

Italy

WG on the rights of peasants

Italy

(July 19, 2013)

Madame Chair,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your leadership and transparency as a Chairperson of this body.

Permitame, tambien, Señora Presidenta de felicitar al Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia por acceder, el pasado 12 de julio, al Segundo Protocolo Opcional de la Convención Internacional de Derechos Civiles y Políticos de la ONU sobre la abolición de la pena de muerte y reforzar la tendencia global hacia la abolición de la pena capital.

Madame Chair,

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union Delegation on the opening day of this Working Group.

We would like to thank the Chair for having organized the stimulating panels we attended during the first two days and the panelists for the informative presentations they delivered. We need some time to metabolize all the ideas put forward, but let me assure you that we will pay attention to all the arguments raised. We think that such kind of meetings, especially if they are open to different views and opinions, could be functional to a better understanding of both the causes of the "de facto discrimination" of individuals living in rural areas and the options for improving their situation. We acknowledge that data are telling and clearly illustrate the large extent of the problem of protecting human rights of people living in rural areas.

Madame Chair,

Italy is strongly committed, at national and international level, to improving living conditions of persons working and living in rural areas, and ensuring effective protection and promotion of their human rights, in particular their right to food. The fight against extreme poverty, the improvement of economic opportunities for everybody without discrimination, the preservation of rural heritage and environment are priorities for our country.

It is not by chance that we are working hard to organize the Expo 2015 in Milan, whose theme is "feeding the planet, energy for life" and sub-themes are, inter alia, "food and culture" and "cooperation and development on food". "Expo Milano 2015" will be indeed an opportunity for discussing and exchanging best practices to ensure food security and food quality to everyone, without discrimination, including in rural areas.

After listening carefully the opinions expressed during ~~the~~^{the} week, we remain convinced that the draft Declaration cannot be the only basis for our future discussions. We share other delegations' concern about important procedural flaws regarding the mandate of the Advisory Group.

Furthermore, we have several doubts about the substance of the draft Declaration. In this respect, we are pleased to present some remarks:

- First, we are very cautious and somewhat hesitant whenever we assess the creation of new categories of human rights holders. We deeply believe in the universality of human