

por terra,  
território  
e dignidade

Encontro unitário dos  
trabalhadores, trabalhadoras  
e povos do campo, das  
águas e das florestas



Brasília, 20 a 22 de agosto de 2012

BASE DOCUMENT:

*For the construction of an alternative  
model of agriculture*

**Unitarian National Meeting of Workers, People from the  
fields, the waters and forests**

*For the Agrarian Reform, Land, Territory and Dignity!!*

I. INTRODUCTION

The meeting that now takes place has identity, motivation and intentions to provoke, from the beginning, a broad process of reflection with the social bases represented here, which will detail and forward in sequence.

The internal dialogue done by the social groups gathered here, claim to assert a historical subject-carrier of political demands, of human rights recognized by the Brazilian democratic State, but in practice systematically denied. Therefore, because this legitimate claim, significant actions of mobilization and articulation are required in order to win support from the society and the State, to carry out the changes we propose.

As bases sociais que ora se encontram são representativas de distintos grupos sociais, etnias e movimentos sociais agrários de todo o Brasil – povos indígenas, comunidades tradicionais, assentados de reforma agrária e acampados à espera do assentamento, agricultores familiares, camponeses contemporâneos, extrativistas, povos da floresta, pescadores artesanais, quilombolas e ainda trabalhadores assalariados.

The social bases that are gathering now are representatives of various social groups, ethnicities and agrarian social movements of the whole Brazil – indigenous peoples, traditional communities, settlers of agrarian reform and camped out waiting for the settlement, family farmers, peasants, miners, forest peoples, fishers, quilombolas and employed from the rural areas.

The focus driven by these peoples and social groups of this Meeting is the struggle for land, against the many threats, that despite multiple particularities have a common denominator – the unlimited expansion of democratic rules for the big capital, auto called agribusiness- on the lands and territories of social destination. Such an expansion is done with the fragile incorporation of regular employment and even with recurrence similar to slave labor forms, as attested by numerous surveillance reports of labor (Ministry of Labor). This style of agricultural expansion empties the fields and causes overpopulation in urban spaces, the explicit demands of the labor market.

Concrete threats of private lands and displacement of various groups, provisionally here identified as peasants and indigenous peoples, are identified in various origins – from the expansion of farming monocultures and forestry, from mining companies, from large hydroelectric projects and particularly from the scandalous public land grab process, that the Brazilian State assists with impunity or is part of conniving.

The significance of this Meeting and of the process that this generates is of three dimensions: *Political*, in the sense of unity of the agrarian social movements around a common agenda in the struggle for land, overcoming the fragmentation that allows the federal Government to systematically ignore the legitimate demands of this social base; *Social* in the sense of self defense against concrete threats of social, cultural and physical destruction of Brazilian peasants; *Historic*, to evoke and honor the half a century has elapsed since the First National Congress of Peasants, occurred in Belo Horizonte in 1961.

The social groups gathered here, with its social, cultural, ethnic and historical richness, carry on their 'habitat' and work relationship with the land and territories and the multiseular fight for the recognition of legitimate rights. Their relationship and care with the mother-land and with food cannot be restricted to economic exploitation, since it contains values that are not limited to market products. Their popular culture(s) encloses signs of the deeper Brazil and of its people, regions, costumes, artistic

manifestations and popular knowledge, suffering from the trampling of the monopolization by the large capital. They are peoples and social groups with the legitimate links with the Brazilian nation, whose disruption, on behalf of capital and money, breaks with the cultural identity of Brazil. Similarly, now the pointed concentration and denationalization of lands by the great capital breaks up with the idea of territorial nation.

The political Meeting of multiple peasants, forged throughout history, exceeds the meaning of defense against concrete threats that now they face, even though it may immediately have this motivation. Although, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is mainly a moment of affirmation of projects with concrete conditions for the autonomy of peasants and it is communicated with the multiple desires of marginalized sectors by the political economy of agribusiness, with a view to overcome the underdevelopment model.

The Meeting initiates a series of mobilizations articulated to the movements of the family farming, peasants and indigenous peoples with the legitimate claim to affirm the fight for the right to land, but now debugged from the Brazilian political agenda.

## **II-THE CHALLENGES OF THE PRESENT MOMENT**

1. The Brazilian economy has been deepening its external dependency since the last decade because of the exportation of primary products, in concurrency to the worsening of the deficit of the 'Industry' and 'Services'. In such conditions, worsens the deficit in the 'external transactions', that each time demands more foreign capital to cover this gap and calls, simultaneously, for a strategy of super exploitation of land, mines and water to consent the service of dependency.
2. Brazil lives a clear process of "reprimarização" of the key sectors involved in exportation, which became specialized in half a dozen of agricultural products and minerals (soy, meat, sugar, alcohol, wood pulp, aluminum, iron and crude oil). This process moves the axis of economic expansion of the industry, whose main engine is the technical progress for the production of exportable primary products, chasing a primary specialization in external relations. And parallel to this axis displacement of capital accumulation, restructuring itself internally the political economy of agribusiness, based on the alliance of great territorial property, the agro-industrial chains and of the funder State and guarantor of the land wealth.
3. The economic world crisis that since 2008 gives signs of increasing depth and extension tends to affect increasingly the Brazilian economy where this more recently has specialized: 'commodities' exportation and the inflow of foreign capital. In such circumstances, while discussing outputs for the development, the more conservative private strategies, within and outside the Government and its parliamentary support, pursue an even greater depth of the economics of agribusiness. Opens for the new Forest Code numerous amenities to the over-exploitation of natural resources in the production of monocultures, at the same time introduces a financial green economy to speculate privately with carbon credit titles in public forests.
4. The very narrow binding of the Governments of the Republic of these last twelve years, with an anti-social policy in the agricultural plan, frustrates long-standing wishes, disables the agrarian reform, disrupts the bodies responsible for land policies -environmental and indigenous, in defiance of social demands, as well as the constitutional built in 1988.

