



“UNDROP in Peasants’ Struggle”



Henry Saragih

**Chairperson of Serikat Petani Indonesia (SPI) /
General Coordinator of La Via Campesina 2004 – 2013**

Disampaikan pada Academy Schloss Kirchberg
30 Juli 2025



- Henry Saragih was the General Coordinator of La Via Campesina, an international movement of smallholders and farm workers, for two terms (2004 - 2008 and 2008 - 2013).
- Currently serves as Chairperson of Serikat Petani Indonesia (Indonesian Peasants' Union) and Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors of the National Indonesian Peasants' Co-operative (KPIN).

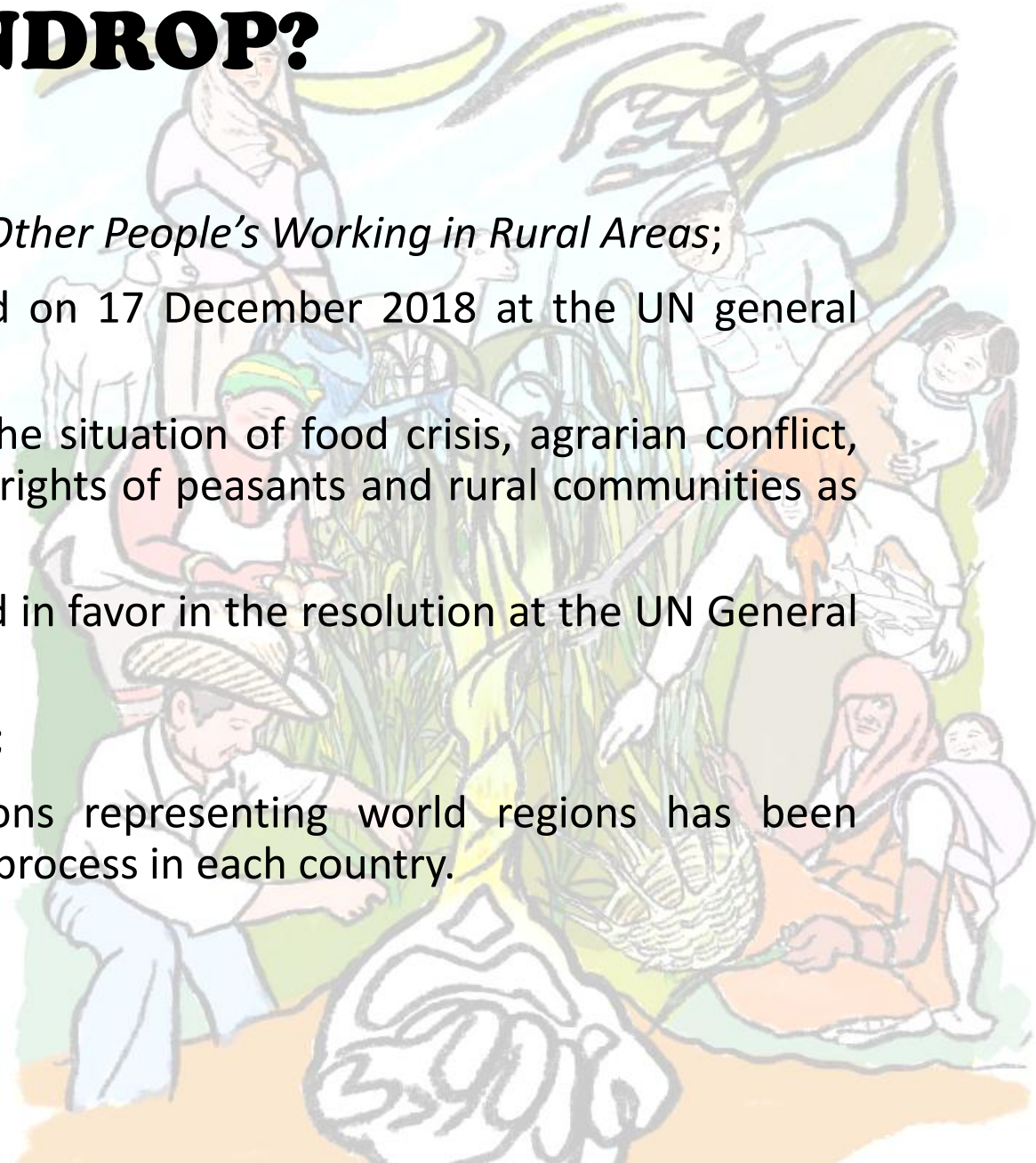
Awards/publications in National and International Media

