



# INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS GLOBAL PEASANTS' RIGHTS

07-10 / 03 / 2017 SCHWÄBISCH HALL / GERMANY  
NEUBAUSAAL SCHWÄBISCH HALL / SCHLOSS KIRCHBERG

## Invitation to the congress of Global Peasants' Rights

March 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Schwaebisch Hall/Germany

### Organizers



Foundation  
House of Farmers  
Schwaebisch Hall



European Coordination  
Via Campesina (ECVC)



Arbeitsgemeinschaft  
bäuerliche Landwirtschaft



FIAN-International and  
FIAN Germany



Ecoland International



BÄUERLICHE  
ERZEUGERGEMEINSCHAFT  
SCHWÄBISCH HALL  
www.besh.de

Farmers  
Association  
Schwaebisch Hall

## Draft program outline

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Peasants and others working in rural areas, like fisherfolk, shepherds and ruralworkers, represent the largest group of people in the world suffering from hunger, discrimination, lack of prospects, public negligence and cultural odium. In the light of this situation the United Nations Human Rights Council UNHRC undertook several studies that ultimately asserted the need for an international protection instrument. An intergovernmental working group was created to work on a draft declaration. The first draft was completed in 2012, based on La Via Campesina proposal. Three rounds of negotiations have followed these drafts. The current challenge is to pressure the states to actively involve themselves in the process.

Social movements from farmers and other civil societal organizations working on the issues of food and agriculture, human rights and development are alert to the fact that existing universal instruments to protect their livelihoods and culture are not sufficient. The specific situation of working in the country side to make the living from the use of natural resources is under multiple stress factors. They advocate heavily for the adoption of an international charter of this kind and have their own proposals that go beyond the present declaration.

The planned congress will bring activists from around the world together for three days to exchange the concerns, make the wider public aware of the issue and get organized for effective steps to advocate for real peasants' rights. More than 100 peasant leaders are expected to come to the small town Schwäbisch Hall to make a real impact in safeguarding their peoples rights amidst the mounting pressure put on their resources and lifestyles by globalization forces, modernization efforts and reckless agribusiness.

## Tuesday 07/03/2017

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Arrival and registration in Schwaebisch Hall

Pre- Evening event and opening Organic Forum  
Castle of Kirchberg/Jagst with Keynote speech:  
“The future of World Food matters and the role of  
smallholder Producers”

**Prof. Ernst-Ulrich von Weizsäcker/**  
President of the Club of Rome,  
**Prof. Hartmut Vogtmann**

## Wednesday 08/03/2017

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Opening 9<sup>00</sup> a.m. Schwaebisch Hall  
**Rudolf Bühler/**  
Chairman Foundation Haus der Bauern  
**Elizabeth Mpofo/**  
General Secretary La Via Campesina (LVC)

Keynote:  
“Global Development and the Peasantry”  
**Klaus Töpfer/ Former Director of UNEP**

“Why do we need to be concerned?  
Out of a peasants perspective”  
**Henry Saragih/Serikat Petani Indonesia,**  
Intern. Coordination Com., LVC

“Peasants, farmers and their rights –  
A FAO perspective”  
**José Graziano da Silva/**  
Director General of FAO (to be confirmed)

The situation of the Rights-Holders:  
Rights, Violations, Needs, Demands  
Rightsholder alliance speak out

Plenary session

Observer comments:  
**Prof. Jan Douwe van der Ploeg/**  
University of Wageningen  
**Harald Braun/ German Ambassador to the UN**  
(to be confirmed)

## Wednesday 08/03/2017

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“Why a UN-Declaration on peasant rights?  
Legal assessment”

Dr. Christophe Golay/Geneva Academy

Dr. Bahram Ghazi/OHCHR Geneva

Prof. Smita Narula/Roosevelt House, New York

Prof. Dieter Schweizer/ CEDR, Brussels

Evening-Event 7<sup>00</sup> p.m. Schwaebisch Hall

Farmers-Dinner

Special Guest: Carlo Petrini/Founder of the  
International Slow Food Movement

## Thursday 09/03/2017

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Begin 9<sup>00</sup> a.m. Schwaebisch Hall

Thematic working groups:

- 1) right to land and natural resources  
and land/resource grabbing
- 2) right to seeds/breeds and the challenges of new  
GMOs and emerging technologies
- 3) right to food, income and means of production  
and access to markets and fair shares /trade
- 4) rights to biodiversity and protection of indigenous  
knowledge
- 5) civil rights and increasing repression and  
criminalization

Regional working groups and stakeholder groups:

- Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America,  
Australia and Pacific, Europe, Germany
- Fisherfolk, Pastoralists, Landless people

05<sup>00</sup> p.m.

Exposure trips to rural development projects of BESH  
and other partners

Friday 10/03/2017

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Begin 8<sup>45</sup> a.m. Schwaebisch Hall  
Mystica

Comments by Non-Peasant Observers:  
“Peasant Rights and Technological Change”

Pat Mooney/ETC Group

How relevant are Human Rights for Peasants’  
Protection?”

Michael Windfuhr/German Inst. for Human Rights

Presentation of the Draft Resolution and Final  
Discussion

Panel of Politicians

Elena Valentiano/Chair Human Rights Committee of  
the EU-Parliament (to be confirmed)

Nardi Suxo/Bolivian Ambassador, Chair of  
UN HRC-WG on Peasant Rights,

Representatives of European Governments

Assessment and Conclusion

Closing

## Partner

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Aktionsgemeinschaft  
Solidarische Welt e.V.



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## How to get to the congress

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Venue: Neubausaal,  
Rosenbühl Nr. 14, 74523 Schwaebisch Hall

- Train Station Schwaebisch Hall-Hessental or Schwaebisch Hall
- Airport Stuttgart via Train (about 95 km)
- Airport Frankfurt via Train (about 180 km)
- Airport Nuremberg via Train (about 130 km)
- Airport Munich via Train (about 240 km)

Detailed travel description will be provided on the congress homepage.

### Organizational Matters and postal address

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Bäuerliche Erzeugergemeinschaft  
Schwaebisch Hall

Haller Str. 20 D-74549 Wolpertshausen Germany

Phone: +49-7904-9797- 251

Fax: +49-7904-9797-29

E-Mail: [peasants@besh.de](mailto:peasants@besh.de)

[www.global-peasants-rights.com](http://www.global-peasants-rights.com)

#### Fee for participation

Regular participant fee 80,- €

Reduced participant fee 30,- €

#### Languages

All Plenary sessions will be translated into EN, FR, ES, DE. Working group sessions will be partly translated.

### Organizational Team

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Rudolf Buntzel, HdB-Foundation

Christoph Zimmer, BESH

Henrik Maaß, HdB-Foundation

### Steering committee that prepared the congress

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Rudolf Buntzel, HdB-Foundation

Sofia Monsalve Suárez, FIAN-International

Gertrud Falk, FIAN-Germany

Paula Gioia, European Coord. Via Campesina (ECVC)

Sandra Moreno Cadena, ECVC

Geneviève Savigny, ECVC

Wolfgang Hees, AbL

Christoph Zimmer, BESH