

# NIGERIA HAS ADOPTED UNDROP

**ARTICLE 18:**  
Right to a clean, safe and healthy environment

States shall take effective measures to ensure that no hazardous material, substance or waste is stored or disposed of on the land of peasants and other people working in rural areas....

In Nigeria, many farmers' lands have been contaminated by the oil industry. Our partner Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) defends the rights of farmers to live in a safe, clean and healthy environment, and campaigns for justice and redress.

The rights enshrined in UNDROP provide a clear pathway for peasants in countries like Nigeria to enjoy access to land, and the gifts of nature, and to live in dignity. They expect Canada to make laws to hold her companies accountable and prevent them from polluting their environments and abusing people and the planet in our country.

**Nnimmo Bassey,**  
Executive Director, HOMEF

## YEARS IN THE MAKING

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada has been campaigning for corporate accountability for years.

### 2006

**Life Before Profit** campaign collects 150,000 cards calling for accountability mechanisms in Canada.

### 2007

200,000 signatures calling for an independent ombudsman

### 2009

The Conservative government creates the Office of the Extractive Sector CSR Counsellor.

### 2014

80,000 cards calling for an ombudsman delivered to MPs

### 2018

The Liberal government announces the CORE, but does not create it.

### 2021

The **People and Planet First** campaign collects 28,000+ signatures calling for mHREDD and MPs present petitions in Parliament.

### 2024

The government's 2024 budget says it will introduce legislation to ban forced labour from supply chains. Former Labour Minister Seamus O'Regan Jr. has said such a law must include more due diligence.

### 2017

The CCCB writes to the prime minister calling for the creation of an ombudsman.

### 2019

The CORE is established, but without the real powers we campaigned for.

### 2023

Bill C-262 is introduced as a private member's bill calling for mHREDD, but does not get taken forward; Parliament passes the much weaker Bill S-211 focussed only on forced labour.

### 2008

**A Voice for Justice** campaign relaunches the call for an ombudsman.

### 2013

**ARE YOU LISTENING?** The CCCB writes to the prime minister calling for the creation of an ombudsman.

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## UNDROP AND DUE DILIGENCE: A NECESSARY CONNECTION

Peasant communities around the world have created UNDROP to enshrine and defend their rights. But can they really use it as they aspire to?

What if a powerful foreign corporation contaminates the land and water in a rural community in the Global South? What recourse do affected peasants have? How can they claim their rights?

No Canadian company should be able to carry out such abuses with impunity. That is why we are calling for Canada to adopt strong **mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence** (mHREDD) legislation.

Such a law would require Canadian companies to prevent, report, address and remedy human rights and environmental abuses across their global supply and value chains and provide the victims of any abuses access to justice in Canadian courts. No Canadian corporation would be allowed to stand in the way of people exercising their UNDROP rights.

**Let's keep up the pressure until we have the due diligence legislation our sisters and brothers in the Global South deserve!**

## LET'S ACT IN SOLIDARITY

### GLOBALLY SIGN THE ACTION CARD

### LOCALLY HAVE A SOLIDARITY MEAL

Canada has a duty to uphold human rights by putting people and the environment before corporate interests, both at home and abroad.

This is why we are asking the Government of Canada to adopt a **strong human rights and environmental due diligence law**.

Scan to sign online:  
[devp.org/act](http://devp.org/act)

Be thankful for the abundance of food we are privileged to eat and discuss how it can be produced and sold in fairer, more sustainable ways. Take the opportunity to collect signatures on the action card!

## Together, let's work towards *Reaping our Rights*!

- **Ask your MP** to support due diligence legislation.
- **Talk to your family and friends** and invite them to sign the action card.
- **Make a donation** to support peasant communities in the Global South.
- **Follow us on social media:**

@DevPeace #ReapingOurRights

1-888-234-8533  
[devp.org](http://devp.org)

Development and Peace  
CARITAS CANADA

Lucy participates in a Fundación NUNA project in Bolivia with her baby.

