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Europe - Third World Centre
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**“There is not one developed world
and one underdeveloped world
just one maldeveloped world”**

EDITORIAL

A Food Systems Summit will take place in New York this autumn as part of the UN General Assembly. CETIM is very concerned about the approach of this summit as it prioritises the interests of transnational agrifood corporations while sidelining peasant and rural organisations. These organisations alongside other civil society organisations should rally and call on their governments so the summit does not become a showcase for agrifood companies trying to impose their production methods which are harmful to health, the environment and biodiversity.

There is an alternative to the agrifood industry and it was approved by a clear majority of UN member states in 2018: the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas*. It demands decent living and working conditions for peasants so that they can produce healthy food which is respectful of the environment, biodiversity and animal welfare.

To promote the implementation of this UN Declaration, CETIM (along with Vía Campesina) has recently launched a series of training seminars initially aimed at representatives of peasant orga-

nisations. It has also developed training sheets on the Declaration to accompany the course.

On the initiative of the non-aligned movement, the UN intergovernmental working group on the right to development has started examining the draft convention on the said right despite opposition or indifference from the West and its allies.

Regarding our publications, in spring CETIM published a book called *Puissance du droit et droit des puissants. Les traités européens et “eurafricains” sous la loupe* which analyses Europe-Africa relations from a legal perspective.

Another book called *La crise sanitaire révélatrice du mal-développement* (provisional title) will come out this autumn. It shows that the multidimensional crisis (economic, financial, social, political, environmental...) was foreseeable while also suggesting ways out of the crisis.

Furthermore, CETIM is pleased to announce that, by the end of the year, we will launch a digital magazine with incisive and diverse discussions. It will be a place to reflect and rethink development as a whole.

PEASANTS' RIGHTS

TRAINING SHEETS ON THE DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS

CETIM has published a series of training sheets to serve as support for future activities and trainings in view of the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (Declaration)*.

After adopting the Declaration, we are now in a new phase: implementation. It is absolutely vital to bring the Declaration to life so that peasants and other people working in rural areas can make the content their own, to use it in their daily advocacy work.

For this reason, CETIM, alongside La Vía Campesina, organized a first seminar aimed at peasant leaders in June 2021. This course will allow them to consolidate their practices, advocacy strategies and other projects linked to the Declaration.

Through this type of training, we are striving for a multiplier effect. Once the leaders have been trained, they can then disseminate their knowledge to their members, to other peasants and allies. The aim in the long term is for everyone to have access to this crucial knowledge.

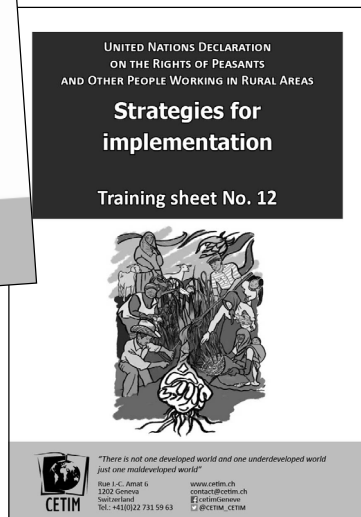
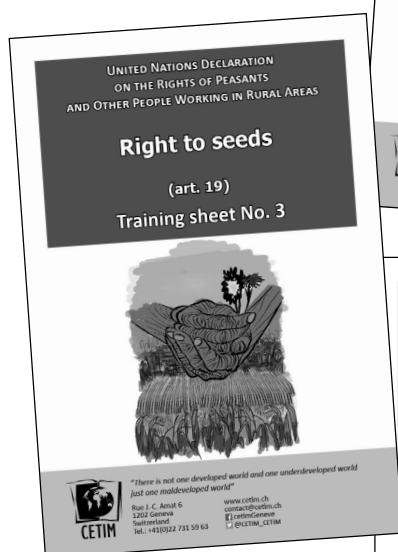
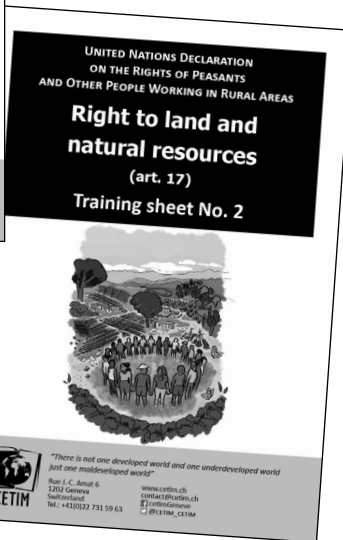
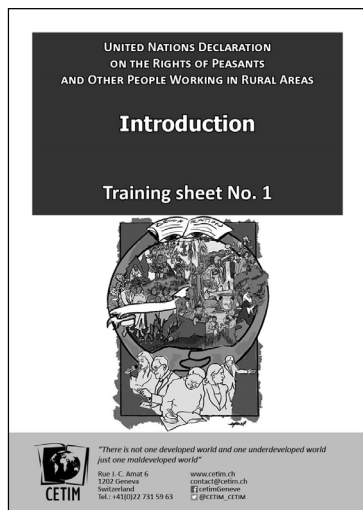
Training on peasants' rights will primarily revolve around a series of twelve sheets created by CETIM to disseminate the content and to highlight the key rights outlined in the Declaration.

