



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

FAO/I/5

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 *Aware* of the need to support the sustainable development of agricultural sectors and assist in the develop-
2 ment of global markets,

3 *Noting with concern* that the health and production yields of crops all too often remain unmet,

4 *Recognizing* the increasing threat to crops due to climate change and other environmental challenges,

5 *Believing* that innovative solutions offered by the sharing of plant genetic resources stands to support sus-
6 tainable development and the resilience of crops,

7 *Observing* the vulnerability of small farmers in developing agricultural sectors,

8 *Taking into consideration* the right of Member States to encourage different solutions to agricultural chal-
9 lenges as they see fit,

10 *Bearing in mind* the potential benefit to the crop production yields of developing Member States when
11 agricultural research and development is shared in an open-source database,

12 1. *Encourages* the open sharing of plant genetic research to expand access of new technologies to small
13 farmers, to create a more equitable sharing of resources, to preserve genetic knowledge of small farmers and maintain
14 biodiversity;

15 2. *Calls upon* Member States to assemble epistemic communities of biologists, chemists, agricultural
16 economists and local farmers to work in conjunction with existing FAO regional conferences to identify solutions
17 to issues related to Member States with similar climates;

18 3. *Further requesting* the creation of a program through the Agricultural Innovation Challenge in which
19 graduate students across the globe would be encouraged to submit research to the FAO on a pressing topic selected
20 by an international council of scientists:

21 (a) Containing subcommittees determined by the climate level of various Member States and pro-
22 viding a primary focus for research into their needs and potential solutions;

23 4. *Strongly urges* Member States that have not yet ratified the International Treaty on Plant Genetic
24 Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) to do so;

25 5. *Recommends* that Member States evaluate how their domestic patent law may inhibit further plant genetic
26 research imperatives both domestically and within the international community with the goal of assessing how such
27 research can be shared in the future;

28 6. *Supports* the expansion of existing plant genetic resource databases such as Geographic and Land Infor-
29 mation Society (GLIS), Bio Safety Clearing House, International Biodiversity Database (IBD) and Food Agriculture
30 Organization Corporate Statistical Database (FAOstat) to widen access of new technology to small farmers and
31 Member States facing food insecurity.

Passed by consensus, with 2 abstentions