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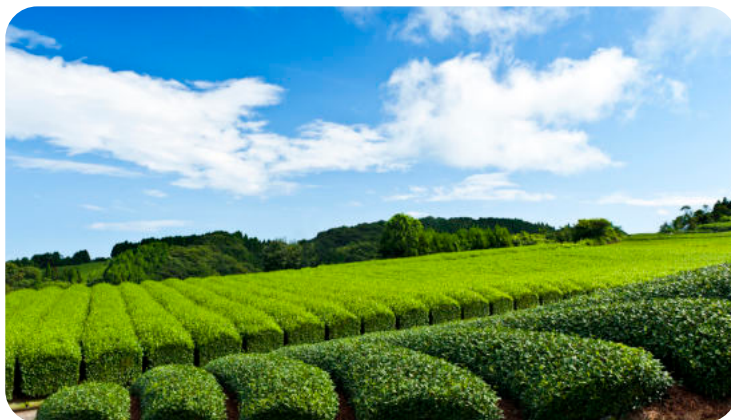
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Periodical published by FIMARC in four languages.
It highlights the rural world's life and activities of
the member movements belonging or not to the Federation

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Dear Readers,

Greetings from International Secretariat!

FIMARC World Assembly took place from 1-15 November 2018, in Thies, Senegal. The global conference, Field Visits, Dialogue forums, panel debates etc deeply reflected on Investing in rural development and sustainable agriculture.. The main article will give you more details about the major priority topics that was discussed during our meeting in Germany.

Foundation of FIMARC 55 years ago was a response to the aspirations of the rural and farmers movements in different countries to come together as people of similar interests, to exchange their reflections and actions. In a sense, the past 55 years was also about building rural capacities on the most fundamental challenge of our time — sustainability of development and life itself. FIMARC has been struggling against hunger and for the eradication of poverty ever since it was founded .Today FIMARC fellowship has spread over 60 countries in five Continents and has brought together the respective rural and farmer's movements at National - Regional - Continental - Global levels..FIMARC will continue to be remembered for its rootedness in the community, in the rural villages, and local environments. We will strive to maintain such rootedness while aiming to make a difference on the big picture

The World Assembly gathers every 4 years in order to establish the working lines and to elect the responsible people



The World conference also debated the topics on What kind of agricultural and rural development do we want to promote for a better world? ,Peasant rights : rights to land and seeds ,Sustainable production and consumption patterns,Intergenerational relationships and knowledge transfer and adapted a strategic planning in this regard. The final resolution of the World Assembly which you can find in this edition ,call for an alternative development which includes our cultures, values and spiritual being, and is based on solidarity. Our vision, based on human dignity, equality of opportunity, and the realization of human rights . FIMARC believe in lifestyles of living simply, in community, and aspects of well-being. As usual, We want to promote Alternative models include degrowth, buen vivir, transition economy, agro ecology, sustainable family farming etc and to give priority to local, socially-oriented, small-scale models and actors. We look forward for more articulation between cities and countryside. We want to promote the rights of peasants, Transfer of knowledge between generations and Sustainable models of production and consumption

In the upcoming editions of VMR you will receive more details about the action plan of FIMARC in various levels .I take this opportunity to thank all those who helped me to carry out my mission as the Secretary General of FIMARC for the last 8 years, most especially the Bureau members Wolfgang Scharl (President), Jean Claude Germon(Treasurer), Fr. Tomas Jose Spanghero (Chaplain) and all other Exco members .I also would like to congratulate the newly elected Bureau and Exco members of FIMARC .

We need to draw inspiration from each other's ideas and energies as we strive to make a difference. It is still along way to go from here. A world that's free of poverty and exclusion, a world that's more safe, more fair, more caring, more peaceful is still far out in the horizon. But it will come one day if people work together and try hard enough to build it. This was indeed the feeling and aspiration that was raised during the World meeting in Senegal.

