



Centre Europe - Tiers Monde

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Human Rights Council

53rd session (19 June-14 Juillet 2023)

Annual panel discussion on the adverse impacts of climate change on human rights

Oral statement

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Adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food

Mr. President,

We already know that Sustainable Development Goal 2, which aims to eradicate hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, will not be achieved by 2030.

The loss of biodiversity, access to water and the fight against hunger are not just environmental problems, but are essentially linked to economic, political and social maldevelopment. For CETIM, the demands of independent social movements for the realization of the right to freely chosen their own self-determined development model are the key to understanding this failure.

In line with the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (art. 16), public policies must give greater support to local markets, based on local production. Strengthening these markets where they already exist, and opening up new spaces for them to flourish without repression and/or economic, political or military coercion, is both a climatic and an economic necessity.

The prospect of building agroecological and popular cooperatives in the rural areas is a good practice and a feasible option for combating climate injustice, inequality and discrimination, and fulfilling the right to food.

That's why a real overhaul of food systems requires a critical re-examination of the way food enters and leaves the market, and of the real cost of food production. Discussions on the economics of these systems have historically marginalized social movements and the family peasantry that feeds the overwhelming majority of humanity.

Efforts to combat the climate crisis through an "ecological transition" are likely to be in vain if they are not accompanied by international support for agro-ecological cooperatives and public management of mines, land, infrastructure, transport etc., in line with popular demands. Peasant agriculture is not a question of cultural diversity, but a necessity for transforming food systems and reducing the growing pressure on food production and access to food.

Geneva, 3rd of July 2023