

1. Introduction

This is the first time that the Rural Women's Assembly South Africa (RWA SA), the Commercial Stevedoring Agricultural and Allied Workers Union (CSAAWU) and Coastal Links interact with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In the past RWA has interacted with the following UN processes: we engaged physically (in New York) and virtually with the UN Commission on the Status of Women since 2017 on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women; we have been part of COP events since 2017, co-hosting and participating in parallel processes; we have been promoting the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the CSO campaign to hold Transnational Corporations accountable; we engaged with the 2021 UN's Food System Summit, through participating in the submission made by the African Alliance for Food Sovereignty (AFSA).

RWA South Africa was launched in 2013 by a group of 250 rural women and we now have as members small-scale farmers and fishers, farm dwellers and farm workers, the landless and women affected by mining. We are all struggling around historic apartheid land dispossession, impoverishment, mass unemployment and extractive industries and wanting land for food production. RWA SA is part of the Rural Women's Assembly in Southern Africa established in 2009 by a group of peasant and smallholder rural women from across the SADC region. The gathering was an expression of the need for a feminist, grassroots movement in the region that spoke of the need to unite organisations of self-organised marginalised rural women. They were active in land rights movements, peasant and smallholder producers' organisations and movements and farm worker unions engaged in similar struggles for access to and control over land, food sovereignty and reproductive rights. Despite their many commonalities (shared indigenous languages, biodiversity, common water sources, colonial histories and oppression), they lacked a political space to unite their voices, ideas and struggles. They then launched RWA Southern Africa, as a unifying space under the slogan "*We are the Guardians of Land, Life and Love*". Over the last few years, we have gathered into: regional RWA's Assemblies; organised lobbying events and activities to coincide with important national meetings and on international days, such as International Rural Women's Day and International Women's Day; into international platforms coinciding with major multi-lateral events, such as COP and Rio +20; and into regional lobbying processes that run parallel to SADC Heads of State meetings.

The Commercial Stevedoring Agricultural and Allied Workers Union (CSAAWU) is an independent farm workers union operating predominantly in the Western Cape Province established in 2012. In partnership with the NGO Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE) we established a Rural Legal Centre in the rural town of Robertson, which supports and protects the human and labour rights of the rural poor in the Breede River District Municipality. In recent years CSAAWU has increasingly focused on recruiting women in order for human to become more aware of their rights in the workplace. Having started by organising farm workers in wine farms and industry CSAAWU has lately been reaching out to workers in fisheries, grains, dairy and citrus farms and industry and seeking alliances with NGOs in another two provinces (Eastern Cape and Free State).

Coastal Links (Eastern Cape) is a mass-based community organization who works in partnership with the NGO Trust for Community Outreach and Education. Coastal Links E.C. was established in 1983 as part of Masifundise as an instrument for small-scale fishers to secure our fishing rights and livelihoods and overall human rights. Coastal Links E.C. has since 2013 become autonomous from Masifundise and is affiliated to RWA . Our main objectives and aims are campaigning for legislation that serves the interests of small-scale fishers; protecting fishing resources and the broader

environment; strengthening the role of women and youth in small-scale fisheries through empowerment programmes; and promoting participative fishing governance arrangements. As part of the Civil Society Sector, they have engaged in the community struggles for access to land, the OR Tambo Cooperative Development Centre, against land and resource grabbing, the right to access marine resources and a water campaign.

This report seeks to address human rights under the theme “Economic, social and cultural rights” of the UN International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural rights (ICESCR) and the implementation of these rights in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural areas (UNDROP) and their application to *“any person engaged in artisanal or small-scale agriculture, crop planting, livestock raising, pastoralism, fishing, forestry, hunting or gathering and handicrafts related to agriculture or a related occupation in a rural area”*.

1.1 Methodology

Our submission is based on quantitative and qualitative research: information that we, as organisations, gathered in our own field research with smallholder farmers, fishers and rural workers over the many years (using participatory action research/ interviews/ testimonies/ organising/ questionnaires) and desk top research (on policies and statistics). With regards to seeds RWA conducted a questionnaire amongst our members in five provinces.

2. The national context of the UPR

South Africa participated in the last UPR Cycle (3rd Cycle, - 27th Session). It received 243 recommendations (187 of which were supported and 56 Noted) under several theme. As mentioned before, this is the first time RWA, CSAAWU and Coastal Links are interacting with the UPR process and we have not been following closely and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the 3rd cycle. Nevertheless, based on our work over the last few years we can make some comments on some of the recommendations (attached in the Annex).

