# Call for input: Violence and the right to food – Comments by Germany

## General remarks

Germany welcomes that the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food will focus his next thematic report on how violence affects food systems. We appreciate to provide our input on this vital issue. We emphasize that sustainable food systems must be equitable and inclusive and, without exception, based on a human rights approach. Safeguarding all human rights, particularly the right to adequate food, is an integral and indispensable element of sustainable development worldwide and consequently one of Germany’s key concerns.

## Remarks on the four questions

1. *Please describe the nature and degree of violence prevalent in different parts of a food system in your country or community based;*

In general, all government actions in Germany and the governance of food systems transformation are based on the principles of the rule of law. The rule of law is an important cornerstone to protect human rights and to prevent and mitigate violence in food systems. Therefore, the German Government supports rights-based approaches in the form of standards and guidelines under international law, such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food. These guidelines are a key principal for Germany’s national governmental action in the field of food and agriculture.

1. *Please also provide examples of laws, policies, or campaigns that have successfully prevented or reduced violence in a food system, held perpetrators accountable, or provided reparation.*

Germany benefits from global trade relations as part of its food system. Violence can occur within international agricultural supply chains. The **German Supply Chain Act (Act on Corporate Due Diligence Obligations in Supply Chains - Lieferkettensorgfaltspflichtengesetz)** therefore requires companies to respect human rights by implementing defined due diligence obligations. The core elements of the due diligence obligations include the establishment of a risk management system to identify, prevent or minimize the risks of human rights violations (such as e.g. child labor, forced labor or slavery). The law will enter into force in 2023.

In light of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, Germany initiated a longer-term **National Dialogue process** concluded in summer 2022. Through this process, we aimed to ensure broad participation of all relevant stakeholders, to develop concrete and scalable proposals, and to compile best practices for resilient and sustainable food systems. To this end, several events with topics along the entire value chain were held. Additionally, a public digital dialogue platform was set up. The results of the broad dialogue are currently being analyzed and compiled in a report. The results will be incorporated into Germany’s political work and will be one of the important cornerstones of the German national policy for a sustainable future. Moreover, Germany developed a **National Pathway** that was presented at the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. This document aimed to combine existing and current policies and strategies to establish a basis for future processes.

Our key principles are established in the **German Sustainable Development Strategy**, which Germany has been using to pursue its goals since 2002 already. This strategy underlines the need for taking ambitious action to realize the 2030 Agenda and, among other things, for achieving sustainable food systems.

Additionally, Germany supports the **Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** and its valuable policy products. The CFS is a unique intergovernmental and inclusive multi-stakeholder platform that develops important strategies for food security and nutrition based on the human right to adequate food.

Germany has picked up on the multi-stakeholder approach established in the CFS and set up a **Working Group on Global Food Security (Arbeitskreis Welternährung, AKWE)**. Here, policy-makers, non-governmental organizations, the scientific community and the private sector engage in regular expert discussions on current topics related to global food security and nutrition, including all forms of violence. The objective of the AKWE’s work is to promote exchange, consultation and active cooperation between the various stakeholders in order to implement the human right to adequate food.

The German government’s intention with these political priorities, strategies and multi-faceted processes is to strengthen food systems from the bottom – by ensuring full participation of every stakeholder within food systems, especially those who are most affected by any form of discrimination, violation of the unalienable human rights.

1. *Please indicate and describe what population groups and peoples are targets of this violence?*

The German Government is focusing its efforts especially on those that are particularly vulnerable to the transformation of food systems. Particular attention needs to be given to smallholder and family farmers, women, youth, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups.

1. *How have authorities and people created spaces of sanctuary or protection from violence within food systems?*

For Germany, it is of major importance to guarantee the active involvement of all stakeholders: governments and their institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and civil society. The Federal Government is pursuing this principle in its political processes, for example as described in Section 2.

In this regard, we welcome the inclusive work in the CFS and its various sets of Voluntary Guidelines, Policy Recommendations and Principles. We reiterate our commitment to continue promoting the uptake and implementation of CFS products in collaboration with all CFS members and stakeholders.