We have celebrated 55 years and now it is time to move ahead with more courage ,strength and energy .Let us proclaim the slogan of our World Assembly in all our actions in the filed "Let's move together".

Enjoy your reading

George Dixon Fernandez
Secretary General



THE 15TH FIMARC WORLD ASSEMBLY

THIÈS, SÉNÉGAL



The 15th FIMARC World Assembly was held in Thiès, Senegal from 2 to 16 November 2018. It was hosted by the Catholic Rural Adult Movements of Senegal (MARCS). The gathering took place in several instances: a welcome ceremony, an opening session with the civil and religious authorities of Senegal, a field visit and meeting with local population and the teams of 6 dioceses of the Senegalese movement to perceive the realities of rural life and local agriculture, a seminar on the modes and issues of rural development, the session of statutory General Assembly, a closing mass and sending delegates, and FIMARC business sessions : bureau, Executive Committee, meetings of delegates by continent.

The Participants:

The Assembly brought together 47 national delegates, an additional delegation of 11 Koreans and some 20 Senegalese representatives. These delegations represented 32 national movements and organizations from 5 continents (Appendix Table): 12 African delegates from 9 movements, 11 Latin American delegates from 9 movements including Mexico, 10 Asian delegates from 7 movements and 14 European delegates representing 7 movements. Six Asian delegates were prevented from traveling by the emmigration authorities of their respective countries but had participated in preparatory works.

Functionally about twenty MARCS participants mobilized to support this gathering, to welcome delegates upon their arrival, and support during the immersion (field visit), participating in exchanges during the seminar and in the opening and closing



celebrations at cathedral in Thiès

The Opening Ceremonies:

The opening Mass. After the welcome session and first exchanges at the Tostan Training Center in Thiès, we gathered on Monday, November 5th, for the opening Mass in the cathedral of Thiès. It was concelebrated by Monsignor André Gueye, Bishop of Thiès, assisted by our chaplain Fr .Tomas Spanghero and the diocesan chaplain of KLB Bamberg (In the framework of Collaboration with German bishop's conference and the diocese of Thiès), Father Epiphane Mbengue, chaplain of MARC Senegal, with a large delegation of Senegalese clergy and in the presence of a large and prayerful assembly. A vigorous preaching by Mgr André Gueye, in charge of the apostolate of the laity of Senegal, invited our movements to mobilize for the service of our brothers and sisters of rural areas in favor of a fair and sustainable development.



Monsignor André GUEYE, Bishop of Thiès

The official opening of our meeting was held on Tuesday 6 in the main conference room of the Tostan Center, in the presence of Monseignor Michael Wallace Banach, Apostolic Nuncio to Senegal, and Monseignor André Gueye, Bishop of Thiès, Mrs Gueye representative of the Mayor of Thiès, Mr Cheik Omar Faye representative of the Muslim community, Jacques Badji, President of MARCS and Wolfgang Scharl President of FIMARC etc. Beyond the words of



Opening of The World Assembly : the official tribune

welcome, the speakers agreed on the relevance of the themes proposed by our assembly. The mobilization of the inhabitants of the rural territories for a solidary development offers perspectives to take into consideration in order to face

the challenges of the climatic change, the increase of the world demography and the migrations of populations around the urban mega-cities.

Immersion in the Senegalese Rural Communities (6-9 November)



A 3-day immersion period was scheduled at the beginning of the stay of the delegates. This time it was an usual practice of FIMARC assembly in order to allow delegates to perceive the diversity and realities of Senegalese situations. In response to the wishes of MARCS to manifest the FIMARC presence to the whole of the Senegalese Church. This immersion took place in 6 of the 7 dioceses of Senegal. Ten groups of 4 or 5 delegates were welcomed by local MARCS officials in the dioceses of Thiès, Dakar, Kaolack, Ziguinchor, Kolda and Tambacounda. For a linguistic question, the 14 Korean delegates remained grouped in the region of Thiès. This immersion time has highlighted several aspects of MARCS members' engagement in Senegalese rural society :



