



American Model United Nations
General Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization

FAO/I/1

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

SUBMITTED TO: The General Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization

The General Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization,

1 *Recognizing* the effort that has been invested by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on the topic of
2 biodiversity and preservation of seeds such as the Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources
3 (SoWPGR-2), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the Cartagena
4 Protocol on Biosafety,

5 *Noting with satisfaction* the success of seed vaults in preserving current biodiversity as it pertains to plant
6 genetic resources for food and agriculture,

7 *Noting with concern* the increasing threats to biodiversity that come as a result of global warming,

8 *Concerned* by the potential effects of climate change on the viability of large international seed banks such
9 as the Svalbard Seed Vault,

10 1. *Encourages* Member State establishment of national or regional seed banks to protect nationally impor-
11 tant and genetically unique plant strains from becoming extinct in the future, following the Food and Agriculture
12 Organization's pre-existing voluntary national guidelines for national seed policy formation, such as current FAO
13 guidelines on gene bank standards for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

14 2. *Further encourages* Member States to implement the aforementioned seed banks using the recommenda-
15 tions of SoWPGR-2, particularly regarding:

16 (a) Field gene banks and orthodox gene banks;

17 (b) *In vitro* gene banking and cryobanking of seeds;

18 (c) Protection and isolation of natural seeds from cross-contamination by genetically modified or-
19 ganisms;

20 3. *Endorses* regional and international sharing of genetic resources from the aforementioned seed banks to
21 promote further research on these crops;

22 4. *Recommends* that all Member States participate with contributions to international seed vaults such as
23 the Svalbard Global Seed Vault and the vault operated by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the
24 Dry Areas;

25 5. *Calls for* an expansion of digital seed banking, working in concert with the Global Information System
26 (GLIS), to allow greater access for nations and regional partners to standardized plant genetic resources as well as
27 to identify specific plant variants that would be useful in specific ecological contexts;

28 6. *Affirms* the the rights of farmers in accordance with FAO Res 5/2012, especially as it pertains to accessing
29 the aforementioned resources bearing in mind that cooperation in the creation and expansion of all seed and field
30 banks is based on contributions from farmers:

31 (a) Farmers should be fairly compensated for their contributions of resources to the research and
32 seed banks themselves, which can include monetary compensation and education initiatives offered by national and
33 regional partners;

34 (b) Farmer participation should be included in decision making processes including policy formation
35 and implementation of agricultural initiatives.

Passed, Yes: 26 / No: 3 / Abstain: 3