



## RESEARCH BRIEF

# THE ROLE OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PROMOTION AND MONITORING OF UNDROP

### KEY MESSAGES

The adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) by the General Assembly in 2018 was the result of almost 20 years of mobilisation by La Via Campesina and its allies from social movements and civil society organizations (CSOs). It aimed to respond to the multiple forms of discrimination faced by peasants and other people working in rural areas, who are disproportionately affected by extreme poverty and hunger, and to protect and promote their way of life and dignity.

The implementation of UNDROP represents a unique opportunity to re-balance power relations in rural areas and to guarantee that states respect, protect and fulfil the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, who have frequently been marginalised within international, regional and national laws and policies. It is key for redressing various forms of discrimination and historical disadvantage that have affected peasants and other people working in rural areas for too long.

The full and meaningful participation of peasants and other people working in rural areas should be guaranteed in UNDROP's implementation. They shall participate, directly and/or through their representative organizations, in all decision-making processes that may affect their lives, lands and livelihoods. The establishment and growth of strong and independent organizations of peasants and other people working in rural areas shall also be respected and supported by states, and UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, should consider ways to ensure their full participation in the implementation of the UNDROP. At global level, a UN Voluntary Fund for peasants and other people working in rural areas should be established to support their participation in the activities of the UN system.

Accountability for violations of the rights enshrined in the UNDROP shall be increased by the establishment of new human rights monitoring mechanisms at regional and national levels, and by the reinforcement of existing ones at national, regional and international levels, with a key role to be played by the UN Working Group on UNDROP. Monitoring mechanisms should be available to monitor the implementation of the UNDROP at all levels.

Social movements and CSOs have a key role to play in the promotion and monitoring of UNDROP. They can create websites, popular materials, translate UNDROP into national and local languages, conduct awareness raising workshops and training courses for rights holders and duty bearers. They can use strategic litigation in cases of violations of UNDROP. They can create local, national, regional and international coalitions to promote UNDROP. They can study the level of protection of UNDROP and its key rights in national laws and policies, and lead advocacy campaigns to fill the gaps. They can also send information about UNDROP to national, regional and international human rights mechanisms. When they perform this role, they need to be supported by all relevant actors, including States, international and regional organizations, and human rights mechanisms.

**DECEMBER 2025 | Dr. Christophe Golay**

This publication has been externally peer-reviewed

## INTRODUCTION

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) on 17 December 2018.<sup>1</sup>

In this publication, we will describe the role of social movements and civil society organizations (CSOs) in the promotion and monitoring of UNDROP. By doing that, we will complement other studies that we published on the role of States, international and regional organizations, and human rights bodies in UNDROP's implementation and monitoring.<sup>2</sup>

In this study, we will present examples of good practices linked to the project Rights-based and agroecological initiatives for sustainability and equity in peasant communities (RAISE). Launched in 2022, with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), RAISE promotes agroecological transition and UNDROP's implementation in India, Nepal, Kenya, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso and South Africa.

Fastenaktion/Action de Carême is coordinating this project, in collaboration with Rural Women Assembly (RWA) in South Africa, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Suisse (VSF) and its local partners in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Kenya, and DKA (Dreikönigsaktion) Austria with its local partners in India and Nepal.<sup>3</sup> The Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights has been a strategic partner in this project between 2022 and 2025.<sup>4</sup> This role will be played by FIAN Switzerland in the second phase of the project starting in 2026.<sup>5</sup>

Together with the Geneva Academy, La Via Campesina, CETIM and FIAN International created a website on UNDROP – Defending Peasants' Rights – to provide a common platform to facilitate knowledge-sharing and connect different social movements and CSOs.<sup>6</sup> This website was created with the support of Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, Fastenaktion/Action de Carême, HEKS/EPER, DKA Austria, and RAISE. It contains information about UNDROP's promotion, monitoring and implementation, training materials and publications, as well as specific entries on each of the rights enshrined in UNDROP (Interactive UNDROP), on the different rights holders protected by UNDROP, and on the UN Working Group on UNDROP, which started its activities in 2024.<sup>7</sup>

We will start by introducing key rights of UNDROP that are central in RAISE activities, namely the rights to food and food sovereignty, the right to land and other natural resources, and the right to seeds. We will then present different UN human rights mechanisms through which

UNDROP is monitored, and examples of good practices in UNDROP's promotion and monitoring, with a focus on Southern Africa, Kenya, Burkina Faso and Nepal. We will end with recommendations to guide social movements and CSOs to support the future implementation of UNDROP.

