

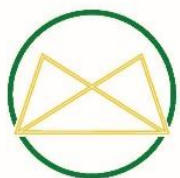
Universal Periodical Review

Federal Republic of Nepal

Submission to the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic review
Working Group, Geneva

Jointly Submitted By:

Main Submitting Organization: Social Work Institute (SWI)



SOCIAL WORK INSTITUTE
TRAINING YOUTH TO SERVE
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Interdependent Society Surkhet



Agroecological Youth Network,
Nepal



Karnali Development Co-operation
Service Society (KDCSS) Jumla



Himalayan Permaculture Center (HPC)

General Background:

The Social Work Institute (SWI) established in 19887, is a Nepali NGO promoting social justice, climate justice, agroecology & Food sovereignty, sustainable development, and community empowerment through grassroots initiatives. It focuses on livelihoods, food security, human rights, and disaster resilience for marginalized groups including peasants, youth, women and children, using participatory approaches, agroecology, and policy advocacy.

The Himalayan Permaculture Centre (HPC) established in 2010, empowers remote mountain communities through sustainable farming, environmental conservation, and climate adaptation. By blending permaculture with traditional practices, HPC enhances food security, restores ecosystems, and promotes self-reliant livelihoods in areas like Humla and Surkhet.

Karnali Development Co-operation Service Society (KDCSS), established in 2009, works in Jumla to address poverty, food insecurity, and limited services through agriculture, education, health, and livelihoods. It promotes climate-resilient farming, supports cooperatives, and uplifts marginalized communities in the Karnali region.

Interdependent Society Surkhet (ISS), established in 1999, fosters social justice and sustainable development in Surkhet by empowering marginalized groups, promoting livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, and climate-smart agriculture, while strengthening local governance through collaboration with diverse partners.

The Agroecological Youth Network (AYN) Nepal, established in 2023, is a youth-led movement focuses on empowering young people to adopt and promote sustainable agricultural practices in Nepal. They do this through various initiatives, including training programs,

knowledge exchange, and advocacy for policy changes that support agroecology. The network also aims to connect young people with national and international platforms to amplify their voices and influence in shaping the future of agrifood systems in Nepal.

Background to prepare the UPR:

Social Work Institute (SWI) is main submitting organization followed by The Himalayan Permaculture Centre (HPC), The Karnali Development Co-operation Service Society (KDCSS) Interdependent Society Surkhet, The Agroecological Youth Network (AYN).

To prepare the UPR report, SWI worked together with the partners¹ since last two year. This report is based on the action research, consultation with the peasants, rural youths, children and women. SWI also conducted the comparative study on the implementation of the UNDROP in the context of Nepal under the RAISE project².

In 2024, DKA Austria, in collaboration with SWI, facilitated a youth consultation process to support the submission of inputs to the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) under the RAISE Consortium³. This consultation also provided an important foundation for contributions to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process.

¹ Karnali Development Society, ISS-Surkhet, Himalayan Permaculture Center-Surkhet, Jana Jagaran Bikash Samaj-Kanchanpur, Jana Ekata Yuwa Club-Rolpa, TBS- Banke, CBODC-Kailali, Hatemalo Bikash Samaj- Dailakh

² <https://www.swi-nepal.org/resources/publications>, SUMMARY REPORT OF Implementation Status of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) in Nepal,

³ DKA Austria (2024), Building Resilient Food Systems in Asia: An e-consultation amongst rural youth and young farmers in India and Nepal, URL: <https://assets.fsnforum.fao.org/public/contributions/2024/2406%20Building%20Resilient%20Food%20Systems%20eConsultation%20Scope%20CFS-HLPE.pdf>