In our understanding all Articles of UNDROP are interdependent. But due to the limited space available for our submission, and the nature of our work, we have decided to focus on Articles 19 (the right to seeds and protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture focus on women’s rights), 15 (focus on sufficient and adequate food and to be free from hunger) and 4 (focus on women’s rights). However, Articles 19, 15 and 4 need to be complimented by fulfilment of the right to land (individually or collectively, as declared in Article 17 of UNDROP and declared a right for rural women under Article 4) and therefore we also have to address Article 17.

2.1 The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UNDROP’s Articles 19, 15 and 4 are closely related and essential to meeting, amongst others, Goal 1 (No Poverty) and Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) of SDGs. Amongst the targets of Goal 2 we want to highlight; a) *“By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals, including through sound management and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels”*.

3. Analysis of the implementation

Theme: Socioeconomic rights

3.1 Subtheme 1- Article 19 of UNDROP declares specific rights regarding to seeds of peasants and other people working in rural areas. The right to seeds, includes: (1.a) The right to the protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; (1.c) The right to participate in the making of decisions on matters relating to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; (1.d) The right to save, use, exchange and sell their farm saved seed or propagating material; (2) The right to maintain, control, protect and develop their own seeds and traditional knowledge.

In addition, under Article 19, States undertake to: (3) take measures to respect, protect and fulfil the right to seeds of peasants and other people working in rural areas; (4) ensure that seeds of sufficient quality and quantity are available to peasants at the most suitable time for planting and at an affordable price; (6) recognize the rights of peasants to rely either on their own seeds or on other locally available seeds of their choice and to decide on the crops and species that they wish to grow; take appropriate measures to support peasant seed systems and promote the use of peasant seeds and agrobiodiversity; (7) ensure that agricultural research and development integrates the needs of peasants and other people working in rural areas and to ensure their active participation in the definition of priorities and the undertaking of research and development, taking into account their experience; (8) ensure that seed policies, plant variety protection and other intellectual property laws, certification schemes and seed marketing laws respect and take into account the rights, needs

3.1.1. South African government's initiatives and n UNDROP Article 19: seed policies and laws:

South Africa, who voted in favour of UNDROP in 2018, has adopted two new laws that do not meet any and all of the seed rights in UNDROP: a) the Plant Improvement Act (No. 11) of 2018 (PIA) and b) Plant Breeders Rights (No. 12) of 2018 (PBRA). The PIA's focus is on the commercial seed sector covering 96 food and fodder crops on a National Plant Variety List (NPVL) whose seeds, to be sold, must be certified according to the "Distinct, Uniform, Stable" criteria and prohibits the sale of uncertified seed. The PBRA protects the intellectual property rights of breeders of new varieties

While crops not on the NPVL can be used, adapted and exchanged, the PIA effectively marginalises farmers seeds as these, including by the PIA's definition of sale, which includes seed exchange. While PIA's final Regulations governing exemptions have not yet been released and this leaves unanswered questions relating to peasant seeds, PIA's exemptions do not apply to any seed protected under the PBRA, thus restricting and threatening the rights of peasants to freely exchange and sell seed.

3.1.2. Our work to contribute to the implementation of Article 19:

Lobbying government: RWA SA has over the years worked with other civil society groups in SA (e.g.: the African Centre for Biodiversity, Biowatch, SA Food Sovereignty Campaign, Surplus People Project and KwaZulu/Natal and Rhodes Universities), raising concerns with law makers about the threats to peasant /farmer managed seed systems (FMSS) posed by the PIA and PBRA during the public consultations. Some provincial governments rejected the PBR Bill, but national Parliament chose to ignore both their and CSOs objections. As part of our work RWA has also campaigned against our governments granting permission for the introduction, usage and distribution of Genetic Modified

Seeds/ Organisms (GMOs) in our food system including distribution of these seeds to small producers. We have complemented our work through the establishment of community-based nurseries and encouraging saving traditional and open pollinated varieties, at both household and community level.

