

PRESS INFORMATION KIT

8th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



1. About La Via Campesina

La Via Campesina (LVC) is a global peasant movement of 182 small-scale food producer organisations from 81 countries around the world. It is one of the world's largest grass-roots movement of small-scale food producers comprising peasant, migrant, waged labour and indigenous peoples' organisations.

LVC is a platform that directly represents peasants, migrant and wage workers and indigenous peoples - with a special focus on women and youth - in various national, regional and international policy-making forums. In these forums, LVC advocates for better public policies that support food sovereignty, peasant agroecological production, peasant seed systems and peasant feminism, also in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP).

At national, regional, continental and global levels, LVC is also an active force on the streets, agitating and lobbying for necessary agrarian reforms, works for climate and environmental justice, defending the rights of peasants and migrant workers, promoting an international trade framework based on food sovereignty, and for the equal and full participation of youth and women in all spheres of life.

“ **Founded in 1993, LVC is also celebrating its 30th anniversary this year 2023.** ”

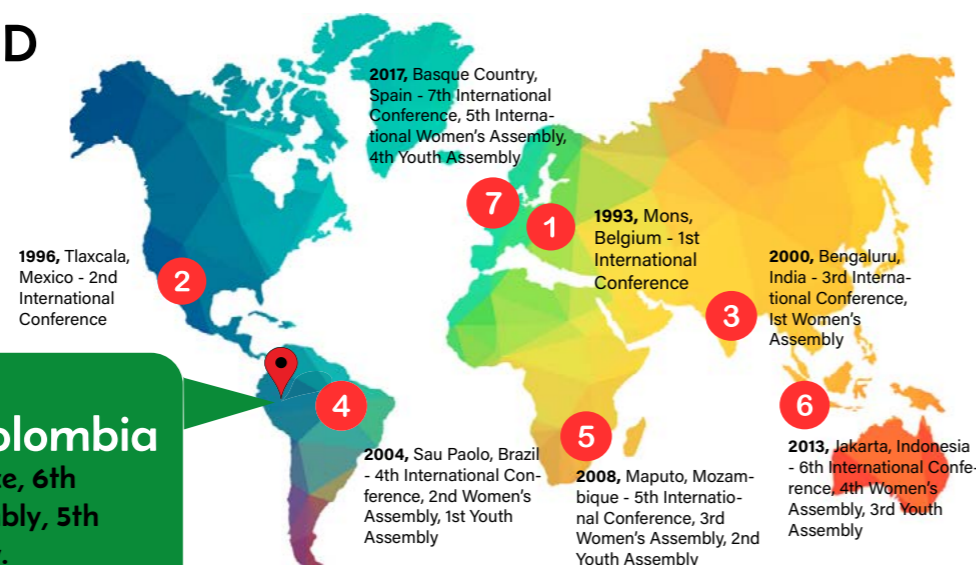
2. Why is the International Conference a significant moment in LVC?

Every four years, La Via Campesina organises an international conference open to all its members. It brings together representatives of these different organisations from the continents of Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

The International Conference is also the highest decision-making body of the global peasant movement, with nearly 500 delegates who debate, study and analyse the various issues affecting them. It is at these international conferences that La Via Campesina defines, updates and refines its strategic lines of actions. At this conference, new member organisations, the internal functioning (organisational structure), and new campaigns are reviewed and ratified. Any leadership renewal of the International Coordination Committee (ICC) – the elected body of peasant representatives from all over the world - are also implemented during the International Conference.

Just before each International Conference, the Youth and the Women of La Via Campesina hold their separate International Assemblies. The Assembly of 'Men Against Patriarchy' and the 'Diversity Assembly' also precedes the International Conference. These are important spaces for all constituencies in the movement, especially the historically marginalised groups, to develop their analysis and strategies which are integrated in the International Conference outcomes.

VIA CAMPESINA'S INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND ASSEMBLIES



8

2023 in Bogotá, Colombia
- 8th International Conference, 6th International Women's Assembly, 5th International Youth Assembly.

Date: 1-8 December, 2023

Place: Bogotá, Colombia

Hosted by: CLOC (Latin American Coordination of La Via Campesina)

3. Who is hosting the conference? Why was this place chosen?

As La Via Campesina enters the fourth decade of this collective construction, and as the crises facing the world are more serious than ever, we will gather again in Latin America - the place where the first seeds of our global movement were sown - to celebrate our 30th anniversary as among the world's largest peasant movement.