FIMARC delegates welcomed in Casamance

Concerns related to agriculture and rural development, through some examples:

- Investment in promising agricultural projects, involving local farmers: development of a banana production cooperative and agricultural production and marketing GIE (Nguène, Tambacounda region).
- Access to land by Senegalese farmers: the establishment of the banana plantation was made possible by local soil control and the political will to promote the installation of farmers on plots of a size compatible with the capacity to work by the farmers.
- The respective challenges of rice and millet production in the different regions of Senegal: management of the crop association and their diversification : millet, rice, groundnuts, vegetable crops, arboriculture; agriculture and breeding, ...
- Agricultural production methods that respect the preservation of soil quality:



*Banana harvest in
Nguène*



*Vegetable cropping in
Casamance*



*The Catholic teaching in
Senegal*



management of organic wastes ; research on production modes to cope with soil salinization (Kaolack Group)

- Seed management and seed storage, organization of traditional varieties during interculture.

Concerns related to school and training:

- The development of general education in Senegal and the driving role of Catholic education: almost 40% of education is provided by Catholic schools in the south of the country, with a student population of more than 90 % of Muslim culture.
- The shortcomings of technical and vocational education, considered as a teaching for children in situations of failure in general education ; projects in Catholic education are emerging in this area.
- The importance of work-linked training by the «maisons familiales rurales» («The house of rural families»): the role and place of women in these formations.

Concerns related to the life of the Church

- The feeling of being a minority within a population that is overwhelmingly Muslim and globally very sensitive to the religious dimension. Relations that want to be peaceful.
- A church open to partnership: Senegalese dioceses have developed bilateral relations with European dioceses, mainly with German and French dioceses, with a view to mutual support.
- Times of sharing with the nuns and priests encountered during the visits which allowed to visualize the anchoring of the Christians in the daily life and the expressed need of contacts and exchanges with communities, parishes and movements of other countries.

The Seminar “Investing in rural development and sustainable agriculture” (5-6 and 10-11 November)

At its last World Assembly in Germany in 2014, FIMARC set itself the goal of supporting peasant family farming through the activities of the movements it federates. Our exchanges show us that the forms of agriculture within our territories are diverse and seek to respond to specific issues according to regional conditions while facing common obligations and constraints: the search for food autonomy and sufficient agricultural production in a context of climate change, in the need to respect the available natural resources. The size and type of farms



may vary, but farmers face the same issues: access to land ; price volatility; selling price of products determined by external actors; the price of inputs; controlled marketing by external actors; access to credit and financing ; lack of succession for the resumption of farms ; loss of knowledge ... Five issues related to this family farming were presented and discussed during this seminar

What kind of rural development and agriculture do we want for a better world?

Ndiakaté FALL, a Senegalese farmer, member of the platform of the National Council for Concertation and Rural Cooperation (CNCR) and member of Via Campesina, recalled that 70% of the population of Senegal lives from an agriculture based on traditional and family foundations. This agriculture is changing in its production methods (choice of crops, management of crops and seeds, traction mode ...) and helping to cope with the very strong increase of the Senegalese population. At the same time, it is facing pressure from commercial networks and the development of forms of industrial agriculture that mobilize large agriculture areas. Ndiakaté FALL highlighted the crucial link between the agricultural production method, the forms of social life in rural areas and the preservation of natural resources to ensure the sustainability of this production. He recalled the attachment of Senegalese farmers to the land as common good of the village community and the role of rural populations in the stability of the social body.



*Ndiakaté FALL : 70 %
of senegalese population
has a life based on family
farming*

Father Epiphane MBENGUE, chaplain of MARCS, expressed the wish that the MARCS could work in association with CNCR.

Rural development: a farming to live or to make profit??

