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CETIM

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**«There is not a developed world and
an underdeveloped world but a single
world badly developed.»**

EDITORIAL

After five years of intense negotiations, the United Nations Inter-Governmental Working Group on Peasants' Rights has completed its work. The Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas will be submitted to the plenary of the Human Rights Council and then to the UN General Assembly for adoption. Constituting an immense hope for all rural populations (peasants, indigenous people, fishermen, nomads, farmers, agricultural workers...), this declaration is eagerly awaited since it contains answers to most of the problems encountered by these populations.

Of course, the adoption of such an important Declaration is not in itself sufficient. This declaration must be «alive». The most appropriate way would be for it to be used as much by farmers (and all rural communities) themselves as by public authorities, concerned institutions and citizens for its implementation, since the issues of food, biodiversity and climate change, affect everyone. Obviously the CETIM will continue to commit itself after the adoption of the declaration, as it did during the process of its elaboration, so that it will be made known as widely as possible.

Despite the difficulties and attempts of blockage, the United Nations process for the adoption of a binding treaty on transnational corporations (TNCs) is under way. The report of the third session of the Inter-Governmental Working Group on a legally binding instrument on TNCs was considered in the plenary of the Human Rights Council last March.

In three statements presented to the Human Rights Council, the CETIM expressed concern about the decline of democracy in Brazil, the anti-union practice of Glencore in many countries and the non-implementation of the peace agreement regarding agrarian reform in Colombia. In this last respect, the CETIM published a book entitled Colombia Towards Peace: Meetings and Reflections in the Field.

More than ever we need your financial support. It is essential to the pursuit of our activities. Thank you for your consideration.

PEASANTS' RIGHTS

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE DECLARATION ON PEASANTS' RIGHTS?



Preparatory meeting with peasants' delegates for the 5th session of the UN Working Group, Geneva, April 2018.

The 5th and last session of the Working Group on Peasants' Rights was held from 9th to 13th April 2018. After 5 years of negotiations, the Working Group finalised the draft declaration, which will be submitted again this year to the plenary of the Human Rights Council in Geneva before being presented to the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

After more than five years of intensive work, the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants will be adopted this year by the United Nations. This indispensable instrument can thenceforth be used by rural populations to assert their rights and by authorities to implement ad hoc policies. Melik Özden, Director of the CETIM, explains how the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants will change the future of millions of people around the world.

What are the key elements of the declaration?

Melik Özden: Just to name a few: the right to land and natural resources, the right to a decent income and to means of production, the right to seeds, the right to social security and of course food sovereignty. These rights are essential so that farmers can work and live from their labour.

To whom will the declaration be useful and why?

It will be an important tool for farmers and other food producers (fishermen, nomads, agricultural workers). The

declaration will enable the populations concerned to assert their specific rights (such as the right to seeds) and to participate in decision-making on agriculture, fisheries, agri-food policies and any issues affecting their communities. This will help to stop human rights violations against these populations. In addition, this tool will serve as a reference for the establishment of programmes and policies in relation to farmers, whether to incorporate their rights into national legislation or to negotiate international trade agreements. Finally, it will be an important tool for institutions, human rights defenders. In short, for any entity concerned by the problem of peasants' rights.

How will the declaration be implemented? Who will monitor its implementation?

States' human rights obligations stipulate three levels of concrete measures for the effective implementation of the future Declaration on the Rights of Peasants. These are the obligation to respect, the obligation to protect and the obligation to ensure and enforce. In this case, it is a question of developing and implementing

programmes and policies by including in the process the communities concerned or their representatives. The declaration is also a tool for civil society. It is an evaluation grid for rural policies.

What role will CETIM have to play once the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants is adopted by the United Nations?

We will have much to do to make this declaration known to the people concerned: citizens, organisations and various actors active in the areas of biodiversity, food production and natural resources. CETIM will organize training sessions on peasants' rights. In addition, a publication on the peasants' declaration of rights will soon be released. It will serve as support for setting up training seminars and various conferences that the entities concerned by these issues will organize throughout the world.

SIDE EVENT: TOWARD THE ADOPTION OF A DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS

The side-event entitled 'Towards the adoption of a declaration on the rights of peasants and others working in rural areas: how to make the added value of this crucial tool visible to all?' was held in April 2018, in parallel with the negotiations of the fifth session of the Working Group on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas.

For the panellists, one observation was obvious: the rights of peasants are violated on a daily basis. Geneviève Savigny, member of the Confédération paysanne (French agricultural union) and representative of the European Coordination Via Campesina, even went so far as to say that being a farmer is now a struggle. Indeed, for her, the notion of peasant is perceived as derogatory. Devalued, the profession is more and more neglected by young people because of the difficulties it presents and the low income.