## KEY RIGHTS IN UNDROP

### RIGHTS TO FOOD AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

The importance of the rights to food and food sovereignty in UNDROP has been explained in several booklets and briefs published by civil society and academia.<sup>8</sup>

In UNDROP's article 15, States recognized the different components of the right to food: the right to adequate food and nutrition, the fundamental right to be free from hunger, and the right of peasants, fisherfolk, pastoralists and herders to produce food to feed themselves and their families with dignity.<sup>9</sup>

In the same article, States recognized the right to food sovereignty for the first time in an international instrument adopted by the UN General Assembly. Defined as the right for peasants and other rural communities to determine their own food and agriculture systems, it includes their right to participate in decision-making processes on food and agriculture policy, and their right to healthy and adequate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods that respect their cultures.<sup>10</sup>

UNDROP's article 15 also provides that States shall formulate, in partnership with peasants and other people working in rural areas, public policies at the local, national, regional and international levels to advance and protect the rights to food and food sovereignty.<sup>11</sup>

### RIGHT TO LAND AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES

UNDROP recognizes the right to land and other natural resources for non-indigenous people and communities for the first time in international human rights law. The importance of this recognition has been highlighted by CSOs and academia.<sup>12</sup>

UNDROP's articles 5 and 17 provide that this right can be exercised individually and/or collectively, and that it includes freedoms and entitlements: freedom from discrimination, protection against forced eviction, displacement and land exploitation, and entitlements to agrarian reform and to conservation and sustainable use of land and other natural resources.<sup>13</sup> They also provide that landless peasants, young people, small-scale fishers and other rural workers should be given priority in the allocation

of public lands, fisheries and forests.<sup>14</sup> Combined with article 4, these articles define the right to land and other natural resources of rural women, who shall be empowered and enjoy all rights without discrimination.<sup>15</sup>

The right to land and other natural resources includes the right of peasants and other people working in rural areas to have access to, sustainably use and manage land and other natural resources to achieve an adequate standard of living, to have a place to live in security, peace and dignity and to develop their cultures.<sup>16</sup>

## RIGHT TO SEEDS

The right to seeds in UNDROP has been presented in booklets and briefs published by CSOs and academia.<sup>17</sup> UNDROP's article 19 provides that States shall respect, protect and fulfil the key elements of the right to seeds, including peasants' rights to the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relating to seeds; to equitably participate in sharing the benefits arising from the use of seeds; to participate in the making of decisions on matters relating to seeds; and to save, use, exchange and sell their farm-saved seed or propagating material.<sup>18</sup> They shall also guarantee peasants' right to maintain, control, protect and develop their own seeds and traditional knowledge.<sup>19</sup> UNDROP also provides that States shall support peasants' seed systems and agrobiodiversity and promote a system for the evaluation and certification of peasants' seeds, with the participation of peasants.<sup>20</sup>

According to UNDROP, other international instruments, including those relating to intellectual property, should not restrict but rather facilitate the realization of the right to seeds.<sup>21</sup> At the national level, States should ensure the coherence of their agricultural, economic and development policies with the right to seeds and ensure that policies and laws relating to seeds, plant varieties and intellectual property respect and take into account peasants' rights, needs and realities.<sup>22</sup>

## UN HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES

### UN WORKING GROUP

Five years after UNDROP's adoption, in 2023, the Human Rights Council decided to create the UN Working Group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas to promote UNDROP's implementation.<sup>23</sup> This Working Group of 5 independent experts started its work in May 2024.<sup>24</sup> Like other UN special procedures, it can have several successive mandates of 3 years, and its

members can exercise their mandates for a maximum of 6 years.

