



Centre Europe - Tiers Monde

Centre de recherches et de publications sur les relations entre le Tiers Monde et l'Europe

Rue Amat 6
CH-1202 Genève
Tel. +41 (0)22 731 59 63
E-mail: contact@cetim.ch
Site Web: www.cetim.ch

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Human Rights Council
51st session (12 September-7 October 2022)
Panel discussion on right to work in connection with climate change actions

Oral statement

Check against delivery

Mr. President,

My name is Zainal Arifin Fuat, member of La Via Campesina, speaking on behalf of CETIM.

As you all know, the current climate crisis is increasingly affecting the rural areas and production of subsistence crops. The increase of severe drought, fires, floods, severely impacts living conditions and the right to work of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

As the Secretary General said in his report at the 50th session (A/HRC/50/57), peasants and rural workers are disproportionately affected by climate change. Therefore, as a highly vulnerable population, there is a serious need to provide effective protection to them.

Peasants have always been able to build resilient food systems in the face of climatic events. For instance, after Hurricane Ike hit Cuba, more than 90% of the monocultures were affected compared to less than 50% of the agroecological farms. The majority of these farms (90%) recovered within 2 months. Similarly, in the US, during periods of drought, yields of agroecological crops of maize and soybeans are 31% higher than those of industrial crops.

According to article 13 of the UNDROP, adopted in 2018, States have the obligation to take appropriate measures to establish and promote sustainable food systems that are sufficiently labour intensive to contribute to the creation of decent jobs. The Declaration also includes in art.22 the obligation to provide social security for peasants in the case of climate disasters.

In this regard, we call the Human Rights Council and UN member states to protect the right to work in the rural areas and advance in the proper implementation of the UNDROP at national and international level through the creation of a follow-up mechanism.

Mr. President,

I thank you for your attention.

Geneva, 27th of September 2022