



Statement by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on the open-ended intergovernmental working group on a United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

4th Session

Thank you Madam Chairperson Rapporteur ,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Tunisia on behalf of the African Group.

At the outset, allow me, Madam Chairperson Rapporteur, to congratulate you for being elected as a chairperson/rapporteur of the **working group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas**.

We also thank the organizers for their informative ideas contained in the draft Declaration, and the morning's wonderful presentations by all the panelists.

Ethiopia believes that peasants and people living in rural areas are the base and corner stones for development and healthier life. They also contribute significantly for the improvement of better living standards of a country, alleviation of poverty, food security, the fight against climate change and the conservation of biodiversity if supported by sound policy and legal framework. For this reason, bearing in mind the need for further improvement, we support the draft Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in rural areas.

Like many developing and Least Developed countries, Ethiopia's overall performance of its economy, is highly dependent on the maximum and sustainable performance and transformation of agriculture. The labor force to

other off-farm activities, the need for educated, innovative, and creative skilled human labor force in agriculture, is indispensable for the successful economic development and alleviation of poverty. By focusing on the small holder farmers and pastoralists, not only we protect and promote the rights of peasants, but also we can use this subject as crucially important instrument for development. The right of peasants to possess and utilize of land, has paramount importance for the development of any country.

Madam Chairperson, Ethiopia has been ensuring double digit growth for the last decade following peasant friendly strategy. In this regard, we further have aligned Agenda 2030 with pro-peasant development endeavours in the country.

Finally, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to work constructively with the working group.

Thank you