The Working Group is mandated to identify gaps in UNDROP's implementation, to disseminate good practices, to facilitate exchanges and international cooperation, and to report to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly.<sup>25</sup> Social movements, CSOs and academia explained that it can act as a catalyst for UNDROP, by providing visibility and support to advance the promotion and protection of the rights enshrined in the Declaration, by clarifying UNDROP's implications, by identifying key challenges, and by recommending concrete measures to be adopted by States and other actors.<sup>26</sup> Its methods of work include thematic reports, communications and country visits.<sup>27</sup> Its first thematic reports focused on its establishment and working methods, emerging trends and risks related to UNDROP's rights holders, and their right to participation.<sup>28</sup> In 2026, it will produce a report on the right to seeds, and a report on the right to land and other natural resources.<sup>29</sup>

Since its creation, the Working Group has participated in several activities coordinated by the creators of the website Defending Peasants Rights and RAISE, including side events at the Human Rights Council and at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), webinars and training.<sup>30</sup>

### OTHER SPECIAL PROCEDURES

On the occasion of UNDROP's first anniversary on 17 December 2019, nine special procedures and four treaty body members released a joint statement in which they committed to protect the rights of peasants and other rural workers, to integrate these rights in the exercise of their mandates, and to provide guidance to States on how they can implement them.<sup>31</sup> On 16 December 2022, twelve special procedure mandate holders released a joint statement in which they stated that "UNDROP provides a framework to enable a just transition to a food system where biodiversity and human rights flourish. (...) UNDROP provides not only a recognition of peasants' and rural workers' rights and contributions, but also serves as a roadmap for States, the UN, business enterprises and other stakeholders to take concrete actions on the ground".<sup>32</sup>

Following the example of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, who included UNDROP in at least five of its reports – on finance, fisheries, conflict, seeds, and the Covid-19 pandemic – and the example of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change, who included peasants' rights in its first four reports presented in 2024 and 2025 to the Human Rights Council and General

Assembly, all special procedures could include UNDROP in their work.<sup>33</sup>

## TREATY BODIES

Following the examples of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Human Rights Committee, all treaty bodies could include UNDROP in their examination of State parties' periodic reports and of communications, and in their general comments or recommendations.<sup>34</sup>

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

When it created the Human Rights Council in 2006, the General Assembly decided that it would undertake "a universal periodic review, based on objective and reliable information, of the fulfilment by each State of its human rights obligations and commitments in a manner which ensures universality of coverage and equal treatment with respect to all States".<sup>35</sup>

At the UPR, all States are evaluated by their peers, who formulate recommendations for a better implementation of human rights in the country under review.<sup>36</sup> The State under review can then decide if it accepts or rejects the recommendations made.<sup>37</sup> The basis of the review is the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, human rights treaties to which the State is party and voluntary pledges and commitments that it has made, as well as applicable international humanitarian law.<sup>38</sup>

The UPR is based on three main documents. The national report prepared by the State under review. A compilation prepared by OHCHR with recommendations made by UN treaty bodies and special procedures on human rights in the State under review. And a summary prepared by OHCHR based on information received by other stakeholders, including from civil society organizations and national human rights institutions.<sup>39</sup>

A few months before the UPR, the NGO UPR-Info organizes pre-sessions, during which social movements and CSOs can present individual or collective reports, and share these with States that are interested in making recommendations to the State under review.<sup>40</sup>

Since UNDROP's adoption in 2018, several social movements and CSOs presented reports focusing on UNDROP's implementation in their country. Using these reports, many States made UPR recommendations to push for the implementation of UNDROP or some of its key rights.

For example, a peasant organization and several CSOs created a coalition of the Friends of UNDROP in Switzerland and sent contributions for the UPR of Switzerland in 2023, on UNDROP's national implementation and on Swiss foreign policy's impact on UNDROP.<sup>41</sup> While no UPR recommendation was made on Swiss foreign policy, Switzerland accepted a recommendation made by Cuba to "guarantee that peasant women have the benefits of social security to strengthen their economic independence, regardless of their civil status and family situation".<sup>42</sup>

## EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICES

### SOUTHERN AFRICA

In Southern Africa, Rural Women's Assembly (RWA) is coordinating RAISE's activities. RWA was created in 2009, and it regroups more than 160'000 rural women in 11 country chapters in Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.<sup>43</sup>

