**General Comments on the rights of the peasants and other people working in rural area**

**Open ended working group meeting, 17 May 2016**

Basant Adhikari

FIAN Nepal

Madam Chairperson, Excellences, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentleman,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my compliments on the draft declaration. On behalf of FIAN Nepal, I would like to congratulate the Working group for coming up with such enriched draft on the rights of peasants and other people working in the rural area. The draft has well articulate the human rights principles, norms and standards and also incorporated some key rights of the peasants.

I am pleased to share that Constitution of Nepal promulgated in September 2015 has incorporated several rights including the human right to food, right to food sovereignty, right to social security and more particular **peasants right to have access to lands for agricultural activities, select and protect local seeds and agricultural species, which have been used and pursued traditionally.** The constitution also creates the obligation for the state to implement land reform, protecting and promoting the rights and interests of the peasants and access to agricultural inputs, agro-products at fair price and market. Civil society welcomes that the Government of Nepal, recently introduced peasant's identity cards and pension schemes for peasants at least in the policies paper to give effect to these constitutional obligations.

I would like to suggest the working group to take these initiatives in the reference and incorporate some specific provisions related to recognition of peasants, right to land, food sovereignty, water for irrigation, right to seeds and other agricultural inputs, access to market, recognition of local food systems and social security related safety nets for peasants.

Thank you very much.