

Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the right to food

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Madame President,

My name is Perla Alvarez, I speak on behalf of CETIM and in representation of La Vía Campesina, the biggest international peasant movement representing more than 200 millions peasants from all over the world.

We thank the Special Rapporteur on the right to food for the presentation of his report.

This report lays the ground to the mainstreaming of human rights in the looming hunger crisis in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. In this context it is key that States protect the rural areas and foster more equitable and transparent agrarian system, also by promoting international multilateral cooperation to solve this crisis.

On the issue of food systems and global governance, we are observing how the corporate lobbies defending agribusiness interests are influencing and capturing the preparations of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, making the process opaque and exclusionary. We share the concerns of the Special Rapporteur on the fact that the Summit appears to be focused only on market-based solutions approach to food systems – which proved to be incapable to address hunger, inequality and the climate crisis – ignoring sustainable peasant food system solutions now enshrined in the UN Declaration on the right of peasants and other people working in rural areas (UNDROP), like agro-ecology. The way this Summit is being conceived endangers human rights, people's food sovereignty, threatens the planet's future and contravenes not only the content of the UNDROP but even the *raison d'être* of the United Nations as an organization of public interest (and not private). UN member states have the duty to stop this, in order to protect this UN space from corporate capture and to ensure that the right holders, such as peasants, indigenous peoples, and other people working in rural areas, are put at the core of the Summit.

We also welcome the fact that the report addresses the issue of the right to seeds from the perspective of peasants and in the light of the UNDROP. We hope that the Special Rapporteur will continue to work in this sense.

Finally, we urge this Council and all actors to foster the promotion and the implementation of the UNDROP.

Thank you for your attention.

Geneva, 26th of February