The implementation of the UNDROP in Nepali laws and policies

INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) has been adopted in 2018. Nepal voted in favour of the Declaration. This positive vote should now be translated into clear, tangible support for the UNDROP's implementation at national level.
2. In this contribution to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Nepal in 2026, we present measures that Nepal should take in its domestic laws and policies to support UNDROP's implementation in Nepal. While it was not included directly in any of the recommendations addressed to Nepal in its last UPR in 2022, several past recommendations refer to issues addressed by UNDROP.
3. Previous UPR Comment 159.32 Conduct public awareness campaigns to eliminate discrimination based on racial or caste-based hierarchies and ensure that educational curricula do not propagate these hierarchies is Relevant to Article 3 of UNDROP, which emphasizes the right to equality and non-discrimination, particularly against caste-based and social hierarchies. It also aligns with Article 25 on participation in educational content and policy shaping.
4. Previous UPR comment 159.38 Pursue development of all sections of society in an inclusive manner (India) Relevant to UNDROP's principles of inclusion, non-discrimination, and equitable development for rural populations and peasants.

5. Previous UPR comment 159.52 Apply an inclusive approach in shaping disaster prevention and mitigation policies and strategies by incorporating the views of women and vulnerable groups... (Indonesia) Linked with UNDROP Article 2 & 10 on participation of peasants in policymaking and disaster risk reduction.
6. Previous UPR comment 159.54 Ensure that vulnerable populations are engaged in the development and implementation of climate resilience and adaptation plans (Maldives) is Directly relevant to UNDROP Article 18 on the right to a healthy environment and participation in climate adaptation.
7. Previous UPR comment 159.109 Continue its efforts in poverty reduction by providing poor families with opportunities to access productive resources... (Lao PDR) Closely related to UNDROP Article 5 & 17 on access to land, resources, and means of production.
8. Previous UPR comment 159.117 Continue measures to improve the country's standard of living (Kuwait) relevant to the broad UNDROP principle of improving the livelihoods of peasants and rural populations.

THE UNDROP IN BRIEF

9. The aim of the UNDROP is to better protect peasants, fisherfolk, livestock breeders, gatherers and agricultural workers (hereinafter referred to as peasants). Peasants play a key role in global food security and in the preservation of natural resources, biological diversity, and food systems. Peasants are thus key contributors to ensuring the resilience needed to cope with climate change and other crises.
10. The UNDROP complements and reinforces other human rights instruments and reaffirms the principle of international law according to which the obligations set out in the UN

Charter, including those relating to human rights, take precedence over obligations under other treaties.

11. The UNDROP thus affirms that States should elaborate, interpret and apply the international standards and agreements to which they are a party in a manner consistent with the rights enshrined in the UNDROP (Art. 2.4). It affirms that States should ensure that their agricultural, economic, social, cultural and development laws and policies are coherent with the realization of the rights its sets out (Art. 15.5).
12. The UNDROP recognizes many rights, including the rights to food and food sovereignty (Art. 15), to an adequate standard of living (Art. 16), to land and other natural resources (Arts. 5 and 17), to a safe, clean and healthy environment (Art. 18), to seeds (Art. 19) and to biological diversity (Art. 20). It stipulates that States should respect, protect and fulfil these rights (Art. 2), guarantee their enjoyment without discrimination (Art. 3), and eliminate all forms of discrimination against peasant women and other women working in rural areas (Art. 4).
13. The UNDROP recognize the rights of 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 (Art.25.1), Children should enjoy their right to education in accordance with their culture and in alignment with human right instruments (Art. 25.2).

IMPLEMENTING THE UNDROP

14. Nepal voted in favour of both the adoption of UNDROP in 2018⁴ and the creation of the United Nations Working Group on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas in 2023, thereby showing international commitment to the declaration⁵. As a supporter of this declaration, and a State Party to other key international human rights instruments on which UNDROP is based, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR, 1966),⁶ Nepal bears the responsibility to ensure its effective implementation. This includes undertaking legal reforms, establishing appropriate institutional frameworks, and enhancing service delivery in accordance with the principles enshrined in UNDROP. Furthermore, Nepal has an obligation to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of its peasants and other people working in rural areas, as outlined in the declaration.

