



Support to Civil Society
Organisations in Ukraine



Asociația tărânilor și tărăncilor
din România



IRWIR PAN



2023

INTERNATIONAL FORUM to protect the rights of peasants

December 12, 2023

Large conference hall of
the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
55 Volodymyrska St., Kyiv

INTERNATIONAL FORUM

**SMALL PRODUCERS
ON THE GUARD OF FOOD SECURITY:
UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and
Other People Working in Rural Areas**

Opening time – 10:00 (EET)
Registration of participants from 09:30 (EET)

AGENDA



Since the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the human rights of all people in Ukraine involved in food production, distribution and consumption are being violated on an existential level. The impact of this ongoing war on food security has been catastrophic, affecting the low-income groups at national, regional and global level, generating more hunger, instability and inequality. As we stand in the middle of a humanitarian crisis inflicted by the weaponizing of food, we are building solutions that address human rights as the core values of our society.

In 2018, the UN General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP). Ukrainian peasants have been involved in the process of negotiation, successfully convincing the Ukrainian government to vote in favor of UNDROP in the Human Rights Council. The UNDROP's provisions are now being implemented in many countries through public policies recommendations, trainings, awareness-raising activities, new court practices, and other actions in the daily life of communities. In Ukraine, this instrument has been used by peasants to articulate their solutions to the current crisis and to open political dialogue with decision makers.

Ukrainian peasants have been struggling on the food frontline to protect the survival of their communities. Peasants play an essential role in food security, combating hunger and malnutrition, preventing the negative effects of climate change, preserving biodiversity and contributing to the development of rural areas. In this sense, UNDROP is a fundamental legal instrument for strengthening the sustainability of food systems in the context of the multidimensional challenges of our time, aggravated by the ongoing war.

The International Forum "SMALL PRODUCERS ON THE GUARD OF FOOD SECURITY: UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas" seeks to raise awareness and exchange views of all stakeholders on the implementation of the UNDROP's provisions in the process of ensuring resilience during war and post-war recovery of the Ukrainian agriculture to enhance food security, increase peasants' welfare and strengthen sustainable rural development. This Forum is continuing the work initiated by Ukrainian peasants and civil society in 2022.

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9:30 – 10:00 REGISTRATION

OPENING SESSION

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PEASANT-FARMER MODEL FOR THE POST-WAR ECONOMIC REBUILDING OF UKRAINE

Valeriy GEYETS – Director of the Institute for Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

Monika STANNY – Director of the Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development, Polish Academy of Sciences

10:00 – 10:30

Ivan KYRYLENKO – Member of Parliament of Ukraine, Member of the Committee on Education, Science and Innovation

Ivan VERVEIKO – Deputy Head of the Secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights

Khatuna MURGULIA – Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Ukraine

FIRST SESSION

UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS: Five Years since Its Adoption by the UN General Assembly

Moderator: **Ramona DUMINICIOIU**

10:30 – 10:45

Olena BORODINA – Institute for Economics and Forecasting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine – Project Manager, Doctor of Economics, Professor
Human Rights-Based Approach to Preserving and Restoring Ukraine's Agri-Food System During the War and Post-War Rebuilding – Practical Mechanisms
Q&A Session

10:45 – 11:00

Ramona DUMINICIOIU – Small Scale Farmers Association of Romania "Eco Ruralis" – President
Implementation of the Main Provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants: the International Dimension
Q&A Session

11:00 – 11:15

Andrea FERRANTE – Agroecology School – Director
Agroecology a Food System Approach Based on Human Rights
Q&A Session

11:15 – 11:30

Viktor YAROVYI – State Institution "Institute for Economics and Forecasting NASU" – Senior Research Fellow
Ukraine's Participation in the Advocacy and Adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants
Q&A Session

11:30 – 11:45

Morten HARTVIGSEN – FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (FAO REU) – Regional Initiative Coordinator and Land Tenure Officer
Access to Land by Smallholders, Women and Youth – FAO Recommendations
Q&A Session

11:45 – 12:00

Raimund JEHLE – FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (FAO REU) – Regional Programme Leader
UNDROP and Its Importance to the Transformation of Agri-Food System
Q&A Session

