

Invitation

**Expert meeting for interested EU delegations
on the UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas**

Organized by the Hands On The Land Alliance¹ with the support of the Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the UN

Thursday, 4 June 2015 – 15.00 to 17.00 PM

At the Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office and
other international organisations in Geneva

Rue du Grand-Pré 64, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland

Room C – 64 – 5th floor

The event aims to deepen the current discussions around the UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

This meeting, dedicated to EU delegations, will count with the participation of:

- International experts on the issue: **Olivier De Schutter**² and **Christophe Golay**³
- Representatives of European peasants' organizations members of the European Coordination La Via Campesina
- Representatives of North-South NGOs and Human rights NGOs (such as FIAN International)

Four issues will be addressed at this experts meeting:

- The relevance and necessity of the creation of a specific international instrument to strengthen the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas;
- The right to land and other natural resources;
- Gender Equality and rural women's rights;
- Rights to sovereignty over natural resources, development and food sovereignty

(Interpretation provided in English and Spanish)

For additional information please contact Florence Kroff - Florence@fian.be Tel: +3226408417 - +32475845624



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¹ **Hands on the Land for Food Sovereignty** is a collective campaign by 16 partners, including peasants and social movements, development and environmental NGO, Human Rights organisations and research activists aiming to conduct activities in Europe to raise awareness on issues related to the use and governance of land, water and other natural resources and its effects on the realization of the right to food and food sovereignty. **Partners are:** TNI, European Coordination Via Campesina, FIAN International, EHNE Bizkaia, Terra Nuova, Crocevia, FDCL, FIAN Germany, FIAN Belgium, FIAN Austria, FIAN Netherlands, FIAN Sweden, IGO, Ecoruralis, Za Zemiata and Védegylet.

² **Olivier De Schutter** is the Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and co-chair of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food).

³ **Christophe Golay** is the Coordinator of the Project on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at the Geneva Academy and Legal Adviser to the first UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.