
Resolution 1 (2022)

15 December 2022

Considered at the Public Forum «Small Peasant Farms and Farming Households in Wartime and Post-War Reconstruction of Ukraine: Political Dialogue», on 15-16 November 2022; adopted at the Concluding Conference, on 15 December 2022, Kyiv

RESOLUTION

of the Public Forum of peasant farms, farming households, civil society organizations, and academic community

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In support of representatives of the Association of Farmers and Private Landowners of Ukraine, farming households, civil society organizations, and academia in the framework of establishing a political dialogue between the small-scale agricultural producers and various levels of governmental authorities;

following the discussions of the Public Forum «Small Peasant Farms and Farming Households in Wartime and Post-War Reconstruction of Ukraine: Political Dialogue» that took place in Kyiv on November 15-16, 2022, and preceding large-scale regional meetings;

in celebration of the thirty-first anniversary of the independence of Ukraine, and the pivotal role played by the small-scale agricultural producers within the independent state in sustaining the democratization of society and facilitation of sustainable development;

in accordance with the fact that FAO and other UN organizations, and the European Union recognized the importance of traditional farmers' knowledge in providing the population with safe and quality products;

small-scale agricultural producers and consumers in Ukraine *deserve* a new agricultural reconstruction policy, that supports the traditional food culture based on the health of the nation, and where ecological responsibility and economic justice are of top priority over the modern systems of industrial agricultural production of agriholding type. Following the stated above, and upon consideration of reports and speeches at the **Forum** on the increase of political dialogue between peasant farms and farming households in wartime and post-war reconstruction of Ukraine, the Forum participants:

1. *State* that family farming in Ukraine can contribute significantly to overcoming the war-caused interrelated crisis not only in agriculture but in the economy, social, environmental, and humanitarian spheres. With this in mind, the Support of Family Farming in Ukraine civil platform is being created in accordance with the Global Action Plan for the UN Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028);

2. *Take into consideration* the Forum addresses of the EU Commissioner for Agriculture, the Head of Europe and Central Asia Regional FAO office (FAO REU), the Head of the FAO office in Ukraine, representatives of international academic and political institutions on cooperation between the mentioned organizations and the small-scale agricultural producers of Ukraine, and intend to continue and deepen such a cooperation;

3. *Support* the suggestions of the Deputy Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine and Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine to strengthen the dialogue between the Ukrainian authorities of all the levels on the one hand and the small-scale agricultural producers on the other, to consider the ways to support and expand such a cooperation and its coordination with the civil society;

4. *Entrust* the Association of Farmers and Private Landowners of Ukraine with the facilitation of systematic monitoring and releasing a report on the resolution implementation over the web resources of the Forum participants;

5. *Address* the President of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine with an urge to alter the pre-war agricultural model of Ukraine focused on the raw material export, depletion of soils and water resources, exsanguination of the countryside lifestyle into the model that is based on family farming and the principles of sustainable development. With this in mind, the key governmental authorities are advised to consolidate their efforts in order to implement the following urgent, mid-term, and long-term measures:

To the President of Ukraine:

- in the context of guarantees to the Ukrainian people of the constitutional right for affordable, quality, and safe Ukrainian production, *to sanction* the expertise of the agrarian policies formed in the pre-war period and wartime in order to assess their compliance with public needs, interests of farmers and small-scale producers; compliance with the UN Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (2012), Global Action Plan for the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028, FAO Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (2014), UN Declaration on The Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (2018), and the foundations of the EU Green Deal (2023-2027). To this end, *to apply* international donor organizations for technical support in performing such a monitoring process;

- *to provide* the inclusion of peasant and farming organizations in the process of formation of the New agrarian policy and the policy of rural development in wartime and post-war period; in the Reconstruction Plan of Ukraine, *to draft and adopt* a standalone program of losses reimbursement and building potential among the family farms in accordance with the Global Action Plan for the UN Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028); *to create* a separate governmental body of the post-war rural reconstruction in order to build the potential of the farming and private agricultural enterprises;

- in the framework of the innovative humanitarian Program “Grain from Ukraine”, which is initiated by the President of Ukraine and implemented in partnership with the World Food Programme, *to approve and guarantee* a 10% quota for small-scale agricultural producers in international grain trade, *create* the mechanisms of access and participation in the Program for them, and guarantee the appropriate agricultural prices for small-scale agricultural producers.

To the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine:

- in order to guarantee the national security and preserve the territorial integrity of the country in wartime and post-war reconstruction period, *to suspend* the Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning the Terms of Agricultural Land Turnover” (№ 552-IX of 31.03.2020). *To suspend* the market transactions of agricultural land turnover in wartime and post-war period in order to create legal, organizational, and financial mechanisms that protect the public interests and guarantee the rural residents, farmers, small-scale agricultural producers, and youth real opportunities for agricultural land purchase;

- in order to form and realize the post-war reconstruction period long-term goals of the state agrarian policy in the context of European integration, in the framework of existing instruments of institutional development and technical cooperation between the EU and Ukraine, Twinning, *to create* the State Agency of Land Real Estate in Agriculture (Land Bank), including for redivision of agricultural land for the development purposes due to the damages and loss of fertility in wartime;

- in order to save the socially necessary network of small-scale agricultural producers and create conditions for youth participation in family farming, *consider* the introducing the preferential sale of the entire economic complex of the farm, not just the land plot, as a top priority of the national long-term EU-oriented agrarian policy in the post-war reconstruction period;

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- *to draft and adopt* the Law of Ukraine “On the Agrarian System” that will recognize the peasant farms and farming households as the basis of the agrarian system of Ukraine, and *legally define* the categories of small-, medium-, and large-scale agricultural producers in order to differentiate the agricultural and rural development policies. *To create* legal grounds for the provision of preferential development for peasant family farms as both key actors of rural development and top-priority producers of food and agricultural products;

- *to revise* the anti-farming law on agricultural cooperation (Law of Ukraine “On the Agricultural Cooperation” № 1601-IX of 1.07.2021) and brought it into line with the EU legislation on cooperation, creating favourable legal framework for agricultural service cooperatives to perform their economic and social-humanitarian functions.