In 2021, RWA started to use UNDROP to reinforce its work on the rights of rural women, farmers, fishers, farmworkers and peasants, gender-based violence, food sovereignty, land, seeds, climate justice and agroecology.<sup>44</sup> It created popular materials – pamphlets, posters, fact sheets and booklets – to disseminate information in different languages and popularize UNDROP.<sup>45</sup> Since 2022, it conducted awareness raising workshops and training courses for UNDROP's rights holders, with a focus on rural women's rights to food sovereignty, land and seeds.<sup>46</sup> Through its activities, it empowered women to take active roles in leadership positions within their communities and advocate for policy changes to protect these rights.<sup>47</sup>

In 2022, RWA used an opportunity to send a first report on UNDROP to the UN at the occasion of the UPR of South Africa. After a broad consultation process, it submitted a report on rural women's rights to food, food sovereignty, land and seeds, with concrete recommendations for law and policy changes in South Africa.<sup>48</sup> Lungisa Huna was invited in Geneva to speak on behalf of RWA and to present this report during the UPR pre-session. The UPR ended with recommendations on the need to take steps to implement the rights to food, water and land made by Bahamas, Brazil, Burundi, Estawini, Indonesia, New Zealand, Palestine, Poland, Russia, Sudan, Tunisia, and accepted by the Government of South Africa.<sup>49</sup>

In 2024 and 2025, RWA sent contributions to the Working Group on UNDROP, in response to its call for

information to prepare its reports on emerging trends and risks related to UNDROP's rights holders and on their right to participation.<sup>50</sup> In October 2024, Lungisa Huna spoke on behalf of RWA at a side event at the CFS in Rome on the implementation of the right to food and UNDROP in Africa and Europe, in a panel with the Special Rapporteur on the right to food and the Chair of the Working Group on UNDROP.<sup>51</sup> In May and December 2025, Norah Mlondobozzi represented RWA in webinars on UNDROP's rights holders and their right to participation.<sup>52</sup>

In October 2025, to mark the International Day of Rural Women (15 October) and World Food Day (16 October), RWA adopted a statement in which it underlined that “Governments must implement policies rooted in justice—such as (...) UNDROP, support farmer-managed seed systems, and uphold laws that ensure women's meaningful participation. Land reform initiatives like “One Woman, One Hectare” must be prioritized, along with the protection of community seed systems and corporate accountability for human rights and ecological sustainability”.<sup>53</sup> In a continent in which rural women produce between 50% and 60% of food but own only about 5% of arable land<sup>54</sup>, RWA launched in 2014 the campaign “One Women, One Hectare”, which aims to ensure that women have access to at least one hectare of land with water to grow food.<sup>55</sup>

In Southern Africa, despite the existence of supportive laws and international frameworks such as UNDROP, and significant efforts made by RWA and its partners, the rights of peasants and rural workers continue to be neglected. Limited government engagement, financial constraints, resistance to policy changes, and systemic discrimination have been identified as limiting factors for UNDROP's implementation.<sup>56</sup>

## KENYA

In Kenya, a key RAISE member is the Center for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE), established in 2001 to strengthen the capacities of minorities and indigenous peoples (pastoralists, forest peoples and fisher communities) – who represent almost 20% of Kenya's population – and to advocate for their rights.<sup>57</sup> CEMIRIDE developed an expertise on public interest litigation, and won landmark cases for the Endorois, Ogiek, and Nubians, leading to the recognition of their claims to their ancestral land and citizenship rights.<sup>58</sup>

In 2024, CEMIRIDE sent a report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), with a focus on the right to land.<sup>59</sup> In its concluding observations, CERD asked Kenya to better protect the rights of indigenous

peoples.<sup>60</sup> It also highlighted that despite the Land Laws (Amendment Act) 2016, the Community Land Act 2016 and the establishment of the National Land Commission, concerns remain “about the persisting inequality in access to land, particularly for women, and the slow progress achieved in implementing land restitution policies and resolving overlapping claims under formal and customary systems, which continue to fuel inter-ethnic conflicts”.<sup>61</sup> It urged Kenya to enhance coordination between formal and customary land-tenure systems to harmonize land governance, particularly in areas prone to land disputes, while ensuring that women's rights are fully respected in both systems; to expedite the resolution and implementation of land claims by the National Land Commission, ensuring restitution or adequate compensation for affected communities; and to establish comprehensive land titling and registration systems to secure titles for both individual and communal landowners, transparent mechanisms to resolve overlapping claims between formal and customary land-tenure systems, and measures to address historical land injustices.<sup>62</sup>

