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**CONSELHO NACIONAL DOS DIREITOS HUMANOS**  
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Ofício nº 546/2018/SEI/CNDH/SNC/MDH

Brasília, 20 de abril de 2018.

**TO THE OPEN-ENDED INTER-GOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP FOR A UN  
DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS AND OTHER PEOPLE WORKING IN  
RURAL AREAS**

**SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS  
OF PEASANTS AND OTHER PEOPLE WORKING IN RURAL AREAS**

Distinguished Mister Chair-Rapporteur, Luis Fernando Rosales Lozada, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

1. The Human Rights National Council (CNDH) of Brazil, is the autonomous body of parity formation that has more than 50 years working for a promotion and defense of human rights in Brazil. Created with the goal of being the guardian of human rights, its purpose is the promotion and defense of human rights through preventive, protective, remedial and sanctioning actions of conduct and situations of threat or violation of these rights, including those provided for in treaties and international acts ratified by Brazil.

2. **Considering** the institutional mission of the CNDH and its action very frequently in situations of serious violations of human rights in the countryside, in cases of threats and murders in the countryside, as well as in coping with the violence of frequent arbitrary displacement from their land or place of habitual residence, and the impact of large hydroelectric and mining that affect the rights of indigenous peoples, *quilombolas* (descendants of enslaved people, who escaped from slave existed and fought for the freedom of the black people in Brazil) , others traditional peoples and communities and rural workers.

3. **Recognizing** that there is a discrimination and historical oppression against peasants and others working in rural areas; recognizing also that half the world's population still live in rural areas; and that international legislation has some shortcomings regarding the protection of the human rights of this population group.

4. **Alarmed** with the growth in violence that victimizes peasants, people and traditional communities and workers in the rural areas in Brazil. The data presented by the Pastoral Land Commission/CPT point to the murder of 70 rural workers/human rights defenders linked to the agrarian question in 2017, which is the highest number of the last 15 years. In 03 (three) years, the number of murders almost doubled in Brazil.

5. **Recognizing** that the human dignity of peasants and other people working in rural areas is guaranteed by the human right to land and to agrarian reform (for the first time, as a human right in international law); right to water for consumption and irrigation (advancing in the water debate as a right, in addition to individual consumption); the right of consult and cooperate in good faith with peasants and other people working in rural areas, before takes decisions that affect this group, taking into consideration existing power imbalances between different parties and ensuring active, free and effective (on draft laws, major works, public policies and other actions that may have an impact on the right of peasants); recognition of the rights of women peasants (emphasizing the importance of women in food production and their particular vulnerability); food safety (recognized in the declaration for the first time as international law); the rights of human rights defenders (the declaration provides a set of mechanisms for the protection of these people fighting for the right to land); the rights of indigenous peoples (recognizing them as subjects of rights of the declaration, but safeguarding the rights already approved in other international instruments related to them); the right to seeds (safeguarding the rights and interests of peasants and traditional peoples and communities); collective rights in general.

6. The Human Rights National Council (CNDH) of the Federative Republic of Brazil **thanks** the Plurinational State of Bolivia's mission and other States supporting for their efforts for elaboration of this Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas and also **expresses support** for the adoption of a Declaration that recognizes the human rights of this group of people.

**FABIANA GALERA SEVERO**

President

Human Rights National Council of Brazil



Documento assinado eletronicamente por **Fabiana Galera Severo, Usuário Externo**, em 20/04/2018, às 16:56, conforme o § 1º do art. 6º e art. 10 do Decreto nº 8.539/2015.



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