15. This effort was carried forward by the Constitution of Nepal. The Constitution enshrines several rights as fundamental, such as the freedom to practice any profession⁷. It also outlines the responsibilities of the state, such as ensuring the right to equality⁸, the right against untouchability and discrimination⁹ and property rights¹⁰. Additionally, the Constitution of Nepal broadens these protections by guaranteeing fundamental rights such

⁴ UN vote on UNDROP Reference: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1656160?ln=en>

⁵ UN vote on UNDROP Reference: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1656160?ln=en>

⁶ Nepal is a party to more than two dozens of international human rights treaties including ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, UDHR, CERD, CAT, CRC etc.

⁷ Constitution of Nepal 2015, article 17.f

⁸ Ibid Article 18

⁹ Ibid article 24

¹⁰ Ibid article 25

as the right to freedom of religion,¹¹ the right to information,¹² the right to privacy,¹³ the right against exploitation,¹⁴ the right to a clean environment,¹⁵ the right to education,¹⁶ the right to health,¹⁷ right to food including every citizen's right to food sovereignty in accordance with the law¹⁸ and the right to housing.¹⁹ Beyond these, the Constitution also ensures the rights of women²⁰, language and culture²¹, employment²², the right to labour²³, children's rights²⁴ the rights of Dalits²⁵, the right to social justice²⁶ social security²⁷, the rights of the consumer²⁸. These rights, along with specific protections for peasants and rural workers, are further reinforced through the Constitution's directive principles²⁹, state policies, and state responsibilities³⁰

16. Along with the constitutional provisions, the government of Nepal enacted several laws and policies to respond to the rights of peasants at the federal level. The government has made necessary amendments to the Land Reform Act, 1964, and has enacted several laws including the Consumer Protection Act, 2018, the Right to Housing Act, 2018, the Social Security Act, 2018, the Right to Food Security and Sovereignty Act, 2018, the Right to

¹¹. Ibid Article 26

¹². Ibid Article 27

¹³. Ibid Article 28

¹⁴. Ibid Article 29

¹⁵. Ibid Article 30

¹⁶. Ibid Article 31

¹⁷. Ibid Article 35)

¹⁸ Ibid article 36

¹⁹ . Ibid Article 37

²⁰ Ibid Article 38

²¹ Ibid Article 32

²² Ibid Article 33

²³ Ibid Article 34

²⁴ Ibid Article 39

²⁵ . Ibid Article 40

²⁵ . Ibid Article 44

²⁶ Ibid Article 42

²⁷ Ibid Article 43

²⁸ Ibid Article 44

²⁹ Ibid Article 50

³⁰ Ibid Article 51 & 52

Employment Act, 2018, and the Seed Act, 1988 (second amendment in 2022), as well as the Seed Regulation, 2013. These legislations are directly related to the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. Among them, the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act stands out as a key law, as it defines the term "farmer" and ensures the rights of peasants. Similarly, provincial and local governments have also enacted policies and laws ensuring the rights of the peasants and other people working in rural areas³¹.

17. Navigating Nepal's federal context, the three-tiered governmental structure has undertaken diverse legal and policy initiatives to address issues of the peasants and other people working in rural areas. However, the existing legal and policy framework exhibits gaps that impede the provision of coordinated and holistic services to peasants. Challenges abound, particularly in establishing proper institutional mechanisms and providing effective service delivery including establishing effective referral pathways, a robust case management system, streamlined justice mechanisms, functional administrative structures, and adequate resource allocation in both normal and humanitarian contexts.

18. Nepal has yet to enact a new agriculture laws and policy to integrate the existing provisions along with adjusting them with UNDROP provisions. Approximately 60% of Nepalis work in the agriculture sector, yet their output isn't sufficient to feed themselves and the remaining 40% of the population, leading to a reliance on external food sources rather than

³¹ Schedule 5 (Federal Power Jurisdiction): Grants the federal government power over policies related to land, agriculture, food security, and international trade. Schedule 6 (Provincial Power Jurisdiction): Grants provincial governments power over provincial-level agricultural policies, land use, and natural resources management. Schedule 7 (Concurrent Powers of Federal and Provincial Governments): Establishes shared responsibilities between the federal and provincial governments for land management, agriculture, and food sovereignty. Schedule 8 (Local Power Jurisdiction): Grants local governments power over agriculture, irrigation, livestock, and local land management. Schedule 9 (Concurrent Powers of Federal, Provincial, and Local Governments): Establishes shared authority of all three levels of government over agriculture, land reforms, and food security.

self-sufficiency. Most peasants reside in rural areas and have limited access to resources and facilities.