Father Joseph GUEYE, priest of the diocese of Thiès, recalled the content of Laudato Si, a true road map for Christians in agricultural development and management of our planet. With an interpellation. “Do we have a profit or service relationship with the land ?”.

Challenges remain: how to overcome hunger, the possibility for small farmers to be able to live off their incomes, the preservation of the state of natural resources, the awareness that the development of immoral technologies leads to death of living environment.



*Father Joseph GUEYE
recalled the strength of
Laudato Si's message*

Perspectives in accordance with the social doctrine of the Church. Land and water are common goods whose use must be equitably distributed. Legal structures are needed to ensure this equity. The definition of norms for the use of natural resources cannot be sufficient without an alert of consciences. A pressing invitation for a radical refocusing of economies in the service of social justice, based on sobriety in the global use of resources, and taking into account sufficiency rather than efficiency alone.

Peasant rights : rights to land and seeds

Mamadou GOÏTA, Executive Secretary of the Network of Peasant and Producer Organizations of West Africa (ROPPA), actively participated in the drafting of the draft declaration of peasants' rights adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council in September 2018 and approved by the UN General Assembly on 20 December 2018.

Mamadou GOÏTA recalled the history of the approach initiated by Via Campesina in the years 1996-2000 around the idea of food sovereignty, then the Nyéléni declaration (2007), the idea of a declaration of peasants' rights and the negotiations that led to the resolution of the United Nations Human Rights Council (2012) and the establishment of a working group to prepare a draft of United Nations declaration. FIMARC, a member of the Human Rights Working Group, actively participated in the drafting of this text. The Human Rights Council had highlighted five main causes of the difficulties faced by farmers in making a living from their production. In response to these evils, the text adopted aims to pass into national legislation several important rights, including :

- Recognition of the principle of food sovereignty
- The right of peasants of access to land, with individual and collective approaches (community rights)
- Seed production and marketing rights



*Mamadou GOÏTA
participated in the drafting
of the declaration of
peasant rights*



- Equal rights for men and women, especially for access to credit and in the transmissions of previous rights.

In view of the adoption of this declaration, Mamadou GOÏTA emphasized the important role of our movements in making its contents known to our governments and in defining appropriate strategies in our respective countries to advance its implementation

The development of sustainable production and consumption patterns

Mrs Vore Gona SECK is recognized in Senegal for her commitment to support agricultural production and environmental protection. She recalled some of the causes in which she has involved personally or through the NGO she leads. The fight against deforestation with the improvement of charcoal production methods and the development of improved ovens ; support to farmers and aid for financing to fight against land grabbing by transnational corporations in northern Senegal; support to farmers for the production and preservation of their seeds during the lean season; approaches to regulate the mesh size of sea fishing nets to avoid the collection of small fish and ensure the renewal of fish populations.



Mrs Voré SECK, an energetic woman for an agriculture and a safe environment at the service for all

It was indeed a testimony of an energetic and determined woman, at the service of the people of her country and an illustration of the diversity of actions in

which women are involved !

Intergenerational relationships and knowledge transfer

Thomas GARRICK (African Center for Human Rights Education) and George FERNANDEZ (Secretary General of FIMARC) addressed this issue, which was highlighted in rural communities facing the migration of young people to cities, the difficulties of young people in finding their place both in rural and urban areas, the feeling of abandonment perceived by the elders, and the intergenerational gap accentuated by the digital divide ...

Without directly addressing the issue of population migration, Thomas GARRICK emphasized the role of culture as a means of remedying intergenerational divide, stressing the importance of a dialogue to be built to move from a culture of competition to a culture exchange that seeks to propose rather than to impose.

George FERNANDEZ said that the question of the intergenerational transfer of



Knowledge has been addressed in the Asian movements who has become aware of the intergenerational divide and the resulting isolation. Perception of the need for a space for reflection and learning from a dialogue in which everyone really tries to be understood by the other. In a culture of exchange, young people have things to teach to elders, and elders can pass on their traditional knowledge to the younger people.

