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The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures branch, and would like to refer to the questionnaire received from the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, regarding the SR's next thematic report on "nutrition, food and the right to health", which will be presented to the General Assembly in October 2023. In that regard, the Permanent Mission has the honor to attach herewith the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's respond to the afore-mentioned request.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures branch, the assurance of its highest consideration.



Office of the United Nation High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
Special Procedures Branch  
Email: [hrc-sr-health@un.org](mailto:hrc-sr-health@un.org)



This paper has been compiled at the request of the Special Rapporteur on the Right of Everyone to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health, within the context of preparing his thematic report on "Food, Nutrition and the Right to Health" to be submitted to the General Assembly in October 2023. Following are highlights of the Kingdom's achievements in the field of food and food security:

- The Food Law was issued by Royal Decree No. M/1 in 30/10/2014, to ensure food safety, enhance food quality, and protect the public health of consumers by minimizing food-related risks, spreading safe food awareness, protecting consumer against harmful, adulterated, misleading or unfit-for-consumption food, and facilitating the trade of food.
- The Council of Ministers Resolution No. (440) in 17/01/2023 was issued approving the transformation the Saudi Grains Organization into the General Food Security Authority that enjoys a public legal personality, and financial and administrative independence, and to be mandated with regulating, developing and enhancing food security insofar as to guarantee the protection of the State's vital interests and national security, and monitor compliance with the regulations and plans issued in this regard.
- In 2018, the Kingdom launched the food security strategy under the Saudi Vision 2030, which aimed, inter alia, to ensure access to safe and nutritious food, and build readiness capacities to face risks related to food security.
- The Sustainable Agricultural Rural Development Program (REEF) was launched in 2020 to support smallholders, cooperative associations and rural institutions and to develop their capabilities.
- The Saudi Agricultural and Livestock Investment Company (SALIC) was incorporated by Royal Decree No. M/22 in 14/04/2009. SALIC's articles of incorporation provided that it carries out investment activity within and outside the Kingdom contributing to achieving food security strategy by securing food products and ensuring stability of their prices through the establishment of subsidiaries on its own or through national, regional and international partnerships.
- The Kingdom has adopted many strategies and programs to promote food security at the national, regional, and international levels, and to preserve natural and environmental resources, where it built a resilient agricultural strategy that accommodates developments and critical situations happening worldwide such as COVID-19 pandemic.



- During the Covid-19 crisis, the Kingdom based its measures and response strategy on innovation and technology to boost productivity and efficiency in the use of natural resources and agricultural inputs, achieve sustainability, and secure safe and abundant food during the crisis, to confront food loss. An initiative was also launched to reduce food waste raising awareness of the importance of rationalizing food consumption.
- The Kingdom also ranked first worldwide in 2020 Food Standards Index. This index is a sub-component of the Global Food Security Index measured by the Economic Intelligence Unit covering areas related to food security in a country. Moreover, the Kingdom advanced to the 8th place, during the peak of the pandemic, in the self-sufficiency of food supply index among 113 countries competed in the growth of grain and vegetable production, advancing nine ranks, compared to 2019. As for the safety of crops post-harvest and before consumption, the Kingdom has made progress among the top 20 countries worldwide. These achievements reflect the Kingdom's efforts to confront the Covid-19 pandemic and its repercussions.
- With regard to the Kingdom's efforts at the regional and international levels, the Kingdom provided aid to support organizations and individuals and help those affected by crises by securing food for them. In this respect, the Kingdom implemented 837 humanitarian projects related to food and agricultural security valuing more than USD 3 billion.

