

**Round table discussion on  
the right to food in the context of post-COVID recovery and  
the ongoing food crisis**

**7 March 2023, 15:00 – 17:00**  
(in-person, English only)

**Room XXVI, Palais de Nations**

**About this event**

The most acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic may be behind us, but the food crisis continues to worsen. The UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Mr. Michael Fakhri, is organizing a round table discussion on the food crisis as it stands and the challenges that lie ahead. This is part of the lead-up to his upcoming report to the General Assembly that is expected to guide States to overcome the food crisis and advance food systems that fulfill the right to adequate food and nutrition.

During this exchange, the Special Rapporteur will be interested in hearing about programs and initiatives that ensured people had access to adequate food and nutrition during the pandemic and successfully protected food producers and workers. The Special Rapporteur will invite the participants to discuss the challenges of making those programs more permanent, as well as to share ideas on developing a global response to the food crisis.

The Special Rapporteur has invited representatives of the United Nations Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance to participate in the round table discussion. The 32-member Group ensures high-level political leadership to address the immense inter-connected challenges of food security, energy, and financing, and implement a coordinated global response to the ongoing crises.

**Introduction of the subject of the meeting**

States are mobilizing to tackle the food crisis and transform their national food systems to become more sustainable. In light of the worsening food crisis, the UN General Assembly requested the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to prepare, for its seventy-eighth session in October 2023, a report on a response to and recovery from

the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing food crisis ([GA Resolution 77/217, 15 December 2022](#)).

The General Assembly's request builds upon the Special Rapporteur's last thematic report ([A/77/177](#)), in which he outlined the causes of the current food crisis and proposed a way forward. He recommended that States should develop right-to-food action plans to ensure the success of their national goals. Moreover, studies demonstrate how agroecological production can fulfil the right to adequate food and nutrition. Transitioning to agroecological food systems would mean a shift away from the current unequal and profit-driven system towards a system recentred on the needs of small food producers (peasants, pastoralists, and artisanal fishers), workers, consumers and marginalized communities.

For a national plan to succeed States need to lead and develop an international coordinated response to the food crisis – a Global Right-to-Food Action Plan. States are constrained in their response to the food crisis by structural challenges such as the skyrocketing debt levels and an outdated international trade system. Since the war in Ukraine, the food crisis has risen to prominence on national and international agendas. Moreover, transnational corporations in the agrifood sector are profiteering while people struggle and suffer as life gets harder; the wealth of food-sector billionaires increases by a billion dollars every two days.

During the worst times of the pandemic, governments that were flexible, coordinated, and responsive to people's demands developed and implemented effective policies. The time is right to reflect upon different response measures, identify those which worked and consider how to make them permanent programs in order to hasten recovery.

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| <i>Participants</i> |
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- **Mr Michael Fakhri** – UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food
- **Mr David Nabarro** - Member of the Steering Committee of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, WHO Director-General's Special Envoy on COVID-19
- Representatives of Member States

Please register via Indico (<https://indico.un.org/event/1004451/>) by Friday, **3 March 2023**.

**The meeting will be held in English and in-person.**

For more information, please contact the team supporting the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food - [hrc-sr-food@un.org](mailto:hrc-sr-food@un.org)

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