

For more information about
UNDROP, please contact us:

Rural Women's Assembly



Rural
Women's
Assembly

*We are the Guardians of Land,
Life, Seeds and Love*

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SARural Women

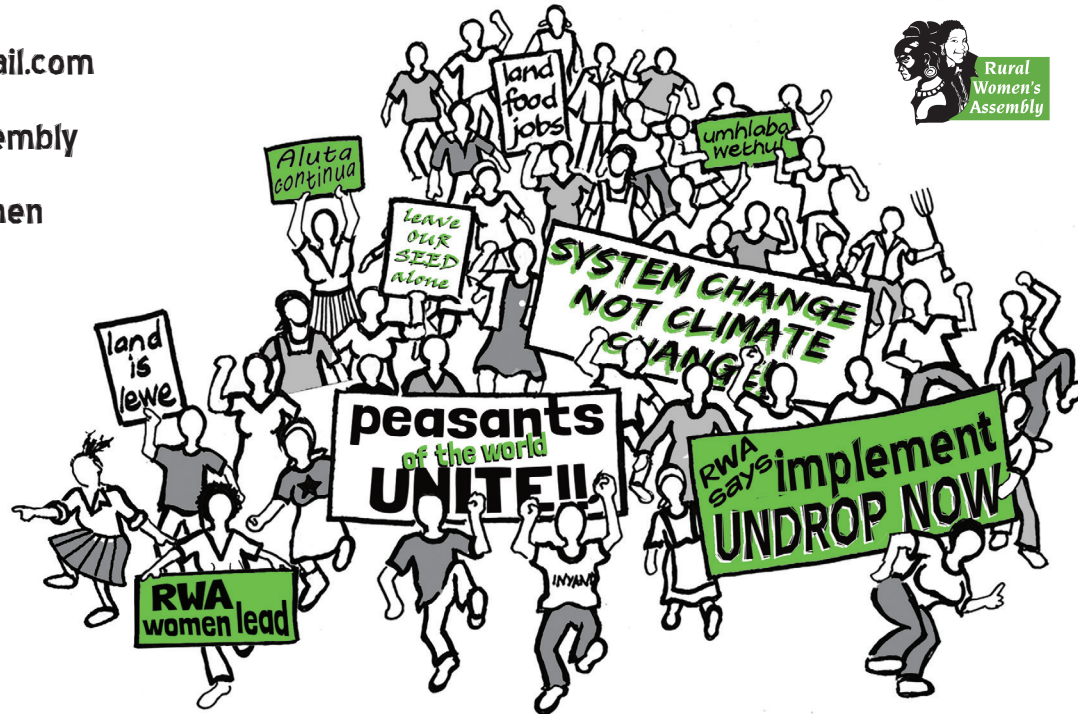
UNDROP

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants

explained for us by RWA



Rural
Women's
Assembly



This book belongs to :



**WOMEN, GUARDIANS OF
SEED, LIFE, AND EARTH**

**RURAL
WOMENS ASSEMBLY**
joins millions of peasants
around the world on 17 APRIL
every year, to celebrate the
**INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF THE PEASANT.**



LAND, SEEDS & LABOUR

WOMEN HOLD MORE THAN
HALF THE SKY

RURAL WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS AND OTHER PEOPLE WORKING IN RURAL AREAS (UNDROP)

In this booklet you will find out:

1. What is a PEASANT? Page 1
2. Who or what is UNDROP? Page 2
3. Who initiated UNDROP? Page 3
4. How did the United Nations eventually agree to UNDROP? Page 4
5. What happened on the road to UNDROP? Page 5
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1. WHAT IS A

The use of the word '*peasant*' is political!
It refers to rural, working-class people
who fight for and defend their rights.

In Article 1, UNDROP defines a peasant as someone who does ***small-scale agriculture***, by themselves or collectively in community, ***for their livelihoods.***

This includes:

• peasants



• small, medium-sized farmers and fishers



• nomadic and landless people



- Poor countries that borrowed money to buy products such as masks, gloves, sanitizer, and expensive vaccines are even **deeper in debt**. This means that they have **less money to spend on the basic services** that they keep promising for poor people.