La Via Campesina members in Colombia are building on the success of historic popular struggles that brought to power a government responsive to the demands and aspirations of the country's peasant and indigenous peoples. The Colombian Peace Treaty, signed in 2016, has received a much-needed boost in its implementation since the new government came to power. Our demand for comprehensive agrarian reform is now being actively considered by the ruling dispensation. The Colombian state has also recognised the UN Declaration on the Rights of



Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) as an important international instrument that could guide the implementation of the peace process and agrarian reform in the country. While much remains to be done on all these fronts, we hope that the organisation of the International Conference in the country will give much needed visibility to these processes and initiatives, and that our peasant and indigenous organisations can draw inspiration from the success of the struggles in the country.

Here is a brief profile of the member organisation of La Via Campesina in Colombia, which has played a central role in the advancement of the peasant struggles in the country

- **FENSUAGRO**, the oldest peasant-led organisation in Colombia, works tirelessly for agrarian reform and peasant rights. With 52 member unions and 23 associations, they represent more than 80,000 families. Their ongoing work focuses on key areas such as food sovereignty, agroecology, human rights, youth empowerment and education.
- **The National Agrarian Coordinator (CNA)** is a social and political platform in Colombia that brings together various rural organisations, indigenous communities, Afro-Colombian communities and small farmers. The CNA works for a comprehensive agrarian reform, the defence of territorial rights and the rights of rural communities.-
- **ANZORC (National Association of Peasant Reserve Zones)** is a Colombian organisation dedicated to empowering peasants and strengthening their movement. Through the creation of peasant reserve zones and strategic alliances, ANZORC actively defends peasant rights, promotes agrarian reform, ensures food sovereignty, protects natural resources and promotes sustainable rural territories.
- **FENACOA** es una organización que agrupa y representa a las cooperativas agricultoras a lo largo del país. Su objetivo principal es fortalecer y promover el desarrollo sustentable del sector cooperativo agricultor brindándole apoyo y servicios a sus miembros. Trabajan en marketing, formación, gestión de negocios y defienden los derechos de las cooperativas agricultoras.
- **Black Communities Process - PCN** is a black organizational dynamic that articulates more than 140 grassroots organizations, community councils and individuals, who work constantly in the transformation of the political, social, economic and territorial reality of black, Afro-descendant, Raizal and Palenquero communities, through the defense and vindication of their individual, collective and ancestral rights.
- **ASOCAMPO** is an environmental conservation organization. It fights for Integral and Popular Agrarian Reform, to end hunger and malnutrition in the country and to grant guarantees to the communities so that they can remain in their territory in dignified conditions and tranquility. They claim the organization for popular peasant sovereignty and dignity.
- **Asociación de Pequeños y Medianos Cafeteros - APEMECAFE (Association of Small and Medium Coffee Growers)** is made up of small and medium producers dedicated to the harvesting of Colombian coffee. The organization demands transnational expropriation and the return of the land to the peasants to cultivate and live in harmony in the country.
- **National Coordination of Indigenous Peoples, Organizations and Leaders - CONPI** is an organizational process that has been generated by two main concerns: the indigenous problems in the country and the difficulties within the indigenous movement. Different indigenous peoples, leaders and communities in Colombia, for some years now, have been discussing the defense of their own culture and autonomy, the contribution to the transformation of the country and the good living for all.
- **Movimiento Ríos Vivos** is an articulation to move hope to which fifteen organizations of women, youth, barequeros and barequeras, fishermen, arrierxs, farmers, cooks, housewives, merchants belong; all affected by the Hidroituango megaproject. The movement has decided to fight against injustices, to remain in the territory, to tell the other version of the story, as opposed to the version of the company that is destroying the Cauca River Canyon.
- **Asociación Campesina del Valle del Río Cimitarra - ACVC** is a non-national organization, integrating the purposes of the community through the Juntas de Acción Comunal, cooperatives, fishing committees and other groups of farm workers, in the framework of the integral defense of human rights and the struggle for land.



4. Who will be attending and what issues will be discussed, given the current global political context?

As mentioned above, La Via Campesina (LVC) is a network of more than 180 social movements from over 80 countries around the world. Nearly 500 delegates from these organisations, spread across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas, are expected to attend the 8th International Conference in Bogotá, Colombia. The meeting is unique in that it brings together a diverse group of peasants, indigenous peoples and rural workers in one place for eight days.

“ It is a space of rich cultural and linguistic diversity that also brings the lived realities of people from different contexts and regions. The Bogotá conference is expected to host people speaking at least 15 different languages, with simultaneous interpretation provided by a team of dedicated volunteers. ”

The crises facing the world are more serious than ever. Pandemics, inequalities, conflicts, wars, global climate change, migrant and refugee crisis, and the ongoing food crisis, are now evidence of a neo-liberal capitalist system that has led to greater polarisation and division in our societies. But the last three decades have also brought people together. There is now an urgent need for solidarity to build alternatives, and the work done so far gives us a solid basis. Social movements, including La Via Campesina, have played an important role in keeping people's voices alive in all spaces and in ensuring a protagonist space for small-scale food producers at all levels of political decision-making.

