

Attachment 1

CANADA'S COMMITMENTS TO THE RIGHT TO FOOD UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

The chart below presents the international legal instruments that set out the right to food, the date of their adoption, their legal status, states' support for each instrument, Canada's position vis-à-vis the instrument as well as the basic content of the instrument regarding the right to food.

Instrument	Date	Legal Status	Number of States Supporting	Canada's Position	Content
Universal Declaration on Human Rights	1948	Non-binding declaration of the UN General Assembly	48 for, 0 against, and 8 abstentions	Voted for adoption	Sets out human rights to be protected internationally.
Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols	1949	International multilateral treaties	Depends on specific treaty	Most are binding on Canada	Establishes rights and obligations for states to respect and protect food rights during conflict.
Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)	1966	International multilateral treaty	141	Binding on Canada since 1976	Establishes state obligations to protect economic and social rights including the right to be free from hunger and to an adequate standard of living, including food particularly in Art. 11.
Food Aid Conventions	1967	International multilateral treaties renewed periodically	Originally 18 under the 1967 agreement, now over 20	Binding on Canada since 1967	Establishes state obligations to provide a minimum amount of international food aid.
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	1989	International multilateral treaty	194	Binding on Canada since 1992	Establishes immediate rights and obligations for states for rights for children including nutrition (Art. 24, 27).
Rome Declaration and Plan of Action	1996	World Food Summit	187	Non-binding	Seeks clarification of the content of the right to food and suggests international bodies complete the task.
General Comment 12 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	1999	Decision of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – strong, legal language	Implicitly 141, but Instrument is that of the Committee, not the states	Not officially binding but serves as interpretation of Article 11 of the CESCR	Establishes the precise content and implementation of the right to adequate food.

Source: Riches, G., Buckingham, D., MacRae, R. & Ostry, A. (2004, February). *Right to Food Case Study: Canada*. Study conducted for the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.