**OUR GOVERNMENT MUST
IMPLEMENT UNDROP NOW!**



APPENDIX B: In the time of Covid, WHY SHOULD WE FIGHT FOR UNDROP?

Since 2020, the whole world has been badly affected by the **Covid 19 virus and the rules** which governments put in place to deal with it. During Covid, our lives have been made even more difficult than before.

Especially, **many people have lost their jobs and therefore have even less access to resources.** This has caused more people to become more poor and more hungry.

At the very same time,

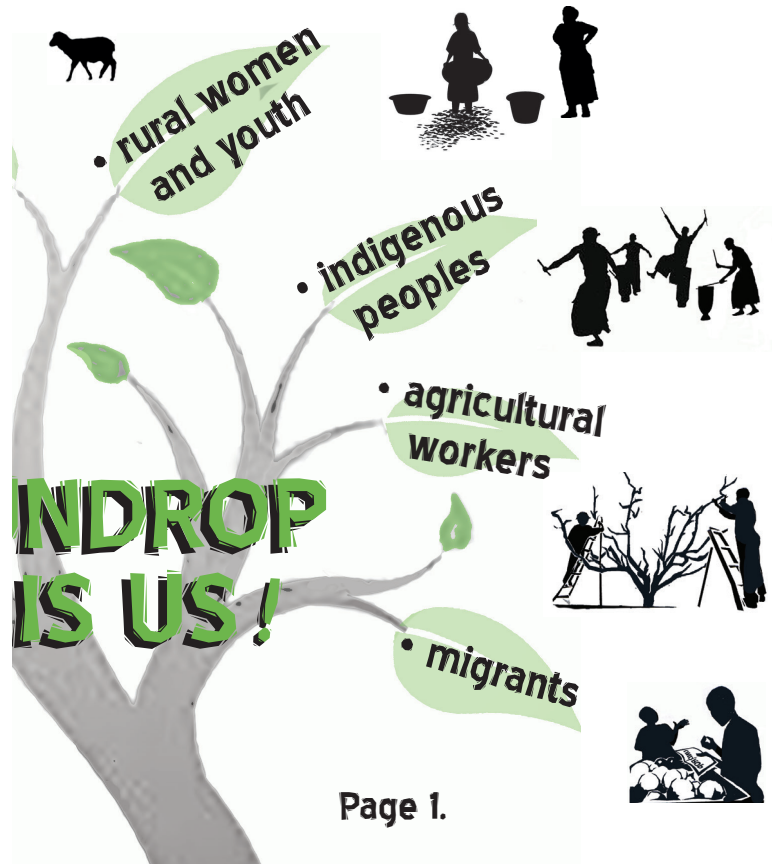


- Huge trans-national corporations (big business) have **quickly increased the use of technology through digitisation** (using computers), thus squeezing *more* people out of work;
- Pharmaceutical (drug) companies especially have made **massive profits through Covid**, while ordinary people struggle to put food on the table.



PEASANT ?

Importantly, a peasant is also someone who has a ***close connection with the land*** and depends on the land. It is often ancestral land.



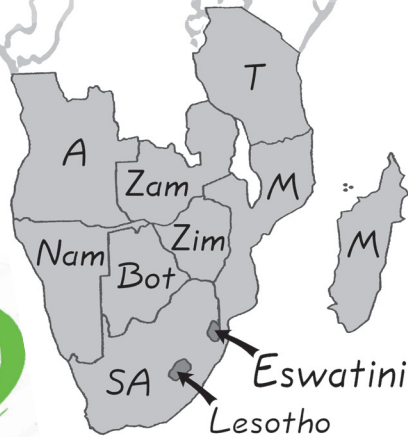
2. WHO OR WHAT IS UNDROP?

It is a declaration by
the governments of many countries that
peasants and other rural people have rights!

***The governments agreed that these rights
must be promoted and protected***
in their countries, so that peasants can
enjoy their rights without fear.

