



**The New Human Rights Dialogue Series Presents:**

***The Human Right to Food and the Global Food Crisis: Root Causes and Responses***

The panel discussion is the 9<sup>th</sup> installment of the *New Human Rights Dialogue Series* - a 12-part, monthly series of discussion at United Nations Headquarters, leading up to the celebration on 10 December 2008 of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The 9<sup>th</sup> installment will focus on the right to food and is entitled “*The Human Right to Food and the Global Food Crisis: Root Causes and Responses*”. It is scheduled to take place **on 29 August 2008 at UN Headquarters, Conference Room 2, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.** It will also be broadcast via the [United Nations Web cast](#).

Panelists include Heather Grady (Realizing Rights), Karen-Hansen Kuhn (Action Aid), Themba Masuku (FAO), Joia Mukherjee (Partners In Health), Sanjay Reddy (Columbia University), Olivier De Schutter (Special Rapporteur on the right to food), and Flavio Valente (FIAN International).

This event is co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Cuba and Malawi to the United Nations, the NGO Committee on Human Rights (CONGO), DPI and OHCHR.

The panelists will address the following key issues:

1. **The global food crisis and its root causes:** Does the right to food and the human rights-based approach call for a different analysis of the root causes of the crisis? If so, what are the implications for States, international organizations and private companies? Has the momentum generated by the crisis been used to address its root causes?
2. **The right to food and policy choices:** What are the key normative and operational aspects of the right to food? What does it entail in terms of the policy choices available to States and international organizations? What are the minimum standards of the right to food and what does its progressive realization actually mean? Food handouts and development aid are palliatives - could one ask for more from States and international actors?
3. **Accountability and remedies for violations of the right to food:** What are the accountability mechanisms at the international and national levels? What are the remedies available to victims of violations of the right to food? What is the accountability of States for the fulfillment of their obligation to alleviate hunger in natural and other disasters? Is the right to food justiciable and what are some country examples?
4. **Progress and challenges ahead:** What is new to the “new partnership” to end the global food crisis, which world leaders have called for? How can the right to food and the human rights perspective be integrated into the mainstream policy discourse and responses to the crisis within and outside the UN? What are the challenges that lie ahead in doing so?
5. **International trade regimes and international human rights law:** Are there contradictions between the two? Can the preeminence of international human rights law be sustained?

All are invited to attend. Those without a UN Grounds Pass should contact the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights via tel. +1 212 963 5931 or by fax at +1 212 963 4097 no later than 25 August 2008.