A first approach that has made it possible to emphasize that this question is a cross-cutting issue within our movements and needs to be further developed.

This seminar was also a time for sharing activities illustrating how the movements have taken up this issue of family farming:

- CMR (France): meetings between farmers and non-farmers around agricultural holdings on the possible changes in production methods.
- KIDEP (Kenya): women's mobilization around the issues of family farming and agroecology.
- FIMARC Salvador (Araba de Romero): the mobilization of farmers' associations on the rights of peasants.
- CCFM (Korea): Sustainable production and consumption initiatives in Korea: short producer-consumer circuits, solidarity, connection and cooperation mechanisms between rural and urban people.



The Market Place, an interactive exchange about the PDLP working method

Similarly, a “marketplace” type of exchange time has highlighted 3 promising



*Jacques Badji,
Président of MARC
Senegal*



*Father Epiphane Mbengue,
Chaplain of MARC
Senegal*



*Parity Men and Women:
a wealth to become in our
movements*



initiatives:

- The participatory development approach in Asia: the PDLP method led by the Asian movements (presentation by Rony JOSEPH from INAG, India)
- The development of microcredit in rural areas in Senegal (Caurie Micro-Finance)
- The role of “Maisons Familiales Rurales (MFR)” in rural training in Senegal (with Mr Pape SANE, President of the Federation of MFR and Mrs JULIETTE, Director of the MFR of Fandène).

This seminar time was completed in the evening by a presentation session on the intervention of the Senegalese state in rural development by the representative of DRDR of Thiès, and by the representative of regional Caritas of Thiès. The cultural evenings have also complimented the sharing sessions between delegates from different continents.

The Statutory Assembly (12-14 November)

The detailed activity report of the Secretary General. George Fernandez made it possible to recall the various operations in which FIMARC has been involved during the past 4 years through a power point presentation of Key initiatives.

Involvement in international bodies:

- Participation in the Human Rights Council and in the drafting of the Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and Rural People, within the Working Group of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.
- Participation in the work of the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and in the work of the CSM (Civil Society Mechanism) with the CFS
- Participation in COP 21 and 23 on climate change issues
- Participation in various international events in support of peasant agriculture



Modesta Arevalos & Manuel Moran, Latin America Coordination



George Fernandez, The General Secretary of FIMARC



President of KCFC, the very active movement in South Korea

(social forums, FAO regional forums on family farming, relations with Via Campesina ...)

- Regular meetings with the religious authorities of the Church (Vatican) and with the international federations of other Catholic action movements.

Support for national movements and continental actions of national movements:

- The follow-up of collaborative projects in Asia associating FIMARC movements around development methods determined by farmers' associations (PDLP method).
- Support for the organization of continental seminars between national movements in Latin America and Asia on family farming, in Europe with the ProRure project on the networking of Christian movements for the strengthening of citizenship in rural areas.
- Support for the sitting up of projects and funding application with the christian funding agencies (CCFD, Misereor, Entraide et fraternité, DKA, ...)

Maintaining our network and internal training :

- The annual meetings of the Executive Committee associated with a specific seminar: Peasant Family Farming (2015), Agroecology (2016), Seed Production and Management (2017), ...
- Maintaining a regular publication of « Voix du Monde Rural », ensuring a link between our movements; productiig educational documents on the topics addressed by the Exco: Family Farming, Agroecology, Seed Rights, as well as the annual mobilization documents for the World Food Day.

The activity report was unanimously approved.

The treasurer's financial report. Jean-Claude Germon, Treasurer, reported on the



*Jean Clement Sengue,
Julien Badji & Madame
Badji : the voluntary
advance by the african
movements*



*Continental meeting of the
Latin America
delegation and portage of
an intermovement projects*



*The international character
of our celebrations with the
chaplains from Korea, Burkina
Faso, Senegal, Argentina*

evolution of the budget over the last 4 years. The presentation showed a balanced budget over this period. However, the balance is fragile and very dependent on our ability to convince our donors by presenting our activities and the animation that we provide with our movements. We must continue to convince our movements that more assertive support from them is a sign of credibility for the funders we solicit.

