



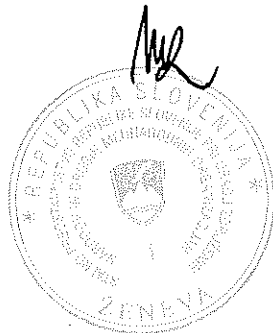
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

No. MGE - 52/2013

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has, with reference to request for information by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, dated 5 February 2013, the honour to enclose herewith a contribution by the Republic of Slovenia.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 5 April 2013



**Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights**

GENEVA

Questionnaire by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food – reply by SLOVENIA

Ad 1-3) The Government of the Republic of Slovenia does not have specific provisions in the national constitution or other domestic law to provide specific protection for the right to food but as a member of the EU is dedicated to assure food security and the right to food through common European policies (agriculture, social policy, health, humanitarian and development policy). Food security and the right to food are one of the strategic goals of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) which is pursued through a strong CAP and its efforts to preserve agricultural land and production in a sustainable way, stimulate innovations and research, and assure equitable distribution of the agricultural income and concern for small-holder farmers. Some examples of more direct efforts are different programmes for the provision of food aid to the most vulnerable in Slovenia through some CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) measures which provide safety nets and safeguards mechanisms or encourage consumption of healthy dairy and fruit products like the Programme of food aid for the most deprived persons in the EUⁱ, the EU School milk Schemeⁱⁱ and the EU School Fruit Schemeⁱⁱⁱ. In addition to these Slovenia is implementing other national measures which are targeted to tackle food insecurity like the provision of school meals for children from vulnerable families (in accordance with the School Meals Act). With cash transfers to multilateral organization like the WFP and provision of financial resources to Slovenian NGOs in the frame of the development assistance policy our country is contributing to global food security and the realization of the right to food in the developing countries.

Ad 4-5) As a member of the EU as well as member of the UN and several international treaties we are committed to implement common European and international policies aimed to fight poverty, hunger and food insecurity at the national, regional and global level. Slovenia does not have a national strategy for the progressive realization of the right to food. The right to food is tackled in different "sectorial" strategic documents like the national *Resolution on strategic development guidelines for agriculture and food production in Slovenia toward 2020* and *Nutrition Strategy for the period 2013-2023*, which has not been finalized yet, and where the right to food as one of the fundamental human rights is stressed. Adequate targeting, funding and monitoring are ensured through the EU and national institutions. In the mentioned documents high priority is given to food security and safety, as well as to nutritional concerns and efforts for a healthy nutrition habits, as foundations of the economic and social development of our country. One of the main concerns is also the introduction of short and sustainable food production chains which favors local food production and consumption. In order to tackle the problem of the concentration in the food chain, responsible for the gap between farm gate prices and end prices for foods, in 2011 a Code of good business practices of the stakeholders in the agro-food chain was adopted.

Ad 5c) Concerning school children, in the school year 2009/2010 the "School Meals Subventions Act" introduced free worm meals for all students of secondary schools. In the school year 2010/2011 the "School Meals Act" regulated subventions (2/3 of the price of the meal) for all children in elementary and secondary schools, at the same time guaranteeing free school meals to all coming from poorer families (between 20 to 25 % of all school children). Due to financial crises, since the school year 2012/2013 only school children from poorer families continue to receive subventions for school meals.

Ad 6) Due to the fact that the realization of the right to food is successfully pursued in the framework of the common European policies and in the context of different national sectorial policies in Slovenia there are no institutional mechanisms established especially for the realization of the right to food at the national level. This goal is for the time being included in other strategic documents as the above mentioned agriculture development strategies and nutrition strategies for the preparation of which interministerial bodies are established to coordinate the necessary activities. NGOs and representatives from civil society are invited to participate.

Ad 7) National human rights institutions and the ombudsperson monitor the government activities and regularly call for the attention of the government when food security and the right to food are threatened (for example in the case of food price volatility and the impact on the vulnerable population).

Ad 8) Food security and the realization of the right to food is an important global challenge. In order to put it successfully into practice a good coordinated action at the global, regional and national level is essential. This is not possible without the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders and especially representatives of NGOs, civil society and groups most affected by food insecurity.

ⁱ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/most-deprived-persons/index_en.htm

ⁱⁱ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/milk/school-milk-scheme/index_en.htm

ⁱⁱⁱ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sfs/european-commission/index_en.htm