



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

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FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

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DES NATIONS
UNIES POUR
L'ALIMENTATION
ET L'AGRICULTURE

ORGANIZACION
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LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Rome, 9 May 2007

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Director-General has asked me to reply to the letter dated 8 March 2007 sent by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Louise Arbour, on the subject of human rights and access to water (Council Decision 2/104). I apologize for the delay, and I hope the information below is still useful.

In this respect, I would like to draw your attention to the *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security*. Guidelines 2.6, 3.6, 14.6 and 16.2 contain provisions regarding drinking water and Guideline 8 sub-paragraph c) addresses access to and utilization of water resources, including both drinking water and water for agriculture purposes, as well as the links between the different uses.

While the Right to Food Guidelines are not legally binding - and thus do not confer human rights obligations upon States - the provisions were adopted by the FAO Council in 2004 by consensus, and thus give an important indication about the scope of the right to adequate food as it relates to water.

Should you wish to consult the guidelines, kindly note that they can be found on: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/009/y9825e/y9825e00.htm>.

Yours sincerely,

Giuliano Pucci
Assistant Director-General/
Legal Counsel

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for Human Rights
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OHCHR REGISTRY

- 9 MAI 2007

Recipients :...N...M.....
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