Lobbying the Africa Union (AU): RWA SA, RWA members in the SADC region and our CSO partners in SA and Africa (e.g., Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa -AFSA) also raised concerns over seed policies at the level of the African Union when the AU was deliberating harmonisation of seed laws under the African Continental Seed Harmonisation (ACSH) initiative. To our great disappointment in February 2022 the AU endorsed the continental guidelines for the harmonisation of seeds and the continental guidelines for the use of biotechnology in food and agriculture in Africa. This is contrary to the AU's 1998 African Model Law for Protection of Local Communities, Farmers and Plant breeders and Regulation of Access to Biological Resources, which recognises the value of indigenous knowledge and that systems of intellectual property rights cannot protect this knowledge. This law also provides for Farmers' Rights to save, replant, exchange and sell seeds produced by them. The African Model law does not allow for patents on live organisms, such as seeds and plant propagating materials.

Our grassroots research: RWA SA has been part of a Participatory Action Research (PAR) with RWA Regional and AFSA on traditional seeds, highlighting the critical role these seeds play in our food security. We also have seed fairs and campaigns promoting the saving, multiplication and exchange of these seeds and establishment of seed banks. We rely on these seeds for our traditional agroecological production, and although willing to learn and incorporate new knowledge from other farmers and research, we know that our traditional farm-saved seeds ensure agrobiodiversity and are the best adapted to local environmental conditions and to deal with the ongoing climate change challenges.

Results of a questionnaire undertaken by RWA SA in five provinces amongst some of its members, confirm the above. Our sample was small (76 women interviewed) but 68% indicated they were able to feed their families with their produce using some of their "*most precious seeds*" (e.g., spinach, tomatoes, groundnuts, sweet potatoes, watermelons etc). In their opinion, their seeds are "*precious*", because they "*are nutritious, healthy, provide vitamins, easy to grow, adapted to our climate conditions, are delicious, have healing properties, quenches the thirst*", and have many usages ("*food, income, can cook many traditional dishes, can eat the vegetables, leaves and seeds*").

Our research indicates that despite seed saving not being a widespread practice in SA compared to other parts of Africa, due to the extensive land dispossession in SA, seed savers in SA (some of whom still have seeds that "*have been in the family long term*") play a critical but invisible role in minimising the levels of hunger in the country, especially in rural areas.

3.2. Subtheme 2- Article 15 of UNDROP and the right to food and freedom from hunger: Article 15 declares, amongst others: (1) the right to adequate food and the fundamental right to be free from hunger; (4) the right to determine their own food and agriculture systems, recognized by many States and regions as the right to food sovereignty. This includes the right to participate in decision-making processes on food and agriculture policy; (5) States shall formulate, in partnership with peasants and other people working in rural areas, public policies at the local, national, regional, and international levels to advance and protect the right to adequate food, food security and food

sovereignty.

3.2.1 SA's dominant food system: SA has many policies that are relevant to the food systemⁱ. Institutionally responsibility for SA food security rests with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF). Its food security framework is framed within the parameters of availability, access, utilisation and stability. DAFF's Food Security Policy for the Republic of South Africa (2012) identified a few challenges in the four parameters.

Amongst the DAFF's stated challenges in the availability of food are a) land reform and b) the "sustainable use of agricultural resources and land use". DAFF states that "*smallholder farmers are found mostly in the former homeland's areas, which make up 13% of the total agricultural land.*" , where "*most of this land is severely overused, leading to soil erosion and low productivity*".

Another challenge identified by DAFF in the availability of food is the trend of converting high agricultural potential land to non-agricultural activities such as "*game farming and golf or residential estates*" which the DAFF has been unable to prevent. In terms of challenges compromising accessibility of food DAFF identifies food production costs and food prices as well as unemployment.

DAFF's response and emphasis is on commercialisation and modernisation, including transforming and incorporating small-scale farmers into large-scale commercial production. This, despite acknowledgment – including by the UN's FAO – that, worldwide, large-scale industrial production has exacerbated and even created food crisis and hunger and destroys peasant and smallholder food production systems. This has led to global movements, including RWA, CSAWU and Coastal Links (EC) and others in SA to demand food sovereignty.