Speaking of urgency is in no way excessive. Peasant communities are constantly subjected to displacement, persecution, murder and imprisonment (especially women). Jorge Valera, representative of the World Fishermen's Forum, was outraged that the big multinationals are taking over the land and oceans. Large companies use unsustainable fishing methods, destroying the seas and fish, as they gradually bring their areas of activity closer to the shores, which displaces small fishermen. Moreover, for George Fernandez, the monocultures established by these multinationals lead to the use of pesticides and the contamination of land, while harming local production systems.

Although there is already a United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Saul Vicente, representative of the International Indian Treaty Council, declared that it is important for indigenous people to join the declaration process in order to express concrete rights that do not necessarily appear in the text dedicated to indigenous peoples, such as the right to seeds. Consequently, the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants reinforces the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The representative of Via Campesina West and Central Africa, Mr Ndiakhate Fall, said that the Declaration raised great hopes for the African continent. African farmers face multiple violations of their human, civil and political rights, as well as numerous expropriations and losses of biodiversity and seeds. This tool will thus make it possible to compile all the rights into a single instrument, while reinforcing the fact that farmers are essential for our future.

During the discussions that followed these presentations, the delegations of Ecuador, Bolivia and Switzerland reaffirmed their support for the declaration.



HUMAN RIGHTS

THE CETIM DENOUNCES THE SITUATION IN BRAZIL AND COLOMBIA AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

During the first half of the year, the CETIM addressed the plenary of the Human Rights Council twice. Once regarding the violation of human rights in Brazil, the second time to denounce the situation in Colombia since the signing of peace agreements.



Raffaele Morgantini presents CETIM's statement to the plenary of the HRC.

BRAZIL

The 37th session of the Human Rights Council was held from 26th February to 23d March 2018. The CETIM, supported by IADL, TNI, ITUC CSI IGB, Friends of the Earth International and FIAN, issued a statement calling on the Brazilian government to respect its international and national obligations by repealing all laws that violate the constitution, international human rights law and the fundamental rights of the Brazilian people. In Brazil, the institutional coup, which overthrew President Dilma Rousseff in 2016, installed an interim government whose *modus operandi* has been to secure the power of conservative and neo-liberal forces, open-

ing the economy to the activities of transnational corporations to the detriment of the national protection framework by dismantling public services and leaving unprotected the vulnerable sections of the population.

This is leading to a situation of democratic exceptionalism, with serious setbacks in the protection of human rights, contributing to the undoing of the progress achieved in the last decades since the end of the military dictatorship. Soon after taking interim power, President Temer closed the Ministry for Human Rights, the Ministries for Women's Equality and Race Equality and the Ministry for Agrarian Development.

The CETIM and its partners urged the international

community and the Human Rights Council to intensify their attention to this country in order to prevent the aggravation of this crisis and to guarantee the return to institutional normality in Brazil.

COLOMBIA

With regard to Colombia, CETIM spoke on behalf of its partner La Vía Campesina. The latter played a very important role in the peace agreements and has had official observer status on the issue of agrarian reform, a fundamental pillar for ensuring lasting and global peace.

During its mission at the end of November 2017, the La Vía Campesina delegation noted that the peace agreements have been welcomed with hope and relief.

However, disappointment and discouragement are noticeable because the commitments made are not materializing on the ground. It is mainly the rural populations and communities that do not see improvements: agrarian reform is not advancing,

promised land is not being made available or its possession legalized, pressure on land by industrial agriculture and mining is increasing. Law enforcement against producers of illicit crops remains violent without any co-ordinated effort to find substitutes for them. Access routes for the marketing of agricultural production are insufficient, and the lack of health infrastructure is striking. Insecurity is increasing, and more than 150 community and peasant leaders, trade unionists and ex-combatants have been murdered since the agreements were signed.

In view of this situation, the CETIM called on the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia to ensure the implementation of the peace agreements with all necessary vigour.

The texts of both statements can be consulted on the CETIM website.

TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

PRESENTATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

Ecuador presented the report of the third session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations to the plenary of the Human Rights Council in March 2018. On this occasion, the CETIM made a statement and co-organized a parallel conference entitled 'Reflections on the United Nations Binding Treaty on Transnational Corporations in the Area of Human Rights'.



Demonstration in favour of a binding treaty on TNCs, Place des Nations, Geneva, March 2018.

Last March, all the member states that addressed the plenary of the Human Rights Council spoke out in favour of a binding treaty on transnational corporations (TNCs).