The sheets are available in three languages (French, English and Spanish) in an A5 format. Using accessible language, each sheet explains some of the key Declaration rights combined by topic:

- Sheet 1 : General overview of the declaration on peasants' rights
- Sheet 2 : The right to land
- Sheet 3 : The right to seeds
- Sheet 4 : The right to food and food sovereignty
- Sheet 5 : The right to an adequate standard of living, a decent livelihood and to means of production
- Sheet 6 : Non-discrimination towards rural women
- Sheet 7 : The right to participation
- Sheet 8 : The right to environment
- Sheet 9 : The right to social security
- Sheet 10 : Social, economic and cultural rights
- Sheet 11 : Civil and political rights
- Sheet 12 : Strategies for implementation

CETIM would like to start a long-term training process aimed at peasants as well as other rural organisations as priority groups. In the long run, these courses will be broadened to include academics, elected officials, government officials and other interested organisations.

The sheets can be downloaded free of charge on the CETIM website at the following address:
www.cetim.ch/factsheets-on-peasants-rights





A UN SUMMIT WELL COMPROMISED

In Autumn 2021, the Secretary General of the UN will convene a Food Systems Summit.

During this Summit, the UN aims to develop: “Principles to guide governments and other stakeholders looking to leverage their food systems to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”¹ A virtual pre-summit meeting has already been organised to take place in Rome between the 19th and 21st of July 2021.²

CETIM is deeply concerned with the preparation process for this summit, which has been characterised by a lack of transparency and the stronghold of transnational agri-food companies, while rural movements and organisations are often side-lined to the role of mere onlookers. In an analysis entitled “A Summit under Siege. Position Paper on UN Food Systems Summit 2021”, the international peasants’ movement, La Vía Campesina (LVC) criticises these moves.

CETIM has brought the issues related to this summit before various UN bodies. In fact, our organisation gave the floor to one leader of LVC, who presented our shared concerns on this summit

at the 46th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council.

In a written declaration to be presented at the High-level Political Forum of the Economic and Social Council which will be held in mid-July 2021, CETIM analyses these issues in more detail. Of these issues, the most worrying is that “the Summit seems to focus solely

Agroecology is an approach based on striving to achieve ecological balance of agricultural habitats, but it is also a driver of social justice and empowerment of local rural communities.”