1. Received the Global Justice Award from the Institute for Global Justice (IGJ) in 2007;
2. Named one of the "50 Planet Saviours" by The Guardian newspaper, UK in 2008;
3. Named one of the "Green Giants: The Eco Power List" by The Observer Ethical Awards and published in The Guardian, UK in 2011.;
4. Coverage as "Defender of Farmers' Right" by The Jakarta Post, 1 May 2003;
5. Named as an Indonesian social movement figure by GATRA Weekly Magazine in 2010;
6. Named as "The World's Most Influential Farmer Figure" in Kompas Daily in 2011;

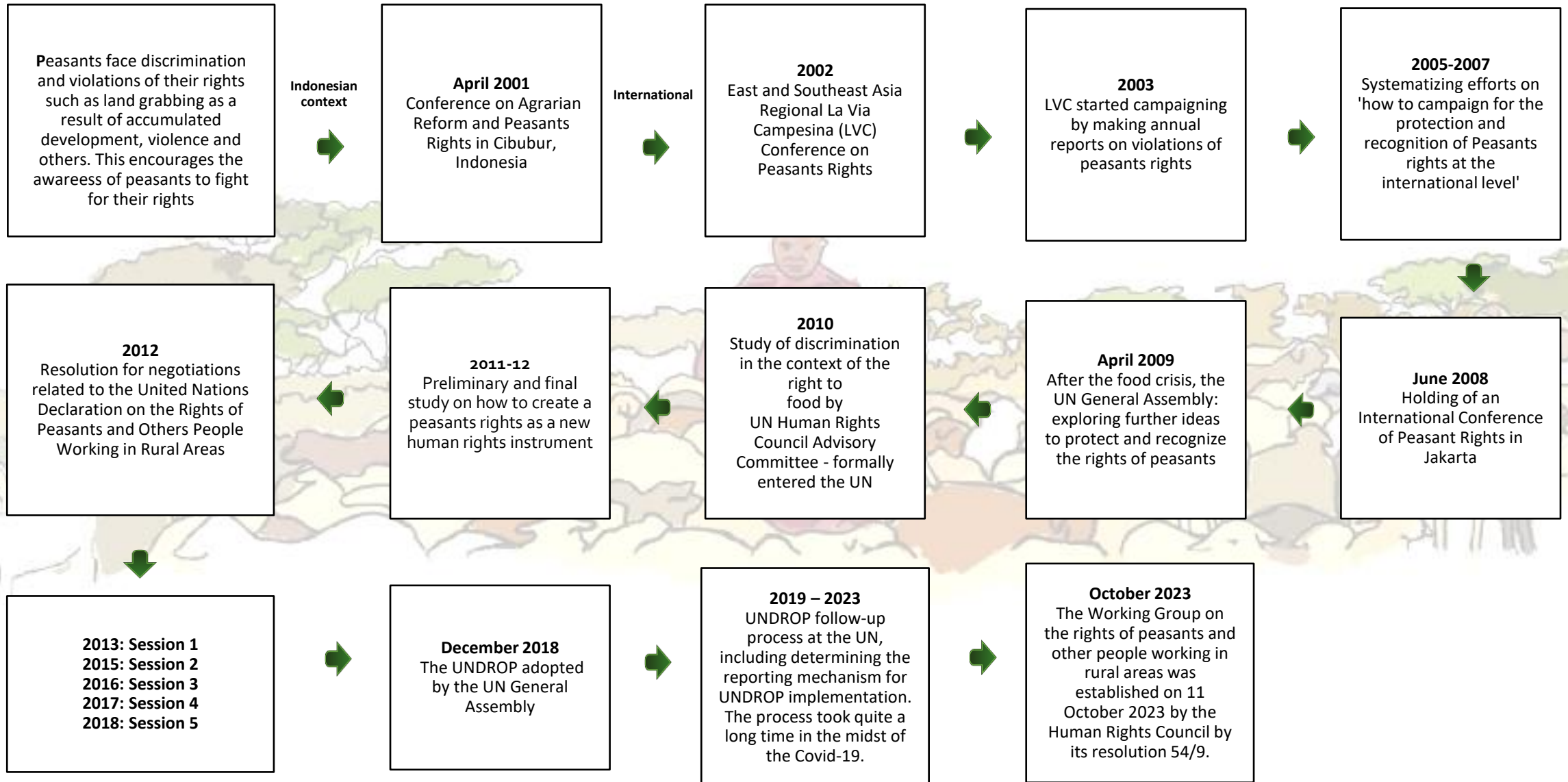


What is UNDROP?

- *United Nation Declaration on Right of Peasant's and Other People's Working in Rural Areas;*
- An instrument of international legal norms adopted on 17 December 2018 at the UN general assembly;
- Why peasants and rural communities? because of the situation of food crisis, agrarian conflict, climate crisis, which results in threatening the basic rights of peasants and rural communities as the main food producers in the world;
- UNDROP has been adopted since 122 countries voted in favor in the resolution at the UN General Assembly, 8 countries against, and 54 abstained.;
- Indonesia is 1 of 122 countries that support UNDROP;
- Currently, a working group consisting of 5 persons representing world regions has been established to oversee the UNDROP implementation process in each country.



Timeline UNDROP



UNDROP : 28 Articles about Peasants' Right

ARTICLE 1: PEASANT

ARTICLE 2: GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF STATES

ARTICLE 3: EQUALITY AND NON DISCRIMINATION

ARTICLE 4: NO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

ARTICLE 5: RIGHT TO NATURAL RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE 6: RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY, AND SECURITY OF PERSON

ARTICLE 7: FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

ARTICLE 8: FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, OPINION, AND EXPRESSION

