



*American Model United Nations*

**Commission on Sustainable Development**

Report to the The Economic and Social  
Council on Sustainable Agriculture and  
Rural Development

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## 1 **Executive Summary**

2  
3 At the session held on 19 November 2011 to 22 November 2011, the Commission on  
4 Sustainable Development (CSD) contemplated the issues of sustainable agriculture and  
5 rural development and sustainable mining practices. The general body found that the  
6 topic of sustainable agriculture and rural development was of greater importance.  
7 Moreover, the body discussed various means of recommendations and resolutions that  
8 should be considered for adoption by the United Nations.  
9

10 The Commission adopted Draft Resolution I by consensus, which details multiple points  
11 that are essential for the development of rural communities and sustainable agriculture.  
12 This Commission expresses its strong support for the construction and further  
13 maintenance of roads in order to foster trade and communication. The Commission  
14 recognizes that modern road networks have the potential to unify rural communities and  
15 effectively develop agriculture regions. Secondly, we note that clean water is essential to  
16 human health, crops, and livestock. The key to providing water throughout developing  
17 nations is the use of a variety of irrigation methods. Countries are urged to utilize  
18 underground systems when possible to reduce water loss, prevent the spread of insect  
19 borne disease, and reduce the risk of unauthorized intervention. The Committee notes that  
20 roads and irrigation systems may be built in tandem to limit costs and strengthen  
21 organization.  
22

23 The Commission on Sustainable Development has also explored international trade and  
24 technologies aspects of agriculture and rural development and has developed a series of  
25 points that will be addressed. Technology sharing between countries, and expansion of  
26 management for South-South and North-South cooperation, and considerations for  
27 reducing tariffs to encourage regional cooperation was discussed and promoted.  
28

29 By emphasizing the four major points of sustainable agricultural education, climate  
30 change, business techniques, farming techniques, and health and safety, the Commission  
31 of Sustainable Development passed Draft Resolution III. This resolution sought to  
32 provide solutions for these four areas. Bearing in mind that this resolution is a  
33 supplement to this report, it is a general overview of the specific recommendations and  
34 possible solutions mentioned in the report on sustainable agriculture and rural  
35 development in regards to education. Furthermore, it advocates for both short term and  
36 long term solutions, as well as various educational initiatives.  
37

38 Finance was a crucial issue also discussed in the Commission. Our first suggestion was  
39 the encouragement of nongovernmental organization (NGO) investment, particularly  
40 encouraging cooperatives between farming communities. We also recommend the  
41 subsidization of technology in exchange for temporarily lower priced goods from the  
42 region that was provided with subsidies. We also discussed a suggestion for non-profit  
43 financial institutions to lower interest rates as much as possible in order to stay  
44 competitive. One method to accomplish the same goals of maintaining competition would  
45 be to have a small tax increase on private banks to counter the lower interest rates private  
46 banks are able to offer. Our last suggestion is to provide tax breaks and commodity  
47 benefits for those who adopt sustainable practices.

48

49 In addition to the work done within the four broad elements of sustainable agriculture and  
50 rural development previously outlined, several delegations proposed resolutions dealing  
51 with the issues of aid volatility and the role of organic farming in sustainable agriculture.  
52 The resolution regarding aid volatility was aimed at improving accountability on the sides  
53 of both donors states and organizations and their recipients. The resolution regarding  
54 organic farming considers steps individual member states can use to explore the  
55 feasibility of implementing organic farming methods as part of a broader push for  
56 sustainable agriculture.

57 **Chapter I**  
58 **Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council are brought to its**  
59 **attention**

61 **A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council**

62  
63 **Draft Resolution I**

64  
65 *The Commission on Sustainable Development,*

67 *Recognizing* the importance of infrastructure within developing nations,

68

69 *Understanding* the need for proper means for transporting goods and services,

70

71 *Noting* the importance of fresh water,

72

73 *Emphasizing* the need for a network of farmers within a nation and internationally  
74 to promote agricultural development,

75

76 *Encouraging* the creation and maintenance of proper irrigation systems that allow  
77 populations in rural areas or those who do not have access to clean water,

78

79 *Stressing* the need for ecological sustainability as the framework for advanced  
80 infrastructure,

81

82 1. *Recommends* the creation and maintenance of road networks throughout  
83 developing nations;

84

85 2. *Requests* the implementation of modern sustainable irrigation systems suiting  
86 the needs of each nation including, but not limited to, underground, spate, and above  
87 ground methods when applicable;

88

89 3. *Suggests* the creation of modern water treatment plants in order to foster  
90 agricultural growth and population prosperity to protect human life and livestock  
91 preservation;

92

93 4. *Reminds* the body of the link between clean water and the ability of rural  
94 communities to aid agricultural sustainability;

95

96 5. *Calls for* the formation of national and regional farming networks to exchange  
97 products, information, and technology in order to facilitate better communication at both  
98 local and corporate levels;

99

100 6. *Supports* the participation of the International Water Management Institute, in  
101 light of their success, in order to assess and reduce the risks of waste water irrigation.

