

Final Declaration of the Alternative Workshop on Food Systems in Haiti

On this day, Friday August 6, 2021, the Institut Culturel Karl Lévèque (ICKL) and the Plateforme Haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Alternatif (PAPDA), together with member organizations and partners, held a workshop to reflect and exchange on food systems. The workshop had 2 objectives:

- To reflect on the real stakes of the United Nations World Summit on Food Systems that will take place this year, in order to carry out an analysis on the public policies against peasants in application in Haiti and the potential consequences of the decisions of this summit on the struggles for food sovereignty;
- Launch the preparation of an alternative national forum in Haiti based on the demands of Haitian peasants against the UN summit.

During this workshop, we analyzed the global food systems as one of the engines of the capitalist system; analyzed the agrarian relations within the peasantry; listened to the position of the National Coordination for Food Security (CNSA) in the context of the preparation of the participation of the Haitian government in the UN summit; appreciated the presentations on the central role of women, particularly women farmers, in the construction of food sovereignty; listened to the perspectives of farmers' organizations and their proposals in relation to the struggle for agro-ecological family farming.

The debates in plenary allowed the participants to note:

- 1) that the capitalist system can in no way provide an answer to the problem of hunger, which tends to worsen more and more despite the fact that the world produces enough food to feed the planet well;
- 2) that the functioning of the world economic system generates even more inequalities, injustice, famine, while aggravating the climate crisis;
- 3) that in Haiti about 5 million people live in food insecurity, as a result of imperialist domination, of political choices that aggravate the crises even more. These policies favor the *grandons* (large landowners) and the merchants of the seaside (the retrograde bourgeoisie) who are destroying all the bases of family peasant agriculture, against the interests of the country;
- 4) that the country has sufficient production capacity and knowledge to provide appropriate responses to the problem of food insecurity within the framework of a national reconstruction perspective;
- 5) in the last decades there has been an acceleration of the application of anti-peasant policies that encourage food dependency, promote agribusiness, and favor the violent seizure of agricultural land for the benefit of capitalist companies to supply transnational corporations;
- 6) That the UN World Summit on Food Systems is being prepared and will be carried out within an agenda and for the benefit of transnational corporate interests; that this summit tends to reinforce the power of capitalism over agriculture, food production, while promoting an irresponsible consumption model that endangers the existence of the planet.

We denounce the orientations of the United Nations summit on food systems. **We denounce** the application of neoliberal policies in Haiti that aggravate food crises and poverty, destroy productive

capacities, reinforce economic and food dependency, promote the increase in unemployment, encourage emigration, accelerate the plundering of natural resources and the draining of financial resources from external debt mechanisms for the benefit of a small group of rapacious people and their acolytes at the local level. **We denounce** the governance and policies applied by the PHTK (Parti Haïtien Tèt Kale) regime and its allies in the international community that aggravate the multidimensional crisis characterized, among other things, by a logic of violence towards the destruction of life in Haiti.

We denounce the violent seizure of peasant lands throughout the country (particularly in the localities and regions of Prévoyance, Savane Diane, Plaine de Maribahoux, Terrier-Rouge, Nord-Ouest, Artibonite, etc.) to promote the development of agribusiness, the exploitation of mining resources and thus reinforce the system of exploitation and marginalization of the Haitian peasantry;

We denounce and reject ALL the decrees and other scurrilous measures taken by the PHTK regime, in particular the decree of February 8, 2021, granting to elements of the anti-national bourgeoisie the lands of Savane Diane to continue the destruction of the bases of family peasant agriculture and the entire ecosystem of the zone and surrounding regions which, until now, has protected the lives and work of peasants and peasant women.

We denounce the land grabs and the persecution that the peasants of the agricultural colony of Prévoyance (and other regions of the country) are facing from political, judicial and police authorities.

We, the 48 organizations from all sectors of national life, coming from the 10 Departments of the country, all the personalities who took part in this workshop, **commit ourselves to**:

- 1) continue these reflections throughout the country through partner networks and movements;
- 2) work relentlessly to prepare the alternative summit on Food Sovereignty and the defense of family farming agro ecological which will take place on October 15, 16, 17, 2021. In this sense, **we have decided** to prepare and direct this forum in the dynamics of denunciation of the United Nations summit on food systems, to reflect on the problems of food insecurity in the country, to define strategies of struggle and advocacy in defense of peasant family farming agro ecological, define ways and means to achieve food sovereignty, and build new relationships of force at the social and political level that must imperatively lead us to final victory. ***We will never be able to guarantee food sovereignty without a struggle to build at the same time the political sovereignty of the country.***
- 3) continue denouncing and rejecting the United Nations summit, whose objectives are oriented towards strengthening neoliberal policies and the power of transnationals that feed the "market of hunger" and propagate chemical waste that destroys all the conditions necessary for the reproduction of life on the planet. All this within a model that favors the exploitation of natural resources and the commodification of public services. **We have decided** to take part in any national or global mobilization aimed at denouncing and rejecting the UN summit, while adopting the battle lines and orientations set out by CLOC and Via Campesina.
- 4) disseminate and reflect on the Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and Other Rural Workers adopted by the United Nations in 2018, following years of struggle by global peasant movements, in particular Via Campesina.
- 5) promote national production and value all the historical and contemporary contribution of the peasant family economy, while defending the demands of the exploited classes.

- 6) defend with all our strength the feminist agroecological experiment set up by the SOFA in Savane Diane, while reinforcing our struggle to demand the cancellation of the Decree of February 8, 2021 issued by the de facto President Jovenel Moïse granting more than 8,600 hectares of agricultural land to an entrepreneur for the installation of a free zone for export.
- 7) Accompany the peasants, as well as all the communities throughout the country in the fight against the seizure of agricultural land for the installation of free trade zones, agribusiness, mining, among others.
- 8) Prioritize education, particularly citizenship education, in our work, insisting on building an education system that is linked to our history, culture and identity as a people.
- 9) strengthen our struggles for the transformation of the country in the construction of a new system that promotes life before capitalist profit.

***Against imported food!
Against food dependency!
Against land grabs in favor of a small group of grandons (large landowners), transnational corporations!***

Against the exploitation of metal mines!

For an agro-ecological family peasant agriculture!

Long live the peasant and popular mobilization for an integral agrarian reform!

For food sovereignty!

Long live the contribution of the peasant movements in the struggle for national liberation towards the construction of the 2nd Independence of the country!

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