

Mission permanente
de l'État du Qatar
auprès de l'Office
des Nations-Unies à Genève



الوفد الدائم لدولة قطر
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة
جنيف



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The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, presents its compliments to the Chief of the Special Procedures Branch - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva, and is pleased to refer to the latter's note dated June 9th 2021 – and its attachment the letter addressed by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, concerning his call for inputs and written contributions for the preparation of his thematic report to 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, which will focus on: **"Food systems and human rights"**.

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar is pleased to attach, *herewith*, **the information** received by the Competent Authorities in the State of Qatar with regard to the above mentioned subject

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Chief of the Special Procedures Branch - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, June 28th 2021



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 – Geneva 10
Mr. Jamshid Gaziyeu
Human Rights Officer
Email: jgaziyeu@ohchr.org;

HASSAD FOOD COMPANY
DOHA – Qatar

1. What are the most salient challenges facing the food systems in your country/region? Please explain why.

The most salient challenges are:

- a. Limited domestic production of food and agricultural produce as a result of the scarcity of natural resources, such as, water and fertile arable land;
- b. Import disruptions caused by supply-chain limitations, such as, regional geo-political or pandemic related issues.

2. What are the examples of ways in which the challenges facing the global food system are having adverse impacts on human rights broadly, and the right to food specifically?

One of the key examples of such challenges is the affordability of nutritious and safe food. Ever increasing food prices generally reduce the purchasing power of individuals who are already struggling to cope with the economic challenges of their livelihood. Food prices have a general impact on household economics and particularly on food malnutrition.

3. Are there specific challenges that your country has faced in attempting to employ a rights-based approach to transforming food systems without leaving anyone behind?

Qatar has always ensured that the following criteria are met when it comes to food in the country:

- a. Availability;
- b. Affordability;
- c. Quality and safety; and
- d. Sustainability

Qatar employs the above criteria, irrespective of the identity of the consumer at various regulatory and execution levels.

4. What are the specific obligations of States and responsibilities of businesses in terms of preventing and addressing adverse impacts caused by the unsustainable production or consumption of food?

There are two important aspects of this question. First being the sustainable and responsible use of natural resources, and second, the reduction of food wastage that mostly occurs near the consumption side of the supply-chain.

States need to ensure, at the policy level, that natural resources are used to maximize the benefit out of such usage. For example, in Qatar, government processes sewage affluent to a grade that can be used for the production of animal feed. This helps with better utilization of sweet ground water elsewhere. Secondly, reduction of food wastage is where states need to ensure the improvement of consumer awareness of food wastage. Globally, 30% to 35% of food production is wasted across the supply-chain. In addition to changing the mindset towards such change, states also need to introduce technologies that can help reduce wastage.

5. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, what are specific examples of rights-based initiatives and good practices (including policy, standards and programmes) that have successfully improved people's access to adequate food in a sustainable and systemic way?

One of the better examples is the introduction of food security organizations at a state level. These organizations have supported various countries to pin-point the exact weaknesses in their local systems and address them instead of wasting energy and resources elsewhere. Ensuring accessibility and affordability of safe food has been the challenge well before the pandemic. Together with the support provided by food security institutions, a lot more still needs to be done to ensure a rights based approach actually delivers.