



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
Fax +41 (0)22 731 91 52
E-mail: contact@cetim.ch
Site Web: www.cetim.ch

General Assembly
Human Rights Council
42th Session
Item 5: Human rights bodies and mechanisms
The rights of peasants

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Mr. President,

My name is Zainal Arifin Fuat, member of La Via Campesina, I speak on behalf of CETIM. We fully support the work of the UN Human Rights Council in developing standard setting and in particular, as representative of peasants' movements, standards for rural population, namely the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas adopted one year ago. The historical adoption by the Council and the UN General Assembly represent a momentum for the international community to address inequality and discrimination which disproportionately touches the rural population worldwide. But now, after the adoption, a new phase of implementation shall be part of our common agendas, as a process where peasants, states and UN bodies should cooperate in addressing those matters. It is key that this process of implementation has to be lead on all levels, on the national, regional and international.

This year, 2019, is the moment for the Council to start on developing early and necessary follow-up on the Declaration. As stated in the UN General Assembly resolution 73/165, the Governments, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, especially the HRC and the OHCHR, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, have to disseminate the Declaration and to promote universal respect and understanding thereof.

It is also important that movements, academia, rights groups, vulnerable groups, communities should relate their advocacy toward this Declaration, so that we can start a process of both good will and progressive realization of peasants' rights.

It is also worth for us to work on a meaningful way for the UN Decade of Family Farming to enrich the implementation of the Declaration, especially that family farming is key part of realization of the rights in the Declaration. The work by various UN mechanisms, the council and the FAO, among other, is good catalyst for realization of the declaration based on the agenda of UN Decade of Family Farming. The programmatic and public policy approach by

UN Decade of Family Farming should contribute to the clarity and to various ways on implementing the norms of the Declaration.

I urge delegates to carry on working on this very positive process. We finally invite all of you to a side-event on this subject, Monday 23rd of September in Room XXII at 4pm.

I thank you.

Geneva, 23rd September 2019