

THE RIGHT OF PEASANTS TO PARTICIPATION

*A Key to Social Justice, Dignity,
and Global Sustainability*

*Eightieth Session of the UN Human Rights
Council - 2025*



**Peasants and rural workers
produce more than**

70% *of the world's food.*



But their voices continue to be excluded from the spaces where **decisions are made about land, water, and food.**



There are structural barriers that deepen the exclusion of peasants **from decision-making.**



THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE

The right to participation is the foundation of peasant dignity and self-determination.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP) states that participation is not a privilege, but a fundamental human right.



Peasants must be able to effectively influence the decisions that affect **their land, work, and future.**

Being heard is not enough: peasants must take part in the creation, implementation, and evaluation of rural public policies.



Communities should have clear and accessible information in their own language so **they can make informed decisions.**

Their participation must be in an environment of safety and respect, **free from discrimination, violence, or retaliation.**





WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS



Aligning laws and policies with the UNDROP

Ensure the active, effective, meaningful, and informed participation of peasants and rural workers at all stages of government.

Review agricultural, environmental, and food-related legislation to **to incorporate the right to participation.**

Include peasant representatives in decision-making councils and bodies.

Adapt public policies to the realities of rural areas, **incorporating gender and youth perspectives.**





Legal reforms to eliminate barriers to participation.

Establish stable institutional mechanisms for **consultation and participation of peasants.**

Ensure that consultations are **accessible, transparent, and genuinely capable of influencing decisions.**

Guarantee representation spaces for **women and youth.**



Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

Ensure that no decision impacting peasants and rural communities is taken **without their knowledge and free, prior, and informed consent.**

Establish consultation protocols for **extractive and agricultural projects.**

Provide information in **local languages and accessible formats.**

Recognize the ability of rural communities to **to decide over their territories.**





Regulate corporate influence within decision-making spaces and processes

Strengthen transparency and accountability in the engagement of corporate actors in agricultural and food policy processes, ensuring that their participation is governed by human rights principles and the public interest, and that effective safeguards exist to prevent conflicts of interest and corporate capture of rural governance.



Invest in education and capacity-building resources to promote participation



Civic and legal education programs tailored to rural contexts.



Public financing and international cooperation to support participatory processes.



Educational materials produced in local languages and broadly disseminated.

Successful examples include peasant schools, rural youth leadership programs, and platforms of rural women.





Enhance international cooperation and strengthen accountability mechanisms

International oversight of the **implementation of the UNDROP.**

Ensure the extraterritorial application of **human rights obligations to corporations and financial institutions.**

Promote collaboration among States, the United Nations, and social movements **to track progress.**



Support the documentation and sharing of best practices



Systematize and document participatory experiences.



Provide funding for exchange networks among social movements, academia, and governments.



Foster South-South cooperation and the establishment of peasant observatories.



Ensuring peasant participation is essential for public policies to be legitimate and effective.



When decisions concerning land, water, and production are taken without the participation of rural communities, **the results often perpetuate inequalities, undermine rights, and compromise the sustainability of rural territories.**



Active and safeguarded participation helps redirect priorities toward the common good, reinforces accountability, **and democratizes the governance of food systems.**



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Topics

Working group on peasants



SPECIAL PROCEDURES
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