19. “The existing laws and policies appear to lack responsiveness to peasants’ needs in accordance with international human rights standards and UNDROP. Additionally, some provisions within these policies contradict one another. The international commitments made by the Government of Nepal for the empowerment of peasants and the achievement of the SDGs remain challenging to fulfill. Furthermore, there are various challenges at the implementation level. With the establishment of federalism, all three tiers of government now hold the power and authority to formulate policies and laws.”³²
20. Below, we present recommendations on nine key issues that pose particular challenges for the Government of Nepal and are closely linked to the implementation of the UNDROP. These issues include: Food sovereignty, youth and children, fair wages, land access, fair markets, dignity and social security, participation, human rights and climate change, and ecological and environmental rights.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

21. Coherent policies should be developed towards a vision for a paradigm change in the food and agricultural system. Food sovereignty offers a response to the complex, multi-causal crises we all face. It promotes a resilient, local, and sustainable model of agriculture—an effective means to ensure food security, foster social stability, and protect the environment.
22. Nepal should uphold the right to food sovereignty as enshrined in Article 15.4 of UNDROP, which calls on states to guarantee peasants’ rights to determine their own food

³². Summary Report of Implementation Status of UNDROP Study_ SWI & FIAN Nepal (<https://www.swi-nepal.org/resources/publications>), Chapter:1.2 Importance of UNDROP, Adoption process and binding Nature, Page7

and agricultural systems, to participate in decision-making processes on food and agricultural policy, and to have their cultures respected.

23. Nepal has enacted the Right to Food Security and Food Sovereignty Act, 2018, which sets out measures to realize the right to food and protect against food insecurity. The Act mandates the Government of Nepal at federal, provincial, and local levels to work in mutual coordination, based on available resources, to respect, protect, and fulfill the right to food, food security, and food sovereignty. The Act guarantees regular access to adequate, nutritious, and quality food without discrimination; freedom from hunger; and protection from threats to life caused by food scarcity. It ensures sustainable access to food and nutritional support for individuals and families vulnerable to hunger or starvation.
24. The act also recognizes the dignity of every peasant or food producer participating in food and agricultural production systems. It ensures access to resources necessary for agricultural works; choosing local seeds, technologies, tools and agricultural species, and to acquire protection of its intellectual property; protection of conventional and organic food; use of culturally accepted foods; protection from arbitrary deprivation from the agricultural occupation. The Act also holds the Government of Nepal, as well as provincial and local governments, accountable for carrying out a range of activities to prevent and control starvation. These include identifying individuals, families, communities, and regions facing hunger or vulnerable to starvation, and maintaining records accordingly; ensuring an adequate stockpile of food to address such vulnerabilities; establishing a food distribution system; and adopting immediate, short-term, and long-term measures to combat hunger and starvation. These efforts must be coordinated across all three tiers of government and carried out based on prioritization. Additionally, the Act requires the

Government of Nepal to identify and maintain records of households vulnerable to food insecurity due to rural or urban poverty, geographical remoteness, natural disasters, or other causes.

Recommendations

25. Nepal should improve national mechanisms to promote the constitutional right to food sovereignty and fully implement³³ the Right to Food Act, in line with Article 15.4 of UNDROP. This includes guaranteeing peasants' rights to shape their own food and agricultural systems, participate in policy decisions, and have their cultures respected. The state must also recognize the dignity of all peasants and food producers engaged in agriculture.³⁴
26. Develop a Comprehensive National Agriculture Policy and enact an Integrated Agriculture Law aligned with the UNDROP and Nepal's Constitution. This should formally recognize peasants and redefine 'farmers' in line with UNDROP provisions—explicitly including women, Dalits³⁵, indigenous peoples, agricultural laborers, and all food producers engaged in food and agricultural systems³⁶. Such reforms are essential to ensure equitable access to

