**Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food**

**Questionnaire for Governments to inform her report to the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council**

There is significant scientific and testimonial evidence that the use of pesticides has had detrimental effects on not only the environment but also human health, through direct exposure, as well as through contamination of food, air, water and soil. Among several human rights implicated, pesticides may threaten the enjoyment of the right to food by causing long-term damage to agricultural land, water and the ecosystem, including through loss of biodiversity.

The thematic report on pesticides and the right to food will discuss the negative implications of the use of hazardous pesticides in food production, including when used excessively and inappropriately, and the impediments their on-going use present to the adoption of safer, more sustainable alternatives, including agro-ecological practices. It will highlight the link between the use of pesticides and a wide range of human health and environmental hazards, ranging from short-term to chronic impacts, including cancer, reproductive harm, and endocrine disruption. In particular, it will focus on groups especially vulnerable to the effects of pesticides, including (subsistence) farmers and farm workers, children and pregnant women, and in certain cases due to their particular circumstances, indigenous peoples, minorities, migrants and seasonal workers.

 The purpose of this questionnaire is to help ascertain how the right to food informs government policies with regard to the use of pesticides. We would be grateful for your input on the following questions:

1. Please list any laws (both domestic and international) that are being enforced by your Government to regulate the use of pesticides.
2. The use of pesticides has had detrimental effects not only on the environment but also on human health, both from direct and indirect exposure. What are the successful and unsuccessful measures taken by your Government to prohibit, ban, restrict and phase out pesticides that are harmful to human health?
3. Some particularly exposed or vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, farmers, farm workers, indigenous peoples and migrant workers, are at greater risk to the effects of pesticides due to higher exposure or increased sensitivity. Please explain the efforts undertaken by your Government to prevent and mitigate detrimental impacts of pesticides on the health of these vulnerable groups.
4. Have any studies been conducted, with the support of your Government, using disaggregated data to differentiate and detect impacts on above-mentioned vulnerable groups?
5. Considering that States have an obligation to implement the right to information on hazardous substances, please give examples of how your Government has ensured that pesticide users and consumers are informed of the hazards and risks of pesticides used in food production?
6. Please provide any good practices that your Government has initiated to assess, monitor, prevent and mitigate the risks of exposure to hazardous pesticides, and what further efforts could be undertaken.
7. Gaps and weaknesses in international and national regulatory systems allow the use of pesticides that are unsafe, even when used legally and per instruction, on the market. Please provide examples of good practices initiated by your Government in building effective protection frameworks governing the production and use of pesticides.
8. Please provide examples of efforts supported by your Government to reduce the use of pesticides in agricultural food production, including by incentivising ecological methods of pest control and agro-ecology (including training programmes, provision of financial support, etc). Please indicate how successful and how widely implemented such efforts have been to date.
9. Please share any information regarding court decisions or on-going litigation in relation to the detrimental effects of pesticides, in particular in relation to the right to food.
10. Please provide any additional information you believe would be useful to understand the challenges confronting your Government in its efforts to prevent and mitigate adverse impacts of pesticides on human health, the right to food, and the environment.

Due to limited capacity for translation, we kindly request that you submit your answers **no later than 5 December 2016. All responses will be posted on the web pages of both Rapporteurs unless you indicate otherwise.** Please send your responses preferably via email to: srfood@ohchr.org, copying registry@ohchr.org; or to:

Special Rapporteur on the right to food

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