



Concept Note

Virtual Meeting on the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Peasants and other people living in rural areas: what is next?

4th of June 2021, 13h00 – 15h00 CEST

1. Background

The UN General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Peasants and other people living in rural areas (UNDROP) in December 2018. Its adoption was not a simple process, as it took many years and resources from Member States, peasant organizations and other entities of people working in rural areas. An analysis about the UNDROP and such process is available in the South Centre Research Paper 123, The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working In Rural Areas: One Step Forward in the Promotion of Human Rights for the most Vulnerable, by Natalia Pacheco and Fernando Rosales November 2020, available at: <https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-123-november-2020/>.

The UNDROP represented an important step forward to promote the rights of peasants at a global level. It recognizes peasants as a specific group subject to rights, reaffirms existing standards and tailor them to the reality of people living in rural areas, and addresses existing gaps in the protection of peasants' rights including on key subject matters such as the right to land, the right to seeds, the right to means of production and the rights to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation and water-related livelihoods. However, despite its importance, so far, not many countries have implemented the Declaration to date.

Peasants are among the most vulnerable social groups in the world. According to FAO, before the pandemic the number of undernourished people around the world was estimated to have increased to 821 million in 2017 and about more than three quarters of the world's poor population live in rural areas.¹ The COVID-19 pandemic has also hit harder the more vulnerable populations around the world² and peasants and rural workers of developing countries are among them.³

In this context, despite the difficulties caused by the health crisis, since the last two years some organizations from civil society and peasant organizations, notably La Via Campesina

¹ Extending social protection for rural populations. Perspectives for a common FAO – ILO approach. 2021. page 1. Available: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb2332en/CB2332EN.pdf>

² Impact of COVID 19 on trade and development, transition to a new normal. UNCTAD, 2021. Page 26. Available at https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/osg2020d1_en.pdf.

³ <https://viacampesina.org/en/negligence-injustice-and-insensitivity-peasant-situation-under-coronavirus-crisis/>



(LVC), and some countries have started discussions about the status of the implementation of the Declaration and the next steps. In line with these activities, the South Centre is organizing a virtual meeting to analyze the state of play about the implementation of the Declaration and what is next.

2. Objectives of the Virtual meeting

The virtual meeting aims to promote a debate about what kind of actions could be taken to move forward with the implementation of UNDROP. The guiding questions are: where are we now? What other actions are necessary to promote its implementation? What steps could Governments, Civil Society Organizations and the Human Rights Council take towards the implementation of the Declaration? Should it be a priority to take actions internationally or domestically?

3. Agenda

13h00-13h10	Welcoming remarks Prof. Carlos Correa, Executive Director, South Centre
Moderator: Fernando Rosales, Coordinator, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Programme, South Centre	
13h10-13h45	1st Panel: How has the current health and social crisis impacted the situation of Peasants? What Could be the role of UNDROP for promoting and protecting peasants' rights?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rafaella Morgantini, Centre Europe – Tiers Monde (CETIM) • Henry Thomas Simarmata, Associated program for international law (APINTLAW), Former advisor to La Via Campesina general coordinator for UNDROP negotiation. • Ramona Dominicioiu, La Via Campesina - Europe • Zainal Fuad, ICC La Via Campesina / Henry Saragih, UNDROP Committee La Via Campesina (TBC)
13h45-14h20	2nd Panel: What are the latest developments in the realization of the rights of peasants under UNDROP? What steps are needed to promote its implementation?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christophe Golay, Geneva Academy • Jasmine Moussa, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Egypt • Benjamin Mueller, Former Swiss Negotiator • Ana M Suarez, FIAN - International
14h20-14h40	Questions and Answers
14h40-15h55	Concluding remarks H.E. Amb. Maira Macdonal Álvarez, Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva.



4. Format

The meeting will be open to representatives of the member countries of the Group of 77 and China, as well as civil society organizations and academia.

5. Contact Information and Registration.

For further details and registration, please contact: Solankii@southcentre.int or avasanthan@southcentre.int.

Please note that registration is necessary. For registration, please click [HERE](#)