³³ Nepal supported previous recommendation 159.28, "Continue its ongoing efforts to improve national mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights (Turkmenistan);

Source of Position: A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6"

³⁴ Nepal supported previous recommendation 159.114: "Maintain and expand government programmes aimed at guaranteeing the right to food and addressing food insecurity, particularly among the most vulnerable populations (Cuba); **Source of Position:** A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6" and Also supported: 159.125 "Continue the efforts to achieve remarkable progress in indicators related to hunger, nutrition and food security (Qatar); **Source of Position:** A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6 "

³⁵ Nepal supported previous recommendation 159.32: "Conduct public awareness campaigns to eliminate discrimination based on racial or caste-based hierarchies and ensure that educational curricula do not propagate these hierarchies (Bahamas); **Source of Position:** A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6 "

³⁶ Nepal supported previous recommendation 159.32: "Conduct public awareness campaigns to eliminate discrimination based on racial or caste-based hierarchies and ensure that educational curricula do not propagate these hierarchies (Bahamas); **Source of Position:** A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6 "

government support, subsidies, credit, and agricultural equipment, while advancing food sovereignty and sustainable rural livelihoods³⁷.

Youth and Children:

27. Peasant families, including children and youth disproportionately experience poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. They are particularly affected by environmental degradation, climate change, and the challenges of aging rural populations.
28. Youth and Children have limited access to quality education and healthcare in rural areas contributes to the increasing migration of youth to urban centers, as many abandon agriculture due to a lack of opportunities and support. The socio-economic challenges outlined in the preamble of the UNDROP Declaration closely reflect the realities faced by rural youth in Nepal.

Recommendation:

29. Nepal should effectively integrate agroecology including organic farming, permaculture, and agroforestry—into the school curriculum, with a strong emphasis on practical learning for children and youth. This will enable them to gain hands-on experience, understand sustainable agricultural practices, and consider agroecology as a viable and dignified profession.

³⁷ Nepal supported previous recommendation 159.109: "Continue its efforts in poverty reduction by providing poor families with opportunities to access productive resources, capacity-building, income and sustainable development (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

Source of Position: A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6"

30. Nepal should implement UNDROP article 25.2 and article 26.1 to ensure quality education for peasants' children, as well as accessible healthcare services in rural areas³⁸ to reduce youth migration³⁹.
31. Nepal should develop and strengthen professional training programmes on organic farming, permaculture and agroforestry for young peasants to support the transition towards agroecology⁴⁰.
32. Nepal should Implement and ensure gender parity in both primary, secondary and higher education.⁴¹

Fair wages:

33. Nepali peasants face immense pressure from low agricultural product prices. Peasants are placed in direct competition with one another globally, as the international market largely determines prices, either directly or indirectly. These prices often fail to reflect the true costs of production, including labor, inputs, and other essential resources.
34. Nepali peasants are among the professional groups with the highest debt ratio. To compensate for the low market prices of their produce, many peasants are pushed to specialize, intensify crop or livestock production, mechanize, and invest in new infrastructure often requiring significant financial investment. This shift negatively impacts

³⁸ Nepal supported previous recommendation 159.32: "Conduct public awareness campaigns to eliminate discrimination based on racial or caste-based hierarchies and ensure that educational curricula do not propagate these hierarchies (Bahamas); **Source of Position:** A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6 "

³⁹ Nepal supported previous recommendation 159.151: "Defend and promote the fundamental right to education, ensuring the provision of free quality education to all without discrimination (Holy See); **Source of Position:** A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6 "

⁴⁰ Nepal supported previous recommendation 159.109: "Continue its efforts in poverty reduction by providing poor families with opportunities to access productive resources, capacity-building, income and sustainable development (Lao People's Democratic Republic); **Source of Position:** A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6"

⁴¹ Nepal supported previous recommendation 159.148: "Step up further efforts to ensure gender parity in both primary and secondary education (Bangladesh); **Source of Position:** A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6"

the environment, as intensive or corporate agriculture depends heavily on imported chemical inputs, animal feed, and machinery. Peasants, who already fall into the lowest income category, face further marginalization as corporate agriculture limits their growth in terms of production and also income. Many would prefer fair and just prices for their products over financial aid, as this allows them to maintain autonomy—though support remains essential in challenging agricultural regions.

