

Mr President.

I make this statement on behalf of Action Canada and the Sexual Rights Initiative.

We congratulate those states which have made advances on MDG1 and welcome the Special Rapporteur's Report and recommendations.

The UN Food and Agricultural Organization has reported serious challenges facing people all over the world in accessing their right to food, stating that 805 million people do not have enough to lead a healthy and active life.

Yet we know that there is sufficient food to feed everyone. It is the impact of laws and policies that are hostile to food security, and the negative contribution the corporate sector, that are our biggest challenges.

Addressing the barriers to equitable and just sharing of resources such as land, housing and livelihoods is an obligation of the state. We urge them to take urgent action to end hunger and ensure sustainable access to food by the poorest everywhere by:

1. Developing properly resourced action plans to implement the Guidelines to the Right to Food,
2. Developing the necessary legal structure to protect resources related to the access to adequate and nutritious food, such as water sources, access to land and seed production
3. Addressing both urgent and immediate needs for food distribution and access
4. Address the root causes of hunger through planning, budgeting, through monitoring and evaluation
5. Address the gendered dimensions of hunger and food insecurity

We further urge states that have not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to do so. Furthermore, the collusion of states with corporates which control access to quality, safe and affordable food and their complicity in the ongoing global crises of hunger and lack of food security must end.

Thank you Mr President.