102

103 Passed by consensus, with 1 abstention

104

105

106 **Draft Resolution II**

107

108 *The Commission on Sustainable Development,*

110 *Alarmed* by the 115 million new people added to the ranks of the world's hungry  
111 since 2008,

112

113 *Noting* the growth of South-South and North-South cooperation and its positive  
114 effects on developing states,

115

116 *Noting with Satisfaction* the successes that triangular cooperation has had in  
117 assisting nations in addressing a lack of resources in states,

118

119 *Reaffirming* the importance that best practices have in producing the most  
120 efficient agriculture and the need for states to have access to this information,

121

122 *Guided by* the existing framework that exists through UN-HABITAT and United  
123 Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Special Unit in the Best Practices and Local  
124 Leadership Program, and their assistance in North-South and South-South cooperation,  
125 including 39 project managers in the region,

126

127 *Keeping in mind* the need for communication technology for those in rural  
128 communities,

129

130 *Fully aware* of the need for both global and regional solutions,

131

132 1. *Recommends* voluntary information and technology sharing by countries  
133 through:

134

135 (a) The preexisting UN-HABITAT database;

136

137 (b) Best practices such as providing real time commodity prices to farmers

138 through technology such as cell-phones or radios;

139

140 2. *Emphasizes* the need for an expansion of South-South cooperation through the  
141 UNDP Special Unit, including an increase in the number of project managers involved;

142

143 3. *Requests* developed states to assist developing nations in obtaining the  
144 necessary technology to implement sustainable farming;

145

146 4. *Urges* developed and developing states to further engage in triangular  
147 cooperation;

148

149 5. *Suggests* cooperation through regional bodies such as the Economic  
150 Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Association of South East Asian  
Nations (ASEAN) to consolidate and disperse funding;

150

151 6. Expresses support for greater direct foreign investment in underdeveloped  
152 regions.

153

154 Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions

155

156

157 **Draft Resolution III**

158

159 *The Commission on Sustainable Development,*

161 *Applauding* the work of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in assisting  
162 agricultural development in rural communities, including the United Nations  
163 Development Program (UNDP), Morarka Foundation, Green Lane, and Community  
164 Schools Support Program (CSSP),

165

166 *Recognizing* the value of economic incentives for farm education initiatives,  
167 whether in the form of tax breaks or subsidies,

168

169 *Taking into account* the important role played by the private sector in agriculture  
170 education and rural development,

171

172 *Acknowledging* that stable and sustainable agriculture has significant value for  
173 advancing rural development,

174

175 *Supporting* the Food and Agricultural Organization's (FAO) Rural People  
176 Initiative, which provides experiential agricultural learning and helps overcome the  
177 urban-rural education gap as explained in E/CN.17/2009/9,

178

179 *Recognizing* the potential value of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture  
180 Development Programme (CAADP) as a template for successful agribusiness practices in  
181 non-African regions as well as African regions,

182

183 *Bearing in mind* the need for the education of rural communities relating to non-  
184 farming occupations to encourage rural development,

185

186 *Recognizing* the economic and social benefits of providing agricultural education  
187 to all people, particularly women and minorities,

188

189 1. *Encourages* Member States to promote the implementation of educational  
190 programs in rural areas;

191

192 2. *Urges* agricultural education programs to encourage service workers to teach  
193 farmers not only sustainable agriculture practices, but also how to teach other farmers  
194 those skills and practices;

195

196 3. *Further urges* agriculture education programs to include information about  
197 climate change and its relationship with agricultural stability and sustainability;

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4. *Calls for* the creation of an international agricultural education curriculum made available to NGOs and including general information about crop diversity, soil conservation, and agricultural recycling tailored to fit unique regional situations;

5. *Further calls for* the curriculum to include general information about irrigation techniques, water pollution, water purification, and water recycling;

6. *Requests* the gradual transference of responsibility for rural education from the international community to local communities;

7. *Supports* the equitable use of land;

8. *Encourages* the implementation of new technologies in agriculture and farming techniques in order to reduce soil exhaustion, soil degradation, sea pollution, and the depletion of nonrenewable resources, such as no till farming, crop rotation, aquaculture, and mulching;

9. *Emphasizes* the need for programs such as the Information Marketing System to inform farmers about occurring agricultural trends and affordable working materials;

10. *Further recommends* the implementation of the following agribusiness strategies:

(a) strengthening Member States' abilities to participate in trade by ensuring their agricultural products meet market access requirements for world trade, such as quality standards;

(b) encouraging business partnerships between farmers and import export companies;

(c) creating industry to industry connections in order to expand domestic and foreign direct investment in agriculture.