12:00 – 12:15 COFFEE BREAK

SECOND SESSION

FOOD SECURITY IN THE TIME OF WAR: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Moderator: **Ruslan HOMYCH**

12:15 – 12:25

Ruslan HOMYCH – Head of Lebediya Farm, Head of the Volyn Regional AFZ
On the Guard of the Farmers' Front. Changes in Land Legislation during the War and Post-War Rebuilding

12:25 – 12:35

Andriy KUZMYCH – Farmer, Head of Rivne Region AFZ
Peasant Farmers' Rights to Decent Livelihoods in Rural Areas

12:35 – 12:45

Svitlana GAPONYK – Head of the Kharkiv Regional AFZU
Experience of FAO's Cooperation with Peasants and Farmers during the War: Local Practices of Smallholders

12:45 – 12:55

Oleg BONDARENKO – Head of the Kalyna farm, Head of the NGO "Association of Farmers and Private Landowners of Sumy Region"
How Peasants and Farmers on the Frontline Defend their Right to Live in Rural Areas

12:55 – 13:05

Vasyl BURLAKA – Head of the Avangard farm
Poltava Farmers' Commitment to the Food Security amid the War

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13:05 – 13:15 **Kateryna SKRYLNYK** – Head of the Fortuna-2015 Farm and Founder of the Skrylnyk Family Farm
The Future of Family Farming - How to Develop a Family Dairy Farm

13:15 – 13:25 **Oleksandr PALAR'YEV** – Head of the Frumushyha-Nova Farm
Diversification of Family Farm Income as a Mechanism for Increasing Its Potential

13:25 – 13:35 **Mariya LUK'YANOVA** – First Deputy Head of Berezhanska TG, 2019-2023.
Local Governments in Protecting the Rights of Rural Communities during the War and Post-War Rebuilding

13:35 – 14:00 Q&A SESSION

14:00 – 15:00 LUNCH BREAK

THIRD SESSION

IMPLEMENTATION OF PEASANT'S RIGHTS IN POST-WAR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Moderator: **Viktor SHEREMETA**

15:00 – 15:15 **Taras VYSOTS'KYI** – First Deputy Minister of the Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine
The Role of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine in Supporting Small Producers during the War and Post-War Rebuilding

15:15 – 15:30 **Pierre VAUTHIER** – FAO Head of Country Office
Peasants and Farmers in Ukraine: Addressing Current Challenges and Future Plans during Post-War Rebuilding

15:30 – 15:45 **Christophe GOLAY** – Senior Research Fellow and Strategic Adviser on ESC Rights of Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
Implementation of UNDROP in Post-War Agricultural and Rural Development: Lessons Learned from Colombia and Prospects for Ukraine

15:45 – 16:00 **Nataliia HENDEL** – Research Fellow at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (Switzerland), Senior Research Fellow at the State Scientific Institution "Institute of Information, Security and Law of the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine", Member of the Ukrainian Association of International Law, European Association of International Law and the Association for Environmental Peacebuilding
Legal Challenges to the Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants in Ukrainian Legislation

16:00 – 16:15 **Ivan TOMYCH** – Head of the Union of Ukrainian Peasants
Advocacy and Ensuring the Rights of Peasants as a Guarantee of Food Security, Mitigation of Climate Change, Protection of Land and Local Economy

16:15 – 16:30 **Viktor SHEREMETA** – Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine 2017–2019, Vice-President of AFZU
Strengthening the Capacity of Small Producers in the Post-War Rebuilding of the Agri-Food System in Ukraine

16:30 – 17:00 Q&A SESSION

FOURTH SESSION

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE FORUM PARTICIPANTS

Moderator: **Viktor GONCHARENKO**

17:00 – 17:30 **Viktor GONCHARENKO** – President of the Association of Farmers and Private Landowners of Ukraine
A year after the previous Forum: Have all decisions been implemented?
Plans for the future: Discussion of the Civil Society appeal to the Government and International Institutions – "Small Producers on the Guard of Food Security in Ukraine with Respect for the Rights of Peasants and Farmers"

17:30 – 20:00 INFORMAL COMMUNICATION, DINNER



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