

## **Second session of the Open- Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People working in Rural Areas.**

### **Oral Statement by FIAN International - Item 4 - Articles 15-18 Geneva, 04 February 2015**

Dear Mr. Vicechair,

In this group of rights we would like to concentrate on article 17, in reference to the right to food and nutrition:

We welcome the mention of peasants' right to produce food and to adequate nutrition. Departing from these two elements, we would like to emphasize the need of this article to better reflect the holistic character of the right to food and nutrition. In fact, the right to food and nutrition extends from the seed and sun needed to grow food, along the food chain, and to the food stuff that builds healthy human beings. Any fragmented vision of the right to food and nutrition, which concentrates only on nutrition, commercialization, or food production, but does not tackle the link among these elements, can bring adverse effects for the realization of the right to food and nutrition.

We have observed that measures just focused on the provision of nutritious, medicalized food are in many cases used to eliminate attention in the interconnection between the different elements of this human right. Moreover, on our view, this kind of programs are often used to justify measures alienating peasants and rural communities from their livelihoods and their special ways to live and produce in harmony with mother nature, in their territories. This fact does not just affect the right to food of Peasants and other people living in rural areas, but also negatively impacts the right to food and nutrition of other population sectors, as it reduces the production of food in harmony with nature. In addition, this kind of food production is the best to guarantee healthy diets, due to its ability to ensure food diversity.

In this sense, we consider that paragraph 4, referring to punctual medical interventions to combat malnutrition of children, needs to be broaden. The article should not be reduced to such health interventions and education, but shall foresee the participative implementation of strategies as a state's obligation. This approach allows peasants and other communities living in rural areas to overcome hunger and malnutrition through the production and consumption of their own food products, as well as through the strengthening of their own food systems, in the framework of food sovereignty.

We also consider article 17 should better reflect the right to food and nutrition of women and girls. The Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food has well explained in its Report A/HRC/22/50

the relevance of the contribution of women to the realization for the right to food and nutrition of their families, as well as the importance of the realization of the right to food and nutrition of women for the realization of their other rights. Peasant, pastoralist, landless, fisher and agricultural worker women are nonetheless suffering in major proportion of hunger and malnutrition. The article should recognize the priority that states must give to the realization of the right to food and nutrition for women.

Finally, and based in all the above-explained interconnections, we consider that in case the declaration includes a title for each article, this article should be titled "Right to food and nutrition".

Thank you.