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions

#### **Draft Resolution IV**

*The Commission on Sustainable Development,*

*Observing* the struggles of states to fund sustainable programs that will be cost efficient,

*Taking into consideration* the need for incentives so that financially stable states might invest in less stable states,

*Bearing in mind* the overall downturn of the economy globally and the need for systems that can effectively finance sustainable projects,



245 *Hoping* that each state will look out for the interests of other states especially  
246 those less developed than their own,

247  
248 *Cognizant* that multiple sources of funding are currently in place for achieving the  
249 goals of rural development and sustainable agriculture,

250  
251 *Believing* that it is imperative that those existing funds be directed towards the  
252 sectors that need it the most, determined by the sovereign states,

253  
254 *Recognizing* the benefit of international and domestic cooperation in achieving the  
255 success of these programs,

256  
257 1. *Encourages* foreign investment in technology for less equipped states in return  
258 for increased trade between the two countries;

259  
260 2. *Recommends* that governments encourage the growth of micro-finance banks  
261 who are willing to adopt lower interest rates temporarily to stimulate consumption and  
262 spending;

263  
264 3. *Calls* for a credit system in the form of increased financial investments in less  
265 developed states as an incentive for individuals and cooperatives to be sustainable,  
266 efficient, and productive;

267  
268 6. *Proposes* tax benefits as well as commodity benefits as a means of encouraging  
269 further investments in sustainable practices;

270  
271 7. *Suggests* the use of regional bodies to both raise specific concerns and enforce  
272 international standards of fiscal accountability wherever agreed upon notions of fiscal  
273 accountability exist and all Member States are willing to engage;

274  
275 8. *Recommends* the increased use of the Global Environment Facility currently  
276 managed by the World Bank, United Nations Development Program and United Nations  
277 Environmental Program in order to ensure access to and disbursement of the funds, under  
278 mutually agreed criteria, in a timely manner based on region.

280 Passed by consensus, with 2 abstentions

281

282

283 **Draft Resolution V**

284

285 *The Commission on Sustainable Development,*

287 *Recognizing* the detrimental effects associated with the conventional use of  
288 fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and other synthetic agents on both the environment and  
289 human health,

290

291 *Noting* with regret the tendency of international bodies to approach rural

292 development as a strictly agricultural issue,  
293

294 *Affirming* that sustainable rural development encompasses broader issues of  
295 environmental safety and human health,  
296

297 *Applauding* efforts made by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs),  
298 international organizations, national governments and individuals to promote  
299 biologically-safe, environmentally-sound, and organic farming principles,  
300

301 *Bearing in mind* that agricultural practices vary significantly across cultures and  
302 across geographic boundaries,  
303

304 *Further recognizing* that development and environmentally sound agricultural  
305 practices are not mutually exclusive goals, as evidenced by the experiences of a number  
306 of United Nations Member States,  
307

308 *Guided* by the principles articulated in the Rio Declaration on Environment and  
309 Development and Agenda 21, on which this commission is established,  
310

311 1. *Affirms* the rights of United Nations Member States to set priorities and conduct  
312 agricultural and development policies independently;  
313

314 2. *Suggests* the gradual decrease in the use of synthetic chemical additives within  
315 regions where the full implementation of organic farming methods are not currently  
316 feasible;  
317

318 3. *Invites* United Nations Member States, private sector actors, donor agencies,  
319 NGOs such as the International Federation of Organic Agriculture and others who have  
320 approved the issue of rural development from multiple perspectives in order to provide:

321 (a) building local capacity to explore and understand the potential benefits of  
322 implementing organic farming principles

323 (b) examine the feasibility of transitioning from conventional farming to organic  
324 farming;  
325

326 4. *Encourages* the use of organic farming practices such as crop rotations, natural  
327 fertilizers, composting, green manure, and other nitrogen replacing crops;  
328

329 5. *Recommends* the expansion of organic farming education into existing United  
330 Nations, NGO and international organizations dedicated to the dissemination of  
331 sustainable agriculture knowledge so as to increase awareness of the opportunities  
332 afforded by organic farming practices;  
333