ARTICLE 9: FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 10: RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION

ARTICLE 11: RIGHT TO INFORMATION

ARTICLE 12: ACCESS TO JUSTICE

ARTICLE 13: RIGHT TO WORK

ARTICLE 14: RIGHT TO A SAFE AND HEALTHY WORK ENVIRONMENT

ARTICLE 15: RIGHT TO FOOD AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

ARTICLE 16: RIGHT TO DECENT INCOME AND LIVELIHOOD
AND THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION

ARTICLE 17: RIGHT TO LAND

ARTICLE 18: RIGHT TO A CLEAN, SAFE, AND
HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT TO USE AND MANAGE

ARTICLE 19: RIGHT TO SEEDS

ARTICLE 20: RIGHT TO BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ARTICLE 21: RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER SYSTEMS

ARTICLE 22: RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY

ARTICLE 23: RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

ARTICLE 24: RIGHT TO HOUSING

ARTICLE 25: RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING

ARTICLE 26: CULTURAL RIGHTS AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

ARTICLE 27: RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UN AND OTHER
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ARTICLE 28: GENERAL OBLIGATIONS



Why is UNDROP more relevant today?

- There is a 'countercurrent' where the re-emergence of neoliberalism and global capitalism after the momentum of the post 2008 food crisis;
- From what we experienced in Indonesia, after the 2008 food crisis, basically ideas related to agrarian reform, food sovereignty, and agroecological agriculture, found their relevance. But lately, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic, the condition has actually reversed.;
- UNDROP can be used as a tool to pressure governments to adopt policies favoring peasants, in accordance with international norms. UNDROP's basis as a human right is a new instrument to fight for agrarian reform and food sovereignty in Indonesia.



