

**FIMARC CALL FOR THE IMMEDIATE ADOPTION OF THE UN DECLARATION ON RIGHTS OF PEASANTS AND OTHER PEOPLE WORKING IN RURAL AREAS BY THE NEXT PLEANRY SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Thies, Senegal : The Peasant and rural leaders Asia ,Africa ,Latin America ,North America and Europe who participated in the FIMARC World Assembly and Conference of Peasants and Rural people in Thies ,Senegal from 02-16 November ,2018 called upon the respective national governments to vote in favor to adopt the UN declaration of the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas in the upcoming UN General Assembly which will be held in December this year.

The UN Human Rights Council resolution 26/26 in 2014 gave the mandate to an intergovernmental working group to negotiate, finalize, and submit to the Council a draft UN declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

FIMARC is involved in the working group of the UN Human Right Council in preparing and finalizing the declaration of the Rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas together with other global peasant movements and NGO's such as Via Campesina ,CETIM ,FIAN etc and FIMARC delegation participated in all the five Inter Governmental Working group Sessions of the Human Rights Council of the UN HRC in Geneva which elaborated and finalized the text of this declaration which is approved by the council and will be presented in the upcoming UN General Assembly .

The leaders of the world congress reiterated the fact that Peasants are victims of multiple forms of discrimination and human rights violations. 80% of the world's people who suffer from hunger and poverty in the world live and work in rural areas, 50% are small-scale and traditional farm holders, 20% are landless and 10% subsist through fishing, hunting and herding activities.

As it stands, peasants suffer from hunger and poverty at a disproportionate level and It is estimated that out of 821 million people suffering hunger in the world (2018 UN figure), 80% live in rural areas. The peasants and rural people are vulnerable and discriminated and they suffer forced expulsions and lack of access to essential resources: land, seeds, loans, education, justice and basic services. They have unequal access and control over land, genetic resources and other natural resources; suffer from restricted access to markets and means of production to ensure a decent livelihood and are constantly imposed agricultural policies skewed in favor of big farmers ,land lords and of industrial agriculture. Peasants are the primary victims of violations of the rights to food, water and sanitation or adequate housing as well as civil and political rights violations. But we the peasants are key to food sovereignty and the realization of the right to food, in particular in developing countries where they provide up to 80% of the food consumed at the local level. Peasants offer a sustainable alternative to the dominant agro-industrial model and they play a crucial role in the fight against climate change and the conservation of biodiversity. Humanity as a whole would thus only benefit from a better protection of the rights of peasants.

The need to better support peasants and protect their rights is more and more recognized at the international level. Thus with great political will and solidarity of the member nations, United Nations Human Rights Council passed a resolution concluding the UN Declaration for the Rights

of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas with 33 votes in favour, 11 abstentions and 3 against.

The declaration already submitted before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee session at UN General Assembly in New York in October for the follow up. This Committee has the mission to evaluate, debate, negotiate and decide through vote or consensus - the adoption of the declaration, and send it for its formal and final vote at the UN General Assembly. The Plenary of the UN General Assembly will formally adopt what has been negotiated and decided in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee and the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants was voted in the Third Committee of the General Assembly by a large majority on 19 November 2018. The final plenary vote of the General Assembly will take place in December 2018

Once adopted, the UN Declaration will become a powerful tool for peasants and other people working in rural areas to seek justice and favorable national policies around food, agriculture, seeds and land keeping in mind the interests of millions of rural food producers comprising women and youth.

We believe that the declaration seeks to protect peasants who work the land themselves and rely above all on family labor in agriculture, cattle-raising, pastoralism, and handicrafts-related to agriculture. This declaration and what it contains in terms of rights, is a major step forward for the rights of farmers and other persons living in rural areas because it intends to set up a series of mechanisms that are conditions to the realization of the right to food of the populations. The most important include the right to land, the right to seeds, the right to the means of production such as water, tools, credits etc

Besides the human rights and fundamental freedoms of peasants, the declaration would recognize their right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, as well as their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. The declaration also upholds their right to land and territory and to benefit from land reform, as well as their right to determine the varieties of seeds they want to plant and to reject varieties of plants which they consider to be dangerous economically, ecologically and culturally

1. We are convinced with the purpose of the declaration and we are committed to move together with farmers around the world for the adoption of the declaration

2. Without considering farmers & agricultural issues, we can't solve food, climate change and eco system issues.

3. As peasant leaders and member movements of FIMARC, we will continue to work with others to realize the rights of farmers and other people working in rural areas

4. We call for our government to take the position in the UN General Assembly to vote in favor to adopt the UN declaration of the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

14/11/2018-THIES,SENEGAL

