**Second Session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Living in Rural Areas**

Oral Statement by the Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales - CELS

Item 4 - Program of Work

Geneva, 2 February, 2015

Paulo de Tarso Lugon Arantes

Thank you Madame Chair,

The Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales - CELS - welcomes the opening of this Second session of the Open-Ended Inter-governmental Working Group on the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Living in Rural Areas.

In our view, today, this Human Rights Council maintains its relevance and legitimacy by debating and extending the universal rights enshrined in international instruments to the segments of society that do not enjoy them in equal footing or are disproportionately impacted by contemporary negative phenomena.

Indeed, we believe that the role of this Council is to discuss new global phenomena and their effects on human rights and, in specific, to keep a close eye on those excluded by those impacts. This is exactly the aim of this session: to recognize universal rights and extend them to peasants, which account for over a billion human beings in this planet.

Therefore, we call upon the distinguished delegates and other stakeholders to conduct this process in a positive spirit and work constructively for its successful completion.

I thank you.