In its statement, the CETIM emphasized that the Global Campaign has presented its own proposal for a draft treaty that reflects the proposals of social movements and communities affected by TNCs. This document serves as a basis for discussion and may be useful as a platform for negotiation. The international justice system is inadequate when the perpetrator of a crime is a corporation and the persons affected are indigenous people or poor peasants. Legal certainty is guaranteed only for companies and financial capital. Yet indigenous people, peasants and workers also have rights, and we must guarantee them the same legal security. That is why, through its declaration,

the CETIM called on states and governments throughout the world to contribute positively and constructively to the process until the entry into force of a binding treaty that will guarantee legal security and access to justice for all people.

SIDE EVENT

At the parallel conference, Walter Schuldt of Ecuador's diplomatic mission, which chairs the Working Group, stressed the need to find solutions for victims of TNC human rights violations. He reiterated his country's commitment to the process and announced the holding of the fourth session of the Working Group for October 2018, at which a first draft of the future treaty will be presented for negotiation.

Various speakers testified to the violation of workers' rights in their coun-

tries and recalled that the immense value chains of TNCs are synonymous with TNC control over the lives of millions, even hundreds of millions, of workers.

Four members of the European Parliament, members of the inter-parliamentary initiative for the treaty, recalled that human rights are part of the European Union's values, so the EU must stop opposing the treaty.

Melik Özden, who moderated this conference, concluded by recalling the forces at work against the process, citing the EU and its attempts to obstruct the third session of the Working Group. However, other states strongly support this initiative and, building on the proposals made by the Global Campaign, will be able to draft a future treaty to meet the challenges.

TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

THE EU DOES NOT WANT TO FORCE MULTINATIONALS TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS

The European Union persists in sabotaging the work of the inter-governmental group responsible for drafting a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations. «Le Courrier» published an article on this subject in its edition of 27 December 2017. Here it is in its entirety.

Multinationales

L'UE ne veut pas forcer les multinationales à respecter les droits humains

Mercredi 27 décembre 2017 Christophe Koessler

Des ONG dénoncent une proposition de l'UE visant à en finir avec le projet de convention encadrant les activités des multinationales à l'ONU.

L'Union européenne ne veut pas d'un traité onusien pour obliger les sociétés transnationales (STN) à respecter les droits humains. A la mi-décembre, à New York, sa délégation a tout bonnement proposé à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies de supprimer le financement du groupe de travail intergouvernemental, qui se réunit depuis trois ans à Genève, chargé



Le CETIM dénonce «l'attitude hypocrite» de l'UE, en matière de droits humains, face aux intérêts des multinationales. CC0

NGOs denounce an EU proposal to end the United Nations project of a convention regulating the activities of multinationals.

The European Union does not want a United Nations treaty to oblige transnational corporations (TNCs) to respect human rights. In mid-December, in New York, its delegation had quite simply proposed to the United Nations General Assembly that the funding of the intergovernmental working group, which had

been meeting for three years in Geneva to draw up binding standards governing the activities of major international economic groups, be terminated.

This move provoked an immediate reaction from a broad coalition of NGOs united within the Global Campaign to claim the sovereignty of people, dismantle the power of transnational corporations and put an end to impunity. Among them, the Centre Europe-tiers monde in Geneva (CETIM), FIAN,

Via Campesina and the Transnational Institute.

«We are not surprised because the EU has been doing everything for three years to sabotage the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council working group. But we must sound the alarm and denounce the hypocritical attitude of the institutions in Brussels, which on the one hand call for respect for human rights, and on the other sabotage initiatives in this direction when they conflict with the interests of their

multinationals», says Melik Özden, Director of CETIM.

This attitude is all the less understandable in the eyes of NGOs since the European Parliament voted in favour of the draft United Nations treaty in 2016. See in particular paragraph 48 of the European Parliament Resolution, adopted on 14 April 2016, on the private sector and development. (2014/2205(INI)), proposed three years ago by Ecuador. This position is the opposite of that of the European Commission, the EU's executive body.

For the time being, however, the United Nations intergovernmental working group on TNCs is not in danger: «It is unlikely that a consensus will emerge in the General Assembly's Committee on Budgetary Questions to cut its funding,» explains Melik Özden.

In 2018, at the next session, a formal draft treaty should be presented.

Christophe Koessler

TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

VIOLATIONS OF WORKERS' HUMAN RIGHTS BY GLENCORE AROUND THE WORLD

The statement presented by the CETIM in June 2018 to the Human Rights Council highlighted violations committed by Glencore corporation, its subsidiaries and subcontractors in several countries.

Glencore PLC is one of the largest mining and commodities trading companies in the world, headquartered in Switzerland with its shares publicly traded on stock exchanges.

