



## RESOLUTION

### FIMARC WORLD ASSEMBLY – VOLKERSBERG - GERMANY MAY 2014

We, the member movements of FIMARC coming from 33 countries and representing rural communities, gathered on 15<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in Volkersberg, Germany, at a moment of global crisis which is turning nowadays into a general crisis of food, finance and the climate, pushing more and more people into poverty and sufferings, leading to a moral crisis. We strongly denounce the multinational companies who are invading and controlling our lives, our food baskets and even our ways of thinking. We are also denouncing them as the main actors responsible for this crisis while they are favoring the development of the agro-business with the complicity of the world financial system.

And when people denounce violations of their rights, they run a risk of being criminalized....This so-called “development” promoted by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund creates an atmosphere of terror and social injustice that in many countries is leading to war, forced migrations and suicides.

The main topic of the World Assembly was “**At this time of global crisis, opening the paths of an alternative development; democracy, autonomy, and dignity for all**”. With these objectives we reaffirm our will to build a society living in peace, in a fair redistribution of the richness, in the respect of the creation and for the food sovereignty. This is the base of our faith, the hope that we want to share with all - Christian and other - religions, and to all people of good will.

During the three days of exposure visits in Belgium, France and Germany, the delegates had the chance to experience different situations related to sustainable family farming and the development of rural areas. They saw how the life of the farmers can be also difficult for the farmers in those developed countries, in spite of the high mechanization, and the support of the EU through the Common Agricultural Policy. The right to food is a fundamental human right. But nowadays in many places, even in developed countries, it is more and more violated due to the intervention of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank though their neo-liberal policies.

For us being the movement of rural people and farmers, it is not at all acceptable that the food products are used for fuel instead of human nutrition. The multinational companies are grabbing more and more land all over the world for their profit. All such grabbing is an organized act but done in silence or even with the complicity of the governments. This land grabbing is a scandal for rural people and farmers and we strongly denouncing those practices.

The movements of FIMARC want to advocate for a life in dignity, in autonomy, peace and democracy. When we speak of dignity, it means that we claim to have a fair income from our work, good living conditions allowing our families to stand on their feet, our children to study, our mothers to benefit from social services. When we speak of autonomy, we refuse to remain under the control of the multinational corporations who are controlling our seeds, grabbing our land water, minerals and all other natural resources, and even dictating what we have to consume. When we speak about democracy, this means that we want to be the protagonists of the decision-making process, especially when it is related our lives, our farms and our communities.



During the last four years, our movements in FIMARC have worked a lot on the concept of DECREASE, declaring that LESS IS MORE. We have to go further with this concept and seriously reflect on alternative projects that will develop into alternative models for a better life for all. For viable alternatives we need to develop our own creativity, to invent new paths and models. The current model of development is coming to an end. It has nearly consumed all natural resources, water and biodiversity. We want to get out of the consumerist culture and invent new ways of consuming, and marketing. We call for simplicity – with respect for nature and of the environment.

A lot of projects already exist, for example, family farming, direct marketing, agro-ecology, local money, alternative health practices, Promotion of traditional knowledge and education through People Led Approaches(PLA) , seed banks... We are really supporting these kind of alternatives, which provides jobs to a good number of people in the sector of the solidarity economy. It is fair enough to think of sharing the resources in a just way. Big majority of people are suffering every day when a small number of persons are benefiting from huge money. We movements gathered in FIMARC want to redefine the term of brother- and sisterhood for a dignified life for all. This is simply a question of justice.

Solidarity is the opposite of competition. We want our people, our communities, and our movements to strengthen their links, to build a new mutual confidence, to build fair relationship also with our representatives, in the church and at the political levels. Concretely we have to reinforce our solidarity, not only between farmers, but also between farmers and consumers, between rural and urban areas. We have to strengthen our efforts to maintain our villages alive, providing our inhabitants and children with the same services as in the cities.

This is why we call for

- A genuine agrarian reform
- The establishment of clear rules for the decision-making processes
- The participation of all stakeholders when it comes to new projects
- The support of the governments as far as Farmers' Rights are concerned

At the end of this 14<sup>th</sup> FIMARC Assembly, at the moment we are celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we reaffirm our commitment as a lay Catholic movement for the development in solidarity for the rural world and its inhabitants, farmers, fisherfolk, indigenous people and all marginalized sectors of the society . We commit ourselves to work on the UN draft declaration on Farmers Rights. We commit ourselves to work in our respective countries for autonomy, dignity and democracy.

In this year of our Golden Jubilee, the UN has taken the decision to declare the year 2014 as year of Family Farming. FIMARC is happy with this decision but we want to define family farming from our experiences, our needs and our will for justice and fair redistribution. We call on our partners, our political representatives, our church and other religious leaders to appeal to the international authorities to make family farming as one of the millennium goals for development 2015. Furthermore we strongly appeal to our governments and church authorities to support this statement and we commit ourselves to build a new society allowing all people to live in dignity, in autonomy, in peace and love.

Volkersberg  
27/05/2014