



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

Twenty-first session

Agenda item 5

Human rights bodies and mechanisms

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council*

21/19.

Promotion and protection of the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 13/4 of 24 March 2010, 16/27 of 25 March 2011 and 19/7 of 22 March 2012,

Determined to foster strict respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Underlining the imperative need to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in order to contribute to making the right to development a reality for everyone,

Gravely concerned that hunger, like poverty, is still predominantly a rural problem, and that in the rural population it is those who produce food who suffer disproportionately, and alarmed that 80 per cent of people suffering from hunger live in rural areas, particularly in developing countries, and 50 per cent are small-scale and traditional farm holders, and that these people are especially vulnerable to food insecurity, discrimination and exploitation,

Recognizing that livelihoods in rural areas are disproportionately affected by poverty, climate change, lack of development and lack of access to scientific progress,

Taking note of the draft declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas prepared by the Advisory Committee and submitted to the Human Rights Council,¹

Convinced of the need to strengthen the protection and realization of the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas,

* The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council will be contained in the report of the Council on its twenty-first session (A/HRC/21/2), chap. I.

¹ A/HRC/19/75, annex.

1. *Decides* to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group with the mandate of negotiating, finalizing and submitting to the Human Rights Council a draft United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, on the basis of the draft submitted by the Advisory Committee, and without prejudging relevant past, present and future views and proposals;
2. *Also decides* that the working group shall hold its first session for five working days in 2013, before the twenty-third session of the Human Rights Council;
3. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the working group with the human, technical and financial assistance necessary for it to fulfil its mandate;
4. *Requests* the President of the Human Rights Council to invite the Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee drafting group on the draft declaration to participate in the first session of the working group;
5. *Invites* States, civil society, representatives of peasants and other people working in rural areas and all relevant stakeholders to contribute actively and constructively to the work of the working group;
6. *Requests* the working group to submit a report on progress made to the Human Rights Council for its consideration at its twenty-sixth session.

*37th meeting
27 September 2012*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 23 to 9, with 15 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay

Against:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Spain, United States of America

Abstaining:

Botswana, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Switzerland]