35. In line with Article 16.1 of UNDROP—which affirms that peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to an adequate standard of living and facilitated access to credit, insurance, and other financial services—we call for effective measures to support peasants in Nepal. Currently, those without tax or farm registration, as well as smallholders, tenants, and landless farmers cultivating unregistered land, are not officially recognized and therefore cannot access government support.

Recommendation:

36. In line with Article 16.6 of UNDROP, which mandates that “States shall take appropriate measures to ensure fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value, without distinction of any kind,” we call for effective actions to improve the economic conditions of Nepali peasants.
37. To ensure fair wages (UNDROP’s art.16.6), Nepal should declare, as this has been done in Spain, that buying primary products below the real costs of production is an “Unfair Trade Practice (UTP)” which is forbidden and can be sanctioned. Nepal government should announce a minimum production cost for the agriculture products.

38. In the hilly areas, some farmers own unused land, while those who wish to farm often lack access to land. Nepal should have policy to access the unused land to those peasants who want to do the agriculture.

Ensure Access to Land

39. Marginalized groups, including Dalits and youth, face significant difficulties accessing land for agriculture. Conflicting laws and policies prevent long-term leasing of agricultural land. The average 0.4 hectares of land allocated per family by the government is insufficient for sustainable farming. As a result, many peasants rely on informal arrangements with other farmers. (like; ADHIYA- whatever produce is divided in half,)⁴².

40. In the hilly areas, some farmers own unused land, while those who wish to farm often lack access to land.

41. Small plots (often <0.4 hectares) are insufficient for sustainable farming.

42. The Land Act 2021 was introduced to abolish the Jimidari system (feudal land tenure system) and to promote equitable land distribution by setting ceilings on land ownership, aiming to benefit smallholder farmers. However, contradictions remain in government policy: While the law limits individual land ownership, it simultaneously permits companies to hold large areas of agricultural land under their name. This legal loophole undermines the original intent of the reform, making it difficult for smallholder farmers to access land, while enabling corporate land accumulation.

⁴² Land owners allow tenant to use the land for agriculture. All the work will be done by the tenant (farm inputs, labor etc). After the harvesting 50% of the product must be given to the land owner. It is informal way of practicing. There is no such paper document.

43. Some communities have historically been landless due to the traditional caste system. Dalits have traditionally relied on occupations such as blacksmithing, tailoring, and other skilled trades for their livelihoods.

Recommendation:

44. The Government of Nepal should implement UNDROP Articles 17.1, 17.6, and 17.7 by harmonizing agricultural laws with clear provisions on land use, food security, and environmental sustainability. This requires revising legislation related to land use and leasing, animal husbandry, agricultural markets, forests, and water resources to establish an integrated and sustainable food system.
45. The government should create policies allowing youth and Dalits (marginalized caste) to easily access and use barren or unused land.
46. Unregistered land that is being cultivated by a peasant should be legally transferred to marginalized people.
47. Promote fair tenancy models, such as sharecropping or leasehold farming, ensuring equitable arrangements.
48. The Government of Nepal should provide subsidies and appropriate support for landless peasants, Dalits and youths who want to engage in agriculture by taking land on lease.

Fairness/ Marketing

49. In the agricultural market, foreign products—often cheaper than Nepali produce—are easily accessible. These imports are controlled by corporations, middlemen, and others, who supply them to Nepali retailers, many of whom earn high commissions. This dynamic has negatively impacted local producers by reducing demand for domestic products.

50. The influx of foreign food has increased competition in the local market, making it difficult for local farmers to secure fair prices. Low customs duties and the absence of chemical residue checks on imports further encourage the entry of agro-products from other countries.
51. There is no mechanism to calculate the fair cost of production. Local products often fetch lower prices because the production costs of smallholder farmers are higher than those of corporate farms which use large machinery, chemicals and hybrid seeds, and imported products.
52. There is a lack of processing and storage facilities for local products in rural areas. Farmers must sell their products immediately after harvesting limiting their bargaining power.

