

Submission on the implementation of UN Declaration on Peasants to the UN Working Group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas by the **UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights, Elisa Morgera**

1. Please provide information on the efforts made in accordance with your mandate/your organization's mandate to disseminate the Declaration at the national, regional or international levels.

As UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, I am committed to raise awareness on UN Declaration (UNDROP) at national, regional and international levels – notably in the context of the international negotiations on climate change, but also at the climate-biodiversity and climate-ocean nexus. I see three inter-connected priorities for my mandate in this context:

- the effective protection of peasants' human rights in the context of climate change, taking into account multiple grounds of discrimination and vulnerability they face;
- the full and effective participation of peasants as agents of change in climate change-related decision-making processes, on the basis of timely, trustworthy and accessible information; and
- the recognition and respectful integration of peasants' distinctive knowledge in climate science, policy and monitoring.

In my first report to the Human Rights Council (), I clarified that States should:

- take holistic measures to protect the biodiversity of food sources and systems and recognize the rights of peasants, minimizing the adverse impact of climate change on the right to food and integrating human rights analysis, into nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and national plans for disaster management;
- protect peasants against potential human rights violations involving companies developing climate-altering technologies, through inclusive, transparent, participatory and accountable governance frameworks and ex ante human rights and environmental impact assessments, including continuous monitoring and evaluation conducted by independent and impartial bodies; and
- recognize – on the same level as technical expertise – and respectfully and genuinely engage with the lived experiences and distinctive knowledge of peasants, particularly those in situations of vulnerability, as agents of change, and taking into account international guidance on intersectionality in developing, implementing, funding, monitoring, evaluating, learning from and reviewing climate action at all levels.

I have also recommended that States, international organizations, business, civil society and the research community integrate international guidance on intersectionality in climate change-related awareness-raising, education, research, capacity-building and technology-development activities, which comprises respect for the human rights of peasants.

In my first report to the UN General Assembly (A/79/176), I clarified that States:

- must take enhanced measures to ensure access to information for peasants with a view to ensuring recognition and respect of their knowledge systems and territorial connections,

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taking into account any forms of intersectional discrimination, including in the context of displacement and planned relocations; and

- ensure that information is accessible to peasants, taking into account low wages, transport costs and lack of affordable electricity, lack of connectivity, poverty and lack of access to education.

2. Please provide an assessment on the progress made and the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Declaration. What are the main obstacles?

I consider the main obstacle in the implementation of the Declaration lack of awareness of it among decision-makers at different levels. I have observed that the Declaration is not yet well known across the UN System and few UN agencies and bodies, which are working on climate change at local, national and international levels, integrate the implementation of UNDROP in their work.

There are missed opportunities to discuss the content and value added of the Declaration in the context of the Indigenous and Local Communities Platform under the UN Convention on Climate Change and in UN Climate conferences. I would particularly recommend raising awareness of the Declaration in the context of the “Bonn intersessional” meetings in May/June, where there is more space and time for reaching out to national delegations, including in the context of the Climate-Ocean Dialogue. In addition, I would recommend exploring collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity, notably its Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions; and contributions to the third UN Ocean Conference (Nice, 2025).

Finally, I would recommend reaching out to FAO and suggest holding the next Small-Scale Fishers’ Summit in Geneva in parallel with a Human Rights Council session, to enhance the consideration of human rights and the Declaration in that process.

3. What do you consider to be priority issues that need to be addressed in the implementation of the Declaration?

- Raising awareness and building the capacity among decision-makers, civil society and researchers about the content of the Declaration and its value added in contributing to more effective protection of the human rights of frontline communities;
- Documenting and raising awareness about the distinctive knowledge of peasants on climate change, and their preferred solutions to the climate crisis;
- Distilling good practices on peasants’ leadership in relation to climate change and human rights, and connecting them strategically to specific international negotiations (UN Climate Conference; UN Biodiversity Conference, the meetings of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and the future Conference of the Agreement Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the

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Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction or BBNJ Agreement).

I remain available to support and integrate the work of the UN Working Group on Peasant's Rights in the implementation of my mandate, as well as share with the Working Group insights from my work on a periodic basis (with participation in the Working Group meetings or other modalities). We could also explore the opportunity of convening joint workshops (possibly with the support of the Geneva Academy and its funding focused on synergies across UN Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies) for an in-depth dialogue on the respective contributions of our mandates to the implementation of the Declaration in the context of climate change.