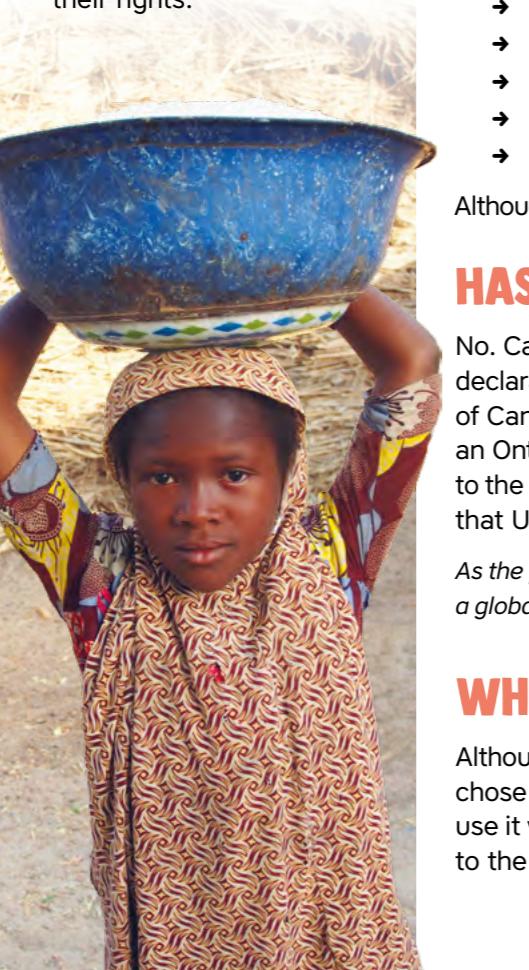
CREATE  
**HOPE**

# DEFENDING PEASANTS RIGHTS

Although they feed the world and care for the Earth, peasant and rural communities around the world often live precariously and face many challenges. Undaunted, they organize and advocate for their rights. It was their courageous mobilization that led to the adoption of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas* (UNDROP).

With the *Reaping our Rights* campaign, we will learn what UNDROP is all about and stand in solidarity with peasants and small-scale farmers. We will help ensure that their rights are respected by **pushing for the adoption of effective due diligence legislation**. Such a law would compel Canadian companies to respect the environment and human rights across their global supply chains. This would allow our sisters and brothers in the Global South to live in dignity and realize the aspirations articulated in UNDROP.

REAPING  
OUR RIGHTS



## WHAT IS UNDROP?

Adopted on December 17, 2018, the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas**

is a major victory for peasant movements around the world. It was drafted by and for peasants to protect their rights.

## FOR WHOM IS UNDROP?



UNDROP concerns everyone involved in artisanal or small-scale agriculture, livestock rearing, pastoralism, fishing, forestry, hunting or gathering. It also includes Indigenous, nomadic, semi-nomadic and landless people. The declaration also protects migrant and seasonal workers (Article 1).

## WHY UNDROP?

In addition to the effects of climate change, peasant, Indigenous and rural peoples around the world face numerous challenges. These include land grabbing, resource theft and air, water and soil contamination by profiteering corporations.

UNDROP aims to make people, not profit, the driving force of food systems and obliges states to protect communities' rights to:

- Equality, especially for women
- Land, seeds, biodiversity and clean water
- Food sovereignty and a healthy environment
- Social security, health, housing, education and participation
- Effective, non-discriminatory access to justice

Although it is not binding, UNDROP is a powerful frame of reference for states.

## HAS CANADA ADOPTED UNDROP?

No. Canada was among the 54 states that abstained from voting for the declaration in 2018 (121 voted for, 8 voted against). Nonetheless, a group of Canadian human rights lawyers cited UNDROP in their intervention in an Ontario court case to argue that migrant farm workers were entitled to the same protections against COVID-19 as everyone else, showing that UNDROP has a role to play even in Canadian law.

*As the fruit of 17 years of mobilization and negotiation by La Via Campesina, a global movement of millions of peasants, UNDROP is a historic achievement!*

## WHY CHOOSE THE WORD PEASANT?

Although the word "peasant" can seem pejorative to some, we deliberately chose it for our campaign. This is because peasant movement themselves use it with pride to denote their deep economic and spiritual connection to the land and nature.

## BOLIVIA HAS ADOPTED UNDROP



### ARTICLE 15: Right to food and food sovereignty

... physical and economic access at all times to sufficient and adequate food that is produced and consumed sustainably and equitably, respecting their cultures....

In Bolivia, our partner Fundación NUNA contributes to communities' economic, political, social and cultural development. Through various agroecology projects, NUNA helps peasant communities attain food sovereignty by diversifying their diets and sources of income.

UNDROP recognizes the contribution of farmers and people working in rural areas, and their fundamental role in managing life supports—water, soil and seed—for food, agriculture, conservation and improving the biodiversity of the planet.

UNDROP also demands that governments protect people against all forms of discrimination, systemic violations and historical disadvantage. We believe that UNDROP establishes international rights and can be an opportunity to build alliances between peasants around the world.

**Eva Colque**  
Executive Director, Fundación NUNA

UNDROP is relevant because it will ensure the basic rights of the rural people, especially youth—both women and men—to acquire knowledge, information and skills.

**Karno Batiran**  
Executive Director, PAYOPAYO

## INDONESIA HAS ADOPTED UNDROP

### ARTICLE 25: Right to education and training

Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to adequate training suited to the specific agroecological, sociocultural and economic environments in which they find themselves.

Our partner PAYOPAYO runs a farming school that trains young people, especially women, in sustainable agriculture, community resource management and rural entrepreneurship. This makes farming a viable local livelihood option and helps stem economic migration to Indonesia's cities.