Recommendation:

53. The government of Nepal should implement UNDROP article 16.4 to regulate cross-border trade to prevent market distortions caused by low-quality agricultural imports and mitigate unfair price competition.
54. Develop a government-backed market system that ensures fair pricing for farmers' produce, reduces exploitative practices, and stabilizes agricultural incomes for peasants.
55. A unified system should be created to register and address farmers' complaints on government services and facilities.
56. Participatory planning (participation of Peasants) and investment is needed to build agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation, roads, processing and storage facilities

Dignity and social security

57. Farming is not recognized as dignified profession.

58. Existing social security laws operate on a contribution-based model, excluding peasants, smallholder farmers and marginalized rural youths who lack the means to make regular monetary contributions. Government provides minimal social security assistance to non-contributors. Government employees get 50% of their base salary after retirement (after age of 60) and the private sector largely follows the contribution-based model. Peasants who are not able to make monetary contributions to social security funds get NPR 4000 per month (US\$ 30 per month) after the age of 70, whereas Dalits after age of 60. This has negatively affected peasants' social security and dignity in general.

Recommendations:

59. Nepal should take steps to implement the UNDROP article 3 which ensures the dignity of peasants.⁴³

60. Nepal should implement the UNDROP article 22.3 and 22.4 to ensure that peasants, including youths and children, have sufficient social security guaranteed by law.⁴⁴

⁴³ Nepal noted previous recommendation 159.84 "Eliminate all provisions that restrict freedom of expression, through any means, such as criminal provisions relating to slander or defamation (Mexico); **Source of Position:** A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.28 " and 159.109 Continue its efforts in poverty reduction by providing poor families with opportunities to access productive resources, capacity-building, income and sustainable development (Lao People's Democratic Republic); **Source of Position:** A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6 and 159.117 Continue measures to improve the country's standard of living (Kuwait); **Source of Position:** A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6 and

⁴⁴ Nepal supported previous recommendation 159.105: "Continue to take measures to further strengthen implementation of the Right to Employment Act and the contributory social security system and, in particular, implement targeted interventions for vulnerable groups (Bhutan); **Source of Position:** A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6"

Participation:

61. Policies and plannings are often formulated without meaningful consultation with peasants especially women, indigenous communities, and youth. Usually, consultation is done with limited representation of peasants and their networks. Exclusion from decision-making bodies undermines peasants' right to participate in public decisions that affects their livelihoods.
62. Nepal should promote the participation of peasants from diverse regions, in accordance with UNDROP articles 1.1 and 1.2, to ensure representation of a diversity of agricultural practices and views. This aligns with articles 10 and 18, which uphold peasants' right "to active and free participation, directly and/or through their representative organizations, in the preparation and implementation of policies, programs and projects that may affect their lives, land and livelihoods"⁴⁵.
63. During the stakeholder's workshop in Karnali⁴⁶, peasant's representatives expressed that "many government programs fail to apply intersectional rights-based approaches. Indigenous peoples, marginalized peasant and women peasants often lack a voice in decision-making"⁴⁷.

Recommendations:

64. Nepal should ensure the implementation of UNDROP article 10.2 to promote the participation, directly and/or through their representative organizations, of peasants.

⁴⁵ UNDROP article 10.1

⁴⁶ Stakeholders are _ representatives form Civil society organizations (NGOs), representatives from Cooperative, Peasant, representatives from Local governments and representatives from Provencial governments.

⁴⁷ This expression was done by the people during the workshop in farmer's workshop in Karnali province.