3.2.2. Hunger in SA: There is widespread hunger in SA, linked to high levels of unemployment, impoverishment, limited land reform and the failure to deal with the inequality and structures inherited from apartheid. This was made worse during the Covid-19 pandemicⁱⁱ. Already in 2017 government's data showed that ⁱⁱⁱ*6,8 million people experienced hunger and 10,4 million people had inadequate access to food in 2017 (p. 6). It also showed that although hunger is greater in urban areas it is also very high amongst rural children, reflecting hunger in the whole household: "more than half (56,1%) of the households with younger children that experienced hunger reside in urban areas and 43,9% in rural areas (p. 20).* The same report also states^{iv}*"Table 9 shows that female-headed households are disadvantaged households compared to their male counter parts, as more female headed households (compared to male-headed households) had children who experienced hunger^v.*

More recent data (26 May 2021) indicates that^{vi}*"As many as 10 million adults and nearly three million children experienced hunger in the past week in South Africa in 2021, and 2.5 million adults and 600,000 children were experiencing perpetual hunger, hunger every day or almost every day"*. It also shows that "*before the pandemic child hunger had declined significantly but stunting had not. In 1995 approximately 30% of children under five were stunted in South Africa, but by 2017 this figure was still 27%*".

3.2.3 Our grassroots work and working for food sovereignty: Our own work shows how hunger increased in the last few years. Joint research with PLAAS (programme for land and Agrarian Studies,

University of Western Cape) showed that farm workers go hungry during winter. Their employers grow mono-crops and lacking land to grow their own food, workers get trapped in debt as they are forced to buy on credit from shops on farms.

RWA, CSAAWU and Coastal Links (EC) promote the establishment of food gardens, using agroecological production methods and for this, we have agroecological field schools and workshops. During the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown measures in SA, we were producing, sharing and selling food in our rural communities, playing an important role in minimising hunger as access to food was hindered by government's restrictions on movement, transport and informal markets. RWA and CSAAWU prepared and distributed food parcels amongst farm workers and rural communities to help address increased hunger; our food parcels were made up of food produced by local small-scale producers.

As part of our work towards advancing land and agrarian reform, RWA started a "One woman-one hectare" campaign (see below under UNDROP Article 4). As part of civil society initiatives, we also demand policy shifts and subsidies for small-scale farmers and producers, agrarian reform, local fishing rights, decent school feeding schemes, which must be linked to local production and not for profit.

3.3. Subtheme 3 - Article 4 of UNDROP declares specific Rights of Peasant women and other people working in rural areas. The rural women's rights include: (1.) States shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against peasant women and other women working in rural areas and to promote their empowerment in order to ensure, on the basis of equality between men and women, that they fully and equally enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms and that they are able to freely pursue, participate in and benefit from rural economic, social, political and cultural development. Moreover, (2.) States shall ensure that peasant women and other women working in rural areas enjoy without discrimination all the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the present Declaration and in other international human rights instruments, with a focus on key rights: (2a) To participate equally and effectively in the formulation and implementation of development planning at all levels;

In addition to article 4, it states that women have the right: (2f) To participate in all community activities; (2g) To have equal access to financial services, agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities and appropriate technology; (h) To equal access to, use of and management of land and natural resources, and to equal or priority treatment in land and agrarian reform and in land resettlement schemes; (2i) To decent employment, equal remuneration and social protection benefits, and to have access to income-generating activities; (2j) To be free from all forms of violence.

3.3.1. South African governmental initiatives and UNDROP Article 4: Rights of Peasant women and other people working in rural areas. In SA there has been no new legislation on land reforms regarding women beside the Electronic^{vii} Deeds Registration Systems Act 19 of 2019; this Act provides for electronic deeds registration, which creates accessibility to land reform. However, the creation of new laws and acts can deviate from the implementation of existing laws that can help rural women. Rural women in South Africa have limited access to land, seeds and access to

food since women have a low social position within their community.

The Statistics regarding the (2g) right of women to have equal access to financial services, agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, and appropriate technology, gathered by the South African government concerning the Department of Women's Strategic Plan for 2015-2020, indicates that ^{viii}"Women make up a large percentage of the poor, particularly in rural areas". According to the 2015 Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, ^{ix}"rural women represented more than 40% of all women in the world and nearly half of the total population living in rural areas. In South Africa, women make up more than 51% of the population, yet they own less than 15% of the land". Moreover, rural women are significantly vulnerable and disadvantaged due to the poverty (in terms of hunger, clean water, infrastructure, and education) that has disproportionately affected rural areas. Furthermore, in accordance with Act 4, Section 2h, equal access to, use of, and management of land and natural resources, and equal or priority treatment in land and agrarian reform and in land resettlement schemes, should be guaranteed to the fishers, farm dwellers, and farmworkers

The Director General in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Prof. Edith Vries, *noted by the African Union that,*^x"70% of food is produced by small-holder farmers, a majority of them being women. Prioritizing women in agriculture would therefore be a smart and critical political move for governments. "However, rural women are still economically, socially, and politically disadvantaged indicating that policies and legislation have overlooked them. While the Constitutional Court has made judgments that have been sanctioned for women's rights, there has been a critique of the slow implantation of the Bill of Rights, for instance.