The governments that agreed to UNDROP are
members of the United Nations (UN).

This MAP shows
all the countries in
southern Africa
which signed
UNDROP.



**Only two countries
did not sign. Which
ones? WHY NOT?**

The peasant women of Rural Women's Assembly says

No to Gender-
based Violence

Women should
have the right to
land with water

**EQUALITY
FOR ALL**

People should
have the right to
food and seed
sovereignty



**We are the Guardians of Land,
Life, Seeds and Love**

APPENDIX A: LA VIA CAMPESINA

During the UN Decade of Family Farming (2019 - 2028), la Via Campesina has **three main goals**:

Farming must
be **small-scale**

1.

Human rights
of peasants
and rural people
must be protected

2.

3
GOALS
(aims)

3.

All the **diverse**
(different) food
producers must
be included



3. WHO INITIATED UNDROP?

La Via Campesina (LVC) is an organisation which has been **fighting for the rights of peasants and landless people around the world** for many years (see Appendix A on Page 14).

LVC started the campaign by different organisations to fight for UNDROP.

The organisations led by LVC worked hard to ensure that **countries signed UNDROP in 2018**.



4. HOW DID THE UN EVENTUALLY AGREE TO UNDROP?

It took **seventeen (17!) years of mobilising and negotiating** for UNDROP finally to be signed in **2018**. 121 out of 196 countries signed UNDROP. Some powerful countries such as America, Britain and Israel did not sign.

UNDROP is a **legally binding Declaration**. It means that **those countries which signed** must now **develop, implement, promote and protect everything that UNDROP says**.

South Africa signed UNDROP in 2018, but five years later there is STILL no legislation (laws) to implement and support UNDROP. WHY NOT ?

Page 4.



E.

MONITOR and EVALUATE HOW WELL OUR RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED AND IMPLEMENTED.

We must **document any processes and situations which deny us our rights**. We can take photographs, make a video, keep a diary, tell others, write a report...

D.

BUILD PARTNERSHIPS, CO-OPERATE WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES, and CO-ORDINATE OUR ACTIONS to support our voices in the **LONG-TERM**. **Act in solidarity with others**. Together we are strong!

C.

CAMPAIGN FOR, and CONSOLIDATE PROCESSES which INCLUDE US in all DECISION-MAKING which affects us. We must make sure that we are **properly represented** on any committees and structures which make decisions about our lives.

B.

BUILD THE CAPACITY OF OUR ORGANISATIONS TO DEFEND OUR RIGHTS.

Learn the specific language used by UNDROP in its Articles so that we can use it to really show that we know what we are talking about.



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9. HOW CAN WE USE UNDROP IN OUR OWN COMMUNITIES TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE OUR RIGHTS?

UNDROP can help us to
face discrimination and oppression.

- ✓ It can **protect** us through policies and laws.
- ✓ It can **defend** us in court.
- ✓ It can **inform** us through popular education, and
- ✓ it can **help** us when we communicate with the media.

WHAT STEPS CAN WE TAKE TOGETHER,

to achieve and enjoy all our rights as peasant farmers and other people who work alongside us in rural areas?

How can we move from aims to action?

Working collectively, we can:

A.

RAISE AWARENESS IN OUR DAILY LIVES

Make sure that **everyone in our community knows about UNDROP** – share this booklet and discuss it.
Make sure that local authorities and regional authorities and our government also know about UNDROP.

5. IMPORTANT MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF UNDROP

MARCH 2001:

International meeting to decide what the peasant movement thinks about 'neo-liberalism'

DURING 2003:

LVC launched a global campaign to report on the violation of the rights of peasants. In **2005**, *LVC started discussions* with the UN Commission for Human Rights

JUNE 2008:

International conference on the rights of peasants wrote the **first draft** of the text of UNDROP

MARCH 2017:

Global Congress for Peasants and Peasant rights

SEPTEMBER 2018:

The *UN Human Rights Council* **voted** for the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants

NOVEMBER 2018:

The *UN General Assembly* **voted** for the Declaration - UNDROP was finally BORN!