The financial report was unanimously approved.

Joining new movements

Paraguay and El Salvador have been following the work of FIMARC for many years as movements in contact: they have expressed the wish to be associated movements. Their activities are in conformity with the criteria and have presented the necessary references (coherence with the FIMARC orientations, character of the movement, agreement of the Bishop's conference).

Accession unanimously approved.

The representative of INAG (movement of India) requested that this movement be granted the status of an affiliated movement, indicating that this had not been accepted at the 2010 meeting and that there was currently nothing to prevent this affiliation. President Wolfgang Scharl proposed that the Executive Committee examine INAG's request and asked the Assembly that Exco could make this favorable decision if the criterias are met.

The Action Plans of Continental Groups : some Guidelines

The times of exchange within continental groups provided an opportunity to review their operating modes and priorities.



*The attention to other religions
Bishop André Gueye and the local Imam*



The south Korean delegation surrounding the wife of Mr Bak Nam Gi dead as a result of police brutality during a protest for fairer prices to farmers.



Tribute to the wife of Mr Bak Nam Gi



Latin America

- Continuation of activities around food sovereignty; operations around World Food Day
- Continental workshops on the appropriation of Laudato Si
- Development of exchanges with other continents, particularly Africa
- Continuation of advocacy around family farming and peasant rights

Africa

- Establishment of a Coordination Committee around Omer Diédhou (Senegal), Jean Clement Sengue (Central Africa), Elisabeth Kibuyva (Kenya), Médard Meyanga (Cameroon)
- Strengthening the financial autonomy of the movements: setting up a system of contributions
- Continuation of advocacy around family farming and peasant rights

Europa

- Continuation of a network structuring in the framework of the continuation of the European project ProRure and setting up a regional coordination in connection with this network
- Creation of an international website
- Consideration of climate change issues in our operating modes
- Continuation of advocacy around family farming and peasant rights

Asia

- Continuation of activities around to support family farming and respect for the rights of peasants and people living in rural areas
- Collecting and sharing information on best practices implemented in each country
- Establishment of a coordination team around Rony Joseph (India), Nayana Vitchiporn (Thailand) and Philip Biswas (Bangladesh) and the KCFM Secretary General of Korea

Election of the Executive Committee (Exco)

After a call for candidatures and votes by the delegates the new executive committee for the period 2018-2022 is composed of:

- Sophie Kibuyva and Médard Meyanga (Africa)
- Modesta Arevalos and Manuel Moran (Latin America)



- Nayana Vitchiporn and Rony Joseph (Asia)
- Wolfgang Scharl and Jean Claude Germon (Europa)
- George Fernandez (General Secretary) and
- Father Tomas Spanghero (Chaplain)



The ExCo 2018 : Jean Claude Germon, Sophie Elisabeth Kibuyva, Rony Joseph, Manuel Moran, Médard Meyanga, Père Tomas Spanghero, Wolfgang Scharl, Modesta Arevalos, George Fernandez, Nayana Vitchiporn

Following this election, the Executive Committee has elected Wolfgang Scharl as President of FIMARC, George



Wolfgang SCHARL, FIMARC President

Fernandez as Secretary General and Jean Claude Germon as Treasurer.

Closing and final declaration of the World Assembly

The Closing Mass in the Cathedral at Thiès allowed Monseñor Michaël Wallace Bannach, Apostolic Nuncio, to remind the delegates that their commitment

was continuing at the end of this meeting and that the “Ite missa is” of this celebration, associated with the proclamation of the final resolution of the World Assembly, constituted their sending on mission



Some highlights of this Assembly.

A common priority for FIMARC movements expressed at the seminar and in continental groups; a continued advocacy for support for peasant family farming and respect for the rights of peasants and rural populations recognized in the declaration approved by the United Nations.