According to first-hand testimony from unions in the mining sector, Glencore rarely ensures its workers the fundamental rights guaranteed by international human rights law.

IndustriALL Global Union

attempted to engage Glencore in a meaningful global social dialogue about the company's poor health and safety practices, worker abuse, unresolved labour disputes and anti-trade union practices. Glencore refused to cooperate.

The CETIM urges Glencore's host countries and its subsidiaries to honour their human rights and international labour standards commitments by taking concrete

steps to ensure that this company respects, in particular, workers' rights to safety, health, decent income and freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

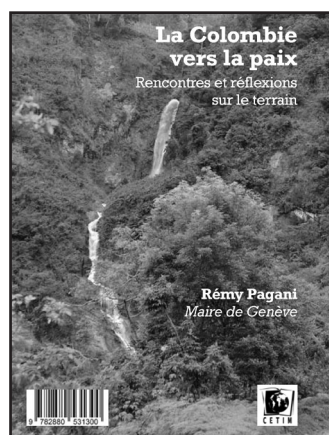
The CETIM also urges the Swiss authorities to comply with their obligation to ensure that transnational corporations based on Swiss territory do not violate human rights, in particular while carrying on their activities in other countries

and, should violations occur, to grant victims access to justice. We appeal in particular to the government of Switzerland to intervene in order to put an end to Glencore's violations of the human rights of workers, and to ensure that victims obtain justice.

You can read the full statement on the CETIM website (in 3 languages).

www.cetim.ch

PUBLICATIONS



COLOMBIA MOVES TOWARD PEACE. MEETINGS AND REFLECTIONS IN THE FIELD

Invited to visit Colombia, the mayor of Geneva, Rémy Pagani, gave an update on the implementation of the ongoing peace process. Will the end of the war open the way to a more fair society? Will it allow democratic participation and an end to institutional violence? Will access to agricultural land, the source of the armed conflict, become a reality for the millions of farmers who have been excluded?

The 24 November 2016 «peace agreements» between the Colombian Government and the FARC, which were supposed to put an end to an armed conflict that had lasted more than 50 years (260,000 dead, 45,000 missing and 6 million displaced), raised enor-

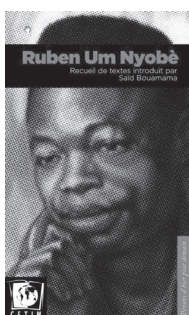
mous hopes in the country and throughout the world. Invited by the Peace Commission of the Senate of the Republic of Colombia and the Colombia-Europe-United States Coalition to visit the country in order to observe the ongoing peace process, the mayor of Geneva, Rémy Pagani, reviewed the sta-

tus of its implementation and made recommendations. The mayor of Geneva notably called on the Colombian authorities to ensure the security of human rights defenders, to carry out the planned agrarian reform and to protect, in conformity with the Geneva Conventions, ex-militants of the FARC and guarantee

their return to civilian life. The book is published in a bilingual French/Spanish version.

Price: CHF 11 / € 8.50
Editions du CETIM
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PUBLICATIONS



RUBEN UM NYOBÈ AND GAMAL ABDEL NASSER, TWO THINKERS OF YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW

Reread the texts of two great actors in the peoples' struggles. Ruben Um Nyobè and Gamal Abdel Nasser have both left their mark on their time. They remain world references in terms of peoples' struggles.

"We are against colonialists and their thugs, whether they be white, black or yellow, and we are the allies of all the partisans of the right of peoples and of nations to self-determination, regardless of their colour." Ruben Um Nyobè is celebrated as the father of the Cameroon people's independence. A trade-unionist as well as a political militant, general secretary of the Union of Confederated Trade-Unions of Cameroon (USCC) immediately after its founding fol-

lowing the war, in April 1948, Ruben Um Nyobè was a founding member of the Union of the Populations of Cameroon (UPC), which promoted the independence of the country. He became its general secretary and rapidly its emblematic figure. As a propagandist and impressive speaker, Um Nyobè travelled throughout Cameroon and intervened on several occasions at the United Nations in defence of the right to self-determination and the reunification of

his country.

Price: CHF 11 / € 8.50

Éditions du CETIM

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Already as a young man, Nasser was involved in the struggle against British influence, the monarchy and feudalism. In 1945 he founded the Free Officers movement. On 23 July 1952, he led a military coup against King Faruk and proclaimed the Republic. His project was defined as Arab

anti-imperialist nationalism.

In April 1955, Nasser asserted himself as one of the main actors of the Bandung Conference (Indonesia) where the non-aligned movement was born.

Price: CHF 11 / € 8.50

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