

DRAFT SPECIAL DECLARATION 13: ON THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS AND OTHER PEOPLE WORKING IN RURAL AREAS

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on the occasion of the Fifth Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on 24 and 25 January, 2017;

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 21/19 of 27 September, 2012, and resolution 30/13 of October 1, 2015, in which it established the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group to negotiate, finalize and to submit to the Human Rights Council a draft Declaration of the United Nations on the Rights of Peasants and others working in rural areas;

Recalling the Final Document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of Rio + 20 titled "The Future We Want," which, among other issues, recognizes that rural communities play an important role in economic, social and environmental development, as well as the importance of sustainable traditional agricultural practices, traditional seed supply systems, financing, markets, and secure tenure regimes for indigenous peoples and local communities; promotion of cooperatives and strong agricultural value chains;

Recalling as well, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and its integral and indivisible nature;

Recalling resolution, A/RES/66/222 of December 22, 2011, which declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming, at the same time, recognizes the important contribution that family and peasant agriculture and small farms can make for the achievement of food and nutritional security and the eradication of poverty;

Deeply concerned that 75 per cent of the world's extreme poor, most of whom are women, live and work in rural areas and 80 per cent of people who suffer from hunger live in rural areas, especially in developing countries. Of the latter figure, 50 percent are smallholders and traditional farmers living on small plots and growing products for sustenance or to sell them in local markets. Although there are concerns about the fact that another 20% are landless, most of whom continue to be tenant farmers or wage-earning agricultural workers and the remaining 10% are subsisting through traditional fishing, hunting and grazing activities;

We welcome the convening of the Third Ministerial Meeting on Family Agriculture of CELAC, preceded by the Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting, from November 9th to 11th of 2016 in San Salvador, El Salvador.

We welcome the holding of the third session of the "Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group" to negotiate, finalize and submit to the Human Rights Council a draft Declaration of the United Nations on the Rights of Peasants and other Persons Who Work In Rural Areas, held from 17 to 20 May, 2016, in Geneva, Switzerland;

We express support for the initiative of the Decennial Declaration on Family Agriculture, and urge the United Nations General Assembly to adopt this proposal;

We call for continued debate, discussion and negotiation on the proposed Declaration of United Nations on the Rights of Peasants and others Working in Rural Areas.

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, January 25th, 2017.