The Special Rapporteur of the UN on the Right to Food, Mr. Michael Fakhri, is also concerned about the preparations for the Summit. According to him, these are currently focusing on “a single type of policy, sustainable intensive agriculture, also known as the new green revolution.” According to the UN expert, “just like industrial intensive agriculture, sustainable intensive agriculture is based on capital-intensive processes and technologies, which comes back to maintaining the status quo in terms of the current political economy of the food system.”³

The UN Summit must address these concerns as a priority. It must also ensure that rural organisations participate in a transparent manner if it wants to gain democratic legitimacy.



on an approach to food systems based on market-based solutions, which have proven to be incapable of solving the problems of hunger, inequality and the climate crisis, while ignoring the sustainable solutions of small-farming food systems, such as agroecology, which is now enshrined in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas*.

¹ Visit www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit

² Visit www.fao.org/news/story/fr/item/1381854/icode/

³ Read the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food presented at the 46th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, A/HRC/46/33, dated the 24th of December 2020, §§ 55 and 56.

HUMAN RIGHTS

POPULAR UPRISINGS IN COLOMBIA

For more than a month, massive demonstrations have set Colombian streets ablaze in an unprecedented popular uprising against the neoliberal policies and corruption of the government of Ivan Duque.

The demonstrations, rapidly transformed into a national general strike, have been organized by the National Strike Committee, which brings together various social movements of the country, the major trade unions, peasant organisations, organisation of indigenous peoples, students, feminist organizations, precarious youth and large sections of the middle class. A great social movement with diverse characteristics and demands, of course, but united in opposition to the government.

The spark that set off the protests is the tax reform proposed by the Duque government. Its objective was to reduce the tax deficit, sparing big companies and the country's elites by making the working classes – already marginalized by years of neoliberalism – pay, through cuts in public services, increases in VAT on essential products (from 5% to

19%) and the introduction of new taxes on income hitherto exempt because considered too low.

The government's response to the social mobilization has been military and extremely repressive. Since the beginning of the uprising, official figures report more than fifty dead, thousands of wounded, more than 130 missing, thousands of arbitrary detentions and dozens of cases of rape by the police/army.

Several United Nations Special Rapporteurs and independent experts, as well as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, have condemned the repression of demonstrations. Dismayed by the excessive and illegal use of force, they are calling for investigations into the deaths and other human rights violations.

Popular pressure exerted by street demonstrations forced the government to withdraw the pro-

posed reform and the Minister of Finance tendered his resignation. But that was not enough to calm popular anger which runs deep. The protests against tax reform were an expression of widespread discontent.

HOW DID THIS SITUATION ARISE?

Over the past 70 years, the country has been shaken by murderous civil war and by the determination of successive governments to eradicate any element that might threaten the interests of the economic and political elites of the country.

Today Colombia is the most inequalitarian country in Latin America and among the five most inequalitarian countries in the world. According to the Office of National Statistics, the poverty rate in the country rose from 35.7% in 2019 to 46.1% in 2020.



Corruption is also endemic. According to the Attorney General's Office, since the start of the global pandemic in March 2020, 837 cases have been the subject of disciplinary proceedings, including 417 mayors, 26 governors and 32 city councillors and let us not forget former President Alvaro Uribe.

The country's economic and industrial fabric is monopolised by a handful of large transnational corporations, which are active in Colombia's most strategic sectors and control the country's resources. In 2016, the Peace Agreement between the FARC guerrillas and the government raised a lot of hope. However, the

agreement was not implemented and therefore did not solve the structural problems of the country; i.e., the question of land distribution, inequalities, social security, the marginalization of peasants, indigenous peoples and afro-descendants. Since 2016, 1000 leaders of social movements have been assassinated.

Finally, the Colombian government has distinguished itself with its catastrophic management of the Covid 19 pandemic, which has resulted in nearly 100,000 deaths. According to John Freddy Gomez, political scientist at the National University of Colombia, the health crisis has been used as a pretext

to accelerate the transfer of wealth from the rural to the urban areas and the dispossession of the working classes in favour of the well-to do.

On 15 June 2021, the Strike Committee announced the temporary suspension of demonstrations after almost 50 days, which does not imply the end of social mobilization. "We have decided to temporarily stop the mobilization" declared Francisco Maltès, President of the Central Labour Union. The union leader stated that "social mobilization will continue because the causes which generated it are still not resolved".

