



WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

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NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

Declaration by the International Federation for Human Rights

The Secretary-General has received the following declaration which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 24 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

One of the most basic of human rights is the right to an adequate, assured diet, which is the essential basis of life itself.

The International Federation for Human Rights wishes to draw the attention of the World Food Conference to some of the more important points affecting the food future of the world.

1. Every individual automatically acquires, from the moment of birth, the right to be adequately fed by the community. When the community is unable to ensure this right it should allow either no more births or else not unlimited births.

Family planning is thus a very urgent need; it must be carried out without violating the right to life of man himself.

Where the proliferation of population is limited, consumption is also cut down, thus making it possible for energy reserves to last longer - they would stop being used anyway for ecological reasons, primarily because of climatic changes brought on by energy consumption.

2. On the national level, the right to eat should also be guaranteed to all the religious and ethnic minorities and political and ideological dissident groups in the different countries.

3. Today more than ever it is true to say that a starving man is a terrific responsibility. Hunger causes socio-economic backwardness not only in the afflicted countries themselves but in the rest of the world as well. And if world food supplies fail to keep pace with population growth, the peace and security of the entire world will remain in jeopardy.

The International Federation for Human Rights feels that if protein supplies are to be increased, scientific research in protein biosynthesis will have to be encouraged with a view to the industrial production of synthetic proteins to supplement natural livestock feeds.

The Federation is of the view that uniform legislation should be enacted to determine tolerance and non-infection characteristics.

To solve this host of serious problems we must look to the advent of a society which, aiming at the betterment of the individual in his essential values, may succeed in prevailing over the societies of affluence, or "gadget civilization".