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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

56th session

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

Oral statement

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Mister President,

Despite being key protectors of biodiversity and promoters of agricultural practices that safeguard environmental equilibriums, peasants and rural communities face severe impacts from the climate crisis. This paradox threatens their ability to meet basic needs, exacerbated by the agribusiness sector causing environmental degradation and dispossession, thus monopolizing food systems for capital accumulation.

The UNDROP – its guidelines and provisions in the environmental and climate field – is recognized by the conveners of this panel as one of the instruments to embrace in tackling the challenges ahead, and should thus serve as compass in implementing viable solutions, as agroecology, that will allow to counteract and lease the negative effects of the climate crisis.

We call on all States to use it accordingly, as a reference, in the conception of national climate policies, especially through the translation of its contents in national legal frameworks. In this sense, we also call on building a constructive working approach with the newly appointed Experts' Working Group on peasants' rights.

Lastly, understanding climate challenges through the right to development is crucial. Fostering the right of States and people to conceive their own development models will enable diverse and resilient climate policies. Future discussions should incorporate the right to development principles.

Thank you for your attention.

Geneva, 1 July 2024