



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/HRC/S-7/NGO/1
16 May 2008

ENGLISH, FRENCH AND SPANISH
ONLY

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Seventh special session

**Written statement* submitted by the International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic
Movements (FIMARC), a non-governmental organization on the Roster**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 May 2008]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Facing the Food Crisis: Decrease

Every day we hear about dramatic stories caused by the world food crisis. Despite the fact that farmers are the ones who produce the food, they are the ones who most suffer from hunger. The price of basic food products are constantly on the increase.

Natural resources are in the world for the development of human beings. Natural resources are, however, increasingly being privatized and are mainly now in the hands of transnational companies – supported by international finance organizations – who manage them without taking the main objective into account : feeding the whole of mankind.

The land used for monocrop production is extending for the production of agrofuels which the multinational companies mainly present as an alternative to fossil fuels and as a solution for the environment. However, this is bringing about the destruction of numerous forests and traditional crops in order to produce ethanol or similar fuels, in huge areas in all continents, due to their land concentration.

We suggest as an alternative farmer and family agriculture that contributes to guaranteeing food sovereignty. This agriculture respects nature, soils, water, promotes biodiversity, local development and puts the people within their communities at the heart of the system.

In a world with a consumerist minority and a majority who lives on the threshold of poverty, we propose an alternative. To the neoliberal system – only measured by the growth indicator – we propose a different lifestyle: decrease – promoting responsible consumption in order to maintain the values of justice and re-distribution, within the framework of solidarity economy, a model which secures the principle of food for all, respects diversity of cultures, local initiatives and the rural world.
