

Chairperson,

Egypt aligns itself with the statements delivered by Tunisia on behalf of the African Group and Venezuela on behalf of group of NAM.

At the outset, I would like to join my voice to other delegations in congratulating you for your re-election as a chair person rapporteur for the fourth session of the IGWG wishing you success in guiding and steering the discussion with view to finalizing the negotiation on the proposed text in accordance with the Human rights Council resolution 21/19 and subsequent relevant resolutions.

Egypt fully supports the mandate of the IGWG and has participated in its previous sessions and will continue to participate constructively in the discussion contributing to the finalization of the draft UN declaration and submit to the human rights council as early as possible.

A world facing hunger, poverty and a widespread economic crises necessitates enhancing international cooperation with view to protecting the most effected segments of the societies including the small scale, traditional and family farmers, which

we also believe that it requires the attention of the Human Rights Council to ensure that the right to development as a basic human right, is fulfilled and enjoyed by everyone with no discrimination, and as a way to fulfill other inter related human rights.

Hence Egypt strongly believes that a special instrument is needed to promote and protect peasants and other people working in rural areas in recognition to their contribution to development, and in accordance with universally agreed and recognized human rights as stipulated in the international human rights law.

It is worth noting that a report published by the world bank indicated that food demand is projected to rise by at least 20% globally over the next 15 years, and that ongoing fragility and conflict and large scale displacement as well as climate change and natural resources degradation continue to intensify food insecurity for millions of people.

On the national level, the new Egyptian constitution prohibits discrimination on any basis and stipulated in its article 29 that agriculture is a basic component of the economy, and that the State shall protect and expand agricultural land, and develop

rural areas; raise the standard of living of their population and protect them from environmental risks; and shall strive to on develop agricultural and animal production and encourage industries based thereon. The constitution also emphasized the fact that natural resources belong to the people and the State shall preserve and effectively exploit them, may not deplete them, and shall observe the rights of future generations to them.

It guarantees the right of citizen to healthy and sufficient food and clean water, ensuring food resources to all citizens, and that the State shall also ensure sustainable food sovereignty and maintain agricultural biological diversity and types of local plants in order to safeguard the rights of future generations

Finally, we call upon all delegations to assist the chair person rapporteur in his endeavors to reach consensus on the draft declaration at hand to promote and protect the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

Thank you chair.

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