In October 2024, Juliet Ogubi spoke on behalf of CEMIRIDE at a side event at the CFS in Rome on the implementation of the right to food and UNDROP in Africa and Europe, in the panel with the Special Rapporteur on the right to food and the Chair of the Working Group on UNDROP.<sup>63</sup>

In 2025, CEMIRIDE sent a report on the rights to food and land for the UPR of Kenya, together with Act for Change Trust. Nyang'ori Ohenjo was invited in Geneva to speak on behalf of CEMIRIDE and to present this report at the UPR pre-session on 25 February 2025.<sup>64</sup> During the UPR, the Government of Kenya highlighted that plans to address the grievances of Indigenous communities such as the Ogiek and the people of Embobut, and to resolve long-standing land issues were being developed.<sup>65</sup> It accepted a recommendation made by Bolivia to “increase efforts and resources to implement the National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (2024–2033), prioritizing small-scale producers at the county level”<sup>66</sup>, and a recommendation made by Gambia to “continue to strengthen access to justice initiatives, particularly through the expansion of legal aid services to marginalized and rural communities”.<sup>67</sup> In August 2025, CEMIRIDE organized a follow-up workshop to share the results of the UPR with its partners from Kenya and RAISE.<sup>68</sup>

It is also interesting to note that another Kenyan actor, the Kenyan Peasant League (KPL), a social movement of

Kenyan peasant farmers, fishers, pastoralists and consumers, has been very active in the promotion of UNDROP.<sup>69</sup> In 2024 and 2025, KPL sent contributions to the UN Working Group on UNDROP, in response to its call for information to prepare its thematic reports.<sup>70</sup> KPL won two major victories before courts, in both cases convincing the courts to use UNDROP as one of the legal bases. In the first decision, it successfully challenged the decision by the government to lift the ban on GMOs in 2022.<sup>71</sup> In the second decision in 2025, the High Court of Kenya declared unconstitutional provisions of the Seed and Plant Varieties Act that criminalized the saving, use, exchange and sale of Indigenous and farm-saved seeds.<sup>72</sup> This court decision was described as a major victory also by the UN Working Group on UNDROP.<sup>73</sup>

## BURKINA FASO

In Burkina Faso, extreme poverty and food insecurity are widespread among peasants and other people working in rural areas, where two-thirds of the population live and work. This situation has been exacerbated by land grabbing over the last 20 years.<sup>74</sup>

A key partner of RAISE in the country is FIAN Burkina Faso, whose representative participated in the negotiation of UNDROP in Geneva in 2017.<sup>75</sup> FIAN Burkina Faso is the coordinator of the national platform of the West African Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles.<sup>76</sup>

Between 2020 and 2022, FIAN Burkina Faso conducted a campaign to promote UNDROP, with the support of FIAN Switzerland.<sup>77</sup> During this campaign, it informed rights-holders about their rights under UNDROP, strengthened peasant organisations so that they can push for its implementation, and organized workshops with local, national, and sub-regional authorities and institutions to raise awareness about their obligations to implement UNDROP. FIAN Burkina Faso also produced a study on the protection of the key rights of UNDROP in national laws and policies. In this study, it showed that these rights are well protected in national laws and policies – if we except the right to seeds – but that they are not implemented in practice.<sup>78</sup>

In 2022 and 2023, Lucien Silga, Coordinator of FIAN Burkina Faso, conducted training on UNDROP for the Réseau Billital Maroobé (RBM), the local partner of VSF and RAISE in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. In 2023, FIAN Burkina Faso and RBM sent separate reports to the UN for the UPR of Burkina Faso, both on the right to land of peasants and pastoralists.<sup>79</sup> Unfortunately, their recommendations were not made by other States to Burkina Faso during the UPR.<sup>80</sup> In 2024, FIAN Burkina Faso sent a contribution to the UN

Working Group on UNDROP, in response to its call for information to prepare its thematic reports.<sup>81</sup>

