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Environment Committee

Topic: "An eco-farming revolution"

Sponsor: Malaysia

Co-sponsors: Mali, Qatar, China, India, Germany, Poland

Signatories: Philippines, South Africa, Japan, Brazil, Canada, Senegal, Germany, Bulgaria

The Environment Committee,

Guided by the international guidelines on green economic policies adopted at the Rio+20 United Nations (UN) Conference on Sustainable Development (2002),

Also guided by the UN Conference on the Human Environment (1972) that specified that protecting the environment is a way to permanently lift people out of poverty,

Recalling Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2 that aims at ending hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition as well as promoting sustainable agriculture, and SDG 12 that aims at ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns,

Reaffirming that sustainable agricultural policies should contribute to eradicating poverty, promoting economic growth, enhancing social inclusion, improving human welfare and creating opportunities for employment and decent work for all, while maintaining the healthy functioning of the Earth's ecosystems,

Concerned that Agriculture is one of the sectors most seriously affected by extreme climate but it also accounts for 24 % of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions which cause climate change,

Also concerned that unsustainable patterns of food production and consumption are a major cause for the continuing deterioration of local and global ecosystems, which in turn further affects food production patterns,

Recognizing the crucial role of agriculture and the food chain in being an active part of the solution to climate change and the protection and enhancement of the environment, for all countries,

Also recalling the different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country to reach agricultural sustainability, in accordance with their national circumstances, priorities, territorial policies, and national sovereignty over their natural resources,

Alarmed by the 420,000 yearly worldwide deaths caused by the lack of food security, among whom 125,000 are children under the age of 5,

Regretting the lack of available studies comparing conventional to sustainable agriculture,

Viewing with appreciation the positive impact of the use of innovative scientific techniques on crop yield, crop quality, and environmental protection,

Reminding that smallholders overwhelmed by large agro-corporations and companies and struggling to survive are also to be found in developed nations,

Recognizing that new and additional financial resources will have to be channeled to developing countries in order to ensure their full participation in global efforts for environmental protection,

1. Invites Member States to implement national agricultural policies and support initiatives and partnerships with stakeholders that respond to climate challenges facing agriculture by:

- a. promoting sustainable production methods,
- b. reducing food losses and waste,
- c. enhancing the resilience and carbon absorbing capacities of agricultural soils,
- d. reducing the carbon footprint in the livestock farming sector,
- e. protecting the long-term livelihoods of smallholder farmers;

2. Calls for a comprehensive international study by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) comparing conventional to sustainable agriculture in terms of productivity, social impact, environmental impact, nutritional quality, methods used and economic profit;

As well as the IPPM project to continue in African countries and other underdeveloped countries, and the incorporation of permaculture and agro-culture in the IPPM and in the farmer field schools that the IPPM has opened;

3. Draws attention to the need to foster the crucial role of science and technology in reaching environmental protection, increased productivity and food security for developing countries, by allowing favorable access (above all to the developing countries) to:

- a. environmentally sound technologies, processes, equipment and research,
- b. expertise through international co-operation designed to further global efforts for environmental protection,
- c. the use of innovative and effective means and techniques, such as but not limited to, bioscience, alternatives to chemicals and pesticides, research in soil science;

4. Also invites Member States to implement measures aimed at improving the livelihoods of smallholders, increasing their incomes and supporting their businesses, such as but not limited to:

- a. providing training for newly-introduced sustainable harvesting techniques, in order to intensify and diversify production, boost the market value of agricultural products, improve on the quality of production and processing,
- b. organizing cooperatives that will enable smallholders to enlarge their network and work with other farmers to identify areas of potential growth, facilitate their access to financing as well as their ability to tap into new markets;

5. Suggests to encourage and help all farmers traditional farmers and new ones to make the transition to eco-farming through educational programs, in cooperation with eco-farmers and sustainable farming specialists, that will introduce them to the benefits of transition in to ecological farming methods, and teach them how to make this transition the smartest and smoothest way possible, especially by taxing the use of pesticides as well as fertilizers and using this money as subsidies for smallholders who choose to switch to a more ecological way of farming;

6. Encourages Member States to promote eco-farming among smallholder communities through campaigns emphasizing benefits such as, but not limited to:
 - a. the low cost of production on account of the use of recycled on-farm resources, and expenses saved on pesticides or insecticides,
 - b. the simplicity of learning the new techniques,
 - c. the high yields of crops,
 - d. the positive impacts on wildlife and biodiversity,
 - e. the food safety it gives the consumers,
 - f. the waste is recycled and put back into the soil in the form of compost,
 - g. Eco farming does not pollute the surrounding area;

7. Asks Member States to protect aquatic ecosystems by restricting water pollution from nutrients, such as but not only, phosphorus or nitrogen, that fuels the growth of harmful algal blooms by:
 - a. building watersheds,
 - b. improving nutrient management, livestock waste management, and drainage water management,
 - c. planting cover crops and buffers such as certain grasses and trees that will recycle excess nitrogen and reduce soil erosion,
 - d. Cutting down on tillage to reduce erosion and soil compaction, build soil organic matter, and minimize runoff;

8. Has resolved to place the world's drylands higher on the international agenda as they suffer the most from poor land management, rural poverty, climate change and conflicts over natural resources such as but not only water and arable lands;

9. Encourages promoting economic and agricultural cooperation between countries by aiding immigration to countries lacking labor force, taking in consideration the capacities of each country to welcome said workers;

10. Encourages the raise of awareness of consumers through media, as eco-farming also relies on its consumers;

11. Requests the creation by the FAO of an internationally recognized label that certifies the eco-farming origin of a product;

12. Encourages developed countries to financially support third-world countries, and to trade with them, and to set up and support organizations such as IPPM and FAO;

13. Asks for the creation of rates of pesticides and GMO per years for each country according to their economic needs and the population needs to be fed, so we can find a balance eco-farming and monoculture. Calls for the ability to sell to other countries the allocation received if the country decides to reduce or eliminates their use of monoculture;

14. Decides to remain seized as possible as the country can on the matter;

15. Encourage that all delegations limit the use of GMOs and expects every State who won't stop using GMOs to develop them in closed spaces as not to affect the nearby biodiversity.