Rural women are burdened with limited access to credit, health care, freedom from unlawful evictions, education, land, and gender-based violence. Some policies and acts include the Extension of Security of Tenure Act (ESTA) [No. 62 of 1997], which should prevent the illegal evictions of rural people and states that rural people can occupy and use the land. The next policy includes: The Domestic Violence Act [No. 116 of 1998] should be monitored in rural areas to protect women and children and create accountability.

RWA's campaign on "One Woman- One hectare" started in 2015 and intensified in 2021. RWA sent several letters to the President and the Minister and other departments. The only response was from presidential office who referred us to the Ministry of Rural Development and Land Reform, but we have had no answer to date. Our campaign followed OR WAS THE GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING RWA?? government's policy "One Household - One Hectare" introduced in 2016. However, The One Women, One-Hectare initiative prioritises a demand for land to assist poor, rural women (food producers, fishers, farm dwellers, and farmworkers).

3.3.2. Our work to contribute to the implementation of Article 4:

RWA, CSAAWU, and Coastal Links (EC) promote the protection of rural women's human, civil and labour rights. We seek to initiate transformation projects in a way that acknowledges the importance of transforming gender relations.

We campaign for women's right to land, manage, exchange and sell seeds and freedom from hunger and poverty and highlight the critical role rural women play in contributing towards food security. We create campaigns, such as the access to healthcare facilities and treatment campaigns that were

done in 2020. We hold leadership development programmes to promote conscious and strong leadership as well as feminist schools. We celebrate International Women's Day and International Day of Rural Women, are active during the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence (GBV), to name a few. Although RWA's focus of work is not on gender-based violence (GBV), RWA decided that it had to act due to the high levels of violence against women and femicide in SA: RWA launched a SMS helpline in 2020 active to date whereby victims of violence could call in to report. RWA is also campaigning against GBV and femicide which is prevalent in SA including rural communities.

RWA and other civil society movements have helped generate attention from policymakers. In 2019, for instance, RWA SA appealed to engage with the^{xi} policies through public consultation in efforts to alleviate pressure on *rural women by men, mainly with regards to the legislation on Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act 3 of 2019*. In relation to the Khoisan and Traditional leadership Bill we campaigned for the democratisation of traditional councils by having elected leaders and the inclusion of women.

3.4 Sub-theme 4: Article 17 of UNDROP - the right to land individually or collectively.

As we said above, the right to seeds, the right to food and the rights of women, peasants and people living in rural areas are all linked and linked to the right to land. Specifically, we want to draw attention to (2) the prohibition of any form of discrimination relating to the right to land, (3) for the legal duty of the State to provide legal recognition for land tenure rights, the rights to be protected against arbitrary and unlawful displacement from their land or habitual residence, or from other natural resources used in their activities. (4) States shall also prohibit arbitrary and unlawful forced evictions and peasants and (5) rural working people who have arbitrarily or unlawfully deprived of their land have the right to return to the land.

All of the above are very pertinent to SA's context with its history of land dispossession and historical and ongoing evictions from farms. Here we highlight the following as part of SA's normative framework relating to land, with specific relevance for the context of UNDROP:

- The SA Constitution is the overall legislative framework for land reform, protection of property rights and land expropriation in public interest. It also provides for land restitution for people who were deprived of their land by colonial rule past June 1913.
- Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Act No. 3, 1996, which provides for the security of tenure and the acquisition of land and land rights of labour tenants.
- The Extension of Security of Tenure Act, No. 62 of 1997 (ESTA), which provides for the provision of security of land tenure for farm workers, regulates conditions of residence and the circumstances under which the right of residence may be terminated.

However, it is important to note that over the last 20 years none of these laws have delivered on their mandates. Land reform has been very slow, and ESTA has made provisions for millions of farm workers to be lawfully evicted and has failed to prevent and stop unlawful evictions of workers from farms, many of which were 3rd generation residents on the same farms.

