



La Via Campesina

International Peasant Movement
Gerakan Petani Internasional

Regional Secretariat for
South East Asia and East Asia

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Thank you Madame Chairperson,

La Via Campesina, a worldwide movement representing millions of peasants, agricultural workers, indigenous and nomadic peoples, commend the Chairperson and States for holding the 3rd session of Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. We are confident that the deliberation of this working group will be productive, and the mandate of the working group can be fulfilled.

Our members have been pushing for the declaration for many years. The fact that the process of this declaration is coming from village in Indonesia, India and other parts of Asia since year 2001, proves that we are now at the very important phase of this bottom-up process.

We see that a lot of improvements have been made to the draft declaration, and we are happy to support these. In several constitutions, especially India, Indonesia, citizens are protected from hunger and guaranteed to adequate means of livelihood with references to economic, social and cultural values. This will be the crucial aspect from our region and be the basis of our constructive engagement to the current process.

In particular, we have been doing consultations in regional level, even in national level, around the draft declaration. Our members in Asia, and also Africa, Europe and Latin America show great support for the draft declaration and ready to move forward. We would like to say special thanks to the Ambassador Nardi Suxo for attending our regional consultation via video message. We would like to reserve time to share points from the consultation later.

As social and people's movement, we witness the inclusive process for the draft declaration from 2012 and would like to commend States, Madame Chairperson for that. Finally, we look forward to constructive engagement in the discussions during this session with the hope that the declaration will soon be endorsed by the Council.

I thank you,

Henry Saragih

Serikat Petani Indonesia,

member of La Via Campesina in South-East and East Asia region