

**Concept Note - Side Event
Social Forum 2022**

“The implementation of the UN Declaration on the rights of peasants as a leverage to promote the realization of the right to water: Experiences and challenges”

Date: November 3, 2022

Time: 01:00 – 02:00 pm

Venue: Room XXVII, Palais des Nations

Sponsors (TBC): Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, La Via Campesina, CETIM, FIAN International, Geneva Academy of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, South Centre (TBC), OHCHR (TBC).

With the support of: Friends of UNDROP - Switzerland, Friends of the UNDROP – Luxembourg

Background:

The right to water is a vital element for the realization of peasants’ rights, as water is one of the main means of production for peasant agriculture. And vice-versa, peasants’ rights are key for the realization of the human right to water in the rural areas, as peasants have longstanding knowledge and practices for a sustainable and equitable use of water.

Article 21 of the UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (UNDROP) enshrines the right to water for this particularly vulnerable population; an important step forward in legal terms. According to this article, the right to water is a human right “essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights and human dignity”. The main innovation in article 21 has been the consecration of the right to water for food production/security, livestock keeping and to securing other water-related livelihoods. In fact, the lack of access to water often prevents peasants and other people working in rural areas from producing enough food, from meeting vital needs, thus leading to different kind of socio-environmental challenges and human rights violations.

In the framework of the current multidimensional crisis, and in particular of the striking environmental crisis affecting our societies, access to water is becoming more and more challenging for rural workers and people. In this sense, we need to rethink the social and environmental relations that rule the management of water sources. It is precisely here that the UNDROP can play a leading role, in the sense that it indeed represents a concrete and effective leverage for peasants and other people working in rural areas to realize and foster respect of their human right to water.

Objective of the event:

- To debate and analyze together with member and observer States of the Human Rights Council, UN Human Rights protection mechanisms, right holders, experts, as well as civil society organizations and social movements, the linkages between the UNDROP and the human right to water and sanitation.
- To hear from the people directly concerned (peasants and other people working in rural areas) about concrete examples of how the UNDROP strengthen the realization of the right to water.
- Debate how the right to water is intrinsically linked to peasants' rights and sustainable food systems

Panel (TBC)

- Moderation: H.E. Amb. Maira Macdonal, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva
- Mr. Freddy Mamani Machaca, Chair of FILAC's Board of Directors
- Representatives of two another Member States
- Mr. Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation
- Darío Mejía , Chair UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Morgan Ody, General Coordinator of La Via Campesina

Interpretation

Interpretation Spanish – English will be provided