5. In the current crisis situation, Brazil as a country rich in land, water, biodiversity, mineral resources and other natural resources, attracts at the same time speculative financial capital and agro-exportation. However, it is done under full scheme of laxity of the land policies, that they should exercise and enforce to exercise the social and environmental function of land ownership; institutionalized, in fact and in law the systematic land grab of public land, indigenous and natural parks and reserves. In addition, the water resources, vital to multiple uses of society and in the economy, especially of the urban population, have been increasingly dilapidated by an anti-social use of waters and forests.
6. Jumps to the eyes to face deepening problems in perspective of the agribusiness political economy model: worsening of external dependence, degradation of natural resources and the production of healthy foods, extreme land concentration, denationalization of land heritage and simultaneous super exploitation of the human work in the style of capitalist expansion.
7. The losses now highlighted should call special attention for a species of juggernaut that the current model is imposing to the diverse peasants of Brazil, now together and represented in this Meeting. The occupation, invasion, contamination, intrusion, land grab of the lands of peasants, displaced peasants, indigenous, 'quilombola', agrarian reform settlements of natural reserves and parks and of the public square land are an ultra conservative movement, anti peasant with serious repercussions and consequences for the cultural and national integrity of Brazil.

### **III – PLATFORM FOR AN ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM**

Reasons to live and concrete threats against life and the land led the social organizations gathered at this Meeting to come together in a process of a national articulated struggle. Even recognizing the political, social and regional diversity of social groups gathered here, we understand the need and importance of building Unity, made under the bases of wisdom, maturity and respect of the differences, seeking concrete achievements for the peoples of the field.

To affirm the autonomy of the peasant life style in 21 Century is a healthy pretension of the various social groups present here, which implies new relations with the mother land, with society, with the State and with the dominant political economy.

#### **Our platform of concrete proposals, seek to achieve field changes in synthesis:**

1. A society where all people have the same opportunities and the same conditions of human development;
2. Keep attention of the basic needs for healthy nutrition of the neglected population by the conventional system;
3. Promoting equality in access to land and in the maintenance opportunities to land to peoples and groups who need it as working and socializing land;
4. To recognize and encourage the peasant autonomy, rescuing their potential of production of healthy food, energy and technological autonomy;

5. Retrieve capabilities of the “securlarmente” oppressed peoples and cultures identified with the deep Brazil, rescuing the self-esteem of the peoples of the land.

**In this sense it is necessary to recognize, rescue and respect the struggle of the majority of the rural population by:**

1. Access to land and guarantees for the maintenance of the territories, which requires applying, in general, the constitutional principle of the social and environmental function of the land, land titling of quilombo lands, indigenous lands and community areas, such as 'grazing funds' and 'faxinais'; common enjoyment of water, lakes and mangroves, with preservation of biodiversity.
2. Compliance with a broad agrarian reform, always in connection with a land policy with the social and environmental function, applicable to all exploited or kept idle land. In turn, the necessary connection of agrarian reform with a set of social and economic development policies, requires a concerted redesign of agrarian reform and rural development, currently scattered, fragmented or out of the State bureaucracy.
3. Construction of a strategy of peasant autonomy as via distinct from the rural development, regarding the economics of agribusiness, with innovative features and manufacturing of economic, social and environmental in several respects, such as: 1) Specialization in the production of healthy foods; 2) Autonomy of the means of production and ecological agro knowledge linked to another technical design with the land management; 3) Energy autonomy, incorporating innovations to better use of solar energy, biomass, wind and biogas; 4) Largest integration to the institutional markets, components of a national policy for production and consumption of healthy foods, to be defined.
4. Prioritize the production of healthy food in connection with the institutional demands of the educational system, of the food security and social policies in general; especially to meet the needs and preventive functions, part of the public health system;
5. Restructuring of the sectors of the federal and State Governments that meet the family farming, peasants and peoples of the fields, of water and forests, with a view to draw authentic and differentiated regional policies for promotion work and life strategies of these social groups;
6. Fostering agro ecology and organic farming practices, which would eliminate the use of agrochemicals and produce healthy food. Important role can fulfill, in this regard, the initiative of the public research, in particular of EMBRAPA or the new foster institution with specific mission, as well as the role of education in the agro-field.
7. Deploy and develop contextualized indigenous peasant education projects to respect and to strength the language of peoples, their knowledge, and at the same time allow the

coexistence with the Brazilian society as a whole. It makes no sense an urbanized education transplanted to rural areas, nor a technical education of agribusiness style for a peasant environment. It is crucial to rescue ancient knowledge of populations that live and take care of their biomes in the image and likeness of the mother-nature;

8. Redeem the collection of culinary, arts, knowledge, mainly indigenous medicines and cultural practices, recognizing them as values of popular cultures grounded under persistent threat of destruction. Introduce political practices of recognition of the peasant autonomy as development towards a democratic, pluralist society in the process of overcoming the strict limits of the Individualistic utilitarianism, dominant in our culture.
9. Strengthen solidarity and cooperation strategies of the peasants groups, respecting their diversity, especially in its relations with the institutional markets;
10. Redesign and consolidate a set of public policy rules governing the State on family farming and indigenous peoples on Agrarian Reform (PNRA), in education (education in the field), in the Social security scheme (Economy), in agriculture (PRONAF), in health (indigenous health) and in Food Security (Food acquisition Program of family farming-PAA) in order to meet demands by the land defense, culture and social protection of the peasant, indigenous peoples and social groups gathered here.