334 6. *Commends* existing initiatives to promote environmentally sound practices  
335 within the context of sustainable development.  
336

337 Passed, Yes: 30 / No: 2 / Abstain: 2  
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**Draft Resolution VI**

*The Commission for Sustainable Development,*

*Recognizing* that aid and foreign assistance constitute a major source of financial support in the pursuit of better sustainable agriculture and rural development,

*Noting* that aid volatility undermines efforts of developing states to achieve long term development plans,

*Further* noting the tendency of donor states to fall short on their promises of aid and financial support,

*Guided* by the commitments and recommendations articulated in the 2008 Political Declaration on Africa’s Development needs as well as those reached by the Steering Group’s on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

*Reaffirming* that an important aspect of sustainable development is moving states away from reliance on aid in the first place and towards economic independence,

*Concerned* by the lack of communication and coordination between existing aid organizations and projects,

*Bearing* in mind that high levels of debt are damaging to developing states both because they are ongoing source of tension and because they limit the ability of those countries to receive aid or assistance,

1. *Identifies* a three pronged approach to the issue of aid volatility:

(a) increasing donor accountability;

(b) increased use of regional bodies to coordinate aid disbursement and increase recipient accountability;

(c) debt forgiveness;

2. *Requests* that donor nations that find themselves in such a position that they are unable to meet their previous aid promises to:

(a) Inform recipient states so that long term goals can be adjusted and to reflect the current monetary situation;

(b) Considered lowering their donation amount to a level that they consider acceptable to their current situation, so that recipient states are not as drastically affected;

3. *Further requests* that the oversight of such arrangements between donor and recipient states be placed under the purview of regional bodies like the South African Development Community, Economic Community of West African States, and Association of South East Asian Nations with the intent that these bodies will communicate with

386 each other to increase accountability within recipient Member States;

387

388 4. *Urges* the use of regional bodies to ensure that all aid and financial assistance  
389 is used in equitable efficient ways;

390

391 5. *Recommends* the focus move away from aid dependency towards promoting  
392 sustainable development and economic growth through:

393 (a) Development of small businesses that may continue to grow and seek profit  
394 without aid;

395

396 (b) Increase the volume of micro-loans and micro-grants given to nations,  
397 communities, and individuals to spur local business;

398

399 6. *Supports* the existing process for the rescheduling or cancellation of debt,  
400 especially in cases where states demonstrate financial need to the extent that development  
401 plans are hindered by high levels of debt.

402

402 Passed, Yes: 20 / No: 6 / Abstain: 11

403

404 **Chapter II**  
405 **Consideration of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development**

406  
407 **Works Cited**

- 408 E/CN.17/2009/2  
409 Johannesburg Plan of Action  
410 Agenda 21  
411 E/CN.17/2009/3  
412 E/CN.17/2009/4  
413 Statement by H.E. Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, 13 May 2009, 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
414 Commission of Sustainable Agriculture  
415 South-South in Human Settlements Special Session, Title Session of the World Urban  
416 Forum, Rio de Janeiro, 24 March 2010  
417 E/CN.17/2008/7  
418 E/CN.17/2008/17

419  
420 **A. Deliberations**

421  
422 **I. Infrastructure Issues**

423  
424 The Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) recognizes that 2.3 billion people  
425 of the world have no reliable source of energy. Nearly one billion people lack access to  
426 safe water and more than one billion people have no access to roads. Infrastructure,  
427 particularly economic infrastructure supporting power, transport, water, and  
428 communications, creates the means for wealth creation, human development and poverty  
429 reduction. Developments in infrastructure are necessary for the achievement of the  
430 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

431  
432 Well designed infrastructure, at the household, village, municipal, or national level,  
433 fulfills a number of the basic requirements of a population as well as an economy.  
434 Without it, rural and agricultural development cannot see the advancements necessary in  
435 order to reach the MDGs and maintain the world's population.

436  
437 Representatives expressed a deep concern that infrastructure investment, planning,  
438 capacity building, and maintenance remain inadequate to meet the aspirations of the  
439 MDGs. Deficient infrastructure seriously constrains growth and the ability for the  
440 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to implement solutions to global issues within  
441 their purview.

442  
443 Representatives expressed the need for the creation of road networks within developing  
444 nations, the necessity of making freshwater available to all people, and acknowledging  
445 the link between clean water and the ability of rural communities to supplement  
446 agricultural sustainability.