ASSASSINATION OF THE LEADERS OF COLOMBIAN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

In February 2021, CETIM and its partners denounced the generalized repression of peasant organisations in Colombia at the Human Rights Council in Geneva.



During the 46th session of the Human Rights Council, the President of the Colombian Federación Nacional Sindical Unitaria Agropecuaria (FENSUAGRO) – member of La Vía Campesina (LVC) – denounced the systematic repression of peasant organizations in Colombia, as well as the non-respect of peace agreements and the continuing state and paramilitary violence against leaders of social movements. "In Colombia, a leader of a social movement is assassinated every 41 hours" reported Nury Martinez.

With CETIM as intermediary and with the support of Friends of the Earth International and FIAN International (organizations allied with LVC), Nury Martinez, leader of the peasant organization, participated in the session held on the occasion of the presentation of the annual report of the Office of the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights in Colombia.

The report in question shares the concerns of organizations and social movements in the country

about the "absence of progress in the adoption of public and penal policies relating to dismantling criminal organizations, including those designated to succeed paramilitarism and their support networks (as stipulated in the peace agreements)". Given this situation, the Office of the UN High Commissioner on human rights in Colombia reiterates the urgent need to proceed with dismantling paramilitarism.

In her intervention, Nury Martinez also drew attention to the particularly violent repression of Colombian farmers and of her organization. "More than 700 of our affiliates have been assassinated or have disappeared, many of whom were farmers trying to return to their land. However, we don't know the exact number because the families and entourage of the victims are frightened of reprisals and do not report all cases".

The state of Colombia is responsible for these violations and must respect its national and international obligations in relation to human rights. These are the basic conditions for the establishment of an effective and sustainable peace for the Colombian people. In her conclusion, Nury Martinez, urged the Human Rights Council to insist that the government institute policies of "structural change to address the historic causes of the armed conflict, that is, the problem of land, poverty, and social exclusion in rural areas" but also that the government "abolish paramilitarism" and "commit to respecting the *UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas*".

RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

UN LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY

The North-South divide is once again evident in the debates on the draft Convention on the Right to Development. Despite opposition from the West, Southern countries are committed to an instrument that could orient the international order towards greater equity.

Following several delays induced by the pandemic, the 21st session of the UN Human Rights Council's Intergovernmental Working Group finally took place, albeit in a virtual format, on the 17-21 May, with the goal of examining the first draft Convention on the Right to Development.¹ Having already examined the challenges and debates at play within the said Working Group regarding the adoption of a legally binding instrument on the Right to Development in an earlier bulletin², in this edition we will focus on the reception of the proposed agreement.

Developed by a drafting group³ formed by the chair of the Working Group⁴, the legally binding instrument contains important elements and reaffirms multiple principles that should lead to an effective implementation of the Right to Development. It dedicates a chapter to the responsibility of States and International Organisations in addition to international coope-

ration within this field, the latter of which is of the utmost importance, given that without a serious and effective commitment to international cooperation, any effort exerted in this area on a national level may prove meaningless on an international level. That said, there are relatively few ways of

have frequently made constructive propositions to improve the contents of the agreement.

Although the United-States, under the governance of President Biden, has taken the decision to re-join the Human Rights Council by submitting their candidature for next year, it has not been a part of the debates on the proposed agreement. Neither has Switzerland, whose absence has also been notable.

As for the European Union, it has established its opposition to the development of an agreement on the Right to Development since the beginning of the session and has not participated in the debates.

In other parts of the world, Mexico is the only country to paradoxically announce its opposition to the adoption of an agreement on the Right to Development, even

though such a mechanism would benefit the Mexican People. In addition, both Mexico and Brazil have attempted to weaken the contents of the agreement with their proposals.