By the end of the first quarter of 2023:

- *to determine* for the period of martial law the issue of reservation of employed in the farming sector persons liable to military service, who are skilled employees (machine operators and other skilled personnel) and whose training requires a lengthy time;

- *to amend* the Law of Ukraine from 19.12.1995 № 481/95-VR, and to annul the obligatory licensing of the fuel storage for personal needs by small-scale agricultural producers;

- *to implement changes* to the Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Improving the System of Management and Deregulation in the Field of Land Relations” (№ 1423-IX of 28.04.2021), simplifying the mechanisms for the farmers to acquire right of ownership of land transferred to them for permanent use.

To the Cabinet of Ministers:

- *to form* a separate sectoral structure for managing agricultural and rural development to build the capacity of family farming and preserve rural lifestyle. To this end, within the framework of the existing instruments of institution building and technical cooperation between the EU and Ukraine, Twinning, *to create* a national institution for the protection of the rights of peasants, family farming, and the rural environment (**National Agency**) as a body of central executive power;

- *to propose* real mechanisms for consolidating peasant landowners, uniting them into a public network supported by funds from their land tax, providing them with tools for real influence on decision-making, and taking other measures to strengthen the representation of peasant family farms and farming households in government bodies at all levels;

- *to develop and adopt* the State Program for the Development of Peasant Family Farms and Farming Households, and Food Self-Sufficiency of Citizens, including displaced persons, for the period up to 2030, and brought it into line with the UN Global Action Plan for the Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (2018) and in accordance with the basic principles of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (2023-2027);

- *to develop* a state program to support the production of domestic seed material and young farm animals to provide small farming households, peasant farms, and citizens with seeds and farm animals for the production of agricultural commodities for food self-sufficiency, including the production in public gardens and at various institutions (schools, prisons, hospitals, etc.) in cities, towns, and villages;

- *to address* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for assistance in organizing in Ukraine extensive explanatory work and training of representatives of authorities at all levels, deputies and local self-government bodies on collectively developed international approaches and documents on the promotion of family farming, namely: the UN Global Action Plan for the Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028), the UN Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (2012), the FAO Principles for Responsible Investment in

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Agriculture and Food Systems (2014), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (2018), etc.;

- *to address* the EU Delegation to Ukraine with an appeal to join the organization of explanatory work and training in Ukraine within the framework of the existing Twinning instruments of institution building and technical cooperation between the EU and Ukraine to raise awareness of public authorities, deputies of all levels and local governments on the principles and approaches of the EU Common Agricultural Policy, the European Green Deal and the practice of their application in agricultural and rural development, etc.

- *to develop and implement* a national program for the transition to agroecological practices in agriculture. To this end, *to address* the international agroecological platform BILIM, Schola Campesina with a proposal to adapt for Ukraine the agroecological models of small-scale farming based on the traditional environmentally friendly approaches and technologies, with the involvement of national scientific developments and permaculture practices;

- considering the specifics and needs of small-scale producers, *to develop* mechanisms for flexible assessment and reimbursement of losses (direct and indirect) from the war, and to adapt these approaches to the needs of the post-war period in order to include them in the agricultural policy system to respond to peacetime challenges (natural disasters, climate change, etc.);

- *to develop* a state program for demining, restoration, transfer of agricultural land to other categories, and withdrawal of part of the damaged agricultural land from rotation with adequate compensation provided to farmers and peasants-owners. *To use* the results of national scientific developments for the restoration of agricultural land;

- *to develop* state programs to support the development of service cooperation in rural areas to meet the needs of small producers in the field of agricultural marketing, finance, and logistics. To this end, *to implement* the EU Regulations legalizing the support of service cooperatives into the national law. Ensure the formation of a national network of agricultural credit cooperatives, involving EU practices, which will strengthen the position of small farmers in the financial and credit market;

- *to develop* a state program for the formation of regional networks of local agricultural markets for local agricultural products in order to provide a short supply chain, minimize the number of economic agents, and ensure close economic and social relations between producers and consumers. *To promote* the models of community-supported agriculture and the development of diverse logistics systems focused on meeting the needs of small agricultural producers and consumers;

- *to introduce* a system of public procurement of agricultural products for public needs (schools, hospitals, the Armed Forces of Ukraine) from small-scale agricultural producers with the allocation of an appropriate procurement quota for public needs at a level not lower than 30%. *To simplify* the conditions for small-scale agricultural producers to participate in state sales channels;

- *to conduct* an All-Ukrainian agricultural census, to carry out an inventory of economic entities, land fund in the post-war period, etc. to inform the development of a scientifically based differentiated agricultural policy for different groups of producers, and *to create* favorable conditions for the development of family farming;

By the end of the first quarter of 2023:

- *to take* organizational measures to streamline the registration of tax invoices for farmers and small-scale agricultural producers, namely to restore the pre-war mechanism of their automatic unblocking;

- *to suspend* the application of any sanctions against mobilized farmers and those serving in territorial defense for failure to submit tax reports and for late registration of tax invoices;

- *to prevent* the bankruptcy of small-scale farms that have benefited from preferential loans, to contact the FAO office in Ukraine with a proposal to use the funds of the Rapid Response Plan Program to repay or delay repayment of the loans in question.