5. What happens to the decisions made at the conference?

The decisions taken at the 8th International Conference will be expressed in the form of a Strategic Lines of Action, which will also be ratified by the participants of the Conference. These lines of action will set out the strategic direction that the global peasant movement and its members will take over the next four years. Participating members will be expected to take these decisions back to the organisations they represent, and through these organisations the plan will be taken to the peasants working in the fields.

The movement will also confirm its International Coordination Committee (an elected body made up of peasant women, men and youth from all the different regions of La Via Campesina¹). The task of the International Coordination Committee will be to monitor the progress of this Plan of Action and its implementation in all the regions over the next four years.

¹ La Via Campesina has organized its international membership into 10 regions: South Asia, South-East and East Asia, Southern and Eastern Africa, Western and Central Africa, Europe, South America, Central America, Caribbean, North America. The 10th and newest region of Arab and Northern Africa is expected to be formally recognized at the 8th International Conference in Bogotá.

6. Why is it a unique opportunity for the press to cover it?

It is a space for everyone, including journalists covering food and agriculture and related issues, to understand the latest developments, debates and practices in over 80 countries around the world. It is a place to deeply understand the global politics of food production and consumption, and the central role that peasants play in feeding the world. It is a unique opportunity to witness a wide range of initiatives in the field of peasant agroecology and diverse models of food production.

It is also a space to analyse and study how the local struggles of people who work the land and feed the world are interconnected, no matter where they live. The conference is also a space to hear the critical assessments of peasant farmers who can testify to the impact of globalisation, neo-liberal trade, climate crises and war on communities.

“ Such a gathering of nearly 500 peasant leaders and community organisers is rare and takes place every four years. It brings together all the diverse experiences and challenges of small-scale food producers in one place. ”



7. A tentative schedule of key press moments

Program	Date	Access Details
Youth Assembly	1 December	Limited access. Only the mistica is open to media.
Women's Assembly	02 December	Limited access only. Only the mistica is open to media.
Opening Day	03 December	Open Access: Plenary, International Context and Cultural Night
International Conference	3-07 December	Limited access. Media can listen to testimonials from different countries/regions (first session after lunch, everyday).
Exhibition and Fairs	inauguration on 04 December and the fair will be open until the end of the conference	Open Access
Visit to Rural Communities	08 December	Prior registration necessary and subject to seat availability and subject to approval by the conference coordination committee
On Site Interviews	1-07 December	The press team at the conference will organize upon request. Contact the team for prior appointments.
Closing Ceremony & Celebration for the success of the Peace Process	07 December (Afternoon)	Open Access
Closing Press Conference	To be confirmed soon.	Open Access
Online Streaming		Only the Press Conference, Opening and Closing ceremony will be live-streamed

8. Eligibility Criteria for Journalists (on-site and remote coverage)

La Via Campesina invites all journalists and progressive media outlets in Colombia and elsewhere to cover this conference, which is a unique opportunity to witness the diversity of people and culture that make up the movement. We are a social movement with limited capacities and resources at our disposal. Hence we do not have the resources to fund your travel or your local expenses such as accommodation or local travel. However to the best of our abilities, we will support our allies in the media world who find it crucial to cover this conference, with the necessary logistical support to carry out your work, while you are at the venue. This would mean providing you a place for one-to-one interviews, providing with the necessary information and materials to help you develop the story and also linking you up with the different spokespeople of the conference. At the venue of the meeting, we will have a small process of identification and accreditation for all the journalist friends – to be able to address your needs better. More specific information are provided below.



9. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1-Is there a registration process for journalists? Will they receive badges?

There will be a registration process at the conference venue for journalists covering the conference. To avoid queuing, you can also fill in your details online and we will issue the badges once you arrive at the venue and we have verified your identity. [REGISTER NOW](#)

2- Will there be a provision to fund air travel, accommodation and local expenses for journalists who are willing to cover this conference?

We are a social movement with limited capacities and resources. Therefore, we do not have the means to fund your travel or local expenses such as accommodation or local travel. We will be able to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner for those journalists who will be at the conference venue.

3- Is the whole conference open to journalists or are there specific moments when journalists are invited?

This is explained in section 7 of this document. Only certain sessions are open to journalists and all requests must be made through the press team. Contact details for the press team can be found at the end of this document (section 10).

4- What are the specific issues that will be discussed and analysed at the conference?

La Via Campesina's struggle for food sovereignty is integrated with local and global struggles for



the right to land, water, territories, climate and environmental justice, rights of migrants and refugee people, peasant-seed sovereignty, public policies, peasant rights, trade justice, peasant feminism and more. Members from different regions of La Via Campesina are expected to bring their lived experiences and proposals on all these issues.