4. Recommendations

OUR THEME: Socio Economic Rights – Sub-theme: UNDROP						
Sub-themes	Recommendation- topic	Specific	Measurable	Achievable (provided that there is also strong civil society mobilisation)	Relevant	Time bound
Article 19	Seed laws: Plant Improvement Act (No. 11) of 2018 (PIA)	Approve outstanding regulations to PIA, providing for the exemption of farm-managed seeds (FMS) from PIA, allowing for saving, using, exchanging and selling of FMS	Yes- approved and signed into law in SA Parliament	Yes, law making in Parliament	Yes, to show commitment to legislate UNDROP implementation of Article 19 and meet SDG Goal 2	2022
	Establishment of community-based traditional seed banks	A State fund to be created to support the establishment of community-based traditional seed banks	Yes- how many funds allocated? How many community-based traditional seed banks established?	Yes, funds allocated from Dpt of Agriculture.		2026
Article 15	Right to food and Freedom from hunger	Provide a basic income grant as advocated by CSOs	Yes – can monitor if levels of hunger are decreasing.	Yes, given political will and commitment to address poverty, hunger and inequality in SA.	Yes, given the high price of food, food prices inflation & people’s inability to produce their own food without having land and water.	Urgent/Immediate actions
		Speed up land and agrarian reform; prevent alienation of agricultural land into game reserves, golf courses & housing estates	Yes – monitor:	Yes, given political will and commitment to address land dispossession, racial and gender inequality in land ownership and land rights, as well as poverty, hunger and inequality in SA.		
		Yes, increase in production grants to small producers as per their specified needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in land redistribution of agricultural land. Prevention of loss of agricultural land. 			
		Promote and support agroecological smallholder family production units, with access to water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many family production units are supported and how many production grants? Having a gender data disaggregation. 			
Facilitate establishment of markets for small producers, with adequate infrastructure						
					Yes- it would increase smallholder production, cut costs related to transport and supply chain intermediaries, help to break monopoly power of super-markets and high food prices & ensure small producers are sustainable and economically viable.	2026

	Priority procurement of food from small producers by State institutions not producing their own food: Creches, schools, prisons, hospitals, National and provincial Parliaments, local government	To begin with, small-scale producers supplying state funded institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 creches/pre-schools schools per province. • 10 schools per province. • 2 hospitals. 	Yes - monitor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many state institutions are procuring food from small producers? • How many small producers are supplying the state institutions? Disaggregate data by gender. 			2026
	Food sovereignty in SA legislation	Include small-scale producers in agricultural and trade policies that protect and strengthen local livelihoods and food sovereignty.	Yes, extent to which agricultural production in SA is shifting to meeting local/ national food needs rather than export and food imports (e.g., chicken) are not destroying food production in SA	Difficult to achieve given the dominance of agri-business in the global food system and trade but first steps can be taken to deal with national hunger	Yes, would protect local food production, employment of rural workers, our food system and show commitment to legislate UNDROP implementation and SDGs Goals.	2026
	Policy and strategy on agroecology	Finalise the agroecology strategy- DAFF was engaged in consultations with CSOs in 2011-2013, but the strategy was never finalised.	Yes, to be approved and signed into law in Parliament.	Yes – law making in Parliament	Yes- key to support small-scale producers who want to engage in alternative agricultural production	2026
ARTICLE 4	Right to Food and freedom of hunger	See Right to food recommendations under Article 15, ensuring women are clearly identified as beneficiaries.				
	Strengthening and protecting women’s rights to land Policy on Women owning or accessing their own land	Speed up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land and agrarian reform. • Implementation of governments’ One Household – One hectare” policy but ensuring that women’s land access is assured as per RWA’s campaign for “One woman-one hectare”. 	Yes, monitor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of policy and signed into law in Parliament • - Increase in land redistribution of agricultural land to women. 	Yes, law making in Parliament to focus on the political commitment to address land dispossession, land rights for women.	Yes, to support small-scale farmers and producers, address poverty and	2026

