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Our world, the humanity is facing simultaneous crises including a structural economic problem, environmental crisis caused by (1) extractive Industries or extractive development paradigm) ,(2) COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating inequalities, (3) conflict, wars and geopolitical tensions in various regions.

These crises have deepened gaps in people's daily economic, social and environmental dimensions. As peasants and other people working in rural areas, what we witness in our daily lives are global food and socio-economic crises.

The ongoing war in Europe and other crises are having serious consequences on food systems worldwide. The prioritization of importing and exporting food has created a dependency on international markets, leading to a crisis in the distribution of food globally and increased hunger in countries already suffering from famine. The problem is not a lack of food but the fact that big companies dominate the world financial and distribution market, turning food and agricultural trade into a highly speculative market. Policies that could address these crises have been dismantled over the last decade, under neoliberal globalization and due to the rise of the agribusiness sector. Strategic public stockpiling and storage, regulatory stock control, market regulation, and other necessary public policies are needed to address these issues. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas (UNDROP) presents an opportunity to denounce the exhaustion of the production model based on the technological package and present peasant and other people working in rural areas as the alternative for the present and the future.

Michael Fakhri, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food presented two distinct narratives during the The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in October 2022: **The first one portrayed the world's governments as having met in Rome and taking no action to address the food crisis, which resulted in millions more people being pushed into hunger, malnutrition, and famine. The second narrative highlighted the possibility of a different outcome where governments listened to each other and to the people, leveraging the current momentum and taking a decisive step at this historic moment.** This would involve creating a concrete process that facilitates collaboration and

coordination between countries and international institutions to develop a government-led multilateral plan of action to tackle the food crisis.

La Via Campesina, a global movement representing peasants and other people working in rural areas, also proposes to handle this crisis in the second narrative. Our slogan is **“Globalize the struggle, globalize hope”** and **“We feed our peoples, and build the movement to change the world.** Therefore, in this line, we demand the governments, UN bodies, international society, movements and civil societies to work together to solve the multiple crises humanity is facing now.

Immediate actions can be taken in the framework to address the current food crisis and move towards food sovereignty. These actions can also be in-line with the implementation of the UNDROP, as a clever move to tackle the food crisis. For example, there is an urgent need to provide more investment to agricultural research and development to increase yields in the framework of agroecology / sustainable agriculture or peasant agriculture, preserving the rights to and access to land and the common (natural resources) , the right to seeds; and at the same time to set out financial and technical aid to peasants and other people working in rural areas, particularly in developing countries, to increase their productivity, decent income and help them access the markets better.

We know governments can create safety nets that provide social support to safeguard populations that are vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition – and we have been doing these also with our communities, members all across the world. In addition, we need to endorse the creation of local and regional food systems that decrease reliance on imports and reinforce food security and food sovereignty.

These will not work without a concerted effort on a global level between governments and all of us, the international society. We also need to also put the small and medium producers, the peasants, indigenous peoples, fisher folk, agricultural workers, pastoralists, beekeepers, at the center of this project to save humanity.

That is why we keep calling for the implementation of the UNDROP – and one of the next steps to ensure it happens is to create a UN special procedure on UNDROP. This special procedure will

allow for effective UNDROP implementation through increased mainstreaming at the international level. To build better and socially just societies, to be able to tackle the current multiple crises, we urgently need transformative change from destructive, profit driven systems to people-centered systems that work in harmony with nature. A UN Special Procedure on the UNDROP will be a space at the service of this needed change, a space of discussion, exchange of ideas and good practices. . I thank you.*****