447  
448 The CSD wishes to expand the practices of irrigation through the sharing of ideas as well  
449 as the creation and implementation of new irrigation methods. These include but are not  
450 limited to; surface irrigation, flood irrigation, drip irrigation, spate irrigation, sprinkler

451 irrigation, and center pivot irrigation. The forms of irrigation listed are each able to be  
452 utilized in different regions of the world in a multitude of climates and environmental  
453 conditions.

454

455 Representatives expressed concerns regarding the availability of fresh sanitary water to  
456 the world's population. The International Water Management Institute has seen progress,  
457 in reducing the risks of waste water irrigation in India, Pakistan, Vietnam, Ghana,  
458 Ethiopia, and Mexico amongst other countries. Representatives feel as though it may be  
459 in the best interest of the body to allow the International Water Management Institute to  
460 safeguard and protect Member States from the risks of waste water, irrigation through  
461 oversight regarding irrigation within countries.

462

463 Representatives spoke of a need for farmers and others with agriculturally related  
464 occupations to be able to communicate in regards to products, technology, and  
465 information. Through this communication and the sharing of ideas representatives feel as  
466 though more effective practices will develop in terms of farming and other agriculturally  
467 rooted industries.

468

469 The representatives recognized that deficient infrastructure compounds the challenges  
470 facing developing nations attempting agricultural and rural development growth in the  
471 aftermath of a world financial crisis. This has caused constrained funding within  
472 infrastructure projects that are crucial to the development of these nations. The World  
473 Bank, European Union, African Development Fund, and the Asian Development Bank  
474 have all provided significant financial backing in order to build and solidify types of  
475 infrastructure within developing nations. Representatives acknowledge that additional  
476 funding for infrastructure would be ideal and will most likely be required in order for  
477 these developing nations to meet the standards and levels of their developed counterparts.  
478 With that being said, representatives feel as though developed nations who are Member  
479 States should take into account the situation of these developing nations and attempt to  
480 work with them in any way possible in order to fulfill the objective of building solid  
481 infrastructures for these developing countries.

482

483

## 484 **II. International Issues**

485

486 Technology sharing was discussed in terms of recognizing and facilitating the sharing of  
487 best practices through the voluntary UN-HABITAT database, of which developed  
488 countries are encouraged to participate. Practices such as providing real time commodity  
489 prices through connections such as, cell-phones and other means of communication, have  
490 been shown to be extremely effective in improving farmers' self-sufficiency. Member  
491 States are encouraged to implement and develop in-country and regional research bodies,  
492 whose products of research may then be distributed through the aforementioned  
493 mechanisms. Although some representatives were in favor of reducing the intellectual  
494 property rights (IPR) inhibiting the flow of information, consensus was formed in favor  
495 of voluntary sharing of practices and technology rather than the reduction of IPRs.

496

497 An expansion of South-South cooperation through the United Nations Development

498 Program (UNDP) Special Unit and increasing the number of project managers involved  
499 was looked favorably upon. South-South cooperation is beneficial in that country  
500 governments will be able to specify and choose which countries to share the information  
501 with. The current focus of the UNDP Special Unit is to work on regional and  
502 interregional initiatives and engaging countries in formulating policy and sharing  
503 information. Member States were called upon to assist developing countries in obtaining  
504 the technology necessary to implement sustainable agriculture. Triangular cooperation,  
505 such as the previously established partnerships between Asian and African countries, has  
506 also been effective in addressing the lack of access to resources in developing countries.

507  
508 Reductions on trade subsidies by developed countries and regional bodies were discussed  
509 in that they have been limiting the marketability of developing countries' products in  
510 export markets. Dissenting opinions were expressed; many countries were in favor of  
511 reducing the tariffs, however, the topic was controversial. Other methods to improve  
512 farmer's access to markets were discussed, such as price supports and commodity  
513 exchanges. Utilizing regional cooperation through bodies such as Economic Community  
514 of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations  
515 (ASEAN) to consolidate and disperse funding was also promoted in contrast to mass  
516 dispersal of international aid. However, several Member States also expressed a need for  
517 the recognition of the importance of globalization coexisting with regional bodies in both  
518 trade and funding proposals. Public recognition from the United Nations in support of  
519 greater direct foreign investment in underdeveloped countries was seen to be useful.

### 522 **III. Education Issues**

523  
524 Representatives recognized the need for sustainable agriculture and rural development.  
525 Representatives further discussed the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs),  
526 including, but not limited to, member organizations from the International Federation of  
527 Organic Agriculture Movements.

528  
529 France noted the importance of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This  
530 organization "aims to overcome the urban/rural gap in education, to increase access to  
531 and the quality of basic education for rural people, and to build awareness of rural  
532 education benefits from the introduction of policies that promote increased interaction  
533 among research institutions, the price sector and the Government" (E/CN.17/2009/9).