## NEPAL

In Nepal, more than 70% of the population live in rural areas, and more than 65% are engaged in agriculture. More than 50% of those engaged in agriculture are peasants who own less than half a hectare of land. The Lands Act, adopted in 1964, aimed to protect the most vulnerable people and give them land ownership. However, it has been poorly implemented, particularly for women, indigenous peoples, and landless people. As a result, 400,000 tenants are still waiting to get their land.<sup>82</sup> In 2004, during the armed conflict, the National Land Rights Forum was created by landless and grassroots organisations. Today, it is composed of thousands of people living in more than 50 of the country's 77 districts, reaching over 600,000 people.<sup>83</sup>

In Nepal, a key member of RAISE is the Social Work Institute (SWI), created in 1987 and registered as an independent NGO in 2000. SWI aims to empower people that are disadvantaged due to cast, gender, occupation or the place they live.<sup>84</sup> Through its activities, which include empowerment and capacity building, climate action, and global and regional partnerships, it supports disadvantaged people in their quest for improved socio-economic living conditions, a self-determined, active and dignified life, and marginalized communities in their fight for better controlled development processes and improved livelihood systems.<sup>85</sup>

A partner of SWI in Nepal is the Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC), which has been at the forefront of land rights and land reform advocacy since its creation in 1992, facilitating almost 100'000 secured land ownerships for landless, tenants, former bonded laborers, and smallholder farmers, and joint land ownership to 10,493 couples.<sup>86</sup> CSRC also promotes agroecology, defends women's right to land, and supports the building of resilient communities.<sup>87</sup> Jagat Basnet from CSRC, participated in the negotiation of UNDROP in Geneva, and since 2018, UNDROP's promotion has been a priority for CSRC.<sup>88</sup>

In 2024, SWI and FIAN Nepal published a study on the status of UNDROP's implementation in the country.<sup>89</sup> In this study, they explained that the Constitution of Nepal enshrines many key rights of UNDROP, including the rights to food and food sovereignty, as well as key guiding principles, such as the need to conduct land reform for the benefit of peasants.<sup>90</sup> Important federal laws include the Right to Food and Sovereignty Act and the Social Security Act of 2018, and the Land Act of 2017.<sup>91</sup> At Provincial level,

the Bagmati Province and the Sudurpaschim Province for example adopted a Seeds Act in 2019 and 2020, the Madhesh provincial government enacted the Food Council Rules in 2023, and the Karnali Province adopted its Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act in 2022 as well as the Organic Agriculture Act in 2020, to pursue its goal of becoming an “organic province”.<sup>92</sup>

SWI and FIAN Nepal highlighted that despite a progressive legal framework at national and provincial levels, the rights enshrined in UNDROP are not properly implemented. At the end of their report, they made recommendations for better implementation of UNDROP to national and provincial authorities, to institutional reform and service delivery, and to CSOs.<sup>93</sup>

In November 2025, Namaraj Silwal and Rachana Poudel came to Geneva on behalf of SWI to share their analysis and recommendations on UNDROP’s implementation, presented in a report prepared for the UPR pre-session of Nepal.<sup>94</sup> At this occasion, they met with several States, which showed interest in making recommendations on UNDROP during Nepal’s UPR.

A month before, in October 2025, a youth from Nepal, Ashish Thani, represented RAISE, SWI and the Agroecology Youth Network Nepal at a side event during the CFS, in a panel with the Special Rapporteur on the right to food and a member of the Working Group on UNDROP.<sup>95</sup> In his intervention, Ashish Thani underlined that youth play a key role in the implementation of the rights to food and food sovereignty, agroecology, the right to land and other natural resources, the right to seeds, the rights to fair wages and social protection, and the right to participation. He concluded by saying that youth request governments and international bodies to “respect human rights, protect seed and land rights, ensure meaningful participation, and transform food systems through agroecology and food sovereignty. We believe this is the path to a resilience that is both equitable and transformative”.<sup>96</sup>

