



*Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Iran
to the UN – Geneva*



Chair of the NAM

**Draft Statement by
H.E Mohsen Naziri Asl, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the
Islamic Republic of Iran,
on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement,
on the Occasion of the Third Session of the Working Group on the Rights
of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas, Geneva, 17 -20 May
2016**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

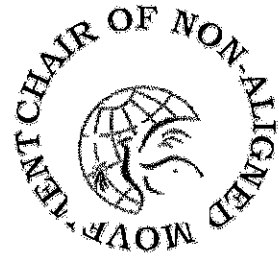
On the occasion of the Third Session of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas, to be held from the 17 - 20 May 2016, we would like to welcome the negotiations on the Draft Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

Today, we are all gather here to renew our joint commitment against hunger and poverty, both problems are still predominantly rural, and it is the rural population, those who produce food, who suffer disproportionately from this two issues.

We are alarmed that 80 per cent of people suffering from hunger live in rural areas, particularly in developing countries, and 50 per cent are small-scale and traditional farm holders, as well as subsistence farmers, and that these people



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are especially vulnerable to food insecurity, malnutrition, discrimination and exploitation.

As highlighted by our Heads of States and Government at the 16th Summit of the Non Aligned Movement that was held in Tehran: "we underlined the need to address the economic, social and environmental challenges to sustainable agriculture, and emphasized that achieving food security would require strengthening and revitalizing the agriculture sector in developing countries, including through the empowerment of small medium scale farmers, developing of appropriate technologies, providing technical and financial cooperation, access to and transfer of technology, strengthening weather forecasting, enhancing investment in post harvest infrastructure including food processing capacity building and exchange of data, information and experience".

Excellencies,

Our Heads of State or Government called upon Member States to continue actively engaged in the promotion of the realization of the right to food in all countries. In this regard, they welcomed the holding, at the initiative of NAM, of a Special Session of the Human Rights Council in 2008 on "The negative impact on the realization of the right to food of the worsening of the world food crisis, caused inter alia by the soaring food prices" and urged all Member States



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to pay special attention to the implementation of UN resolutions on the right to food adopted yearly by the General Assembly and Human Rights Council.¹

We welcomed important initiatives such as the UN General Assembly's adoption of the Philippine initiative for the declaration of the year 2014 as the UN International Year of Family Farming (Resolution A/RES/66/222) and called upon all states to support this Declaration due to the important role of family farming in the enhancement of food security and poverty eradication.²

Excellencies,

The NAM reiterates its long-standing position in support of the achievement of the right to food, and our commitment to fight hunger and malnutrition.

We wish a successful third session of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas and welcomes the efforts carried by the new Chairperson Rapporteur in this direction.

Thank you

¹ Food Security, 16th Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran 26 - 31 August 2012 - par. 495

² Food Security, 16th Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran 26 - 31 August 2012 - par. 501