South Africa signed the Declaration.

6. WHAT IS UNDROP FOR ?

UNDROP can be used by **PEASANTS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES** in their daily struggles for:

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

(we control the production and the supply of the food we eat)

AGRARIAN REFORM
(changing laws to promote non-discrimination and equality among all farmers. The new laws must also work with, not against, Nature)

CLIMATE JUSTICE

(proper assistance for poor people who are the hardest hit by climate change)

land

PALESTINE:

Members of the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) are **using UNDROP to campaign for**

- the right to **land**,
- access to **markets**, and
- the right to **seeds**.



They organise **workshops, conferences, and mobilizations** on the ground to **educate community members** about their rights.

In this way they are **building a movement** to demand that **UNDROP be included in government policy**.

ARGENTINA:

APENOC Producers' Association and other organisations are using UNDROP to **fight against forced evictions**. They are also using UNDROP to **challenge the use of agro-toxins** on farms. Agro-toxins are **poisonous chemicals** which harm animals, people, and our home, planet Earth.



In Indonesia, Cuba, Nepal, Columbia, Phillipines, Haiti, and other countries, organisations are also making progress to include UNDROP in their countries' policies.

8. WHAT HAS UNDROP ACHIEVED SO FAR?

In spite of many obstacles, UNDROP has already been successful. It has achieved *SOCIAL, CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, and CIVIL RIGHTS*, as well as *rights to NATURAL RESOURCES*, for peasant communities in many parts of the world.

Here are a few examples:

UGANDA:

FIAN Uganda (an ally of LVC) is using UNDROP to push for a better Fisheries Bill (law) **to put fisher people first before private corporations (businesses).**

The Ugandan parliament is busy discussing a document on the rights of fisher people according to Article 16.

LVC members in Uganda **use radio to raise awareness** about UNDROP.



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7. BY THE WAY, WHAT EXACTLY DOES UNDROP SAY?

On the next page you will find a list of the **28 Articles** of the UNDROP Declaration.

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28 ARTICLES OF UNDROP

Article 1: Defines 'peasants' and other rural people (see PAGE ?)

Article 2: What governments are supposed/obliged to do

Article 3: EQUALITY AND FREEDOM FOR ALL

Article 4: RIGHTS OF PEASANT WOMEN AND OTHER WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS

Article 5: Rights to natural resources and the right to development

Article 6: The right to life, liberty, and security of every person

Article 7: Freedom to go anywhere

Article 8: Freedom to think, to have an opinion, and to express it

Article 9: Freedom to associate with anyone

Article 10: THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE

Article 11: Right to information about producing, selling, and distributing

Article 12: Access to justice

Article 13: The right to work

Article 14: The right to safety and health at work

ARTICLE 3:
Equality and
freedom for ALL!

ARTICLE 4:
Rights of
PEASANT WOMEN
and OTHER WOMEN
in rural areas

ARTICLE 10:
The right to PARTICIPATE

ARTICLE 15:
The right to FOOD
and food sovereignty

Article 15: THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Article 16: The right to a decent income, and livelihood, and means of production

Article 17: THE RIGHT TO LAND AND OTHER RESOURCES

Article 18: The right to a safe, clean, and healthy environment

Article 19: THE RIGHT TO SEEDS

Article 20: The right to biological diversity

Article 21: RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

Article 22: The right to social security

Article 23: The right to health

Article 24: The right to adequate housing

Article 25: The right to education and training

Article 26: CULTURAL RIGHTS AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Article 27: The responsibility of the United Nations and of other international organisations

Article 28: General obligations

ARTICLE 15:
The right to FOOD
and food sovereignty

ARTICLE 17:
The right to LAND
and other resources

ARTICLE 19:
The right to SEEDS

ARTICLE 21:
Rights to WATER
and sanitation

ARTICLE 26:
CULTURAL RIGHTS
and traditional
knowledge

We can see that each Article in the Declaration is an important part of life for peasants, small-scale farmers, and rural people generally.