How is it Relevant to the Peasants' Struggle in Indonesia?

- It is a reflection of Serikat Petani Indonesia's struggle in Indonesia. This can be seen from the 'key articles' of UNDROP that we utilise for the peasants' struggle in Indonesia. :
 1. General Obligation of States (Article 2)
 2. Acces to Justice (Article 12)
 3. Right to Food and Food Sovereignty (Article 15)
 4. Right to Decent Income and Livelihood and Mean of Production (Article 16)
 5. Right to Land (Article 17)





General Obligation of States (Article 2)

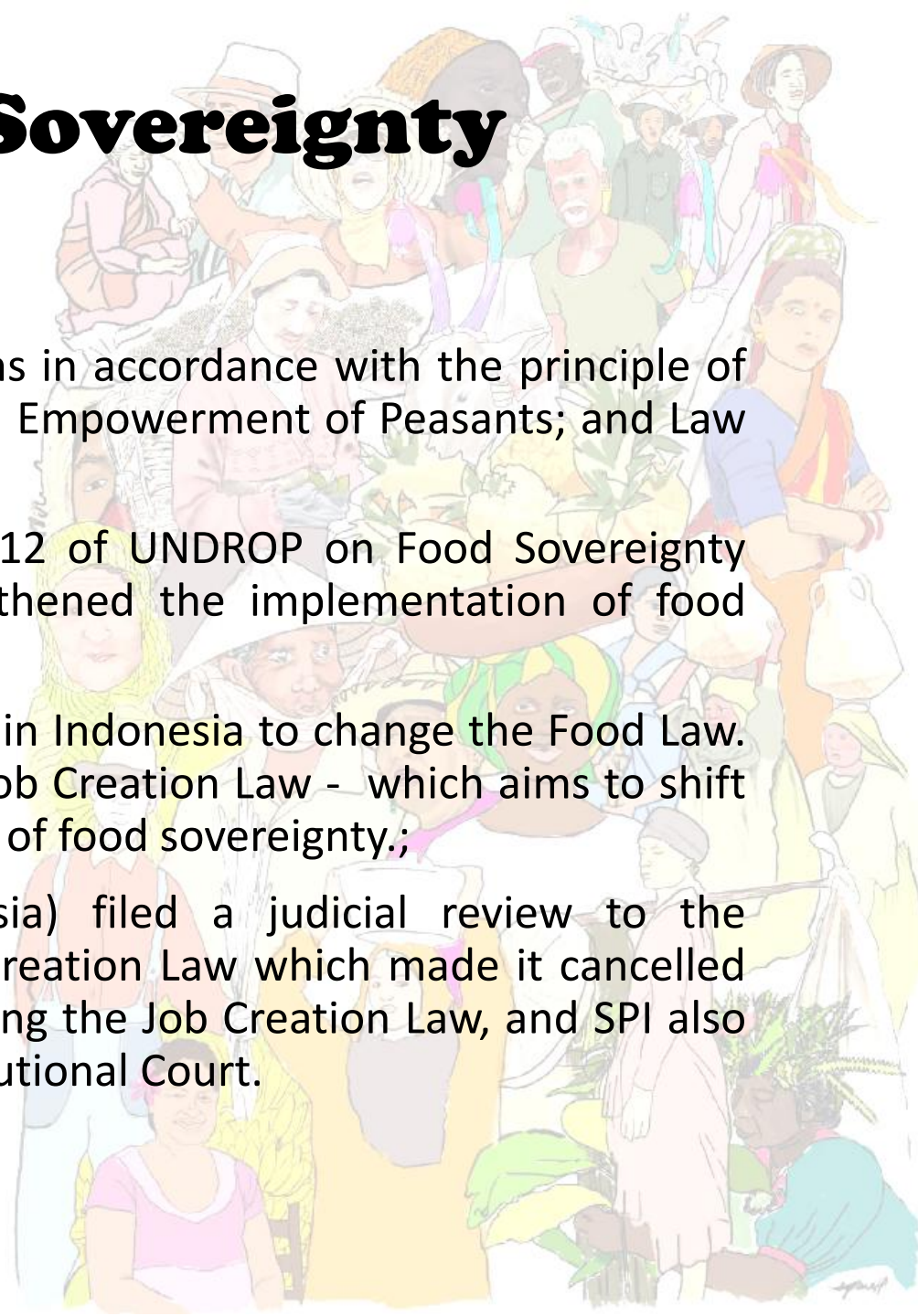
- States shall respect, protect and fulfil the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. They shall promptly take legislative, administrative and other appropriate steps to achieve progressively the full realization of the rights of the present Declaration that cannot be immediately guaranteed (paragraph 1).
- In addition, the state also has an obligation to consult and co-operate in good faith with peasants and their representatives in making decisions that affect their lives (paragraph 3).
- It can be interpreted that all policies (laws) that concern the livelihoods of peasants and rural community must be carefully considered, and not violate their rights as stipulated in UNDROP;
- In Indonesia, we use this as a tool to pressure the government. Moreover, as a country that agreed to UNDROP, the Indonesian government should be committed to making UNDROP a reference (international norm) in making and formulating policies.;