The 22nd session of the UN Human Rights Council's Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development will take place next November. We hope that the revised version of the proposed agreement will remedy its aforementioned deficiencies.



bringing the legally binding instrument to fruition. For example, the expected implementation mechanism creates shortcomings that must be addressed. CETIM has participated in the debates and has offered several propositions in regards to improving the contents of the aforementioned project.

The Non-Aligned Movement, which features more than 120 states, and China have actively participated in the negotiations on the legally binding instrument. They

1 See A/HRC/WG.2/21/2 and its commentaries A/HRC/WG.2/21/2/Add.1 (17 January 2020).

2 See No. 59 of the CETIM bulletin, June 2019, pp. 4-5.

3 Composed of Dr. Mihir Kanade (India), Prof. Diane Desierto (Philippines), Prof. Koen de Feyter (Belgium), Commissioner Margarette May Macaulay (Jamaica), and Prof. Makane Moïse Mbengue (Senegal).

4 Since 2015, the Working Group has been presided over by Ambassador Zamir Akram (Pakistan).

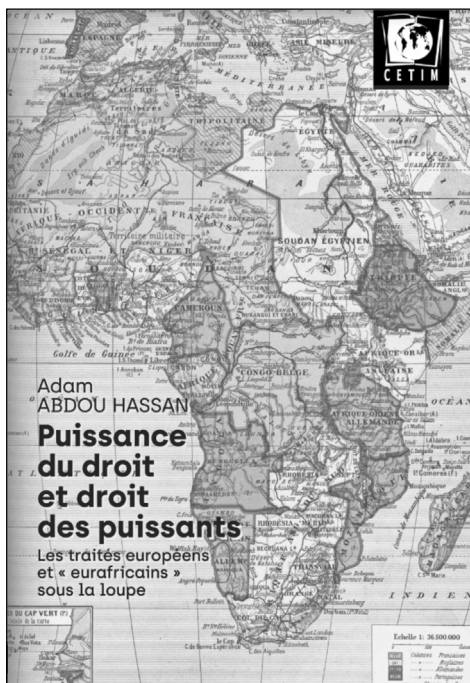
PUBLICATIONS

PUISSANCE DU DROIT ET DROIT DES PUISSANTS. LES TRAITÉS EUROPÉENS ET « EURAFRICAINS » SOUS LA LOUPE

By Adam Abdou Hassan

Adam Abdou Hassan's book tackles the relationship between Europe and Africa by providing a legal analysis on the multiple treaties signed. First, between the colonialist European states; and, second, between the European Community/Union and the group of countries known as the ACP countries (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific states).

The twenty-first century was characterised by the rise in inter-colonial competition between the great European powers over the control of African territories. The European colonial empires finally agreed on the freedom of trade and commercial enterprise in Africa by signing the General Act of the Conference of Berlin on 26 February 1885.

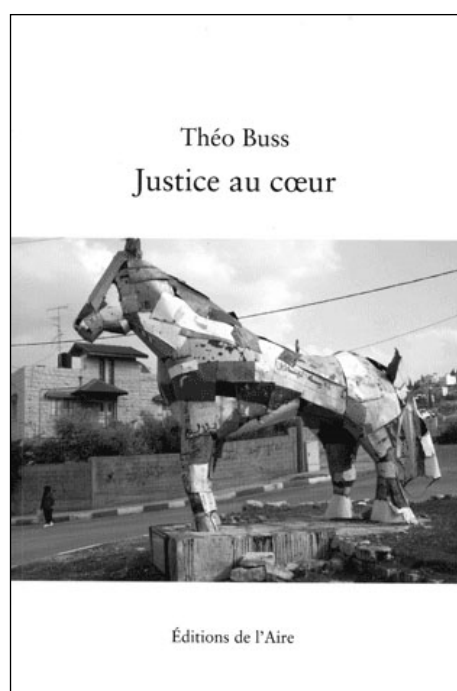


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With this agreement, the colonial powers divided Africa between them as if it was a cake, creating a large competition arena of trade and economics, fulling industrial momentum in several cities.

