Via campesina Asia

Many thanks to the delegates of all countries present here. My name is Yena Borodina, as a representative of Ukrainian farmers from the Ukrainian Rural Development Network, I have the honor to make an introductory speech from the European region.

First of all, we would like to thank all countries for their many years of work on the text of the Declaration, which brings us closer to the final stage of the process. Especially we would like to congratulate the countries of Western and Eastern Europe for the fact that the European countries were able to consolidate their efforts in order to show to other countries how much the Declaration is important for millions of European peasants and rural workers. European countries have made many comments in the text of the Declaration, since they take this process to heart and want to make the Declaration as possible more perfect.

This is due to the fact that Europe has a long history of development of political support for agriculture on the basis of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy and other regional and national policies. Simultaneously with the positive impact of such political interventions, today we see their significant shortcomings, we mean their negative influence on the sustainable development of small family farms. Since in the EU the level of industrialization is very high it affects the peasants and rural workers, destroys the family farm. It should be noted that Europe has a dual responsibility for both European peasants and the same people in other countries of the world - trade practices and European standards have a great impact on food systems around the world.

Finally, we want to note that we welcome the European democracy, which allows each European country to have its own vision of protecting the rights of peasants and rural workers. Despite this, we were able to develop a diversified position. Europe was involved in the beginning of the process and now it must make the necessary follow-up step to meet the real support of the Declaration. The European region unites millions of peasants who need the Declaration, which is a very important tool for achieving social peace and peace.