Access to Justice (Article 12)

- *Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to legal assistance. States shall consider additional measures, including legal aid, to support peasants and other people working in rural areas who would otherwise not have access to administrative and judicial services (paragraph 3);*
- *States shall consider measures to strengthen relevant national institutions for the promotion and protection of all human rights, including the rights described in the present Declaration (paragraph 4);*
- In Indonesia, paragraph 3 is the basis for SPI to demand the right to justice for peasants who have been criminalised for fighting for their rights.;
- Likewise, in paragraph 4, SPI has encouraged the government to make UNDROP a reference norm in every institution. So far, the National Commission on Human Rights in Indonesia has made UNDROP a reference for Standard Norms Setting (SNP). This SNP is a reference for Ministries /government institutions in Indonesia to formulate policies/regulations relating to peasants and people working in rural areas.

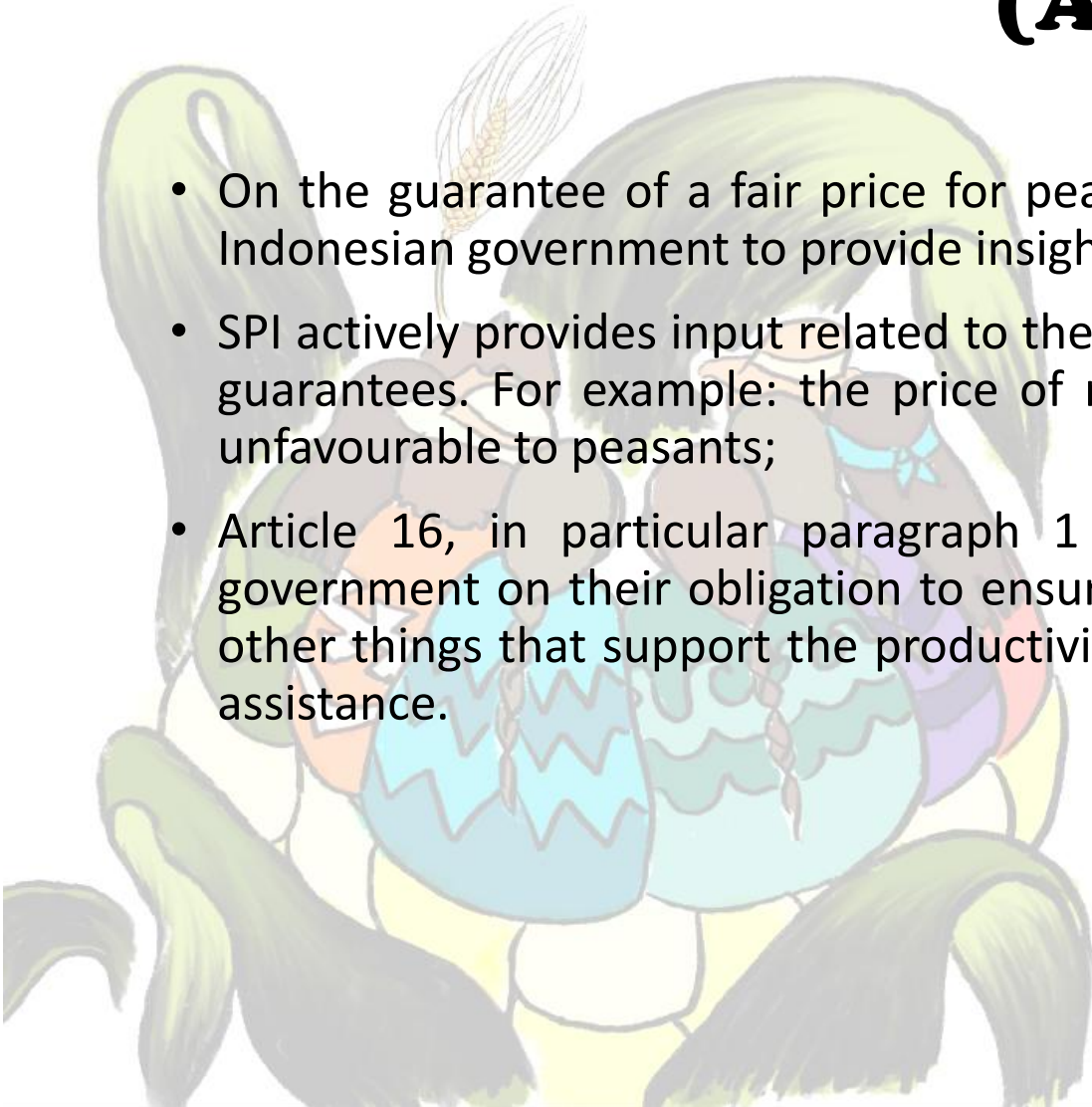
Right to Food and Food Sovereignty (Article 12)

- Prior to UNDROP, Indonesia already have several regulations in accordance with the principle of food sovereignty, such as: Food Law; Law on Protection and Empowerment of Peasants; and Law on Sustainable Food Agricultural Land Protection;
- After the emergence of UNDROP, the contents in article 12 of UNDROP on Food Sovereignty became relevant for Indonesia today and further strengthened the implementation of food sovereignty in Indonesia;
- This is because there were systematic efforts by opponents in Indonesia to change the Food Law. In 2020, the government introduced a controversial law – Job Creation Law - which aims to shift the paradigm of the Food Law towards food security instead of food sovereignty.;