The diversity and representativeness of the delegates: 32 movements and organizations from 32 different countries worked together during these nearly 2 weeks. A wealth of exchanges that impressed those who were attending this meeting for the first time. The gender parity was not respected but is on its way



to becoming one. This parity would be reached if the movements gave themselves the means to participate with two delegates. The mixed male / female character of our movements is one of our riches and is certainly a way to allow an evolution in the societies in which we work.

The mobilization of the Senegalese movement for the immersion time and the reception in the different dioceses of Senegal: all the delegates showed their satisfaction of the contacts and exchanges made during this short stay. Many thanks to the teams who mobilized for this immersion stay and for the smooth running of the Assembly.

The Korean video of the Martyrdom of Mr Bak Nam Gi, vice-president of the Korean movement, who died following police brutality during a demonstration to obtain a better price for agricultural products paid to producers. A great emotion in this video which shows the peaceful investment of the movement that has contributed to the renewal of the Korean government.

El Salvador and Paraguay's applications for membership: the applications for membership of FIMARC from the two South American movements confirm the strong presence of FIMARC on this continent.

Attention to other religions Our Senegalese hosts reminded us that they live in a predominantly Muslim cultural environment. In their activities and their development projects they work with their Muslim brothers and sisters. In our countries we live in contact with communities of different religions and faith, or lack of religious reference. Our FIMARC meetings are a way of questioning ourselves about the expression of our faith and the need to live in acceptance and respect of the difference of the other.

Our eucharistics celebrations, our evenings of sharing, relaxation and celebration, our coffee breaks were also times to live the fraternity of our movements.

Literature related to the World Assembly

- Maïder Dechamps, 2018. Dans le monde entier, le mode rural a les mêmes difficultés. ACRF Femmes en milieu rural ASBL, Analyse 2018/14, 5p.
- Laudato Si. Encyclical letter of Pope Francis on the safeguarding of the common house.
- Draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Others Working in Rural Rural Areas, Human Rights Council, September 2018, 16p.



RESOLUTION

1. We, member movements of FIMARC (International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movements) from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe, representing rural communities and peasants from 32 countries of the world, gathered in Thies, Senegal from 2-16th of November 2018 for the FIMARC Global session on “Invest in sustainable rural development and agriculture - towards a better world for all ” as well as for the 15th World Assembly , at a decisive moment of reflection on the UN declaration of rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas and in the context of UN decision to launch the Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028).
2. The main theme of the 15th World Assembly was “Let’s move together in solidarity and harmony to create a just and dignified rural world caring for all life”. The global session had a deep reflection and analysis on the current system of agriculture and rural development based on the encyclical letter Laudato Si, the rights of peasants and rural people, ongoing trends and alternatives in the modes of production and consumption and the scope of intergenerational transfer of knowledge to strengthen family farming. It allowed us to deepen our common understanding, to share our own experiences from different continents and to define concrete next steps of engagement in these topics of our concern.
3. As the movements of rural people and peasants, we are concerned with the deteriorating stock of rural infrastructure, basic services such as education, health, technology that provoke the rampant rural exodus, closure of farms and rural jobs, leading to food insecurity and poverty among rural populations. Rural people are the victims of excessive land and resource grabbing, violence, corruption, narcotics, human trafficking and criminalisation of peasants and activists who fight for their rights and to protect their livelihoods. Profit oriented education systems in our countries neither provide values of rural life nor the skills for diversified employment opportunities including farm and off farm jobs. The traditional knowledge is either devalued or not properly





transferred to the new generations. Current socio-economic and demographic trends and digital divide challenge relationships between generations cause ageing of farmers and rupture of the social safety nets .

