



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Revolutionary Hunger Eradication Treaty To Be Presented at Major United Nations Food Security Event**

(Lake Oswego, Oregon, USA – Oct. 8, 2015) — For the first time, the central United Nations food security organization is hosting a presentation of the International Food Security Treaty (IFST), a bold initiative that aims to fulfill the human right of freedom from hunger and protect it with enforceable international law.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which oversees the UN's food security programs, has scheduled the IFST program as a side event to accompany its annual intergovernmental plenary session (see [CFS Official Side Event Schedule for 10-14-15](#)). The program, co-sponsored by the UN's Right-to-Food Team, is subtitled "How The Narrow, Binding International Agreement To Eradicate Malnutrition Would Strengthen Broader Campaigns For The Right-To-Food And Global Food Security," and will be presented on October 14<sup>th</sup> at the headquarters of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, Italy.

Introducing the IFST will be John Teton, founding director of the Oregon, USA-based International Food Security Treaty Association and author of [The Armless Hand](#), the definitive article on the Treaty published in the Yale Journal of International Affairs. Participating on a panel with Mr. Teton will be Hilal Elver, the UN's Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, and Sanjay K. Rai, founding director of the Indian anti-poverty and food rights organization AIM. Recorded video statements from Reps. Earl Blumenauer and Lois Capps, members of the US Congress, will be screened as well as a preview of [Thunder Head Clearing](#), a high-end animated short film about the Treaty directed by Mr. Teton and produced by Earthlight Pictures with an international crew of artists. Discussion between panelists and audience will follow.

In the two-thirds of a century since the right to be free from hunger was established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the world has struggled to end hunger without the tool of strong law. Aid and development programs have proven insufficient to eliminate malnutrition, which still results in a staggering annual death rate and afflicts approximately 800 million others. Hunger also fuels overpopulation, which in turn inflicts corollary damage on the world's environment, economy, and regional and international stability.

Based on existing international covenants, the IFST was developed in consultation with food security advocates from around the world. It is designed to be a legally binding international agreement, delineating the responsibilities of nations to prevent starvation and malnutrition, with enforcement provisions to ensure that they are carried out. An example of a prohibited activity would be the use of starvation as a weapon.

Teton, a graduate of Harvard, developed the IFST principles in the early 1990s and co-coordinated the 1998 Santa Barbara conference on Consensus Strategy for the Right to Food in Law. His appearance on October 14th continues a series of presentations on the IFST at major universities, including New York University, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, the law schools of Harvard and Yale, as well as in five briefings for members and staff of Congress. A filmmaker and writer, Mr. Teton's novels include *Elevation* (2015), *Upsurge*, the early research for which gave rise to the IFST years before the book's publication in 2006.

The public and press are welcome and admission is free, but seating is limited and admission to FAO requires advance security clearance. For further information see [CFS Official Side Event Schedule for 10-14-15](#), visit [www.treaty.org](http://www.treaty.org), call +1 (503) 697-3387 or email [contact@treaty.org](mailto:contact@treaty.org). [END]