

**Forum:** United Nations Environmental Programme Governing Council

**Question of:** Assessing Genetic Engineering Regarding its Consequences for Agriculture and Nutrition



**Submitted by:** Japan

**Co-submitted by:** Albania, Australia, Belarus, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bolivia, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, DPR Korea, DR Congo, Honduras, India, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Niger, Oman, Romania, Singapore, South Sudan, USA, Vietnam

- 1 The United Nations Environmental Programme Governing Council,
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- 3 *Guided* by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to treat and end, inter
- 4 alia, malnutrition, child and maternal mortality, as well as to promote education for everyone,
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- 6 *Recognizing* the growing importance of genetic engineering in agriculture and the enormous
- 7 progress in its technological development,
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- 9 *Concerned* by the widespread refusal to implement genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in
- 10 many countries,
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- 12 *Bearing in mind* the potential negative effects on the environment caused by genetic
- 13 engineering,
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- 15 *Recalling* that in over two decades of commercial use, no negative side effects on human health
- 16 due to the process of genetic engineering have occurred,
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- 18 *Acknowledging* that long-term-studies are not yet available because of the novelty of the
- 19 process,
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- 21 *Realizing* with deep concern the monopoly of a small group of trans national companies (TNCs)
- 22 on the market of GM-seeds,
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- 24 *Noting further* the huge improvement of the method of GM concerning accuracy, speed of the
- 25 process, increased nutrition and further possibilities in comparison to traditional breeding,
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- 27 *Alarmed* by more than 795,000,000 starving people worldwide,

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*Pointing out* the new opportunities genetic engineering can contribute in the effort of decreasing and eradicating starvation and malnutrition,

- 1) **Supports** international communication and cooperation in order to develop a broad agreement in unity regarding GMO;
- 2) **Proposes to** establish an independent FAO sub-institution which is in charge of encouraging the labelling of genetically modified products according to the two separate standards:
  - a) Animal products are to be labelled if GMOs were used in production,
  - b) Crops and processed foods are to be labelled if GMOs were used in production;
- 3) **Proposes** a comprehensive analysis conducted by the International Centre of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) of GMO's before their approval in order to
  - a) ensure their safety in food and animal feed,
  - b) evaluate their effects on environment, biodiversity and animals,
  - c) minimize risks for human health;
- 4) **Suggests** that only varieties, which are to be approved for release and notified in the variety list mentioning allergens continuously updated by the ICGEB, are to be sold on the world market;
- 5) **Proposes** to harmonize Biotechnology Regulations through the WTO to ease international trade in this sector;
- 6) **Encourages** all nations to conduct extensive tests and continuing reviews to monitor the operative clauses 2 and 3;
- 7) **Urges** all member states to transpose operative clauses 2 and 3 into their respective national law;
- 8) **Recommends** all member states to pass a national law that enables serious and mandatory measures in case of a violation of operative clause 2 such as, but not limited to,
  - a) re-import, if imported,
  - b) destruction of the product,
  - c) immediate processing to non-food use,
  - d) high monetary penalties for false labelling;
- 9) **Hopes** for all nations and companies to support and embrace new approved GMO-solutions to combat the problem of starvation and malnutrition all over the world via
  - a) provision of humanitarian assistance,

- 71 b) assistance in investing foreign investors-farmers in the food industry by  
72 allocation:  
73 i. subsidies  
74 ii. benefits on payment of taxes,  
75 iii. regional and inter-regional support programmes taking into account  
76 economic, religious, educational and cultural characteristics of the region  
77 c) undertaking efforts to make research and development more collaborative;  
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79 10) **Calls** for the countries as well as the ICGEB and the WTO to collect verified and extensive  
80 data on the usage and yields of GMOs to develop an improved strategy including

- 81 a. Technical capacity,  
82 b. Infrastructure, and,  
83 c. Financial resources,  
84 d. Policy capacity,  
85 e. Regulatory capacity,  
86 f. IPR policies,  
87 g. Project impacts,  
88 h. Product pipeline data,  
89 i. Public attitudes and perceptions about biotechnology;  
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91 11) **Requests** the founding of an UN-taskforce by the UNEP to monitor, support and report  
92 about further development of GMOs in order to

- 93 a. Increase information availability of GM seed-production, and thereby  
94 b. Decrease production and retail costs in order to break monopolies;  
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96 12) **Designates** that the results from operative clause 8 should be published in order to  
97 establish a dialogue between the public and the governmental authorities;  
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99 13) **Proposes** national governments to plan and conduct information campaigns in order to  
100 reduce the incredulity and refusal in their populations, as well as improving the dialogue  
101 on the topic of GMOs in many countries by reaching out to for example, but not limited  
102 to:

- 103 a. The electric and print media  
104 b. civil society  
105 c. religious communities;  
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107 14) **Calls for** educational programs funded and conceptualized by the United Nations and its  
108 specialized agencies (such as, but not limited to the WHO, FAO, WFP, ICGEB)

- 109 a. for farmers using GMO's to reduce the risk of using GMOs wrongly and to  
110 increase their productivity,  
111 b. for local universities and research institutes,  
112 c. increasing the self-sustainability of lesser economically developed countries  
113 (LEDCs);  
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- 115 15) **Supports** any further ideas, measures and strategies which can be helpful in the issue;  
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- 117 16) **Decides** to stay seized on the matter;  
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- 119 17) **Encourages** dialogue between member states and their neighbours planning the  
120 cultivation of GMOs near international borders to ensure pollen will not spread to  
121 conventionally grown plants of countries that do not want to use GMOs;  
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- 123 18) **Recommends** the member states to differentiate between standard and genetically  
124 modified seeds, in order to avoid monopolies on GMOs;  
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- 126 19) **Calls for** the UN and its specialized institutions to work towards spreading cheap and safe  
127 GM-seeds as well as promoting additional sustainable farming methods, such as but not  
128 limited to agroforest techniques, in order to secure the livelihoods of people threatened  
129 by famine and/or malnutrition, wherever they may live, if this coincides with local  
130 national law.