65. Peasant organizations invited to government dialogues should reflect the diversity of views and agricultural practices relevant to the dialogue and should be strong, autonomous and independent does not just depending on the government.
66. Nepal should ensure the participation of women, Dalits, as well as peasant children and youth.⁴⁸
67. Nepal should protect and uphold the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including support and respect to independent media, to ensure democratic facilitation of peasant concerns in contested situations.⁴⁹

Human Rights and Climate Change:

68. Every year, peasants and smallholder farmers face the impacts of climate change, including droughts, unseasonal rainfall, landslides, and floods. These disasters have damaging effects on farms and livestock. However, there is little to no insurance or support available to help them recover from such losses.
69. The mechanism for claiming compensation for disaster-related losses to crops, farms, and livestock is complex and offers very low payouts. For peasants and smallholder farmers, the process is often deprioritized and involves lengthy bureaucratic delays.

⁴⁸ Nepal supported previous recommendation 159.38: "Pursue development of all sections of society in an inclusive manner (India); **Source of Position:** A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6 "

⁴⁹ Previous recommendation 159.81 "Protect and uphold the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including by respecting and supporting the free and independent media, in line with international human rights standards (Iceland); **Source of Position:** A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6"

70. Nepal is also a climate-vulnerable country. Rising temperatures are increasingly affecting peasants, leading to the spread of diseases and pandemics. Even in the mountainous regions, crop cycles are gradually changing due to the warming climate.

Recommendations:

71. Insurance should not be limited to those with land ownership certificates or practicing monocropping. It should also cover farms and farmland damaged by disasters such as floods, droughts, and other climate-related events.

72. There should be effective compensation mechanisms to support peasants in recovering from the loss of farms, crops, and farm animals, including livestock and fisheries.

73. Nepal should implement effective “food banks” as mandated by the Right to Food Security and Food Sovereignty Act 2018.

74. Furthermore, Nepal should ensure the right of peasants “to contribute to the design and implementation of national and local climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, including through the use of practices and traditional knowledge.”⁵⁰

Ecological & Environmental Rights:

75. Peasants play a vital role in protecting and promoting the environment; they are seed savers and stewards of biodiversity.

⁵⁰ previous recommendation 159.52: "Apply an inclusive approach in shaping disaster prevention and mitigation policies and strategies by incorporating the views of women and vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and older people, indiscriminately (Indonesia); **Source of Position:** A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6" and previous recommendation 159.54: "Ensure that vulnerable populations are engaged in the development and implementation of climate resilience and adaptation plans (Maldives); **Source of Position:** A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6"

76. Peasants are actively protecting, preserving, and promoting agrobiodiversity, including crop genetic resources, forage and livestock genetic resources, aquatic and insect genetic resources, as well as microorganism genetic resources.
77. Local seeds and biodiversity are declining due to the corporatization of seed systems and the lack of recognition of farmers' roles in seed conservation.⁵¹
78. Peasants and rural workers disproportionately suffer from poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. They bear the brunt of environmental degradation, climate change, and aging populations, while many young people migrate to urban areas, leaving agriculture behind due to limited incentives and the hardships of rural life.
79. The Nepal Seed Act aims to regulate the seed sector, but its focus on formalizing seed systems—particularly through the notification and certification of varieties—can inadvertently undermine farmers' rights to save, exchange, and sell their own seeds.
80. Existing laws such as the National Parks and Wildlife Preservation Act and the National Forest Act tend to emphasize the protection of the natural environment while providing limited access to resources for animals and local communities.
81. Existing laws governing national parks, wildlife reserves, and national forests restrict access to uncultivated food sources such as wild fruits, vegetables, herbs, fish, and meat resources traditionally gathered from forests, rivers, and ponds. These restrictions contribute to food insecurity and exacerbate human-wildlife conflicts.

Recommendations:

82. Nepal government should implement the UNDROP article 28 fully.

⁵¹ ITPGRFA

83. The Government of Nepal must reform the existing Seed Act (1988) and Seed Regulation (2010) to make them more farmer-friendly and simplify the seed registration process.
84. The Government of Nepal should protect farmer's seed sovereignty while encouraging agroecological innovations and farmer led crop breeding.
85. Nepal should adopt strong legal protections to prevent seed monopolization by multinational corporations and the spread of genetically modified seeds that threaten local biodiversity.

ANNEX 1

Main Submitting Organization is Social Work Institute (SWI). This joint contribution has been prepared by the following organizations and people (by alphabetical order):

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