534  
535 Representatives recognized that an agricultural curriculum should be implemented as a  
536 quality standard and a fundamental building block for international education. It was also  
537 recognized that regional and country specific practices should be used in this agricultural  
538 curriculum. In addition, it is crucial that emphasis be placed on ensuring men and women  
539 have equal opportunity to education. Numerous representatives, such as Turkmenistan,  
540 Latvia, and Brazil agreed that an international curriculum should be created in order to  
541 facilitate the long-term development of an international standard of education. However,  
542 a few countries, including the Netherlands, disagreed. The curriculum would include  
543 education on sustainable agricultural methods such as crop diversity, soil conservation,  
544 and recycling. This curriculum would also be made available to NGOs including, but not

545 limited to, United Nations Developmental Program, Morarka Foundation, Green Lane,  
546 and Community Schools Program.

547

548 Utilization of current school structures was discussed and additional forms of education  
549 were proposed to educate students on both sustainable agricultural techniques and their  
550 benefits. Representatives also mentioned that families in rural areas need to be assisted in  
551 ensuring their children have access to education. It was noted and supported by delegates  
552 that agricultural information should be added to the curricula. In addition, the  
553 representatives also agreed that in the long run, the responsibility of education should be  
554 transferred to the local communities, which can be done through methods such as gradual  
555 decentralization and maintaining international developmental assistance. Some countries  
556 wanted a specific timeline to be set, but others such as Turkmenistan, United States, and  
557 France suggested determining the time limit based upon region.

558

559 Representatives believe that the relationship between climate change and sustainable  
560 agriculture is extremely important because of the benefits of safe agriculture practices  
561 have on climate and rural development. A safer climate and agriculture sustainability then  
562 helps positive rural development. Through this rural development, it continues to promote  
563 the relationship between education and safer agricultural practices.

564

565 In order to encourage and ensure long term sustainable drought and flood mitigation, the  
566 Commission on Sustainable Development urges the creation of educational programs for  
567 farmers about natural disaster management. Sharing information on ways to mitigate the  
568 effects of climate change in the agricultural sector, such as river dredging, is also of great  
569 importance. This is to ensure that crops are not destroyed and soil does not erode in  
570 floods, and new sources of water are utilized to prevent drought.

571

572 The topic of agribusiness was discussed as a way of providing sustainable agriculture and  
573 rural development. Educating rural farmers on proper and effective agribusiness practices  
574 will contribute to long-term growth of many Member States. By using the  
575 Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as a  
576 recommendation, the body identified four areas of focus: land and water management,  
577 market access, food supply and hunger and agricultural research. Primarily focusing on  
578 market access, the committee believed that we must strengthen Member State capacity to  
579 participate in trade by ensuring that products meet market access requirements for world  
580 trade, such as quality and standards. Second, strengthening capacities among agribusiness  
581 communities will seek to create and enhance business partnerships with importing and  
582 exporting companies. Lastly, the Commission seeks to create industry to industry  
583 connections in order to expand domestic and foreign direct investment in agriculture.

584

585 The representative from Israel also mentioned the importance of the education regarding  
586 water conservation that was addressed in the CAADP description, reiterating the need for  
587 a focus on collaboration of techniques that apply to regions that will help provide and  
588 sustain use of clean water for agriculture. It is also imperative to stress the vital need for  
589 the conservation of water sources used for agricultural purposes through education.

590

591 The CSD has recognized that business techniques are long term goals of helping



592 communities get their goods to market after they have developed sustainable agriculture  
593 practices. This can be used as an incentive to encourage individuals and communities to  
594 start and continue to practice sustainable agriculture. The representatives believed that  
595 such practices would also promote economic growth and long term viability.  
596

597 Farming techniques are crucial to the evolution of sustainable development. This includes  
598 teaching individuals and communities on the various benefits of having a clean and safe  
599 environment for themselves and future generations. Therefore, teaching farmers to  
600 approach farming with new technology is of vital importance, which would lead to the  
601 reduction of soil exhaustion by using new machinery. Other suggestions are to implement  
602 field days, lectures, seminars, and conferences done on behalf of scientists in hopes of  
603 teaching farmers sustainable methods of farming. These scientists would be an array of  
604 professionals from the public and private sectors. Implementing or acknowledging  
605 programs such as the Information Marketing System in order to establish work in the  
606 agricultural sector and create a flexible database that could show the real picture of the  
607 agricultural branch, to identify the trends that are occurring as well as what and where  
608 inexpensive materials can be purchased.  
609

