**Fourth session of the OEWG on a UN declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas**

**Experts**

# JOSÉ ESQUINAS-ALCAZAR

Professor José Esquinas-Alcázar is PhD in Genetics and MSc in Vegetable Crops at the University of California, Davis, USA. He is also Doctor in Agronomy and Agricultural Engineer at the Polytechnical University of Madrid, Spain.

Starting in 1978 he has worked for 30 years at FAO (UN Organization for Food an Agriculture) as: Secretary of the Inter-governmental Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (1985-2007), Chair of the FAO Committee on Ethic for Food and Agriculture (1999-2007) and Secretary of the FAO Seed Treaty (ITPGRFA) since its entry into force in 2004 until his retirement from FAO in 2007.

Since 2007 till 2013 he has been the Director of the Chair on Studies on Hunger and Poverty of the University of Cordoba and full professor at the Polytechnic University of Madrid.

He is currently active in different fora and universities all over the world. He has authored numerous books and publications and has received many international awards.

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**SHIVANI CHAUDHRY**

Shivani Chaudhry is the Executive Director of Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN), New Delhi, India, where she has been working since 2004. Prior to this, she worked for five years with the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) in Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Shivani received her B.A. (Economics) from Bombay University, India, and her M.A. (Environmental Studies) from Brown University, Providence, U.S.A. She has been working in the field of human rights for over fifteen years, with a specific focus on economic, social, and cultural rights, especially the human rights to adequate housing, land, livelihood, and the environment. She has been engaged actively with issues related to forced evictions, displacement, homelessness, land rights, disasters, climate justice, discrimination, women’s rights, and human rights education. She has carried out several human rights workshops and contributed to the development of tools to monitor housing and land rights, in India and at the global level.

She is associated with several national and international networks and social movements. She is a co-convenor of the National Forum for Housing Rights, and Executive Committee member of *Shahri Adhikar Manch: Begharon Ke Saath* (Urban Rights Forum: With the Homeless). She was a member of the Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development's Task Force on Land Reforms, and contributed to the draft national land reform policy.

Shivani regularly speaks on human rights issues at various international and national platforms. She has also spoken on the topic of land rights in the European Parliament. She regularly writes on these issues in newspapers, magazines, and journals, and has contributed to several publications and books, including those published by the American Society for International Law, UN-Habitat, and Oxford University Press.

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**MAMADOU GOITA**

Mamadou Goïta is the Executive Director of Institute for Research and the Promotion of Alternatives in Development (IRPAD/Afrique). Mr Goïta is a development socio-economist and a specialist in education and training systems from Mali, West Africa. He was the executive Secretary of the West African Peasants and Farmers Networks (ROPPA) from 2011 to 2012. He is a member of the regional co-ordinating group of the “Coalition pour la Protection du Patrimoine Génétique Africain” and the “Coalition to Protect African Genetic Heritage” which operate in West Africa. He has worked with UNICEF in Mali, the United Nations Development Programme in Togo and Burkina Faso and several NGOs, including ACORD (Regional Director for West Africa and Africa Program Manager) and OXFAM-Belgium (Regional Co-ordinator for West Africa based in Burkina Faso).

He is active in social movements such as The forum for Another Mali is possible(FORAM), West Africa Social Forum, Africa Social Forum and the World Social Forum and works with farmer organizations and their networks in West Africa. He coordinated the Polycentric World Social Forum Bamako 2006 and participated to the coordination of the World Food Sovereignty Forum which took place in Sélingué, Mali in 2007.

