



Geneva, Switzerland, 6 March 2016

ORAL INTERVENTION IN THE INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH  
THE SR ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND THE IE ON FOREIGN DEBT  
AT THE 31<sup>ST</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

International-Lawyers.Org (INTLawyers) welcomes the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food and the Independent Expert on Foreign Debt. Indeed, these two mandates and the valuable reports of the mandate-holders address issue of crucial importance to the enjoyment of human rights of the majority of the people in the world, especially those living in developing countries.

INTLawyers welcomes the Independent Expert's thematic report on interrelationships between income and wealth inequality, on the one hand, and financial crises, on the other. While we especially welcome the recognition of the role of sovereign debt in financial crises and the observation that inequality can contribute to causing financial crises. We however wonder why more attention was not paid to the dynamics of the international financial and economic actors. Such macro-economic actors as the World Bank and the IMF have often contributed directly through their lending and indirectly through their advice to unsustainable foreign debt, particular sovereign debt. Does the independent expert not agree with the observations made at the High Level Meeting on Financial Crisis held in the Summer of 2009 under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, that the undemocratic nature of major international financial and economic institutions contributes significantly to the unsustainable levels of sovereign debt that the independent expert identifies as precursors to financial crisis?

INTLawyers also welcomes the important report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food that focuses attention on how women and their families' right to food is disproportionately impacted by climate change. Given the *de minimus* action taken by the international community to protect women's rights in the context of climate change at COP21 in Paris, which ended with the women's major group condemning the Paris Agreement, does the Special Rapporteur have any recommendations for action that can be taken by the various bodies operating under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to better secure the right to food of women and their families?