610 When educating individuals or communities about sustainable agriculture, it is imperative  
611 to stress the long-term benefits of health and safety. The proposed programs will have  
612 various long-term benefits for Member States by ensuring the equitable use of land  
613 resources. Furthermore, the proposed programs promote generations of sustainable  
614 agriculture development, which, in turn, provides world development.  
615

616

#### 617 **IV. Finance Issues**

618

619 Providing incentives for NGOs to invest in farmers is of utmost importance. This can be  
620 accomplished by suggesting cooperatives of farmers to increase visibility. We further  
621 encourage accountability on both ends in order to increase efficiency. A system to educate  
622 individuals and groups of the presence of NGOs will help promote visibility of NGOs  
623 and finance opportunities to farmers. One proposed plan was to implement low interest  
624 rates for a period of time to encourage farmers to take up new projects.  
625

626

627 We further recognized the potential for governments to subsidize certain technologies to  
628 undeveloped countries for the exchange of cheaper goods for a predetermined period of  
629 time decided on by both the receiving and donor countries. This could create jobs within  
630 underdeveloped countries and lower their export costs while creating sustainable  
631 development within the undeveloped countries.

632

633 International communities could collaborate financially to form a Federal Investment  
634 Grant (FIG), which they could grant to other countries for the purpose of rural  
635 development and agricultural development.

636

637 Financial support from developed nations towards the research and implementation of  
638 agricultural technology, both regionally and internationally, was supported.

639 The body discussed utilizing the comparative advantages of different regions and  
640 promotes the trade of goods that countries produce in excess, such as rice in India.  
641 Bartering was discussed as a means of receiving necessary goods, particularly crops,  
642 instead of selling goods for currency when appropriate to reduce corruption and to ensure  
643 the eradication of poverty. The topic of bartering was met with resistance, as the value of  
644 crops can vary greatly. Our suggestion merely seeks to provide another means of trade to  
645 those who see more value in goods than currencies.

646  
647 The body discussed encouraging non-profit financial institutions to reduce interest rates  
648 in order to compete with private firms, which will stimulate consumption, investment and  
649 net exports. There are concerns that private banks receive too much of an advantage over  
650 public banks and non-profit organizations. One suggestion to make up for this advantage,  
651 was that, the private sector would potentially have to pay a higher tax in order to counter  
652 the lower interest rates private banks are typically able to offer.

653  
654 Nations could also, if they find it necessary, invest in the farming countries that find  
655 themselves in need of funding. Nations are not limited to use interest rates or potentially  
656 cheaper exports when investing in foreign agriculture. This would be beneficial for both  
657 countries and result in a cooperative relationship that boosts economies in need, allowing  
658 countries to buy products at cheaper prices and buying up the yield from the farming  
659 countries that are trying to grow. The period of time of cooperation between the given  
660 nations would be negotiated and agreed upon in advance by the parties.

661  
662 Representatives discussed creating a ratings system as well as tax benefits to promote  
663 sustainable and efficient farming. Lower tax rates would be encouraged to the  
664 governments in order to develop subsistence farming in their country into producing  
665 goods and farming by allowing them to gain capital and establish a growing economy for  
666 farmers in developing countries. The effect of the rating system is to produce a rating for  
667 farmers based on their GDP and capital potential so that they can seek higher NGOs or  
668 private sector loans.

## 669 670 671 **V. Dissension**

672  
673 Considering Draft Resolution VI proposes that the issue of aid volatility be  
674 addressed as part of sustainable agriculture and rural development, specific portions, in  
675 particular the third preambular clause, were the subject of controversy as donor states felt  
676 it used aggressive language to target donor states. France, the United States of America,  
677 Netherlands, Russian Federation, and Canada were in opposition to Draft Resolution VI.  
678 Furthermore, these Member States felt as though statements such as “Noting the  
679 possibility of donor states to fall short on their promises of aid,” does not express  
680 appreciation for aid initiatives implemented by such States. In order to create a friendly  
681 compromise, France suggested to change the third preambular clause to “Further noting  
682 that not all aid giving initiatives are followed through to donor recipients,” rather than  
683 “Further noting the possibility of donor states to fall short on their promises of aid and  
684 financial support.”

685

686 The United States, Netherlands, Russian Federation, and Canada also agreed that this  
687 preambular clause is more suitable, considering the possibility that not all aid giving  
688 initiatives are exclusively donor states. Bearing in mind the disregard of such  
689 suggestions, this clause led various states, including the United States of America,  
690 France, and the Netherlands to not support this resolution. Delegates from Malawi and  
691 Uruguay expressed concern that the time constraints posed by the need to address both a  
692 sixth resolution and the report made further amendments in addition to amendment A  
693 impractical and chose to neglect the suggested amendment.