He is the chair of the CSO Coalition on the African Development Bank, the Diobass, Ecology and Society, an international NGO working on agro ecology and the Association Malienne pour la Sécurité et la Souveraineté Alimentaire). He was until recently a board member of Bank Information Centre and a member of the Migrants’ Rights International steering committee and currently a board member of USC Canada and ETC Group. He is a member of the scientific boards Syndicat des Exploitants Agricoles de l’Office du Niger (SEXAGON) and the Network of African Women Economists (NAWE)

He has worked on issues like cotton, trade, extractive Industries, conflict management, governance, decentralisation and local development, migration for many years and has been involved in many economic, social or socio-economic studies, researches and evaluation processes in Africa. He teaches at the University of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), at the “Applied Economic National School” Dakar, Senegal and the African Management Centre (CESAG), Dakar, Senegal, was the Director of CODESRIA 2014 Institute of Governance Director. He’s also a course Director on “Natural resource management and Africa Development” of the Institute of Security Studies based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Mamadou Goita was a member of the HLPE Project Team on Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security 2013

**ANURADHA MITTAL**

Anuradha Mittal is the founder and executive director of the Oakland Institute. She is an internationally renowned expert on trade, development, human rights and agriculture issues. Recipient of several awards, Anuradha Mittal was named as the Most Valuable Thinker in 2008 by the Nation magazine.

Mittal has authored and edited numerous books and reports including (Mis)Investment in Agriculture: The Role of the International Finance Corporation in the Global Land Grab; The Great Land Grab: Rush for World’s Farmland Threatens Food Security for the Poor; Voices from Africa: African Farmers and Environmentalists Speak out Against a New Green Revolution; 2008 Food Price Crisis: Rethinking Food Security Policies; Going Gray in the Golden State: The Reality of Poverty Among Seniors in Oakland, California; Turning the Tide: Challenging the Right on Campus; Sahel: A Prisoner of Starvation; America Needs Human Rights; and The Future in the Balance: Essays on Globalization and Resistance. Her articles and opinion pieces have been published in widely circulated newspapers including the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Bangkok Post, Houston Chronicle, and the Nation. Anuradha has addressed the Congress, the United Nations, given several hundred keynote addresses including invitational events from governments and universities, and has been interviewed on CNN, BBC World, CBC, ABC, Al-Jazeera, National Public Radio and Voice of America.

Anuradha is on the board and advisory committees of several non profit organizations including the Right Livelihood Award (also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize), International Forum on Globalization, and is a member of the independent board of Ben & Jerry's which focuses on providing leadership for Ben & Jerry’s social mission and brand integrity.

**PRISCILLA CLAEYS**

Priscilla Claeys is a legal anthropologist and Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University (UK). She received her PhD in Political and Social Sciences from the University of Louvain (UCL) in 2013. Her areas of expertise include transnational agrarian movements, human rights, the right to food and food security. Priscilla worked as an Advisor to the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter, from 2008 to 2014. She previously worked for a number of human rights organizations and development NGOs. Priscilla holds a MA in management from the Louvain School of Management (University of Louvain - UCL) and a MA in environmental management from the Free University of Brussels.  Her latest publications include: "Human Rights and the Food Sovereignty Movement: Reclaiming Control" (Routledge, 2015) and “Public Policies for Food Sovereignty. Social Movements and the State” with Annette Desmarais and Amy Trauger (Routledge, forthcoming).

**CHRISTOPHE GOLAY**

Dr. Christophe Golay is Research Fellow and Strategic Adviser on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, and Senior Lecturer at the Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH). In the last 10 years, he has been providing legal advice to a number of stakeholders in relation to the development of a UN declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. From 2001 to 2008 he was Legal Adviser to the first UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food and undertook missions with the UN in Brazil, Guatemala, Bolivia, Cuba, Niger, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, India and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. He published several books and articles on the right to food, the rights of peasants, and economic, social and cultural rights.

**ANA MARIA SUAREZ FRANCO**

Ana Maria Suarez Franco is the Permanent Representative of the Food First Information and Action Network FIAN International in Geneva since 2011. She holds degrees in law from the Universidad Javeriana (Bogotá), as well as in public policies from the Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá). Originally from Colombia, she moved to Germany in 1999, where she has received the titles LL.M. from the University of Heidelberg and Doctor Juris from the University of Mannheim. Being member of the “Coloquio Iberoamericano” of the Max Plank Institute for Comparative International Law and International Public Law, her main topics of research have been the Justiciability of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the monitoring of public policies related to the Human Right to Food. As practitioner, Suárez Franco has been responsible for justiciability, country and case work at FIAN International.