

**Statement by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on the second session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on a United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas**

Thank you Madam President

I congratulate you for being elected as a chairperson/ rapporteur of the **working group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural area.**

We would like to thank you for conducting preparations to this meeting and the entire exercise in an open, transparent and inclusive manner. We also thank the organizers for their informative ideas contained in the draft resolution and wonderful presentations.

. Ethiopia believes that peasants and people living in rural area can contribute significantly to the improve of living standards of a country, alleviation of poverty, food security, the fight against climate change and the conservation of biodiversity if supported by sound policy and legal fretworks. For this reason, we support the draft resolution on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas and committed to engage constructively.

Since, the overall performance of Ethiopia’s economy is highly dependent on the maximum and sustainable performance and transformation of agriculture, and its labor force to other off-farm activities, the need for educated, innovative, and creative skilled human labor force in agriculture is indispensable for the successful economic development and alleviation of poverty. The right of peasants to the ownership of land, property and is paramount important for the development of a country.

By focusing on the small holder farmers and pastoralists, Madam Chairperson, not only we protect and promote the rights of peasants but also we can use the area as an engine for development. Ethiopia has been ensuring double digit growth for the last decade for following peasant friendly strategy.

Finally, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to work with the working group.

**Thank** **you**