La Via Campesina welcomes the UN Human Rights Council move to challenge corporate impunity

Switzerland, Geneva, 18 June 2014) From June 11 to the 13 June the UN Human Rights Council will hold the 23rd session. La Via Campesina welcomes the resolution adopted by the UN Human Rights Council to bring a new light to the impact of the food system on human rights. The resolution, requiring the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report on “the adverse impacts of corporate crimes and impunity” on human rights, is a victory for the millions of farmers and rural workers who struggle against corporate abuses and violations of their human rights.

In the year of the International Year of Family Farming, La Via Campesina welcomes the UN Human Rights Council’s move to challenge corporate impunity. In its resolution 23/4, the Council determined that “the adverse impacts of corporate crimes and impunity on human rights” should be listed in the reports of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council. La Via Campesina welcomes this move as a new step towards justice. It calls for the implementation of a binding treaty to punish the crimes of transnational companies (TNCs). “This is a victory for the victims and their families,” said José M. Mújica, convener of La Via Campesina. “It is a victory for the women, men, girls, and boys who, for so long, have been struggling to access land and maintain control of their food systems and food sovereignty! Creating knowledge for Food Sovereignty

In the current world order, small farmers are a crucial source of food, nutrition, employment, provide healthy food, and respect natural resources. They are actively engaged in the creation of knowledge for food sovereignty. During the IYFF, La Via Campesina looks to mobilise so that policies to protect and to strengthen peasant family farming might be implemented. La Via Campesina seeks to strengthen the voluntary work values in Palestine and support the farmers’ resilience on their land and rights to use it. The report seeks to strengthen the voluntary work values in Palestine and support the farmers’ resilience on their land and rights to use it.

La Via Campesina’s position on the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) - 2014

La Via Campesina welcomes the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) as an important opportunity to call attention to the central role that small farmers play in producing food and vital ecosystem services for the world’s population. In particular, La Via Campesina welcomes the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2012, which declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF). This resolution, which received overwhelming support from the UN General Assembly, is a clear signal to governments and international agencies to take action to support small farmers and rural workers.

La Via Campesina welcomes the decision of the UN General Assembly to declare 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF), as an important step towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The SDGs aim to eliminate poverty and hunger, ensure access to nutritious food, and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Open call: Joint Week of Mobilization to Stop Corporate Crimes and Impunity at the UNHRC

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