## CONCLUSION

In describing the achievements of the RAISE project between 2022 and 2025, we showed how social movements and CSOs can play a key role in the promotion and monitoring of UNDROP. The examples of good practices from Southern Africa, Kenya, Burkina Faso and Nepal should be replicated in many other countries and regions to support UNDROP’s implementation. We will now make recommendations to support this process.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Social movements and CSOs should create websites and popular materials, such as pamphlets, posters, fact sheets and booklets, to disseminate information in different languages and popularize UNDROP.
- Social movements and CSOs should conduct awareness raising workshops and training courses for UNDROP's rights holders.
- Social movements and CSOs should organize workshops with local, national and regional authorities and institutions to raise awareness about their obligations to implement UNDROP.
- Social movements and CSOs should study the level of protection of UNDROP and its key rights in national laws and policies, and lead advocacy campaigns to fill the gaps.
- Social movements and CSOs should empower peasants and other people working in rural areas to take active roles in leadership positions within their communities and advocate for law and policy changes to protect their rights. They should protect their right to participation in all decision-making processes that may affect their lives, lands and livelihoods.
- Social movements and CSOs should use strategic litigation at national, regional and international levels to protect the rights enshrined in UNDROP.
- Social movements and CSOs should create local, national, regional and global coalitions to promote UNDROP, such as the Friends of UNDROP in Switzerland, and include UNDROP in the activities of networks with similar objectives, such as the protection of the rights to food, food sovereignty, land and seeds, and the promotion of gender equality, agroecology, and climate justice.
- Social movements and CSOs should collaborate with national human rights institutions and international human rights mechanisms, including the UN Working Group on UNDROP, other UN special procedures, UN treaty bodies and the UPR, to support their work in UNDROP's monitoring.
- Social movements and CSOs should collaborate with regional human rights mechanisms, such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights, and the International Court on Human Rights, to support their work in UNDROP's monitoring.
- Social movements and CSOs should collaborate with the website Defending Peasants' Rights and share examples of good practices.
- States, international and regional organizations, donors, human rights mechanisms and other relevant actors should support the role played by social movements and CSOs in the promotion and monitoring of UNDROP. A Voluntary Fund on UNDROP should be created by the UN General Assembly to facilitate the participation of rights holders in the UN system.

## END NOTES

<sup>1</sup> UNDROP, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> C. Golay, [The UN Working Group on UNDROP](#), 2024. C. Golay, [The Role of Human Rights Mechanisms in Monitoring UNDROP](#), 2020. C. Golay, [The Implementation of UNDROPS](#), 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Fastenaktion/Action de Carême, [RAISE – Promoting the rights of peasants](#).

<sup>4</sup> See [Geneva Academy project on the rights of peasants](#) (2008-2025).

<sup>5</sup> See FIAN Switzerland's website in [French](#) and [German](#).

<sup>6</sup> Website [Defending Peasants' Rights](#).

<sup>7</sup> Website [Defending Peasants' Rights](#).

<sup>8</sup> C. Golay, [The Rights to Food and Food Sovereignty in UNDROP](#), 2022. CETIM, [The Right to Food and to Food Sovereignty](#), 2021. FIAN International, [Right to Adequate Food and Nutrition, and to Food Sovereignty](#), 2020.

<sup>9</sup> UNDROP, 2018, art. 15.1.

<sup>10</sup> UNDROP, 2018, art. 15.4.

<sup>11</sup> UNDROP, 2018, art. 15.5.

<sup>12</sup> C. Golay, [The Right to Land and the UNDROP](#), 2020. C. Golay, [The Right to Land and Other Natural Resources](#), 2020. CETIM, [The Right to Land](#), 2021. FIAN International, [The Right to Land and Other Natural Resources](#), 2021.

<sup>13</sup> UNDROP, 2018, art. 5 and 17.

<sup>14</sup> UNDROP, 2018, art. 17.6.

<sup>15</sup> UNDROP, 2018, art. 4.

<sup>16</sup> UNDROP, 2018, art. 17.1.

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In 2018, the UN General Assembly adopted UNDROP. After having provided academic support to UNDROP's negotiation for ten years, the Geneva Academy project on the rights of peasants promoted UNDROP's implementation through publications, conferences, expert seminars, and training courses from 2018 to 2025. For this Research Brief, the Geneva Academy collaborated with FIAN Switzerland and received support from Fastenaktion/Action de Carême and RAISE. The RAISE project is co-financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

We would like to thank Tony Cerovaz from SO2 for the excellent editing work.

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