5-Will there be fairs or exhibitions at the venue?

Yes. There will be a peasants' market at the conference venue, mainly run by our agroecology institute - IALA - in Colombia. This market will also feature peasant products from around the world, and would be the perfect place to get up close and personal with peasant agroecological practices and other progressive efforts. In addition, you will also find an exhibition that displays a collection of photographs and videos related to the movement.

6-Will journalists be able to visit a farm or the agroecology school in Bogotá, Colombia?

These requests will be considered and confirmed depending on the availability of the farming communities and other logistical aspects of the trip. If you are interested, please contact our press team as soon as possible so that we can plan ahead. Last minute requests cannot be accommodated as we have limited staff capacity and they would already be busy managing a large conference of nearly 500 people.

As part of the conference we will also be organising a field visit (details to be confirmed) and we are willing to consider your need to accompany these visits. Please make such a request early so that the necessary travel arrangements can be made.

7-Will you be broadcasting the conference online?

Only the opening and closing ceremonies and the press conference at the end of the conference will be streamed live. The stream will be available on La Via Campesina's official Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ViaCampesinaOfficial

8- How can journalists who cannot travel to Bogotá, Colombia, cover the conference?

You can follow the live stream and send your interview requests or questions to the press team. Press team contacts are listed at the end of this document (section 10).

9-Will you provide food and drinks for journalists at the venue?

Yes, we will. We will provide food and water for journalists covering the event.

10-Will there be a room for interviews? Is it soundproof?

The conference will take place in a hotel and we will do our best to provide a quiet corner or room for you to conduct interviews. It may not be completely soundproof, but we will do our best to give you the best conditions to record the interview.

11- Will there be equipment for journalists to hire at the venue?

No. However, we have an in-house team of photographers and videographers. We can consult with them and provide images as required. If you have a specific request for footage, this can be considered but not guaranteed. If you would like one of the in-house team to record an interview for you, please make this request to the press team well in advance and we will try to accommodate it as best we can. Last minute requests cannot be accommodated.

12- Will translation or interpretation be available at the venue for journalists to use?

Normally, we expect the journalist to arrange their own translation and interpretation needs. However, we have a team of interpreters on hand to provide simultaneous interpretation during the conference. So if you need interpretation during a press conference or during the opening and closing ceremonies, we will most likely be able to provide

you with wireless listening equipment. For specific requests, please contact the press team and we will do our best to accommodate you.

13-What are the different languages spoken by delegates at the conference?

Spanish, English, French, Portuguese, Arabic, Swahili, Sinhala, Indonesian-Bahasa, Korean, Kannada, Hindi, Nepali, Bangla, Urdu, Italian.

14-Can journalists speak to anyone or are there designated spokespersons?

For questions about the 8th Conference itself, we have a designated team of spokespeople. The list and biographies can be found at the end of this document (section 11). If you wish to speak to someone in particular, please make a request to the press team. At the conference venue, you are also welcome to submit your interview requests to the press team, who will be able to direct you to the right person for the right topic.

15-Can journalists also talk to people who are more involved in issues such as climate justice, trade justice, migration, etc.?

As long as these requests are channelled through the press team at the conference venue, we should be able to help. Most delegates attending the conference also have the primary responsibility of attending various internal meetings where their presence would be required. So we discourage journalists from approaching people directly or pulling them out of an internal meeting for interviews. This would detract from the organic nature of the conference. So if you have specific requests, please contact the press team and we will find the right person for the right topic.

16- Where can a journalist find photos, videos or other promotional material about the conference?

As mentioned above, we have an in-house team of photographers and videographers. We can consult with them and provide images as required. If you have a specific request for footage, this can be considered but not guaranteed. If you would like one of the in-house team to record an interview for you, please make this request to the press team well in advance and we will try to accommodate it as best we can. Last minute requests cannot be accommodated.

17- Will LVC help with subtitling videos?

Unfortunately, we cannot. Our in-house translators would already be busy with internal work. However, all videos that LVC will publish on its official platforms during and after the conference will be subtitled in EN/ES and FR.



10. PRESS TEAM CONTACTS



Press Team Member	Languages Spoken	Email	Contact for
Biby	SP (fluent), EN (basic)	press@viacampesina.org	Interview Requests (ES), Photos
Erika	SP (fluent), EN (fluent)	press@viacampesina.org	Interview Requests (ES/EN)
Andrey	SP (fluent)	press@viacampesina.org	Interview Requests (Local Colombia), Press Conference, Field Visits and Local Logistics
Miguel	ES/EN/FR (fluent)	press@viacampesina.org	Online Streaming, Interview (French)
Abhilash	EN (fluent)	press@viacampesina.org	For technical assistance, additional information, materials or complaints



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