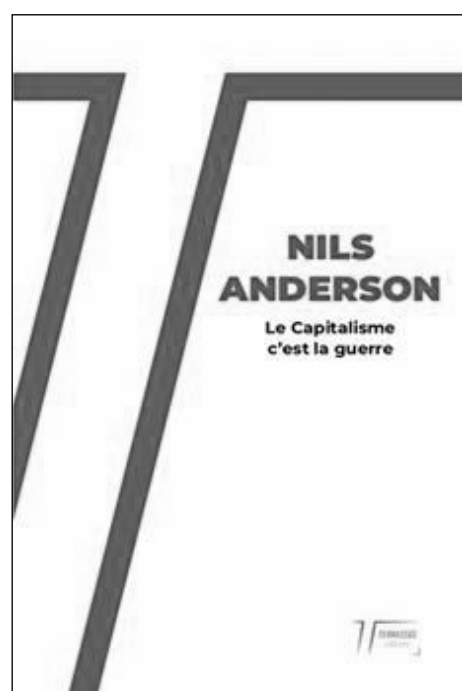
From the Treaty of Berlin to the Treaty of Rome, the Lomé convention and Cotonou Agreement, the ideal foundation of these agreements is the doctrine of unity between Europe and Africa, known as "Eurafrica". In actual fact, the spirit and raison d'être of colonialism (which is based on the disregard and domination of another) rendered the application of the "grand philosophical design" null and void for the African people.

WE ALSO RECOMMEND READING TWO BOOKS WRITTEN BY ASSOCIATES OF CETIM



Justice au cœur
By Théo Buss
Editions de l'Aire, august 2020
372 pages
EAN13: 9782889561384

Le capitalisme c'est la guerre
By Nils Andersson
Editions Terrasses, 2021
148 pages
EAN13: 9782490887033



PUBLICATIONS

AN INCISIVE AND PLURAL DIGITAL MAGAZINE TO DEBATE

Since its creation, CETIM has adopted the concept of “maldevelopment” as a defining factor in its view of the world. The association’s new electronic magazine seeks to be a publication of reflection and review for development on a global scale.

The current crisis has fuelled discussions on the future of human society, particularly in countries where there is room for debate on development. These discussions are at times unbridled and radical and go hand in hand with a more general discourse, anti-consumerist and egalitarian in nature, and thinly veiled racist diatribes with neo-colonial and Malthusian overtones. In addition, an increase in the search for utopia has demonstrated little concern for reality and the practical transformation required.

For CETIM, this situation has led to the acceleration of a project that has long been discussed within its own committee:

creating a digital magazine to encourage reflection to rethink development. At a time where neoliberal expansion is being called into question by some of its own proponents, the debate surrounding “post-crisis” perspectives in order to achieve a “re-building” of the economic and social system for a supposed fairer, more sustainable, and more resilient future has been unilaterally initiated by the elites who defend global capital. The people must question these maneuvers and take ownership of these crucial debates for the future of our societies and planet.

CETIM has always been bold, which allows it to shrug off certain clichés and meaningless

conceptions. Our digital magazine will be incisive and recurrent. It will address a wide audience and will give a voice to social movements, activists, young people, independent scientists, women, and academics.

The first issue, available in digital format before the end of 2021, will consist of articles highlighting the contradiction between protecting peasant farming worldwide – hence the requirement for food sovereignty in every country – and the neoliberal drive to boost the global trade of food and agricultural produce ahead of the United Nations Food Systems Summit that will take place in September 2021.

CALL FOR SUBSCRIBERS!

**The first edition of the digital CETIM magazine
will be available before the end of 2021.**

Therefore, we are publishing a call for subscribers!

You will receive three magazine editions for CHF/EUR 20.00 a year. In addition, you will be supporting our magazine, which aims to rethink development. Each edition will cover a different topic and will include original articles conveying varying points of view from different continents, each presented in an appealing and easy-to-use digital format.

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