UN Expert Demands Food Systems Redesign

United Nations, Mar 10 (Prensa Latina) The United Nations’ Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter, today called for the world’s food systems to be radically and democratically redesigned to ensure the human right to adequate food and freedom from hunger.

"The eradication of hunger and malnutrition is an achievable goal. However, it will not be enough to refine the logic of our food systems - it must instead be reversed," Mr. De Schutter stressed during the presentation of his final report to the UN Human Rights Council after a six-year term as Special Rapporteur.

The expert warned that the current food systems are efficient only from the point of view of maximizing agribusiness profits.

"Objectives such as supplying diverse, culturally-acceptable foods to communities, supporting smallholders, sustaining soil and water resources, and raising food security within particularly vulnerable areas, must not be crowded out by the one-dimensional quest to produce more food," he said.

"Food democracy must start from the bottom-up, at the level of villages, regions, cities, and municipalities," the rights expert said.

Mr. De Schutter urged cities to take food security into their own hands because by 2050 more than 6 billion people will live in cities.

United Nations data show that more than 840 million people starve in the world,