



**Food Sovereignty and Resources Justice –
People's Vision and Recommendations for change**

Across Asia and Europe, land, water, seeds, forests and fisheries are being subjected to the pressures from neo-liberal globalisation policies - whether from industrial agriculture or blue carbon initiatives; the expansion of mining, energy and the extractive industries; mega infrastructure projects; real estate development; luxury tourist enclaves; conservation and market-based climate mitigation strategies. These pressures, especially when bolstered by national laws that are geared towards profit rather than peoples' rights, are having a corrosive effect on livelihoods, cultures, and ecologies. The struggles are rooted in fights for social justice, and against all forms of discrimination based on gender, class, ethnicity, caste and religion. In particular countries and regions, this has been accompanied by the rise of militarism and increased authoritarian repression of civil society organisations and environmental and human rights defenders.

Against this backdrop, communities in both Asia and Europe are mobilising to put forward real alternatives based on grass-roots organising and social movement action to further the vision of food and resource justice based on their right to choose their own self-determined ways of living. This is exemplified by, *inter alia*, the global movement for food sovereignty, alternatives to mining and anti-extractivism campaigns, protection of the commons, and the multiple ways in which small farmers, pastoralists, fishing communities, and indigenous peoples are making strategic use of national and international governance instruments to claim and defend their access to and control over territories and natural resources as matters of human rights.

It is our overall objective to strengthen these people's visions and empower social movement actors and civil society organisations across Europe and Asia to assert democratic control over the land and water-scapes upon which they depend. These peoples' visions are based on a commitment to solidarity, social and economic justice, and concern for the most vulnerable and marginalised. This stands in contrast to the false solutions offered by techno-capitalism, rising authoritarian populism, sectarian and exclusionary nationalism as well as a multi-stakeholder approach that seeks to balance different interests, erase power differentials, while mitigating the worst effects of a "business as usual" approach. Truly elevating people's visions means prioritising the voices of those that are most affected in decision-making around food and natural resources in accordance with the important principle of "nothing about us, without us".

Key recommendations addressed to ASEM parliamentarians

These initial recommendations build on the final declaration of the AEPF 11, and were finalised during the AEPF 12 meeting. They also take their inspiration from key social movement documents such as those issued by the Nyéléni International and Nyéléni Europe movements for Food Sovereignty and the International Peoples Conference on Mining (IPCM)

These recommendations include:

1. To ensure there are constitutional guarantees to support those most at risk from shrinking spaces for civil society, protecting, investigating and sanctioning to prevent attacks and threats against environmental and human rights defenders.
2. Hold governments accountable for their human rights violations also with regard to their extra-territorial human right obligations. To ensure this, there should be support for a strong binding treaty on transnational corporations.
3. Ensure strict laws and their enforcement so that companies along the whole supply chain, including downstream companies, abide by national and international human rights standards. There should be thorough and independent Environmental Impact Assessments, as well as Human Rights Impact Assessments of all development projects and investment programmes.
4. Oppose land, ocean, coastal and small island resource grabbing and respect the human rights of indigenous peoples, peasants, pastoralists and small-scale fishers to their lands, territories, fishing grounds and resources, utilising instruments such as the FAO Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines and the Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests.
5. Ensure good faith negotiations with affected communities according to internationally agreed human rights instruments, using free prior and informed consent as a minimum standard specifically for indigenous peoples, and apply its principles to all communities.
6. In recognition of the critical role that rural and indigenous women have in food production, and in the struggle for food sovereignty and resource justice, there should be meaningful, substantive participation of women in the development of their land and territory, and the utilization of their resources.
7. Organize widespread campaigns to reduce overall consumption, which is driving resource extraction and, with the issue of climate change in mind, fossil fuels need to be left in the ground.
8. Promote and advance the arrested agenda of land reforms, and land to the landless, and take measures to counter land concentration and land speculation.
9. Promote food sovereignty, sustainable agriculture and peasant agroecology by providing research, extension, credit, subsidies and market access support.
10. Support the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.
11. Protect our Commons against privatisation; Recognise, respect and protect ancestral domains and territories of indigenous peoples, as well as their indigenous governance systems.

12. Create common village level seed banks, to decrease dependency on commercial seeds, recognising the rights of peasants to freely use and exchange their own seeds. Maintain a diverse selection of native seeds to support agro-ecology and a re-generative environment.
13. Develop strong support systems so that farmers and consumers can interact directly, through means of alternative food systems such as Community Supported Agriculture, Farmers Markets, and Community Gardens.