



**Ukrainian Rural
Development
Network**



**European
Coordination Via
Campesina**



**Institute for
Economics and
Forecasting**

and **Partners**

invite you to attend the **Public Conference**

Towards the United Nations Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas



27 March 2018 – Kyiv, Ukraine

Background:

Considering the exacerbating phenomenon of the economic marginalization of peasants due to different social and economic processes, as well as the effects of climate changes, peasants are seeking solutions at the highest level, negotiating the realization of the most powerful international instrument to protect human rights.

The process towards a Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas had been initiated 17 years ago by the international peasants' movement of La Via Campesina, representing more than 200 million members around the world. For Eastern Europe and especially for Ukraine, which has a high share of rural population that needs to have economic and social opportunities, the Declaration has very high relevance.

We have the pleasure of inviting you to participate in our conference, hosting Ukrainian and international experts in an exchange of views with relevant decision-makers.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

9:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 11:30	Welcoming and opening words <i>The importance of recognizing Peasants' Rights.</i> <i>Guests:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Valeriy Heyets, President of Ukrainian Rural Development Network• Hilal Elver, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, United Nations Human Rights Council - video• Olivier de Schutter, Member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, video <hr/> Session 1. <i>Why do we need a Declaration on the rights of peasants? The process and presentation of the United Nations Declaration on the rights of peasants.</i> <i>Guests:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ramona Duminiçioiu, European Coordination Via Campesina• Representative of the European Coordination Via Campesina (TBC)• Olena Borodina, Head of Coordination Council, Ukrainian Rural Development Network
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee break
11:45 – 12:30	Session 2. <i>Regional cooperation and the importance of Eastern Europe. General obligations of member states.</i> <i>Guests:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ramona Duminiçioiu, European Coordination Via Campesina• Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (TBC)• Representative of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine (TBC)• Representatives of embassies from Eastern European countries, members of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations (Croatia , Georgia, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia)
12:30 – 13:00	Session 3. <i>Basic rights of peasants and people working in rural areas. Evidence from Ukraine and abroad</i> <i>The right to food and food sovereignty.</i> <i>Guests:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cristina Amaral, Deputy Regional Representative for FAO Europe and Central Asia• Tamara Ostashko, Institute for Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Science of Ukraine (TBC)• Olha Balakireva, NGO “Ukrainian Institute for Social Research after Oleksandr Yaremenko” (TBC)
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch break

14:00 – 16:30 ***The right to land and other natural resources***

Guests:

- Sylvia Kay – Transnational Institute, The Netherlands
- Mykola Stryzhak, CEO Association of Farmers and Private Landowners in Ukraine
- Hryhoriy Nakonechnyi, small farmer, Ukraine
- Viktor Yarovyi, Institute for Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Science of Ukraine

Collective rights

Guests:

- Astrid Bouchedor, FIAN, Belgium
- Olha Popova, Institute for Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Science of Ukraine
- Anna Danylyak, NGO “Ecodiya” (“Ecoaction”)

The right to social security, income and means of subsistence

Guests:

- Guests from Eastern Europe and Ukraine (TBC)
- Ihor Prokopa, Institute for Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Science of Ukraine
- Oksana Rykovska, Institute for Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Science of Ukraine
- Viktoriya Lyovkina, NGO “Shulhivska community”, Ukraine

The rights to seeds and biodiversity

Guests:

- Guests from Eastern Europe and Ukraine (TBC)
- Volodymyr Chaika, National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine
- Tetyana Sytnyk, NGO “Seed Treasure of Ukraine”

16:30 – 16:45 **Coffee break**

16:45 – 17:45 **Session 4. Time reserved for additional speakers and discussion**

Invited guests are Ukrainian farmers, researchers, representatives of international and Ukrainian organization, and social movements:

National Academy of Science of Ukraine, FAO Europe, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Visegrád Group PREPARE (network of experts in sustainable consumption and production), CEE Bankwatch (network of grassroots, environmental and human rights groups in central and eastern Europe), International Peasant’s Movement “La Via Campesina”, Eco Ruralis (Romanian grassroots association of small farmers), FIAN (international human rights organization), The Transnational Institute (TNI) – the international research and advocacy institute from the Netherlands, and others.

17:45 – 18:00 **Conclusions and recommendations of the Conference**

Towards better advocating for peasants’ rights – final words and appeal to governments and civil society

The Conference “Towards the United Nations Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas” will take place on 27 March 2018, in Kyiv, Ukraine at the Conference Hall of the Institute for Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Science of Ukraine – Panasa Myrnogo Street 26 (2nd floor).

For more information regarding the event, as well as for confirming your participation, please contact the Ukrainian Rural Development Network, e-mail: network@urdn.org, tel. + 38 (044) 254 39 66.