		Ensure democratisation of traditional councils by having elected leaders and the inclusion of women (Amend the Traditional and Khoisan Act 3 of 2019).	Yes, by monitoring the protection of land rights of women that reside in areas governed by traditional councils.		inequality in SA and show commitment to implement UNDROP and SDGs Goals.		
	Policy for women to manage land and natural resources i.e., land, seeds, water, forests, fisheries.	Approve outstanding regulations to PIA (see under Article 19 recommendations), public consultation towards drafting a relevant policy from the bottom-up policy and legislation towards for women's land rights.	Yes, by monitoring policy drafting in SA Parliament.	Yes, law making in Parliament.			2026
	GBV-FEMICIDE prevention and implementation of Domestic Violence Act [No. 116 of 1998]-	Yes, speed up GBV policies on femicide.	Yes, by monitoring implementation of measures to address GBV and femicide.	Yes, key support from Government and public officials.		Yes, for the protection of women and esp. rural women against GBV.	Urgent/ 2023

Article 17	Strengthen legal rights to land (including tenure security, right to occupy, customary land tenure rights, 99-year leases) and natural resources.	Against systemic issues of gender-based violence that is intrinsic to current economic agrarian systems, and ensure resources are allocated towards supporting GVB and femicide victims provide safe houses for rural women affected by GBV.			Yes, support women’s land rights for their livelihoods and economic independence	2026
	State protection of legitimate tenure and ensure no arbitrary or unlawful evictions and that rights are not extinguished or infringed.	Government to review ESTA to secure and advance tenure rights.	Yes, by monitoring the number of evictions (both legal and illegal) throughout SA	Yes, provided ESTA is strengthened and legal services are available & unbiased to protect rural people from evictions.	Yes, to show commitment to implement UNDROP and meet SDG Goals and contributing to address historical colonial and persistent land dispossession in SA.	2026
	Right to be protected against arbitrary and unlawful displacements from their land or place of habitual residence.	The SA State must protect and implement the rights of small-scale producers and people working in rural areas from land grabs for large scale commercial agriculture, mining, tourism and housing estate developments. Investing business must comply with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Protect, Respect & Remedy) and seek free, priori and informed consent.	Monitor the instances where investors in the extractive industries (agriculture, mining, land) did respect affected communities’ rights to free, prior and informed consent and the right to “say no” when communities do not want to approve investments and what was the State’s role and	Yes, given the political commitment to justice, socio-economic rights and environmental rights.		2026

^{i i} Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF) Food Security policy for the Republic of South Africa (2012). Pretoria: Government of South Africa.

DAFF (Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries). 2012. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Integrated Growth and Development Plan. Pretoria: Government of South Africa.

Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF) and Department of Social Development (2013) National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security (Annexure A).

DAFF (Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries). 2014a. The National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security for the Republic of South Africa. Pretoria: Government of South Africa.

ⁱⁱ Risenga Maluleke, TOWARDS MEASURING THE EXTENT OF FOOD SECURITY IN SOUTH AFRICA an examination of hunger and food inadequacy, Statssa.gov.za, <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/03-00-14/03-00-142017.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ Risenga Maluleke, TOWARDS MEASURING THE EXTENT OF FOOD SECURITY IN SOUTH AFRICA an examination of hunger and food inadequacy, Statssa.gov.za, <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/03-00-14/03-00-142017.pdf>

^{iv} Risenga Maluleke, TOWARDS MEASURING THE EXTENT OF FOOD SECURITY IN SOUTH AFRICA an examination of hunger and food inadequacy, Statssa.gov.za, <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/03-00-14/03-00-142017.pdf>

^v Servaas van der Berg - University of Stellenbosch Leila Patel - University of Johannesburg Grace Bridgman - UNU-WIDER Food Insecurity in South Africa- Evidence from the NIDS-CRAM , Wave 5, 2021 <https://cramsurvey.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/13.-Van-der-Berg-S.-Patel-L-and-Bridgeman-G.-2021-Food-insecurity-in-South-Africa-%E2%80%93-Evidence-from-NIDS-CRAM-Wave-5.pdf>

^{vi} Tomlinson, N. - "WORLD HUNGER DAY: Food crisis: 2.5 million South Africans experience hunger 'every day'. (Daily Maverick, quoting a study by Dr [Nic Spaull](#), economist at Stellenbosch University, and Professor Mark Tomlinson, Co-Director of the Institute for Life Course Health Research in the Department of Global Health at Stellenbosch University, who has been a consultant for the World Health Organization, Unicef, USAID and the World Bank). , <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-05-26-food-crisis-2-5-million-south-africans-experience-hunger-every-day/>

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^x African Union, 2015. [11th CAADP Partnership Platform March 25-27, Johannesburg, South Africa. | African Union \(au.int\)](#)

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