4. It is evident that industrial and chemical farming is destructive and deadly with practices of agro-toxins, artificial hormones, use of GMO'S, chemical inputs, mono culture and overproduction that poison people and nature, causes loss of soil fertility, water contamination, conversion of natural resources into a commodity, including land, water and seeds and destruction of rural areas. Furthermore the liberalization of the markets and control of multinational agribusiness in the value chain alienate us from our productive resources and put profit before life. Peasants and rural people suffer from hunger, malnutrition and poverty at a disproportionate level and are vulnerable and discriminated with forced expulsions and lack of access to essential resources: land, seeds, loans, education, justice and basic services. Out of 821 million people suffering hunger in the world (2018 UN figure), 80% live in rural areas. Agricultural Policies contributes to the economic decline of the family farm system leading to farm consolidation, disappearance, foreclosures and resulting to the economic and political power concentration within greedy handful unaccountable multinational corporations.
5. Farmers 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. Hence we will strive to build family farming systems based on agroecology enriched by local traditional knowledge and cultural values .We believe Family farming is an efficient way of doing agriculture that enable to create employment and to ensure food sovereignty of the population. It allows us to decide on what kind of agriculture to practice and food to produce. It will safeguards and protects environmental assets and natural resources, biodiversity and cultural heritage, preserves traditional food products, while contributing to a balanced diet. We believe that Agroecology can be practiced in many different ways, based on the local reality and culture. Diverse forms of smallholder food production based on Agroecology generate local knowledge, promote social justice, nurture culture, and strengthen the economic viability of rural areas.
6. We also want to promote successful alternative initiatives developed by our movements such as life planning, seed and food sovereignty initiatives in Latin America, direct marketing between rural producers and urban consumers in South Korea by CCFM, People Led development Process in the field of sustainable agriculture, health and education in Asia, Agro ecological Agriculture in Kenya and in other countries etc. Healthy and safe food is a fundamental human right and we need to develop dialogue with consumers and producers in this regard.
7. Scaling-up the support to smallholder family farmers and creating alternative and sustainable livelihood options in rural areas, with a special focus on women and youth, is fundamental to address the root causes of rural distress migration. Sustainable



investment in rural development, genuine agrarian reform, farmer's participation, income diversification, land conservation and improved management of inputs is key to build sustainable family based agricultural systems. New forms of cooperation and community organizations can be encouraged in order to defend the interests of small producers and preserve local ecosystems from destruction (Laudato si Page 76)". Thus we call our governments to set up national policies and programmes to protect and promote the family farming systems based on agro ecology, our own knowledge, wisdom and culture and implement legal tools and mechanisms to ensure the rights of peasants and rural people.

8. FIMARC and its member movements are and will strongly commit themselves
 - To the awareness raising, adoption and implementation of the declaration of "Rights of Peasants and other People working in Rural Areas" by the UN for the realization of their right to define their own food and agriculture systems
 - To engage with other actors to strengthen family farming in the context of UN decade of family Farming
 - To identify and share the best practical diverse models within their own local communities in the fields of agriculture, health and education
 - To commit for safe food production and consumption, sustainable health management practices and education for a dignified life
 - To build cooperative forms of production, social enterprises; local value-added products
 - To build local resistance, in order to protect their own productions systems, traditional knowledge and practices.
 - To establish deep links between farmers and consumers

Conclusion

Life and ecosystem is a gift of the Creator and we have to preserve it and transmit to the future generations. FIMARC wants to promote intergenerational relations to foster the sharing of farm knowledge and skills, culture, traditional values as well as reciprocal care, support and exchange of resources. As humans we can live fully by realizing our potentials in community and care for creation. This authentic development includes our cultures, values and spiritual being, and is based on solidarity. It needs radical economic transformation, production and consumption models that respect the natural resource limits of the planet and ecological conversions as emphasized in Laudatosi. Rural areas are used to be and still able to provide employment for all, including young people willing to work. We should resist the massive rural exodus and to maintain more farmers especially youth in their land by giving more prospects for agriculture and rural life. **We dare to build another rural world !"**



The participants of 15th FIMARC World Assembly

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