- SPI (along with other people's movements in Indonesia) filed a judicial review to the Constitutional Court, and successfully challenged the Job Creation Law which made it cancelled on 2021. However, the government still insists on maintaining the Job Creation Law, and SPI also continues to fight back by challenging the law to the Constitutional Court.



Right to Decent Income and Livelihood and Mean of Production (Article 16)

- On the guarantee of a fair price for peasants. On several occasions, SPI had been asked by the Indonesian government to provide insights on the welfare situation of peasants;
- SPI actively provides input related to the lack of peasants' income due to the absence of fair price guarantees. For example: the price of rice grain is very volatile and the determination is very unfavourable to peasants;
- Article 16, in particular paragraph 1 and 2 become a reference to urge the Indonesian government on their obligation to ensure a fair price for peasants. not limited to that, including other things that support the productivity of peasants such as from production tools to financial assistance.



Right to Land (Article 17)

- For SPI, UNDROP is crucial to strengthen the struggle for agrarian reform in Indonesia.;
- The existence of article 17 of UNDROP serves as a reinforcement of the importance of agrarian reform, particularly land rights, for peasants and people working in rural areas.;
- This is because there are many efforts from the opponents to thwart the struggle for agrarian reform in Indonesia, including revising the basic agrarian law which has been the regulatory basis for carrying out the struggle for agrarian reform.;

