

Federal Councillor
Didier Burkhalter
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Parliament Building West
CH-3003 Bern

**Open Letter on Professor Jean Ziegler candidature to
the UN Human Rights Council's Advisory Committee
16th August 2013**

Excellency,

The undersigned non-governmental organizations wish to express their appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for its nomination of Professor Jean Ziegler for election to the Human Rights Council's Advisory Committee.

The choice made by the Government of a critical actor on the Swiss political scene honours Switzerland and is undoubtedly a guarantee of Professor Ziegler independence in the exercise of his mandate.

Professor Ziegler's bibliography testifies to his great knowledge of the mechanisms that govern the international political and economic relations and of the root causes of a large number of human rights violations in the world.

Our organizations express their deepest appreciation for Professor Ziegler's expertise in human rights, his high moral standing, independence and impartiality, as well as for his analyses and recommendations that have always been clear and constructive. His advice has always been respected and appreciated, particularly by the most vulnerable populations.

Professor Ziegler has contributed immensely to the understanding and meaning of the right to food. His reports of country missions have been penetrating, rigorous and principled. His previous engagement in the Advisory Committee for the promotion and protection of the peasant's rights is proof of the important contribution Professor Ziegler can make to the advancement of the human rights cause. This is appreciated by all for whom the achievement of the right to food is a vital part of the realization of economic and social rights.

It is certainly not by accident if governments and civil society representatives mightily applauded Professor Ziegler's last presentation as Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food to the UN Council for Human Rights in March 2008.

We wish to ensure Professor Ziegler of our full support in his future tasks and address him our best wishes.

Please accept, Excellency, the expression of our highest consideration.

The open letter was signed by more than 50 national and international NGOs.