.

Adequacy and Sustainability of food availability and resources:

7. The notion of sustainability is linked to the notion of adequate food or food security, implying food being accessible for both present and future generations.

8. The availability of food in a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals, free from adverse substances, and acceptable within a given culture...The accessibility of such food in ways that are sustainable and that do not interfere with the enjoyment of other human rights.

UN Right to Food: Key Quotes from Definition

11. **Cultural or consumer acceptability**...non-nutrient-based values attached to food and food consumption and informed consumer concerns regarding the nature of accessible food supplies.

12. “Availability refers to the possibilities either for feeding oneself directly from productive land or other natural resources, or for well-functioning distribution, processing and market systems that can move food from the site of production to where it is needed in accordance with demand.”

13. “Accessibility encompasses both economic and physical accessibility: Economic accessibility implies thatcosts associated with the acquisition of food for an adequate diet should be at a level such that the... satisfaction of other basic needs are not threatened or compromised.

UN Right to Food: Key Quotes from Definition

Victims of natural disasters, people living in disaster-prone areas and others may need... priority consideration with respect to accessibility of food. A particular vulnerability is that of many indigenous population groups whose access to their ancestral lands may be threatened. “

State Obligations:

Every State is obliged to ensure for everyone under its jurisdiction access to the minimum essential food

UN Rights of the Child – food System

Article 3

In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

Article 24

States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health.

UN Rights of the Child – food System

Article 24

(c) **To combat disease and malnutrition**, including within the framework of primary health care, through, inter alia, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking-water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution;

(e) To ensure that all segments of society, in particular **parents and children, are informed, have access to education** and are supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, the advantages of breastfeeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the prevention of accidents;

UN Rights of the Child – food System

Article 27

1. States Parties recognize **the right of every child to a standard of living** adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

3. **States Parties**, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, **shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child** to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing.

UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People

Article 20

- Indigenous peoples have the right to **maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems** or institutions, to **be secure in the enjoyment of their own means** of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.
- Indigenous peoples deprived of their means of subsistence and development are **entitled to just and fair redress**.

Article 24

- Indigenous peoples have the right to their **traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices**, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.

UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People

Article 26

- Indigenous peoples have the right to **own, use, develop and control the lands**, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
- **States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands**, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

Article 28

- Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and re-sources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and in-formed consent.²
- Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress

UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People

Article 29

- Indigenous peoples have the right to the **conservation and protection of the environment** and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement **assistance programmes** for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
- States shall take effective measures to ensure that **no storage or disposal of hazardous materials** shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Jamaica and Canada Signed Onto These Goals

Imagine a world where there is **NO POVERTY** and **ZERO HUNGER**.

We have **GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING**, **QUALITY EDUCATION**, and full **GENDER EQUALITY** everywhere. There is **CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION** for everyone.

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY has helped to create **DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**.

Our prosperity is fueled by investments in **INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE** and that has helped us to **REDUCE INEQUALITIES**.

We live in **SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES** and **RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION** is healing our planet. **CLIMATE ACTION** has capped the warming of the planet and we have flourishing **LIFE BELOW WATER** and abundant, diverse **LIFE ON LAND**.

We enjoy **PEACE AND JUSTICE** through **STRONG INSTITUTIONS** and have built long term **PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**.