694

695 Delegations from Estonia, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria and Uruguay spoke in  
696 support of the resolution and responded to criticisms of both specific preambular and  
697 operative clauses. In response to concerns about the wording of the third preambular  
698 clause, both Ethiopia and Nigeria argued that the clause was not targeted or accusatory in  
699 any sense and rather served as a reiteration of a commonly-acknowledged problem.  
700 Malawi added that similar language had already been widely used in various United  
701 Nations bodies and publications, specifically citing the 2008 Political Declaration and the  
702 Steering Committee's comments regarding the Millennium Development Goals.

703

704 Malawi and Uruguay went on to note that the resolution advocated better accountability  
705 on both sides, donor and recipient, in meeting the challenge of aid volatility. Once  
706 amendment A was submitted and approved by the dais, delegates from both Australia and  
707 Luxembourg spoke in support of the revision to preambular clause 3 changing the word  
708 tendency to possibility. Australia and Luxembourg argued that states who have met all of  
709 their commitments regarding aid did not fall into the category of states mentioned in the  
710 third preambular clause.

711

712

### 713 **B. Action taken by the Commission**

714

715 At its meeting on 19 November 2011 through 21 November 2011, the Commission  
716 approved for recommendation for adoption by the Economic and Social Council Draft  
717 Resolution I addressing matters of infrastructure in sustainable agriculture and rural  
718 development. The resolution was passed by consensus with 1 abstention.

719

720 Also at this meeting, the Commission approved for recommendation for adoption by the  
721 Economic and Social Council Draft Resolution II addressing matters of international  
722 trade and technology in sustainable agriculture and rural development. Before passage,  
723 the resolution was amended to add the following words at the end of operative clause 6:  
724 "or ratios." The amendment passed with a vote of 25 in favor, 2 opposed, and 7  
725 abstentions. The resolution was passed by consensus with 0 abstentions.

726

727 Also at this meeting, the Commission approved for recommendation for adoption by the  
728 Economic and Social Council Draft Resolution III addressing matters of education in  
729 sustainable agriculture and rural development. The resolution was passed by consensus  
730 with 0 abstentions.

731

732 Also at this meeting, the Commission approved for recommendation for adoption by the

733 Economic and Social Council Draft Resolution IV addressing matters of finance in  
734 sustainable agriculture and rural development. Before passage, the resolution was  
735 amended to change the word “taxation” in operative clause 6 to “tax benefits,” add the  
736 following words to the end of operative clause 8: “in a timely manner based upon  
737 region,” remove operative clauses 2 and 3, change the word “rewards” in operative clause  
738 5 to “credit,” change the word “urges” in operative clause 7 to “suggests,” change the  
739 word “emphasizes” in operative clause 6 to “proposes,” add the following words to the  
740 end of operative clause 7: “where ever agreed upon notions of fiscal accountability exist  
741 and all Member States are willing to engage,” and to add “international and domestic”  
742 before the word “cooperation” in preambular clause 7. All amendments were passed with  
743 consensus. The resolution was passed by consensus with 0 abstentions.  
744

745 In addition, the Commission approved for recommendation for adoption by the Economic  
746 and Social Council Draft Resolution V addressing matters of organic farming. The  
747 resolution was passed with a vote of 30 in favor, 2 opposed, and 2 abstentions.  
748

749 Also at this meeting, the Commission approved for recommendation for adoption by the  
750 Economic and Social Council Draft Resolution VI addressing matters of financial aid in  
751 sustainable agriculture and rural development. Before passage, the resolution was  
752 amended to remove “remains free of corruption” in operative clause 4, change the word  
753 “tendency” in preambular clause 3 to “possibility,” and replace operative clause 6:  
754 “supports existing processes for either the rescheduling or cancellation of debt, especially  
755 in cases where states demonstrate financial need to the extent that development plans are  
756 hindered by high levels of debt.” The amendment passed with a vote of 20 in favor, 0  
757 opposed, and 9 abstentions. The resolution was passed with a vote of 20 in favor, 6  
758 opposed, and 11 abstentions.

759 **Chapter III**

760 **Adoption of the report of the Commission**

761

762 At its meeting on 22 November 2011, the draft report of the Commission was made  
763 available for consideration. The Commission considered the report, and with no  
764 amendments, adopted the report by consensus, with 1 abstention.